



# Baghdad Women Association

## Profile

## A Reason for Existence

Baghdad Women Association (BWA) was established in June 2014 in response to the Iraqi woman suffering under of the former dictatorial regime and foreign occupation of the country followed by instability in the security situation of the country as well as disruption of the whole society, this led to an increase woman whom lost their husbands, sons, or relatives. Women in rural areas were more prone to such situations, negatively impacting women and girls by forcing them to marry at an early age, in addition to forced marriages and marriages for financial gains, or presenting her as a victim for marriage to resolve a tribal conflict, and other practices which are akin to slavery. On this basis, BWA was established to find appropriate response for the consequences of the exceptional circumstances which women went through.

## History of the Association

Eleven women from various ethnic and religious backgrounds who reside in Baghdad and in local councils, have met in June 2004 to establish Baghdad Women Association, taking it upon itself to provide services for women in need as well as providing support for them as citizens.

The Association was registered for the first time on 10 August 2004 at the Ministry of Planning in Baghdad.

BWA is officially registered at the NGO Office/ General Secretariat of the Iraqi Council of Ministers, number 1017090 in 2012, and has been registered at the NGO Office for Kurdistan regional government since 2016.

## Initial Steps

Baghdad Women Association began its objectives within the Children and Women Committee affiliated to the Municipal Council for 9 Nissan District in Baghdad, The women there organized working to provide support and help for affected women who live in areas affiliated to the aforementioned sector, the capability that was available to the women in 2004 to work as an association was a new chance that was followed by a series of meeting to write the bylaws of the association in order to register it as a civil society organization.

The women members of the Association were invited to hold meetings by the local authorities of the district, they were also tasked to provide help regarding the needs of women which the Association have to meet. In the initial months the members of the Association worked as volunteers until the Association received its first grant.

The first donor supported programs by the Association, allowed it to hire key staff members, purchase required equipment and devices, and perform dangerous objectives concerning women at the time, including introducing women to the concept of democracy, involving her in the democratic development of Iraq and eradicating illiteracy.

Since 2004 BWA trained and built capacity of thousands of women, teaching them the concept of political evolution in the country and their contribution in it. They received training on civil and political rights such as voting and policy making, as well as training on the principles and mechanisms of advocacy, along with skill development through literacy, computer, and English language programs, it provided job opportunities for them and worked to enhance their role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

In 2009 BWA worked on programmes which target skill development for women in order to face violence against women through an intensive training program launched by the United Nations Development Program for Women (UNDP Women) and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), when they saw the opening of the Association's first Listening and Guidance Center which provides psychosocial support and legal counsel for women, girls, and female survivors of gender based violence. The Association have put an extensive programme to oppose violence against women within the Association's administrative frame for four Listening, Psychosocial and Legal Guidance Centers for women in Baghdad, providing through it support services for women and girls, raising awareness of stakeholders from community groups, and empowerment of women enhance their protection levels of themselves.

## Vision

BWA's vision includes combating all forms of violence against women and girls, ensuring legal protection, equality, respect and all human rights for them.

## Mission

Working to limit violence against women and girls by providing all required services for female survivors of gender-based violence, and calling to implement appropriate laws, polices, and government programs, in addition to working on increasing political involvement of women by developing leadership skills through knowledge, growth, and capacity building.

## Baghdad Women Association Objectives

Baghdad Women Association has identified 3 specific programs it focuses on:

1. **Support services:** refer to the help provided to individual women who come to the association and report cases of abuse or a violation of their rights. The women will receive counselling, legal advice and be helped to file cases with the police or through the courts.

**Specific objective:** To help women to heal from abuse and to provide them with the necessary support.

2. **Women's Leadership Development** is a knowledge, skills and capacity building programme that builds on the work already done by BWA. This programme will continue to focus on training women on the constitution, the laws of Iraq as well as providing knowledge about international human rights instruments such as CEDAW.

**Specific objective:** To facilitate women's access to decision-making positions and to develop their leadership capacity.

3. **Advocacy** is the third programme area that BWA will work on. This programme is aimed at changing laws, policies and government programmes which discriminate against women and girls. An important part of advocacy is the documenting of violations as well as reporting on such violations. BWA will document the experiences of women and use opportunities such as Shadow Reporting to bring national and world attention to the plight of Iraq women.

**Specific objective:** To change the thinking and behavior of decision makers in order to prevent the violation of women's rights, and to protect and promote the rights of women.

## Programs and activities of Baghdad Women Association presented

During its years of work, BWA was increasingly worried about the gender- based violence in Iraq, realizing that most women are affected by the violence following decline of security situation in the country, leading to many crimes go by without punishment for their perpetrators.

The state of women deteriorated since 2003, they were moved away from the scenes of normal life to increased stay at their homes, so their integration rates in society have declined. The chaos following the fall of the former regime has opened the door to for many old and new forms of discrimination against women, the impact tribal customs and traditions, which are male dominant, have increased and they mostly justify using all forms of violence against women.

