

Kurdistan Regional Government  
High Council of Women Affairs



**NATIONAL STRATEGY**  
**TO CONFRONT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**  
**IN KURDISTAN**  
**(Ten Years Plan) 2017 -2027**

Approved in decision No. 8, KRG Ministerial Meeting No. 14  
On September 19th, 2012

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National Strategy To Confront Violence against Women  
In Kurdistan 2017 -2027 (Ten Years Plan)

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## **WHY DO WE HAVE THIS STRATEGY OF COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?!**

Violence against women in Kurdistan region is present in a visible way. It is a huge obstacle blocking the way to the active participation of women in the development process of society in Kurdistan.

This phenomenon is depriving the community from an important human resource which is the energy of women. This happens at a time when our society is going through the process of renovation and reconstruction and there is an urgent need for the energies of men and women together.

In the recent years, there has been an increased awareness that this phenomenon is socially hazardous. We can confirm that it has now become a big social issue. In this, the women's organizations have had a major role. There have been attempts at the level of governmental institutions to address and solve it.

The High Council for Women Affairs is a governmental institution founded to be in charge of women and their issues directly. Solving this issue was one of priorities of the working program. This will be done within the framework of the abolishment of discrimination between men and women, and the activation of the women's role in the process of reconstruction and development. This can be done through standardization and institutionalization of combating the issue of discrimination between men and women, as well as narrowing down the possibility of obstacles blocking women's way for active participation.

In the formation of this strategy, a good number of Civil Society Organizations took part. Among them are: women's organization, mass media specialists, activists in women's rights and civil rights, the formal institutions of the Kurdistan Region, supported by UNDAF.

The long experience of many years was taken into account, whether the governmental or non-governmental bodies and institutions in the region. Moreover, the studies conducted in this field were observed. Also, the experience of communities outside this region was taken into account.

The National Strategy of Kurdistan Region to Combat VAW was planned for five years from (2012-2016), on the bases of the general political process of Kurdistan Region.

The purpose behind this is to establish a civil and democratic society that observes the culture of the society, the laws and regulations of Kurdistan Region, as well as the international documents that are relevant to human rights. This strategy identifies the possibilities and chances of implementation and points out the obstacles.

This is an essential part of the more comprehensive strategy for the solution of the issue of discrimination between men and women; and it aims at providing a chance for equality between both genders in taking active part in the process of civil education, activating the spirit of citizenship, reconstruction and advancement of society.

This strategy solves a serious problem and issue of society. The responsibility of implementation falls upon the shoulders of all the governmental and non- governmental institutions, as well as all the humanitarian and liberal-minded individuals.

The women's organizations regard themselves as the owners of the idea that produced this strategy. They have the moral and



historical responsibility for its ongoing implementation and follow-up. It is the responsibility of the democratic political organizations and civil society agencies to develop and educate their organizations in accordance with the chief principles and work to announce and implement it in society.

The principle of partnership between the governmental and the non-governmental institutions is embodied in this strategy.

Finally, we offer our best thanks and appreciation to all the sides and individuals that took part in this work and facilitated for its implementation. We sincerely thank the people who tirelessly worked without complaint as unknown soldiers, doing their duty night and day in silence.

**Pakhshan Zangana**  
*Secretary General of High Council of  
Women Affairs*

## **Preface**

There have been tremendous political, economic, and social changes in Kurdistan Region. There is a great progress towards the establishment of a democratic and civic process in the political system. There are serious steps taken for the democratization of the society in Kurdistan, stressing the importance of women's participation in the said process and emphasizing the solution to the negative phenomena in the society, particularly the oppression of women and the use of violence against them in the community in general, and in the work place of women and within the family in particular. Due to all these factors, it became an urgent priority and a great task of the KRG to plan a national strategy to combat and uproot the violence practiced against women.

For this reason, the KRG, aided by the United Nations Agencies, particularly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) planned this national strategy to confront this phenomenon and set out a practical framework to get it implemented in the best possible manner in accordance with a program that will uproot it from the community. This is approved as per resolution 8 in the council of ministers' meeting in Sep 19, 2012.

This strategy is updated annually, depending on the stages and requirements of the status of women at each stage. During the last five years, according to the plan drawn up by the relevant ministries according to the basis of this strategy and after the evaluation and follow-up

according to recent variables, the strategy was updated for 10 years, by the High Council of Women Affairs in Kurdistan Regional Government, in cooperation with the relevant ministries.

#### Acknowledgemnt

High Council of Women Affairs extends its gratitude to all the ministries, departments who participated and contributed to the development of this strategy as a national duty to combat violence against women. Hopefully, in the coming 10 years, more plans and projects will be implemented in the social, educational and economical aspects to confront violence against women in KRG.

At the same time, we thank all ministries and organizations partners, for their active participation in updating the information for implementation of this strategy.

## **Collaboration for Forming this Strategy**

In the preparations to form this strategy, a number of experts and governmental as well as non-governmental specialists took part in the following manner:

- Under the patronage of the High Council for Women Affairs constant discussions and exchange of views were done among the sides that work for confronting violence against women.
- The participation of specialized experts in the related ministries as well as the Civil Society's Organizations and Universities in Kurdistan.
- Making use of Jordan River Agency and Kawser Center for Studies and Researches and Training Women in Tunisia.

## **The Primary Values**

In spite of the fact that there is no accurate and comprehensive statistics about the state of women and the phenomenon of social violence in Kurdistan are available to rely on, this strategy depends on the facts and figures made available by the ministries of KRG. In particular, there was special reliance on the facts and figures from the KRG Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and KRG Ministry of Work and Social Affairs. In addition to these, a series meeting with the relevant authorities were called on to review the discussions that focused on the contents of the strategy so as to have realistic results, and to make programs and plans for work and implementation on that basis.

## THE SECTIONS OF THIS STRATEGY

This document comprises of five parts, as follows:

**Part One:** It is a discourse on the method and the stages of laying out the strategy. It also discusses the opportunities and the impediments facing the implementation.

**Part Two:** It discusses the general condition of women in brief and the legal bases, misconduct, social traditions against women, which eventually lead to various forms of violence, bringing about economic, social, medical, and psychological losses.

**Part Three:** This section focuses on the current attempts in Kurdistan to confront violence against women.

**Part Four:** It discusses the main areas of this strategy, consisting of the legal area, implementation, protection, supervision, and offering service to the survivors of violence.

**Part Five:** Discourse on the method of how to implement and follow-up the strategy by constructing a higher board from the relevant governmental institutions and the Civil Society Organizations.

## **Part One**

# **The Principles of National Strategy to Confront Violence against Women (VAW) in Kurdistan**

### **1.1 Resources to update the information**

The National Strategy to Confront Violence against Women (VAW) in Kurdistan relies on the permanent Constitution of Iraq, as well as the drafted constitution of Kurdistan Region, and those laws that directly or indirectly draw the borderlines for the phenomenon of violence and discrimination against women. Among these laws are: the Law of Personal Statute, the Law of Combating Domestic Violence, and the amendments to the Penal Codes. In addition to these legal bases, the general policy of the Kurdistan Region is to work for rebuilding Kurdistan on the principles of Democracy, civil life, respect of human rights and the general and public rights, and the incrimination of any form of discrimination and violence against women.

