



United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
بعثة الأمم المتحدة لمساعدة العراق



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
مكتب المفوضية السامية لحقوق الإنسان

**Recommendations of
The Conference on developing a National Action Plan on the Rights of Iraq's
diverse ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural communities
26-28 March 2014**

Al-Mansour Hotel, Baghdad-Iraq

Recommendation on General Rights:

1. Prioritize legislation on the respect and protection of the rights of Iraq's diverse ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural communities in accordance with international standards.
2. Establish/create a Ministry for Iraq's diverse communities' affairs and appoint a Minister from Iraq's diverse communities to oversee the regulation and implementation of laws that promote the respect and protection of the basic and fundamental rights of these communities

Recommendations on ensuring respect for Political Rights and Participation

1. In accordance to Article 125 of the Iraqi Constitution dealing with local administrative, political, cultural and educational rights of Iraq's diverse communities, legislate and implement laws that establish local administrative areas and municipalities to provide security and basic services to particular communities, which should be staffed and administered by residents from the localities where they are established.
2. Establish a High Independent Board for Iraq's diverse communities with representation from all diverse communities on the Executive Board of the Council to advise the Government and Parliament of Iraq on legislative, institutional and policy reforms aimed at enhancing respect and protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of Iraq's diverse ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic communities.
3. Increase the political representation of Iraq's diverse communities according to the size of their population within all elected bodies (Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Councils) and ensure their active participation in all processes of decision-making, including within Ministries and other governmental bodies.
4. Establish special parliamentary committee for Iraq's diverse communities' affairs within the Iraq parliamentary structure that shall review all laws and by-laws under

consideration by Parliament to ensure their compliance with international standards for the protection and respect of the rights of Iraq's diverse communities.

Recommendations on ensuring Protection against Violence:

1. Legislate and implement laws that hold perpetrators who commit hate crimes including incite violence against members of Iraq's diverse communities for reasons of a person's ethnicity, religious or cultural background accountable and enhance the authority of the judiciary to ensure that persons committing such violations or abuses are held accountable according to law.
2. Encourage the participation and enlisting of young people from diverse communities in all security services, and ensure that they are represented in the security forces operating in their localities.
3. Legislate and implement laws relating to compensation for all families of the victims of genocide and for all internally displaced persons.
4. Implement Laws no. 16 and 20 by allocating a percentage from regular budget to compensate and foster reconciliation without discrimination to members of Iraq's diverse communities that have been detrimentally affected by violence, repressive practices, policies or actions of past successive regimes or acts of violence from terrorist or armed groups.

Recommendations on ensuring respect for Civil Rights:

1. Amend the existing Personal Status Law to ensure respect for the rights of non-Muslim communities.
2. Ensure the implementation of laws restoring Iraqi citizenship to the members of Iraq's diverse communities that had their citizenship revoked.
3. Legislate and implement anti-discrimination law in accordance with Article 14 of the Iraqi Constitution and in compliance with International Convention Against all Forms of Racial Discrimination.
4. Legislate and implement Laws that prohibit "hate speech" and that encourage violence and introduce policies that encourage the religious and civil institutions of Iraq adopt a moderate religious speeches and transmission.
5. Conduct a census that identifies and recognizes Iraq's diverse communities.
6. Protect the freedom of the members of Iraq's diverse communities to establish associations on political and social issues.
7. Formulate policies to ensure that diverse communities are able to practice their religions, rituals, rites and traditions freely.

Recommendations on ensuring Economic and Social Rights

1. Build infrastructure in areas where diverse communities are located, including the creation of educational institutes and universities.
2. Formulate policies and mechanisms to prevent the seizure or usurpation of property and land without legal right by individuals and government institutions.
3. Allocate a sufficient percentage from the federal budget to all Iraqi's diverse communities' residential areas, in order to implement development projects impartially and equitably and to provide job opportunities within the projects for individuals from Iraqi's diverse communities who reside where the projects are implemented.
4. Speed up the implementation of infrastructure projects in the areas where Iraqi's diverse communities are located and create a mechanism to overcome the obstacles associated with the duplication of administrative powers.
5. Ensure that companies investing in governorates/localities where Iraq's diverse communities are located provide employment and consider awarding contracts to residents of those localities.
6. Introduce policies that support sports, youth activities, and women's fora for Iraq's diverse communities and provide the infrastructure for these activities to be conducted.
7. Provide social welfare for all Iraq's diverse communities, in particular that cater to the specific needs of the displaced, widows, victims of military operations and terrorism, orphans, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups from those communities and which promote their full equality in all aspects of life.
8. Adopt a strategy and mechanism to encourage the return of migrants and internally displaced persons to their places of origin.
9. Permit and support the international and national non-governmental organizations working in all areas focusing on Iraq's diverse communities.

Recommendation on ensuring the Rights to Education

1. Ensure policy reform of the education curriculum by including courses on the culture and history of Iraq's diverse communities and conduct activities through the Ministry of Culture to highlight and promote the positive contribution and the historic role that Iraq's diverse communities have had, and continue to have, in building of the Iraqi state.

2. Fund and support the academic research on Iraq's diverse communities' history and customs through allocation of a regular budget from the Ministry of Higher Education.
3. Formulate policies that ensure the freedom of individual members of Iraq's diverse communities to be allowed to study in their mother tongue and that provide them with the opportunity to do so.

Recommendation on promotion of Cultural Rights

1. Promote cultural activities of Iraq's diverse communities through print and electronic media through the allocation of regular budget from Ministry of Culture.
2. Amend existing law on national holidays to ensure the respect and recognition of religious holidays relevant to all Iraq's diverse communities.
3. Promote the understanding of Iraq's diverse communities' histories, identities, traditions and customs by all Iraqi citizens through the mainstream media and other media outlets.
4. Support the establishment of media outlets including newspapers, magazines, radio and satellite TVs that are owned and run by members of Iraq's diverse communities.

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