To this day, it is not possible to measure the proliferation of violence against women in Iraq since the related data were not systematically aggregated. Feminist organizations realize the widespread of this phenomenon since most perpetrators are not held accountable, while physical violence might be justified by claiming that it ensures obedience of the wife to her husband, we find forced and early marriages represent another form of violence which has the blessing and support of some religious scholars and tribal leaders, while the marriages held with presence of religious cleric is considered a must, out- of- courts marriages do not gain any attention leading women to lose many of their rights.

It is clear that women from all socioeconomic classes can be victims of violence especially women in vulnerable communities, as for girls, they are often considered a financial burden on their parents, this might explain early marriage and extrajudicial forced marriages inside vulnerable communities. As for tribal customs, girls are seen as commodities to be gifted to conflicting sides in exchange for resolution.

Violence against women is one of the taboos that must be dealt with and talked about within the family from the society's perspective, talking about family and private matters is considered shameful, we also find abused women isolate themselves from any other person they can talk to about their personal matters, as a result women lack the opportunity to talk about the suffering and lessening their burdens, they lack the capability to look for support in order to be free of the cycle of violence which restrains them.

Women are influenced by the concept of male dominance regarding their role and objectives, and most of the times women do not have the knowledge, capacity, or strength to face such ideas, so they are unable to make decisions by themselves, away from the standards of their roles and often have to endure being abused.

Moreover, the local security authorities and health centres are completely unqualified to deal with violence against women, the lack awareness about the matter and how to deal with its cases, therefore, women receive limited support and bad services at the time when they need support and help from the whole community.

## 1. Listening, Psychosocial, and Legal Counselling Centres

- ❑ Baghdad Women Association was one of six women organizations who were able to obtain support for opening and managing centres where psychosocial support and legal counselling is provided for female survivors of gender-based violence in 2009-2010 in Baghdad/ Karrada, through which the capacity of BWA staff were built and they gained knowledge and skills on dealing with female survivors of gender-based violence.

The success of BWA's experience in managing its first Listening, Psychosocial Support, and Legal Counseling Center for women and girls in Baghdad, enhanced its ability to open a second Center in Hay Al Nasr in the beginning of 2012 and in 2013, BWA opened two more Centers one in Sadr City, and the other in Hay Al Ameen to provide services of psychosocial support and legal guidance for women and girls, and in 2014 BWA provided technical support for Hawa' Organization in a step that contributed to opening a Center for Listening, Psychosocial, and Legal Guidance for women and girls in Dyjala Governorate, with the change of donors' focus according to the change of needs and priorities of work in Iraq, BWA decided to expand to the rest of the governorates in response to the challenges of women and girls as a result of Da'esh attacks. BWA initiated opening psychosocial and legal support centers for female refugees and returnees in Saladin Governorate/ Tikrit in 2016, and 2017 in Nineveh Plain/ Hamdaniya District, BWA open a Center for Psychosocial Support and Legal Guidance for female survivors of domestic violence and female Syrian refugees, and in Anbar/ Ramadi in 2020.



BWA provides through the listening, psychosocial support, and legal guidance centers it manages, free legal counseling and psychosocial support and guidance for female victims of violence, social researchers and case management employees provide support for the beneficiaries, while female lawyers provide legal counsel as well as follow-up on their cases to settle them in courts.

#### ❑ Raising Awareness and Building Capacity of Women and Girls.

Workshops are organized to raise awareness, ensuring that female survivors of violence receive knowledge of their rights and the violence directed against them, to be made aware of the indicators of violence. As for legal awareness, it ensures women have knowledge of their rights and demand them, especially regarding marriage and divorce.

BWA held special training courses for capacity building for females to make them active members in society through teaching them skills and self-confidence. Vocational trainings enabled women to get opportunities to make a living and develop income generating projects, through which the woman can provide for her family, this is considered a tool for women to make their way out of the cycle of violence.

### ❑ Raising Awareness of Men, Religious Clerics, and Tribal leaders.

It's necessary to gain male support, represented by religious clerics and tribal leaders, on women issues to face violence against women and strengthen the protection of women and girls from it. BWA conducts societal dialogue sessions with all men, especially religious clerics and tribal leaders, to raise their awareness on the consequences of violence against women regarding her as a woman and its negative impact of the family and society. BWA seeks to partner with these groups in society to guarantee their contribution in raising societal awareness and change their convictions towards violence against women.

### ❑ Building Capacity of Local Authorities and Stakeholders

The Following actors or bodies, local councils, municipality, police department, health centres, educational centres, prominent figures in society, and other indicators that might contribute in providing protections for women and girls, are required to provide knowledge and necessary skills for them to precisely specify abused women and support them.

BWA works through referrals which guarantees that women receive necessary support inside the community to ensuring their protection, BWA enhanced the confidence in Societal Police and developed in skills to contribute in providing required services for women.

## 2. Social and Political Empowerment of Women

The Iraqi woman benefits from the scarce opportunity in her involvement in the decision making process and assuming political positions, there are many reasons behind that, the dominant patriarchal nature of society restricts women's roles in life while she barely benefits from her rare chances of education, women have less opportunities compared to men regarding her contribution in decision making positions, and women do not have sufficient representation, be it social or political, moreover, building and developing capacity is required to support her in order to increase her social and political engagement.

### ✓ Empowering Women in Society

Women in patriarchal societies lack the right to participate in decision-making, as well as taking personal decisions that have impact on her personal life to be an active member of society.