Likewise, this strategy depends upon the 5-year plan of national development (2010-2014), and Iraq's national strategy to reduce poverty (2010-2014), and the drafted strategic plan for Kurdistan National Development (2012-2016), as well as all the working plans of the ministries participating in development and the elimination of discrimination and violence against women.

Moreover, this strategy uses as its resources the UN documents, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights issued in 1948, the agreement to remove all sorts of discrimination against women, issued in 1979, the Announcement to eliminate violence against women in 1993, the Recommendations of Beijing Conference in 1995, and Resolution No. 1329 of the UN Security Council, as well as the Cairo Conference of 1994.

It is worth mentioning that this strategy is the outcome of joint work between the Supreme Council for Women Affairs and the UN Agencies that work within the framework of agreements of (2011-2014) with UNDAF. This agreement covers a lot of areas to be guaranteed, such as the protection of human rights and environment-management in accordance with international standards, besides increasing the opportunity to get the basic services and the type of product, the human resources, and women, youth and children empowerment. National Plan for Implementation of Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council.



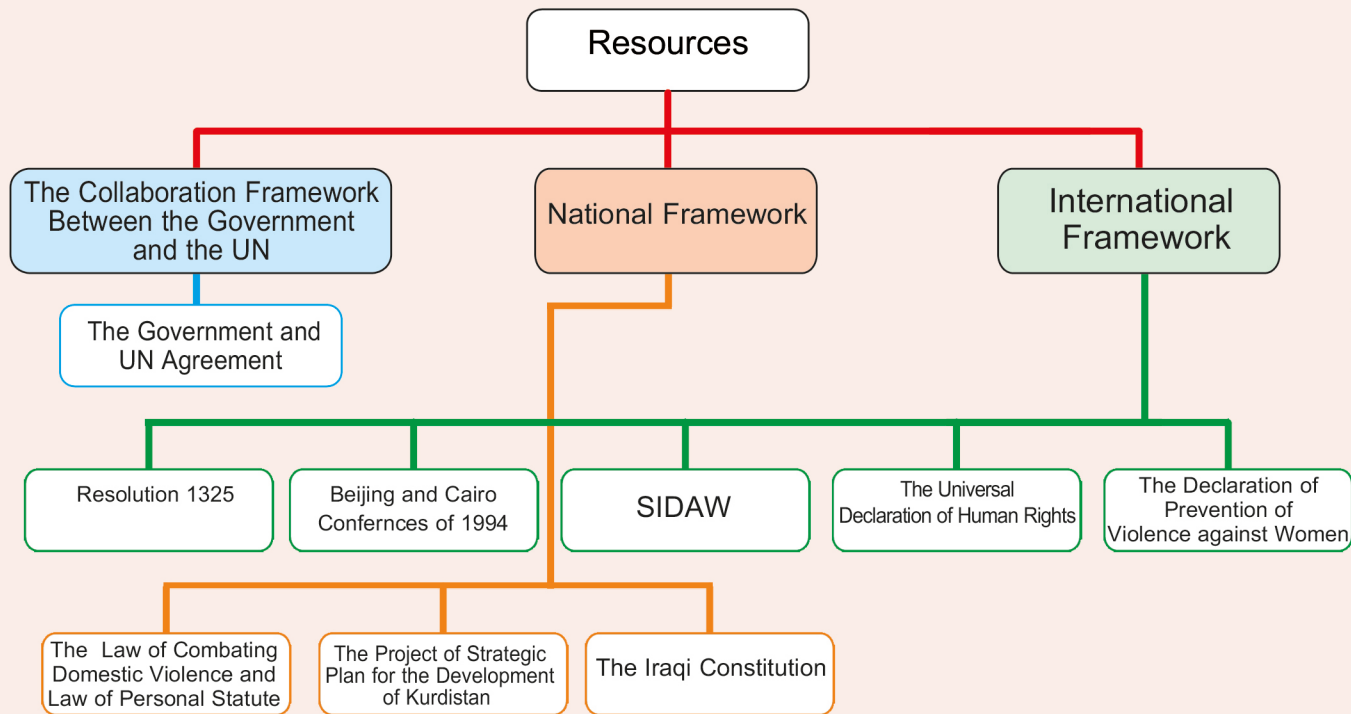


Figure 1. Resources

## **1.2 The Method of Work**

To implement the strategy of confronting violence against women needs much effort and coordination with all relevant sides in the KRG, the Civil Society, and International Organizations as well as academic individuals and experts, and specialists in various working areas, especially UNDAF.

**The Formation of this Strategy went through these stages:**

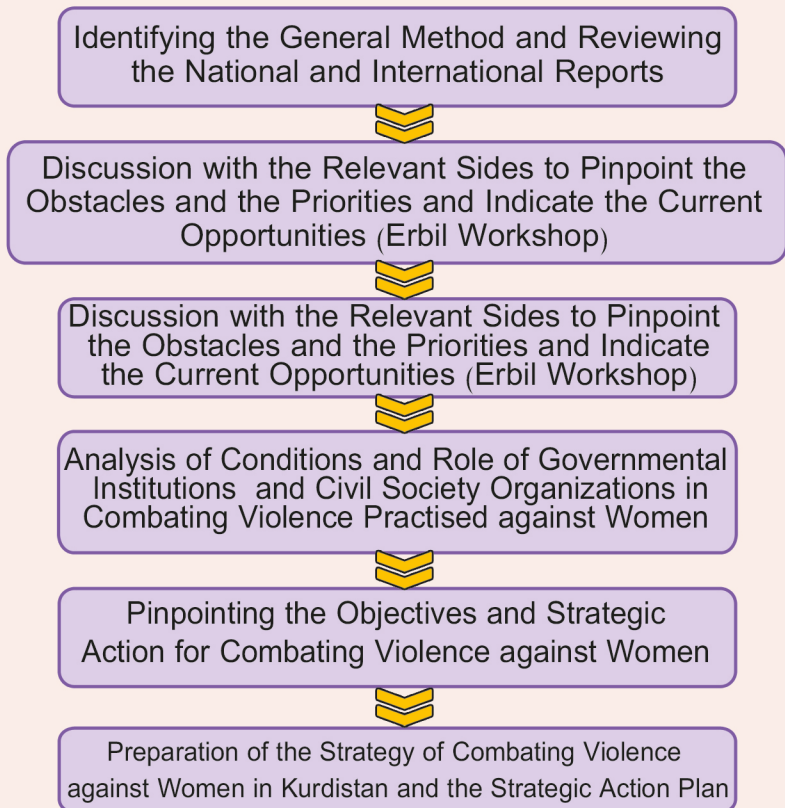
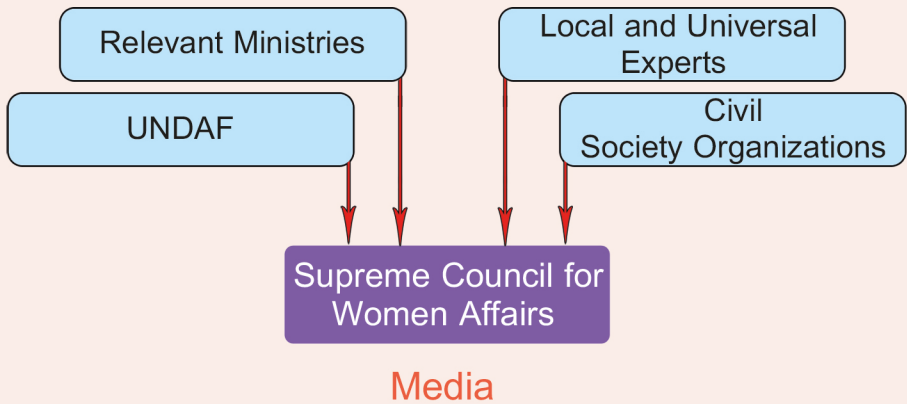
- Studies and Researches about the forms and dimensions of discrimination according to social gender in Kurdistan.
- Exchange of views with the relevant International Agencies.
- Review of laws, documents, and reports of governmental and non-governmental sides in Kurdistan.
- Review of some strategies in overseas countries to benefit from them.
- Reliance on the international documents related to the prevention of violence and discrimination against women.
- Conducting seminars and meetings with all the sides participating in the formation of this strategy so as to make future programs and plans.
- Studying the conditions of the governmental and non-governmental agencies that directly deal with the issues of preventing discrimination and confronting violence against women. For this purpose, a special list was prepared and was sent to those agencies to