BWA in cooperation with International Rescue Committee implemented Empowering Women in Society Project, which will empower women to enhance confidence in themselves and taking effective steps to contribute in the decision-making process in the family and society, it was a successful programme which was implemented in different areas of Baghdad, enabling vulnerable women to take basic decisions to enhance her life and social status.

### ✓ Promoting Political Engagement of Women

To ensure political involvement of women, women quota was introduced in Parliament so women have 25% participation percentage in the parliamentary seats according to the Iraqi Constitution of 2005, the women who were elected to participate in the federal and local government, have very limited capacity and they are prevented from effective participation in the decision-making process.

BWA implemented many training workshops for women to develop their skills and enhance their participation in the political process, in addition to holding campaigns and occupying political positions.

BWA contributed in enhancing the capacity of specific government actors who work in Women and is managed by women, since BWA in particular developed and built capacity of Women Care Department (a part of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) supporting it for development of sound strategic plans to enhance women's performance and work.

### ✓ Empowering BWA Staff

BWA employees are mostly women, preferably young so they have the opportunity to make advancements and they're the ones with future horizons, so BWA devote its efforts to build the capacity of its staff to ensure that the Association's is meets the highest of standards, so it hold regular training workshops in its HQ to raise awareness of its staff, this will grow staff members so they become strong female leaders not just within the Association but in the whole society.

In addition to empowering women and providing many services which society lack, and in turn BWA deals with government authorities to provide the best services for women, enhance their protection, and oppose violence against women.

BWA worked on ensuring the perfect implementation of laws and charters concerning women rights by the Iraqi government to be approved and signed by the government, the Association particularly enhanced the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in Iraq concerning the situation of women and girls pre, during, and post conflict, it also calls for enhancing women's participation generally in security, peacebuilding, and decision-making process, the Association performed unique and leading roles in making national plans of the Resolution, it also contributed in activating the ideal implementation of these plans through its enormous efforts in raising awareness of workers in government sectors including security, health, and education concerning the plan's implementation, increasing their ability to respond to women's issues by training them on UNSCR 1325, later resolutions, national plan, and emergency plan. The Association trained them on monitoring and documentation mechanisms and report writing, then it taught workers on the indicators of measuring advancement, measuring performance, follow-up and evaluation tools, accountability and justice mechanisms to determine points of strength and weaknesses, and analysing the lessons gained therefore developing the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Iraq.

### **3. Monitoring and Documentation of Women Situations and Documenting Data on Gender-Based Violence**

Over the past years BWA developed specific expertise pertaining to women, the Association obtained information regarding needs and daily life of the Iraqi woman.

BWA adopted a database that allows the storage of data related to abused women and girls, the data is collected through listening, psychosocial, and legal guidance centres affiliated to the Association, then it is analysed according to regular measures, the available data contributes to painting a clearer picture for the Association regarding cases of violence against women in Iraq.

The Association documented cases of and practices that led to severe abuse of women rights, The Association published studies on the state of Iraqi widows, early and forced marriages in Baghdad, and out- of- court marriages, those studies contributed in shedding light on specific cases in Iraq, enabling civil society to receive knowledge on the occurring of these phenomena in Iraq and their effects on Iraqi women.

BWA contributed to writing specific documents made by civil society organizations in Iraq, addressing the International Community on the state of Women in Iraq, the Association participated in writing comprehensive periodic reports focusing on women rights from 2010 to 2014. The Association contributed to writing some shadow reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

#### **4. Enhancing Policies and Legal Frameworks Pertaining to Women Rights**

To limit discrimination against women within the legal framework, BWA committed itself to reinforcing and developing government policies on women and adopt possible reforms for specific legal text, in addition to participating in advocacy efforts exerted by the local Network on preventing the passage of “Jafari Personal Status Law”, the Association works on enhancing the participation of women in political parties, government, and all decision-making positions.

BWA supported government strategy on opposing violence against women by enhancing texts, it also worked with Women Care Department (affiliated to Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs) on a strategy to enhance protection for widows.

BWA held an extensive advocacy campaign titled (#Our\_Family\_We\_Protect) under the slogan (make your opposition to domestic violence a law) since 2015, it aims to find a safe legislative environment for women and girls that consistent with international charters concerning women which Iraq approved of, it focuses on abolishing and amending discriminatory text in the Personal Status Law, Criminal Code, and Combatting Human Trafficking Law, it also speclized in the last two years in leveraging decision- makers in the Iraqi Parliament in order to pass the Anti-domestic Violence Law and opening a shelter in Baghdad that will provide protection for female survivors of violence, since the Association adopted the expertise and knowledge exchange approach among representative of the Iraqi Government and Kurdistan Regional Government to benefit from their experience in managing safe centres for female survivors of violence, the Association along with the rest of civil society organizations contributed to pressuring decision- makers to open a safe centre for female survivors of violence, and it was successful in opening it in late 2017, but we are still waiting for the approval of Anti-domestic Violence Law to be activated.

BWA continues its advocacy campaigns within local and regional frameworks, it led a campaign titled (#Marriage\_Does\_Not\_Cover\_Rape) to abolish legal texts which encourages rapists to escape punishment according to the Iraqi Criminal Code No.11, year1969, and in 2018.

## Baghdad Women's Association Research

No.	Research Title	Year
1	Psychological Impact of Violence Against Women	2014
2	Early Marriages, Related Factors, and Its Impacts in Sader City	2015
3	Women Participation in Decision-making	2015
4	Out-of- Court Marriages in Sader City	2015
5	Legislations Pertaining Women Rights and Gender-based Violence	2015
6	Women Participation in Decision-making in Iraq	2015
7	Women Tendencies towards Suicide in Sader City	2016
8	Early and Forced Marriages	2016
9	Research on the Influence of Social Media on Girls in 9 Nissan District in Baghdad	2017
10	Women's Needs in Refugee Camps in Baghdad "field study"	2017
11	Training Approach for women Committees (Strengthening the Resilience of Women and Syrian Girls and Host Communities in Iraq) project	2018
12	Training Approach on Gender Equality for (Strengthening the Resilience of Women and Syrian Girls and Host Communities in Iraq) project	2018
13	Influence of Extremist Ideologies on Youth Attitude in Iraq	2018
14	Response of Government Gender Statistics in Iraq (Analytical Study of Central Organization of Statistics)	2019
15	Captives (social and field study on kidnapped female Yezidis who returned to Iraq)	2019



16	How the Federal Budget of Iraq in 2019 is Responsive for Gender (comparative study)	2019
17	Approach UNSCR 1325 to the Fifth and sixteenth Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals of 2030	2019
18	Personal Status Influence on Women in Iraq	2019
19	Dual accountability for the National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 Women's awareness and use of standard monitoring models	2020
20	Identifying legislative gaps in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Security and Peace	2020
21	Women and Girls Situations During Covid Pandemic	2020

### Past and current projects

1. BWA has voluntarily implemented in 2004 and since its beginning
  - two session training for women in Mahmoudida, in democratic participation and discrimination against women. The project was a success, leading to women from that district wanting to be more involved in the local political process.
  - Discussion Panel in Al-Istqlal district on Women Rights with experts from civil society organizations.
  - Training session for women in Taji in 2004 on the Democratic Participation and the Reality of Providing Educational Environment for Women in the District.
  - The Association opened a department for legal guidance which has a safe line dedicated to answering legal questions, in addition to lawyers taking on legal representation for women facing legal issues. This service was free of charge.
  - Two workshops on Opposing Violence against Women and Girls, with attendance of many women representing local NGO's, as well as a workshop on Democracy and Human Rights.

2. Baghdad Women Association managed a workshop on Constitutional Awareness with support from Women for Women International (WFWI), the project was from 15/4/2005 to 15/6/ 2005.
3. BWA through NED grant implemented a project for one year from 1/4/2005 to 31/3/2006 about Women Rights & Constitution.
4. BWA through, DFID grant managed (Training Courses about Development Women's Awareness about Personal Status Law & it's relation with Constitution) to women from Al- Sadder city from 5/7-30/8/2005.
5. BWA through, UNIFEM grant managed (Training Courses about Women & Democracy) & (Women& Constitution) For Women NGO'S in August / 2005 & for 8 Weeks.
6. BWA through (The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace) D&P grant managed "Literacy and Informal Education for Iraqi Women" project from 1/9/2005 to 30/11/2005.
7. BWA started to implement a project for one year started from 1/4/2006 through NED grant for improving the leadership skills of civics activists and strengthen local civic organizational capabilities".
8. BWA through, UNIFEM grant managed (Training Courses about Women Rights in Constitution) For Women NGO'S in August /2006 & for 4 months.
9. BWA started to implement a project for one year started from 1/4/2007 through NED grant for raising awareness and engage Iraqi women in the national reconciliation process.
10. BWA Implemented in partnership with Iraqi AlAmal Association (IAA) project Peace building, through Conflict Resolution and Democracy Training through UNOPS fund. /May- August /2007.

11. BWA through Global Fund for Women "GFW" fund implement a project named Women Rights in the Constitution in 2007.
12. BWA started on Sept., 2007 the implementation of a project named (Empowerment Women in the process of peace Building, Democracy, & and Resolving Conflicts). Funded by Kvinna Till Kvinna & the project will be for 4 months.
13. BWA started on January 2008 a project to for Training and Empowering Women to obtain the skills of democratic election process in Local and municipality Councils, funded by KTK.
14. BWA started on April 2008 a project to raise awareness about combating violence against women in Baghdad, funded by NED.
15. BWA started the project "Your Voice...Your Future" in June 2008 funded by United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
16. BWA started a project in July 2008 funded by NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq – NCCI, the campaign of "The Right to live in safe two workshops were held about the culture of peace, conflict resolution.
17. BWA started a project for 3 months in 2008 funded by UNIFEM "women's rights related to their dignity to resist violence".
18. In cooperation with the Organization of Academics of Peace and by the support of the NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq NCCI, Baghdad Women's Association carried out an educational seminar at the Hall of College of Physical Education in Baghdad University on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 in order to promote a culture of dialogue, spirit of tolerance and enhancing the principle "acceptance of the others".