make them acquainted with the policies and programs implemented systematically in that field.

- Conducting a workshop from 13-14 May 2012 in Erbil City with the main counterparts – from the governmental and non-governmental institutions, and Civil Society Organizations. The workshop presented all the current efforts implemented to stop violence practiced against women, and it indicated the obstacles and hindrances on the way of the implementation of that strategy.
- Conducting a number of meetings with the representatives of the relevant ministries, universities, media institutions in the Office of the Supreme Council for Women Affairs so as to study the first draft of the strategy.

Due to the significance of the roles of the implementers in the Governmental and the non-governmental sectors, as well as the international side, this strategy was formed on the basis of joint methodology, and consultancy of the relevant sides.

Figure 2. Phases of the Strategy preparation



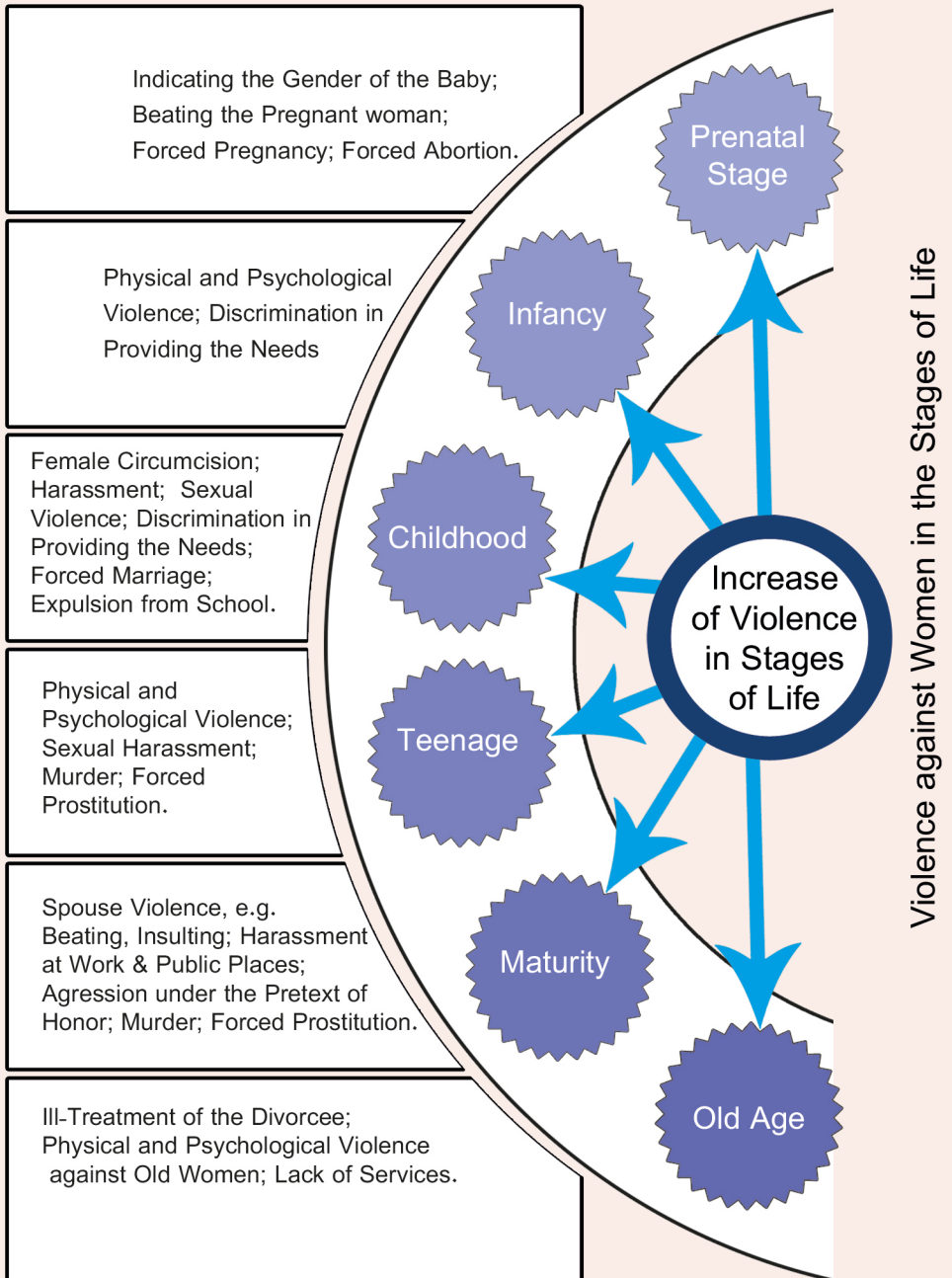
This strategy follows a method that refers to the forms of violence against woman in all stages of her life, from the moment when she is still in her mother's womb till her old age.

Woman's Cycle of life: The purpose behind this analysis is to indicate the types of violence practised against woman throughout her life. There are six main stages in which women face violence. The stages are: Prenatal Stage, Infancy, Childhood, Teenage, Maturity, and Old Age.

## Stages of modernization

1. The original theory of strategy.
- 2- Coordinating with the relevant ministries and entities to evaluate the implementation of the strategy and plans for the last five years.
- 3 - Follow-up variables in the status of women.
4. Conducting special research on the situation of women after ISIS period.

Figure 3: Violence against Women in the Stages of Life



### **1.3 The Chances of this Strategy's Success**

There is a number of important basic factors to make this strategy work successfully and help women to be set free from violence in Kurdistan. The most important factors are these:

- \* KRG commitment to achieve gender equality in Kurdistan. For this purpose, the Supreme Council for Women Affairs was founded in coordinate with all the relevant ministries to combat violence and discrimination against women.
- \* The suitable legal base and background to combat violence against women in Kurdistan Region.
- \* The presence of the governmental bodies and institutions that work in the line of preventing violence against women such as: Ministry of Interior via the Directorate General of Following-up Violence against Women, Ministry of Social Affairs via Shelters for the Women who Survived Violence, the Ministry of Culture via the Media and Artistic Activities, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Planning.
- \* The presence of a visible, identifiable ratio of women in the decision-taking centres.
- \* The presence of a great number of Civil Society Organizations, active in confronting violence against women, that have a key role in the implementation and follow-up of this strategy.
- \* The international organizations commitment to collaborate with KRG and the Civil Society Organizations that operate in the field of women's rights.
- \* The existence of a number of decisions and laws defending women's rights in the region.

#### **1.4 The Obstacles on the way of the Implementation of this Strategy**

- \* The predominant societal view regarding the role of women in a society which discriminates between men and women emphatically, considering violence against women as a normal matter.
- \* The small number of the specialists in the governmental institutions in the field of combating violence against women.
- \* The low standard of legal awareness in the community, particularly among women.
- \* The high percentage of illiteracy among women. This is an obstacle blocking women's awareness of the laws relevant to women's rights.
- \* The society looks down upon the participation of women in the economic process and ongoing development and the prevention of poverty among them.
- \* The mal-application of the law.
- \* The small number of law men and skilled investigation-magistrates in combating violence against women, in the courts of Kurdistan.
- \* Weakness in the educational system regarding the importance given to the concept of women's rights and removing discrimination on social gender differences.
- \* There is a small number of necessary scientific, academic and comprehensive studies on the forms of violence and the rate of the spread of the phenomenon in Kurdistan.
- \* No budget is allotted by any relevant institutions to cover the services for the survivors of violence and work on confronting this phenomenon.
- \* Lack in the psychological and health services for the survivors of violence. The same applies to the shelters of the survivors, which are supposed to accommodate the survivors as well as the women who were threatened with murder.
- \* Lack in the cooperation among the relevant sides on regarding the violence against women such as the government agencies, the civil society organizations, and the international agencies.
- \* The large number of refugees and displaced persons in the cities of Kurdistan Region and the large number of camps.



## **Part Two**

### **The Concept of Violence against Women The reality of VAW in Kurdistan**

## **2. The Concept of VAW in International Documents**

### **The Definition of the Concept of VAW in the International Documents**

#### **The International Declaration of Prevention of VAW**

The International Declaration of Prevention of violence against Women was issued by the UN in 1993. It defines VAW in this way: "Every act of violence committed on the basis of race/gender and leads to physical, sexual, and psychological pain, or perhaps leads to it later: e.g., harassment, forcing to do an act or oppressing a number of liberties in the general sphere or in particular areas."

#### **The International Human Rights Conference in Vienna**

The International Human Rights Conference was held in Vienna in 1993. In it, the Vienna agenda and program were issued that connected violence against women with discrimination against women. In article 38, it is said: "violence includes sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and discrimination on the basis of race, gender, fanaticism and brutality."

In another item, it is written: "the international conference is activating human rights in such a way as to prevent violence against women in public and private life, removing all forms of sexual harassment and/or using women as a commercial item and eliminating partiality to the male gender in order to achieve social justice."

### **Beijing Conference**

The 4th Women's Conference convened in Beijing in 1995. Its document refers to VAW thus: "VAW comprises every form of violence based on race/gender, leading to physical, sexual, psychological damages. It is also the threat to inflict violence against women; or, it is moreover, the denial of women's rights in public places and private life."

### **Security Council Resolution 1325:**

The resolution adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000 underscores the importance of women's equal and full participation:

The equal and full participation of women as an effective actor in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in peace negotiations and peacekeeping and underlines the need for the full implementation of international human rights law protecting the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts.

## **The General Conditions of Kurdistan Region**

### **2.2 The Political Situation**

Kurdistan Region witnessed a lot of political events. These had detrimental effects on the women's state of affairs. These events go back to the days when the Iraqi state was formed. In the 'twenties of the past century, there were wars, conflicts, occupation, slaughter, deportation, forced relocation, till the 'eighties when the peak of oppression reached the level of chemical shelling, using gas weapons, and the process of ANFAL CAMPAIGNS .

These events had damaged and destroyed the infrastructure of society, and caused the disintegration of social unity in

which women had a great part of the social structure. After the 1991 Uprising, the socio-political and economic conditions began to change and day by day peace and security are becoming firmer and more established than before. There are serious steps for more democracy and human rights. There are dozens of civil society organizations specialized in civil rights, especially including women rights, which are active today. The Supreme Council for Women Affairs was also declared and established, which is presided by the prime minister of the KRG. These are examples clearly demonstrating the changes for the better.

### **Economic Conditions**

In the second half of 2015, the family income was 500,000 Iraqi dinars which is less than 750,000. %32,4 people from the private sector and %34,3 from the public sector have almost the same level of income. This is due to the financial crisis and the war against ISIS.

The population rate of Kurdistan was 5,549,100 in 2015 and the rate of labor force is %38,98, out of this percentage, %64,21 are males and %14,78 are females. The unemployment rate in Kurdistan is %13,53.

The labor force in the public sector is %50,35 and out of this, %76 of them are females and in other sectors women make up %24,2 of the labor force. Thus, the lowest level of income goes to the females, while females constitute more than half of the Kurdistan population.

### **The Standard of Literacy**

According to the available relevant statistics of socio-economic data processed to conclusions, the percentage of

illiteracy in Kurdistan Region in 2006-2007 was 27.4%. But in 2009, this percentage dropped to 18.4%.

As per the figures from 2015-2016, in the primary school there are (83565) boys, and 79687 girls. In the intermediate school, there are 47375 boys and 50924 girls. In the vocational school, 1679 boys and 823 girls. In the secondary school, 3257 boys and 3309 girls. In the institutes, 20618 boys and 998 girls and in the accelerated learning, 511 boys and 327 girls.

These figures do not indicate the percentage of illiterate women. However, in most of the region's areas, it is apparent that, even in most levels of education, the females had fewer education opportunities than males. This goes back to the tradition of the community, putting minor emphasis on the schooling and education of women, because these traditions confined the role of women to the conventional duties. Likewise, early marriage is a factor in preventing teenager girls from continuing their education. Moreover, unemployment and poverty, with the percentage of 4%, is another reason to increase illiteracy among girls.

table 4

Number of boys and girls in the education (2015-2016)

<b>Education</b>	<b>boys</b>	<b>girls</b>
Basic	83565	79687
Intermediate	47375	50924
Vocational	1679	823
Secondary	3257	3309
Institute	2618	998
Accelerated	511	327
<b>Total</b>	<b>139005</b>	<b>136068</b>

## **Health Field**

About 5.77% of KRG Budget is allotted for the health sector. However, the healthcare service and system, according to the World Health Organization, are not suitable with the world standards. Now, from the total of 100,000 pregnant women, three women are reported dead (according to the figures of 2006). This is a large number in comparison with some of the neighboring countries. Apart from this, there are other healthcare services like controlling and curing a few disease such as: breast-cancer, womb-cancer, and various other disease that affect women are not paid due medical attention. Therefore, the mortality rate among women is high.