19. BWA started a project for one year from 1st of Jan. till 31st of Dec. 2009 funded by KTK (Kvinna Till Kvinna) about Disseminating Culture of Women Rights on the Basis of Human Rights.
20. BWA started a project for three months from 1/4/2009 to 30/6/2009 funded by HIVOS about strengthening women's political participation.
21. BWA started a project for three months from 1/6/2009 to 31/8/2009 funded by NCA about Awareness of Personal Status Law & State's Duties.
22. BWA started a project for one year from 1/10/2009 funded by USIP about empowering the capacities of civil society activists in acquisition of techniques for resolving and managing conflicts.
23. BWA started a project for one year from 1/10/2009 funded by Global Fund for Women "GFW" about empowering women financially and socially through increasing family income.
24. In August 2009, BWA established the social and Legal Hearing Center by the support of UNFPA.
25. BWA started a project "Integration of governmental and non-governmental efforts to reduce violence based on gender", Funded by OSI, from 1st, OCT., 2010 for one year.
26. BWA started a project "Bridges" for two year from 1st Jan., to 31Dec. 2010, Funded by KTK.
27. BWA started a project "Opposing Gender Discrimination in Baghdad" funded by The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace for one month from 1/8/2011 to 31/8/2011.
28. BWA started a project " Together to Raise Awareness about Women's Rights" Funded by GFW, from 1st May 2011 to 1st May 2012.

29. BWA started a project "Providing Literacy and Numeracy Services for Women" Funded by WFWI from 1st July 2011 for six months.
30. BWA started a project (Social Protection for Widows in Iraq) Funded by OXFAM Britain from October 1, 2011 until March 31, 2013.
31. BWA started a project (Durable Solutions and Women's Protection and Empowerment) Funded by IRC from Dec. 1, 2011 to June 14, 2013.
32. BWA started a project (Providing Literacy and Numeracy Services for Women) Funded by WFWI Jan. 2012 for one year.
33. BWA started a project (Conflict Resolution Study Tour in Lebanon) Funded by KTK from 1st Jan. 2012 for one year.
34. BWA started a project (Provision of free legal assistance to vulnerable women in Baghdad) Funded by Access to Justice Program. From 1st May to 31st Oct. 2012.
35. BWA started a project (Providing sexual and reproductive health care to women victims of domestic violence) supported by GFW from 1st Nov. 2012 and for one year.
36. BWA started a project (Engaging dialogue with religious leaders and women activists to seek enhanced protection of women and combat violence against women) funded by NPA started from 1st Dec. 2012 and for 5 months.
37. BWA open a listening center in Al-Sader city in the 1st of Jan, 2013 and for one year. Providing women victims of violence with psychological and social services along organizing awareness rising in the community funded by KTK.

38. BWA started a project BWA Women's "Listening and Counselling" in Karada from 1st of November 2013 till 31st of October 2013 funded by FPOS
39. BWA started the project Community protection from April 2013 till 31 of December 2013 funded by IRC
40. BWA started the project (BWA Listening and Counseling Center) on the 1st of January 2013 till 31st of November 2013 funded by Norwegian Embassy.
41. BWA started the project Raise awareness about women's rights and violence against women in Baghdad's Sadr City since the 15th of September 2013 for six months supported by UNDP
42. BWA started the project promoting the Iraqi National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 initiative in Central Iraq from the 1st of September 2013 for six months supported by USIP.
43. BWA started the project (Advocacy on Safe Drinking Water at 9 Nissan district) from 1st of December 2013 for a year supported by Mercy corps
44. BWA started the project (General support to the work of BWA) from the 1st of January 2014 till the 31 December 2014 supported by FOSI.
45. BWA started the project (Support for the Protection of Society and Women's Empowerment) from the date of 15 / 9 / 2013 and until 14 / 8 / 2014 supported by IRC
46. BWA started the project (Iraqi Rule of Law and Women's Justice Initiative) from 15th of March 2014 till 31 August 2015 supported by IRC
47. BWA started the project (Legal Assistance and Reintegration Program and Women's Protection and Empowerment) from the 1st of January 2014 till 31st of October 2014 supported by IRC.

48. BWA started the project (Legal Assistance and Reintegration Program and Women's Protection and Empowerment) from the 1st of January 2014 till 31st of October 2014 supported by IRC.
49. BWA started the project (Karada listening center for women) from 15 July 2014 till 14 of July 2015 supported by Norwegian Embassy.
50. BWA started the project (combatting marriage outside the court in Sader city) from 15 July 2014 till 14 of July 2015 supported by Mercy Corps.
51. BWA started the project paving the way for reconciliation among the displaced community in Baghdad from 15 Feb. 2015 till 14 June 2015 supported by USIP.
52. BWA started the project (Training Minority Women and IPD's Women in English and Computer) from 15th of July 2015 till 15th of April 2016 supported by FHI (360).
53. BWA, in corporation with women empowerment, started the project (Facilitating the Implementation of Iraq NAP for UNSCR 1325) from 1st of March 2015 till 13th of August 2016 by USIP.
54. BWA started the project (Eliminate Discrimination and Violence against Women) from 1st of July 2015 till 31st of December 2015 supported by NPA.
55. BWA started the project (Reducing CEFM and SGBV through Capacity Building and Training for Workers of Baghdad Women Association to Conduct Research, and use Research Results in Advocating for Protection of Girls) from 11th of November 2015 till 26th of February 2016 by Canadian Embassy.
56. BWA started the project (Active Citizen Programme) from 1st of July 2015 till 31st of March 2016 supported by The British Council.
57. BWA started the project (Protection Assistance and Reintegration Center) from 1st of November 2014 till 31st of March 2015 by UN Women.