*All these statistics and data items are from the draft of the Strategic Plan for Development of Kurdistan Region 2012-2016.*

## **2.3 The Local Legal Principles that Pave the Way for the Implementation of this Strategy**

### **The Iraqi Constitution**

The Iraqi constitution confirms the equality of all Iraqis in legal terms, making no distinctions according to race, color, religion, sect, belief, and economic conditions or social conditions (Paragraph 1, item 14). Likewise, the equality of men and women and the right to work are confirmed in item (22/1), and the right to school, education, learning in item 34. The right to medical service is in items (31,32,33) of the said constitution. The right of women to get citizenship for their children is in item (18/1) and in compliance with the End system to guarantee the participation of women in the decision-making centre is in item 49 of the constitution. The right

to have and practice all the rights which men have is the first paragraph of (item 20). However, (item 41) of the same constitution gives the chance for the trampling of women's rights under the pretext of protecting religion, traditions, and faith.

### **2.3.1 The Kurdistan Region Constitutional Project 2009**

In the 20th Article, there is reference that everyone is equal in legal terms and that all forms of discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, race, gender, social rank, citizenship, nationality, origins, religion, faith, ideas, age, economic conditions, political situation, and social position, or being handicapped, are forbidden.

According to Article 19, the human dignity is protected in the Kurdish area and the respect and protection due to it is the responsibility of all the authorities in Kurdistan Region. Everyone has the right to live freely and nobody can be deprived of life and liberty if not by legal means. Nobody's life should ever be endangered and nobody can narrow down these liberties.

Likewise, and accordingly, the Kurdistan Constitution project prevents all kinds of discrimination and violence.

### **The Amended Laws of Kurdistan Region**

#### **2.3.2 The Penal Code**

\* The Amendment of Paragraph 1 in (Article 41) of the modified Iraqi Penal Code no. 111 in 1969, (according to this Article, the punishment of men does not/shall not affect women.

\* The Amendment of Paragraph 2 in Article 377 of Iraqi Penal Code no.11 of the year 1969 (the Penalty of Adultery is the same for men and women).

\* The Amendment of Articles 128, 130, 131 of the Iraqi Penal Code no.111 regarding murder under the pretext of honor. There is no excuse to mitigate the punishment.

### **2.3.3 The Law of Combating Domestic Violence**

This law was issued on June 21st 2011. It defines domestic violence as such: "every act or word or assault or attack directed or committed on the basis of social gender within the framework of family relations that are founded on marital bonds or kinship degree, including those members who legally have joined the same family, and who suffer damages in physical, sexual, and psychological terms, and eventually they lose their rights and liberties."

Moreover, this law points out many necessary procedures for all the relevant ministries in order to protect and shelter those women who face violence.

### **2.3.4 The Law of Personal Statute**

\* In spite of the amendment of 25 legal Articles of the law of personal statute to strengthen the rights of women in the family and in the marital process, there are still some materials which need to be amended, especially those related to the prevention of polygamy and inheritance.

\* Law no. 24 of 2004 regarding commitment to personal status No.188 of the year 1959, in case the Resolution No. 137 from the Provisional Authority Council of Iraq dated 29/12/2003 were implemented in the Kurdistan Region or any other law that annul this law directly or indirectly.



\* law number 6 in 2015 issued in Kurdistan parliament to modify article 57 in the personal status law numbered 188 in 1959 which is about the parents seeing their children after divorce.

#### **2.3.5 Maternity and Childbirth Leave**

The salary and the allowances will be paid in full to the women who enjoy maternity, childbirth leave for the maximum of no longer than a year.

#### **2.3.6 Elections Laws in Kurdistan Region**

The end system is followed in Kurdistan Region. In this system, the percentage of women's participation in all the elected institutions, including the parliament should be no less than 30%.

#### **2.3.7 The Law of General Amnesty**

The Law of General Amnesty in Kurdistan Region will not include those who committed murder under the pretext of honor.

#### **2.3.8 Conditions of Becoming a Judge**

According to Law no.18 of the year 2007, in Kurdistan Region, the condition of being married as a prerequisite to become judge, was removed.

### **2.4 The Forms of VAW**

The old traditions are deeply rooted in the political, economic, social, and historical process and uprooting them takes time. Therefore, in the past 20 years, good steps were taken for progress and social change among families and the social relationships. Yet, they are still short of the required and desired level. The time honored

traditions have their own kind of legitimacy to survive and reproduce the phenomenon of discrimination and violence against women.

The forms of VAW in Kurdistan have various kinds. Some of them are now less frequent or, perhaps, they are known to happen in specific areas. Yet, there are other phenomena which still linger on and on, coming to the level of (woman-killing)= genocide under the pretext of honor-killing, or forcing the women to commit suicide, or burn themselves to death.

#### **2.4.1 Murder under the Pretext of Protecting Honor**

This kind of killing is the most violent form of physical violence imposed on and committed against women. This happens when there is one or more than one person claiming to perpetrate this murder for the sake of restoring the lost honor of the family. There is still a high rate of murders against women in Kurdistan. According to the report of the Directorate General of Following-up of Violence in the Ministry of Interior there were (53) cases in the year 2010.

#### **2.4.2 Suicide**

Suicide is a phenomenon that compels the individual to commit under the pressure of social conditions, usually in very complicated situations, where the only way to be set free from the cause and case would be suicide. Owing to this pressure from society, women may face this choice whether inside or outside the family. The only choice they have is to commit suicide. According to the statistics of Directorate General of Following-up of Violence, Ministry

of Interior, in the year 2010, (52) women killed themselves.

#### **2.4.3 Burning and Self-burning**

Burning the women or women setting fire to themselves till death is one of the methods of suicide followed by women in Kurdistan. Nevertheless, there are various viewpoints about the reasons for women to use this form of suicide. It is not yet clear as to what forces women to prefer this way or why their families stick to this form to destroy the life of their daughters and/or wives. The statistics of the Directorate General of Following-up of Violence states that only in 2010, there were 490 women who set fire to themselves or who were burned alive.

#### **2.4.4 Female Circumcision**

This is a wide spread social phenomenon in some areas of Kurdistan, where it is still practised. There are no reliable statistics at hand about how widely this phenomenon is observed. However, there are figures available with a number of civil society organizations demonstrating that it was very widely spread in some place in Kurdistan in the past, but it is growing less practiced than before. It is gradually decreasing.

#### **2.4.5 Forced Marriage of Teenage Girls**

One of the forms of violence against little girls is marrying them at the age of 15 and lower. This is a widespread practice in Kurdistan.

#### **2.4.6 Sexual assault**

This is one of the most dangerous types of violence which is practiced in two forms: first, in the workplace where women are forced to give in and secondly, in the political conflicts, women and girls face this practice.

#### **2.4.7 Human Trafficking**

This is one of the disgusting types of violence against women as happened to the women and girls in Sinjar in 2014>. Up to now, women and girls are sold as sex slaves in Syria and Mosul.