58. BWA started the project (Establishing BWA office in Erbil) from 1 July 2015 till 31st of December 2015 supported by KTK.
59. BWA started the project (Karada listening center for women) from 15 July 2014 till 14 of July 2015 supported by Norwegian Embassy.
60. BWA started the project (Enhancing Community Structures to Protect and Empower Women) from 14th of September 2014 till 14th of September 2015 supported by IRC.
61. BWA started the project (Reducing CEFM and SGBV through capacity building and training for social worker of Baghdad Women Association to conduct research, and use research result in advocating for protection of girls ) from 11th November 2015 till 26 February 2016 by Canadian embassy.
62. BWA started the project (Eliminate Discrimination and Violence against Women) from 1st of January 2016 till 31st of December 2016) supported by NPA.
63. BWA started the project (Engaging Youth to Combat Violence against Women and Promote Peace Building in Baghdad) from 1st of January 2016 till 31st of December 2017 supported by KTK.
64. BWA started the project (Protection and Assistance to IDP's and Refugees in south-central of Iraq) from 1st of February 2016 till 31st of July 2016 supported by IRC.
65. BWA started the project (supporting BWA office in Erbil) from 1st of March 2016 till 31st of December 2017, supported by KTK.
66. BWA started the project (Enhancing of Implementation of UNSCR 1325 by Governmental Entities in Iraq) from 1st of May 2016 till 31st of March 2017 supported by UN Women.
67. BWA started the project (Supporting IDP's Women in Erbil) from 1st of June 2016 till 1st of June 2017 supported by Global Fund for Women.



68. BWA started the project (Psychosocial Support to Women and Children from Mosul Area) from 1st of December 2016 till 31st of May 2017, supported by Lutheran World Federation.
69. BWA started the project (providing Support Services to Displaced Women in Erbil) from 1st of January 2017 till 30th of June 2017, supported by CAPNI.
70. BWA started (Eliminate Discrimination and Violence against Women) from 1st of January 2017 till 31st of December 2017, supported by Norwegian Peoples Aid.
71. BWA started (Youth Agent for Change) from 1st of August 2017 till 30th of September 2017, supported by Salt Foundation.
72. BWA started (Promote women's rights guarantees and reduce impunity for perpetrators) from 10th of December 2017 till 10th of December 2018, supported by Equality Now.
73. BWA started (Eliminate Discrimination and Violence against Women) from 1st of January 2018 till 30th of August 2018, supported by Norwegian Peoples Aid.
74. BWA started (Potential of Young people as Peace Builders) from 1st of January 2018 till 31st of December 2018, supported by Kvinna Till Kvinna.
75. BWA started (Reintegration Support for Women and Girl Returnees in Al Hamdaniya District) from 1st of March 2018 till 31st of August 2018, supported by Tearfund.
76. BWA started (Psychosocial support for returnee women and girls in Nineveh Plain) from 1st of April 2018 till 31st of January 2019, supported by The Lutheran World Federation.
77. BWA started (Strengthening the Resilience of Women and Syrian Girls and Host Communities in Iraq) from 9th of April 2018 till 31st of December 2018, supported by UN Women.

78. BWA started (Supporting Women & Girls Returnees) from 1st of May 2018 till 31st of October 2018, supported by CAPNI.
79. BWA started (Empower refugee and internally displaced women and girls) from 1st of June 2018 till 31st of May 2019, supported by Global Fund for Women.
80. BWA started (Reintegration Support for Women and Girl Returnees in Al Hamdaniya District and Seji Village) from 1st of September 2018 till 31st of October 2019, supported by Tearfund.
81. BWA started (Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities) from 1st September 2018 till 31st August 2020 Supported by EFI.
82. BWA started (Monitoring and Advocacy for The Implementation of Iraqi National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325) from 1st November 2018 till 30th April 2020, supported by WPHF.
83. BWA started (Advancing Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Through the Inclusion and Empowerment of Women and Girls in Iraq) from 1st December 2018 till 31st August 2019 by LWF.
84. BWA started (Strengthening Resilience of Women Returnees, Refugees, Displaced and Host Communities in Kurdistan Region of Iraq) from 15th of December 2018 till 15th April 2019, supported by UN Women
85. BWA started (Strengthening the Resilience of Women and Syrian Girls and Host Communities in Iraq) from 1st January 2019 till 31st of November 2019, supported by UN Women.
86. BWA started (Empowerment and self-reliance for returnees and host communities in Nineveh plain) from 1st February 2019 till 31st of July 2019, supported by LWF.