**Table No. 5: Total Number of the Events of Violence in 2010**

Place	Murder	Suicide	Burning	Self-Burning	Torture	Various Complaints	Sexual Attack
Erbil	26	12	102	64	234	1123	35
Dohuk	10	15	56	29		561	19
Sulaimania	8	25	153	49	834	519	78
Germyan	9	0	37	0	0	282	2
Total Number	53	52	348	142	1068	2485	134

**Table No. 6: Total Number of the Events of Violence in 2013**

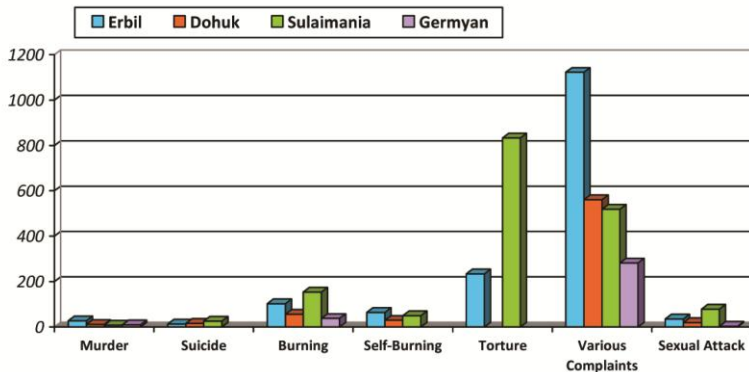
Place	Murder	Suicide	Burning	Self-Burning	Various Complaints	Sexual Attack
Erbil	28	15	100	46	1548	8
Dohuk	11	7	25	33	1225	28
Sulaimania	4	8	57	21	1107	73
Germyan	6	5	25	7	506	7
Raparin	1	1	29	6	349	22
Total Number	50	36	236	113	4735	138

**Table No. 7: Total Number of the Events of Violence in 2014**

Place	Murder	Suicide	Burning	Self-Burning	Various Complaints	Sexual Attack
Erbil	16	16	73	31	2461	15
Dohuk	5	9	13	21	1686	32
Sulaimania	3	11	32	18	1070	66
Germyan	1	3	20	11	900	10
Raparin	5	5	29	13	367	18
Soran	5	3	30	3	189	3
Total Number	35	48	197	97	6673	144

**Table No. 8: Total Number of the Events of Violence in 2015**

Place	Murder	Suicide	Burning	Self-Burning	Various Complaints	Sexual Attack
Erbil	20	23	68	52	2796	10
Dohuk	13	12	39	19	1999	43
Sulaimania	9	17	38	27	1154	43
Germyan	7	5	19	14	771	16
Raparin	3	4	20	9	523	6
Soran	3	3	14	4	193	6
Total Number	55	64	198	125	7436	124

**Figure No. 5: Total Number of the Events of Violence in 2010**

## **2.5 The Consequences of Violence against Women (VAW)**

VAW has detrimental consequences that affect the women's health, the negative education of children, and it threatens the social peace and welfare of the community. Likewise, economic damages to the development of the country may result, increasing the rate of poverty among the individuals and families. Undoubtedly, the people that face violence can not work regularly and continuously. Or, when they work, their productivity will decrease.

In addition to this, violence causes the family and the state to spend much-needed revenues to address the aftermath of violence, such as the psychological diseases, and so on. Moreover, a great amount of money has to be spent on providing for the shelters peopled with survivors, the police stations, and the courts that look after this case.

## **Part Three**

### **The Strategic View of Confronting Violence against Women**

This strategy is based upon the gender equalities and the protection of the basic human rights. It awaits collaboration and cooperation for the implementation by all of the governmental and the non-governmental bodies alike, in all over Kurdistan Region.

### **3.1 The Aim of this Strategy**

The main aim of this strategy is removing violence against women and providing a quiet and a happy life for them in Kurdistan and preserving the stability of the community.

To accomplish this chief end, there are other objectives including:

- **Protection of the Law:** Ensuring a legal ground for the prohibition of each and every form of discrimination as well as all forms of violence against women.
- **Self-protection:** Creating consciousness in the society about the reasons and consequences of violence against women.
- **Protection:** Protecting women from all forms of violence.
- **Monitoring:** Providing and improving the services for the women who have survived violence.



### **3.2 Overall View for Combating VAW**

The aim is to reorganize and re-form a working plan in a clearcut way which is suitable for the necessities of how to confront and combat the phenomenon of VAW in Kurdistan. These steps should be in accordance with the equality of social gender, observe the basic human rights, and be in line with the International Standards. It should outline a coherent policy for the treatment of all forms of VAW in all phases of their lives whether in the family or in all walks of life, wherein women may face violence.

**The Overall view for the Prevention of VAW consists of these:**

\* **The Policy:** The policy in this strategy to confront VAW in Kurdistan consists of cooperation and collaboration among all the governmental and non-governmental institutions in Kurdistan Region. Likewise, it links the issue of VAW with the agenda of active attempts to achieve equality, protecting human rights, and continuous development and growth.

\* **The Law:** To work in order to implement those laws that combat VAW and activate the amended items and the articles in the Iraqi Penal Code and the Law of Personal Statute, as well as to exert some attempts to remove the items from the Region's laws that repeat and restate violence against women.

\* **Self-protection:** It consists of all the changes in the method of work and prevention of VAW before it happens, by way of campaigns to raise the awareness of the society and particularly the awareness of youth and children. The purpose is to diffuse and wide spread the

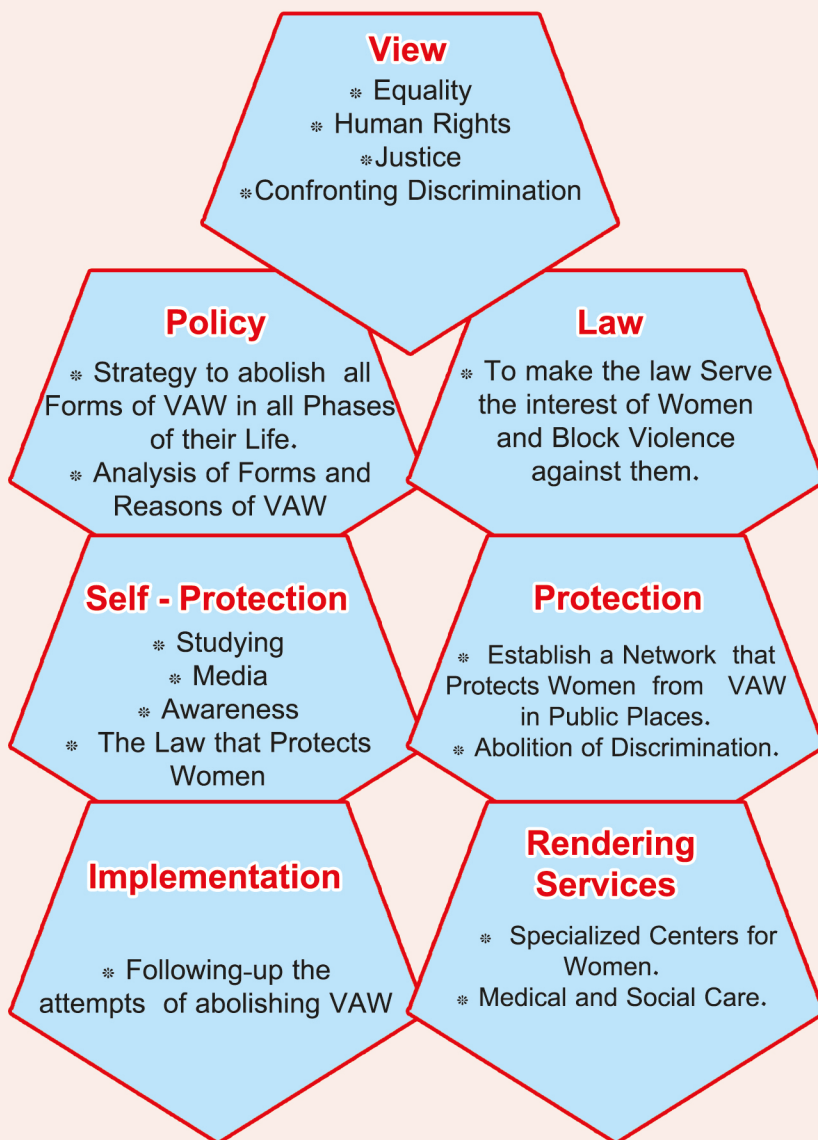
culture of equality between men and women, and to abolish all forms of discrimination and violence on the basis of social gender in Kurdistan.