86. BWA started (Empowerment and self-reliance for returnees and host communities in Nineveh plain) from 1st February 2019 till 31st of July 2019, supported by LWF.
87. BWA started (Enhancing the Role of Women in Leadership and Decision-making) from 1st June 2019 till 31st December 2019, supported by NPA
88. BWA started (Enhancing Digital Security for Women and Girls in Baghdad) from 1st July 2019 till 30th June 2021, supported by Global Fund for Women.
89. BWA started (Enhancing the resilience of the community and empowerment of the returnee women and girls in Nineveh Plain, Al-Hamdaniya district) from 1st August 2019 till 31st July 2021, supported by LWF.
90. BWA started (Empowering Returnee Women and Girls in Nineveh plain Al Hamdaniya district) from 1st September 2019 till 31st of March 2020, supported by MSI.
91. BWA started (Support for community stabilization in Hamdaniya district - Strengthen community resilience, enhance relations among returnee women and girls, enhance wellbeing and advance women and girls' rights) from 10th September 2019 till 30th of November 2019, supported by IOM.
92. BWA started a Centre for Listening and Psychosocial Guidance for female survivors of violence in Nineveh/ Mosul, as a part of (Promoting Health, Dignity, and Security for Female Survivors of Gender-based Sexual Violence) project from 1/12/2019 to 30/11/2020, supported by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).
93. BWA started (Reintegration Support for Women and Girl Returnees in Al Hamdaniya District and Seji Village) from 1/2/2019 to 30/7/2020, supported by Tearfund.

94. BWA started (Enhancing the Role of Women in Leadership and Decision-making) from 2/1/2020 to 31/12/2020, supported by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA).
95. BWA started (Enhancing Women's Political and Civil Participation in Baghdad) from 1/5/2020 to 31/12/2020, supported by the International Republican Institution (IRI).
96. BWA started (Women Against Domestic Violence Project) from 1/8/2020 to 30/11/2020, supported by (IFA).
97. BWA started (Promoting Social Solidarity and Social Participation in Iraq) from 1/7/2020 to 31/12/2021 in Dohuk, supported by LWF
98. BWA started (Enhancing Psychosocial and legal support services for IDP Women and Girls, Refugees, and Host Communities and Financially Empower Them) project from 17/7/2020 to 15/3/2021 in Anbar/ Ramadi, supported by UN Women and the Japanese Government.
99. BWA started (Empowerment and Support of Women and Girls During Covid Pandemic in Duhok) from 1/9/2020 to 31/12/2020, supported by UN Women and the Finnish Government.

## Networks and Alliances

In order to exchange expertise, identify new experiences, and continue to build its capacity, BWA benefits from its membership in various local and regional networks dealing with women's issues.

### ❑ **Iraqi Women Network:**

This Network include a group of Iraqi Organizations working on Women's Rights and holding local and international advocacy campaigns for the Iraqi woman, it includes 106 local organization.

### ❑ **Alliance 1325:**

This Alliance includes women organizations which devoted its efforts to implement UNSCR 1325 in Iraq, the Alliance made the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, in addition to its influence on the Iraqi government ensuring government's support to implement the Resolution.

### ❑ **Ro'a Network:**

It is a regional Arab women Network that work on gathering Arab women organizations to exchange expertise and work on mutual issues such as UNSCR 1325 and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

### ❑ **Karama Network:**

A regional Arab Network works on gathering women organizations in the area around issues pertaining to Women's Rights

### ❑ **Arab Regional Network for Woman, Security, and Peace:**

This Network works on a wide regional level regarding issues of gender and gender equality.

## Administrative Structure of the Association:

### ❑ Board Members:

- Board members objectives in BWA are summarized as follows:
- Approving annual budget, reviewing periodic financial reports, and handling internal matters of the Association.
- Establish Association's objectives and strategies, reviewing programs' plans, and program assessment plans.
- Drafting different polices for the Association's administration.
- Reviewing employee's affairs and their performance in general.
- Work on establishing sustainable work goals for the Association and participate in the efforts to achieve it.