\* **Protection:** This consists of providing the needs of those women that face violence, affording medical, social, psychological, and legal services for the survivors of violence, in addition to stopping the continuance of violence against them.

\* **Supervision:** This consists of assistance to the survivors of violence, and rehabilitating them in such a way as to enable them to take part in public life.

\* **Implementation and Evaluation:** This consists of laying out framework and plans to as well as a suitable mechanism for the supervision and evaluation of the implementation of this strategy.

Table No. (8): The Fundamental Principles of Overall Strategy



## **Part Four**

### **Fields of Strategic Action**

## Legal Field

**The First General Aim is to provide a clear, legal ground that will prohibit all forms of Discrimination and Violence against Women.**

Output	Indicators	The Executive Body	
Specific Aims	Indicators	In-Charge of Implementation	Relevant Side
1. Legal protection for those women who face violence and discrimination in their public and private lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Activation of the Law of Confronting Domestic Violence.</li> <li>* Enacting a law for the Protection Shelters.</li> <li>* Establishing a Court for Domestic Violence.</li> <li>* Amending the Laws in a way that takes into account the equality of Social gender.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council for Women Affairs</li> <li>* The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> <li>* The Ministry of Justice.</li> <li>* The Council of Justice.</li> <li>* The Parliament.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>* The High Commission for Human Rights.</li> </ul>
2. Agreement over the Conceptual of VAW in a way that is compatible with International Accords.	A Unified National Definition for VAW in Kurdistan laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council for Women. Affairs.</li> <li>* Committee for Defence of Women's Rights in Kurdistan Parliament.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All Ministries.</li> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>* Media Institutions.</li> </ul>
3. Establishing the Jurisprudence System in such a manner that will not ease or mitigate with the perpetrators of VAW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Legal institution.</li> <li>* The Court Catalogue concerning treatment of VAW.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>* The Ministry of Justice.</li> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>* The Council of Justice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> </ul>
4. Reviewing and Revising all the laws and plans from the perspective of gender equality in society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Conducting Studies and Researches about all the Laws from the perspective of gender equality in society.</li> <li>* The amended Laws and Regulations that take into account Social gender</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>* The Ministry of Justice.</li> <li>* The Universities</li> <li>* The Research Centers.</li> <li>* Committee for Defence of Women's Rights in Kurdistan Parliament.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.□</li> </ul>

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>The Executive Body</b>	
<b>Specific Aims</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>In-Charge of Implementation</b>	<b>Relevant Side</b>
	equality.		
5. Preparing the legal and justice cadre for the manner of how to deal with cases of VAW from the perspective of gender equality in society.	* Training Courses for the Judges and General Prosecutors about VAW.	* The Ministry of Justice. *The Ministry of Interior. * The Council of Justice. □ * The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.	* The Civil Society Organizations. * Ministry of Education. * Ministry of Higher Education and scientific Research.
6. Matching the legal items in a way that will fit with the International Accords and Documents.	* The relevant Laws that are amended according to the International Accords and Documents.	* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs. *The Ministry of Interior. * The Ministry of Justice. * The High Council for Justice. * The Parliament.	* The Civil Society Organizations.
7. Increasing Women Participation in Jurisprudence Fields.	* The Higher Representation of Women in the Field of Justice.	* The Ministry of Justice. * The High Council for Justice. * The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.	* Media.
8. Assisting the Victims of Violence so as to reach the Court.	* Raising the Awareness and the Capacity of Women.	* The Civil Society Organizations. * The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.	* Media Institutions.

## Protection Field

**The Second General Aim is raising the awareness of the community regarding the effects and consequences of VAW and its impact on family and society.**

Indicators		The Executive Body	
Specific Aims	Indicators	In-Charge of Implementation	Relevant Side
1- Raising the awareness of the community regarding the effects and consequences of VAW and its impact on family and society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The announcement of a National plan for combating VAW.</li> <li>* A National Campaign for 16 days on the occasion of the International Day to Combat VAW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Culture.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Education.</li> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>* The Independent Group of Human Rights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Planning.</li> <li>*The Media Institutions.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Finance.</li> </ul>
٢- Gathering a comprehensive and accurate Information about VAW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Research Papers and Studies of VAW.</li> <li>* A shared information system regarding VAW in the Police Stations, Courts of Law, the Medical Centers, and the Civil Society Organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Education.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Culture.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Culture.</li> </ul>
٣- Educating the employees of Media and Communication about the issues of Gender Equality and combating VAW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A Program for Educating the Media Staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Culture.</li> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> </ul>
٤- Raising the awareness of women about their legal rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A Program to raise Legal Awareness among women.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>* The Independent Group of Human Rights.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Justice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> </ul>
٥- Integration of Gender Equality in the Educational Institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Modifying the educational textbooks in a way to take into account the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>٥- Integration of Gender Equality in the Educational Institutions.</li> <li>* The Civil Society</li> </ul>

	Gender Equality. * Training the Educational Staff in the issues of Gender Equality.		Organizations.
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### Safe-keeping Field

**The Third General Aim is supporting the women who survived violence and safe-keeping them from all types of violence.**

Indicators		The Executive Body	
Specific Aims	Indicators	In-Charge of Implementation	Relevant Side
١- More Support and safe-keeping of the women who are victims of violence.	* Providing a line of communication free of charge. *Rehabilitation Program of the survivors of violence. * Capacity Building for the Victims of violence through training courses.	*The Ministry of Interior. * The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs. * The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.	*The Ministry of Health. *The Ministry of Education. * The Civil Society Organizations.
٢- Raising the capacities of the institutions that work in the field of Combating VAW and protecting women.	* Training Course for the Staff working in Sheltering Women Places and the Directorates of Combating VAW, and in the Hospitals. * Preparation of a Guide for training the staff working in the above fields.	* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs. * The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs. *The Ministry of Interior. *The Ministry of Health.	* The Civil Society Organizations.

### Supervision Field

**The Fourth General Aim is improving the services rendered to the women who were victims to violence.**

Indicators		The Executive Body	
Specific Aims	Indicators	In-Charge of Implementation	Relevant Side
١- Providing and improving Medical Treatment for the victims of violence.	* Preparation of the Medical Centers and the special sections in the hospitals so as to treat the cases of violence in a well manner.	*The Ministry of Health. * The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs. *The Ministry of Interior.	* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs. * The Civil Society Organizations.
٢- Rehabilitation of victims of violence psychologically and socially so as to easily join ordinary public life in the	* Establishing Centers for Psychological and Social Rehabilitation.	*The Ministry of Health. * The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.	* The Civil Society Organizations.



society once again.			
٧- Improvement of Shelters and increasing their numbers to house the victims of violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Suitable Shelters to protect the life of the dwellers.</li> <li>*Improvement of services in the shelters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>* The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>* The Independent Group of Human Rights.□</li> </ul>
٨- Facilitating the arrival of the victims of violence to these centers that provide services to women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Preparation of Special Publications for these centers.</li> <li>*Familiarizing women with the location of these centers through media institutions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>* The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Culture.</li> <li>*The Media Institutions.</li> </ul>
5- Building the capacity of the staff that provides service to those women who are victims of violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Capable and Qualified Staff in the fields of Psychological and Social Services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Health.</li> <li>* The Ministry of Work and Social Affairs.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Interior.</li> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*The Ministry of Planning.</li> <li>*The Ministry of Finance.</li> <li>* The Supreme Council For Women Affairs.</li> <li>* The Civil Society Organizations.</li> </ul>

## **A step by step implementation of the strategy in 2012-2016**

### **Achieved Results**

#### **1- Legal Aspect:**

- The establishment of special court to combat violence against women in the 3 provinces of KRG and Garmian Administration.
- The appointment of reconciliation committee in the domestic violence courts
- The establishment of the supreme committee to combat violence against women in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah and Duhok.
- The establishment of the institute of judges
- The appointment of 56 female prosecutors in Erbil (17 prosecutors), Sulaimniyah (24 prosecutors), Duhok (7 prosecutors) and Garmian (7 prosecutors)
- The appointment of 30 female judges in the court of appeal in Erbil (10 judges), Sulaimaniyah (14 judges) Duhok (5 judges) and Garmian (1 judge).
- Providing training courses for judges and prosecutors on both personal status law and domestic violence law as well as articles related to women in the Iraqi penal code.
- The decision to open gender units in Nov 22, 2016 in KRG institutions.
- The national conference on the challenges facing laws related to women rights in KRG
- The increase of domestic violence offices in the towns and camps and creating mobile teams

## **2- Self-Protection**

- 16 days of activism to combat violence against women
- Regional conference to activate the human rights item in the schools of KRG
- Opening courses for senior KRG officials on gender roles and mainstreaming.
- The opening of Kurdistan center for gender studies in Soran University.
- Building some maternity hospitals in different cities and towns of KRG, but not completed due to financial crisis.
- Opening breast cancer unit in the Nanakali hospital in Erbil and breast cancer unit in Sulaimaniyah private hospital.
- Opening training courses for media workers and journalists on how to cover cases of domestic violence and violence against women.

## **3- Protection**

- The endorsement of national strategy to advance women situation in KRG for 10 years in Nov 22 2016
- The project of communication for behavioral change to eliminate child marriage
- The Iraqi national action plan 1325 on women, peace and security
- The signing of the international protocol to investigate and document cases of sexual violence in conflict

- The program of high council of women affairs and the priority plans which are reviewed every 4 years.

#### **4- Solution**

- The signing of national action plan 1325 and reorganizing the shelters and providing training courses for their staff.
- The socio-economic empowerment for rural women in KRG
- The opening of rehabilitation center for the women/girls released from ISIS captivity.
- In cooperation with the ministry of health, different publicities have been disseminated to raise awareness on pregnancy, breast cancer ...etc in KRG.
- Printing a lot of posters, brochures, booklets, banners, spots and short movies on different social issues that concern women roles to raise education of the public.

## **Part Five**

### **Implementation and Follow-up**

The chief end of implementation and follow-up of this strategy is to be sure of the execution in a transparent and positive way that has a constructive and improving effect on society in general and women in particular, especially the women who were the victims of violence. The value of this assessment and follow-up is that it will reveal the extent to which the strategy can be realistic and implementable. Likewise, this helps to indicate the strong and the weak points of the strategy. This will open the way for the discovery of newer and more workable mechanisms of implementation, to replace the unworkable mechanisms.

To implement this strategy, we need an annual plan. This plan must be sketched in accordance with the needs of the counterparts who are linked and connected. They all should be together in the planning, in order to ensure that the objectives and the results will be accomplished in the desired way and to get the maximum benefit of this strategy. It also imperative that all the ministries in connection with the strategy should allot a budget for the implementation of the annual plan in order to fulfil the strategy . It is the duty of the Kurdistan parliament to look after the supervision of implementation of this plan.

## **5.1 Institutions for Combating VAW**

To guarantee the success of implementing this strategy, the collaboration is necessary among all the relevant sides, including the Civil Society Organizations, the UN agencies, the governmental institutions related to the Ministry of Interior (The Directorates of Following-up Violence against Woman), and the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs (The Shelters for Housing the women who fell Victims to Violence).

## **5.2 The Board in charge of Confronting VAW**

There are many Government institutions and Civil Society Organizations working in the line of confronting VAW in Kurdistan. But, the presence of a supreme board that is membered by representative of all the sides relevant to this issue is an urgent necessity, to cooperate and collaborate in the implementation of this strategy.

This Supreme Board includes representatives from: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Health, The Civil Society Organizations and the collaboration of Kurdistan Parliament Women's Affairs and Human Rights Committee.

This Board will be monitored and supervised by the Supreme Council for Woman Affairs, and his Excellency the Prime Minister is the Chairman of this Supreme Council. The duties of this Board will be the following:

- Making an annual plan to implement this strategy .

- Working for finding funds and the financial resources to implement the annual plan.
- Supervision of the implementation of this strategy.
- The Assessment and Evaluation of its activities and performance in the implementation of the strategy.
- Organizing Annual conference to study the performance of implementing this strategy.

### **The method of achieving the objectives to implement the strategy in 2012 – 2016**

- At the level of the government: implementing the activities to achieve this strategy started with the development of the sectorial plan which included the ministries of planning, interior, education, health and labor. The plan progressed well with the help of these ministries.

The annual plan was also developed in cooperation with the judicial council, ministries of planning, justice, Awqaf, Peshmerga, department of foreign affairs and ministries of culture and higher education)

At the level of international organizations, particularly (UNWOMEN, UNFPA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF) as well as the local NGOs played a vital role and contributed to the make-up of this strategy.