### ❑ Staff Member:

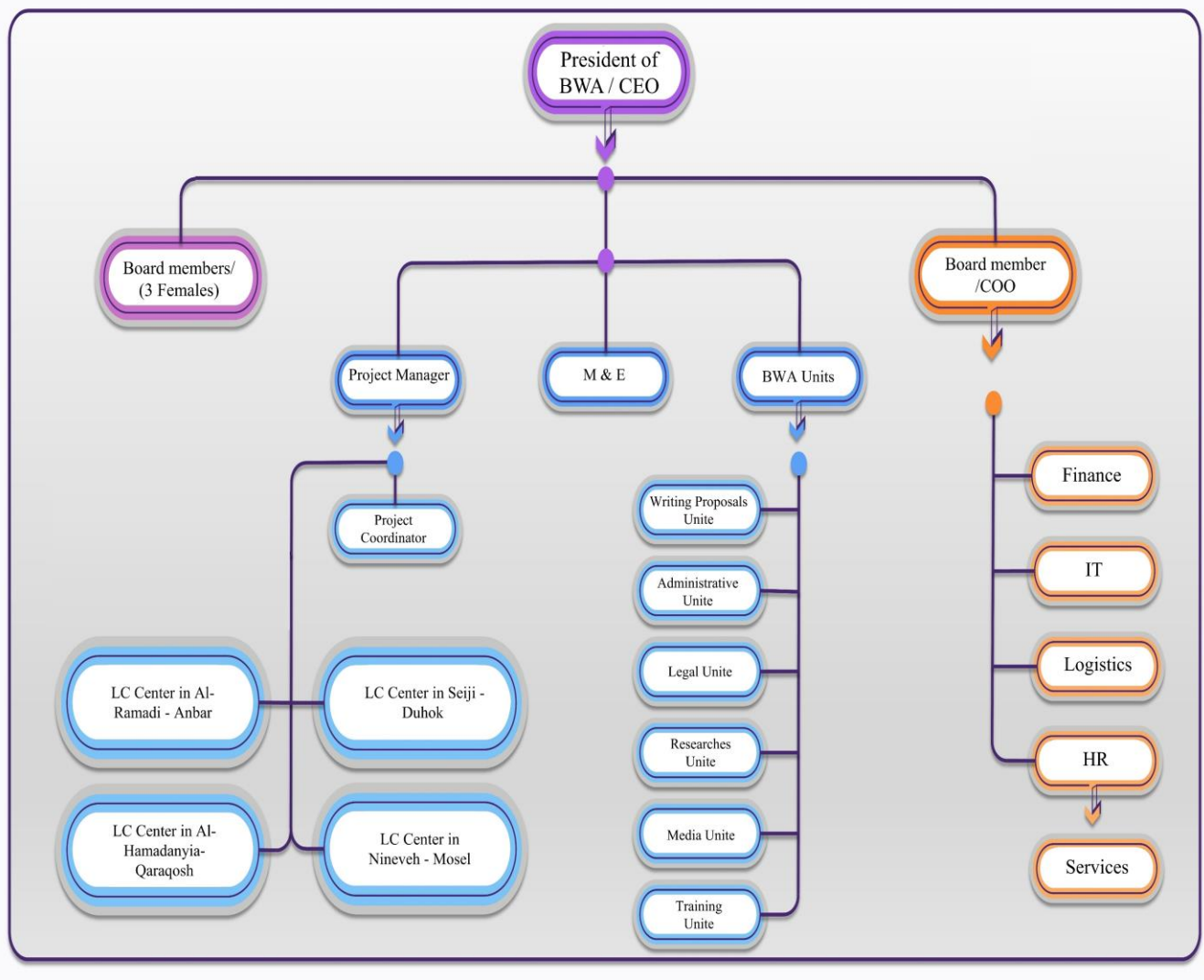
The Association rely on youth from both genders in its employment, especially young girls to build capacity of the future generation from one hand, and encourage youth participation in civil society from the other.

BWA developed the structure of staff members to be managed as best as possible, ensuring decision-making in a democratic environment.

### ❑ Volunteers in Baghdad Women Association

Baghdad Women Association cares about voluntary work, it encourages women and girls especially for this work, since the Association provides necessary training to explain the idea of volunteering and how to provide services through their abilities and skills to serve society in general, especially women, and there programs for volunteers to show their skills and roles in society, they're engaged in capacity building trainings and other subjects provided by the Association or other Organizations.

## The Chart Below Shows the Structure of Baghdad Women Association





## Donors

During its years of work, Baghdad Women Association received financial support from different international organization to implement its project and develop its capabilities

- The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
- The Norwegian Embassy
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA)
- HIVOS Organization
- Open Society Foundation (OSF)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- United States Institution of Peace (USIP)
- Kvinna till Kvinna
- UN Women
- Mercy Corps
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Women for Women International (WWI)
- Women Access to Justice
- FHI 360
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- CAPNI for Humanitarian Aids in Iraq



- ❑ Tearfund
- ❑ International Organization for Migration / IOM
- ❑ (GIZ)
- ❑ Management Systems International (MSI)
- ❑ Euro Med Feminist Initiative / EFI
- ❑ Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund/ WPHF
- ❑ OXFAM Organization
- ❑ International Republican Institution (IRI)
- ❑ Canadian Embassy
- ❑ British Council
- ❑ (IFA)
- ❑ Department for International Development (DFID)
- ❑ Salt Foundation

## Association HQ and its Affiliated Centres

Baghdad Women Association's HQ is located in Karada District/ Baghdad, the Association opened a branch in Erbil in 2016 (closed on 1/12/2019)

Geographical distribution of the listening, psychosocial, and legal guidance centres for female survivors of violence/ Baghdad Women Association/ 2020

### ❑ Duhok Governorate/ Seji

Safe line (07507101801)

### ❑ Nineveh Plain/ Al- Hamdania District/ Qraqosh

Safe line (07509421187)

### ❑ Nineveh Governorate/ Mosul

Safe line 07738552882/ 07714361422

### ❑ Anbar/ Ramadi

Safe line (07800825830)

## For more information and contact with Baghdad Women Association

- Website: <http://www.bwa-iraq.org>
- Facebook / <http://www.facebook.com/BaghdadWomenAssociation>
- E-mail :[info@bwa-iraq.org](mailto:info@bwa-iraq.org)
- Human Resources/ BWA Human Resources
- Mobile: 964-7906973103 / 964-7509012905
- Administration / Email:

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