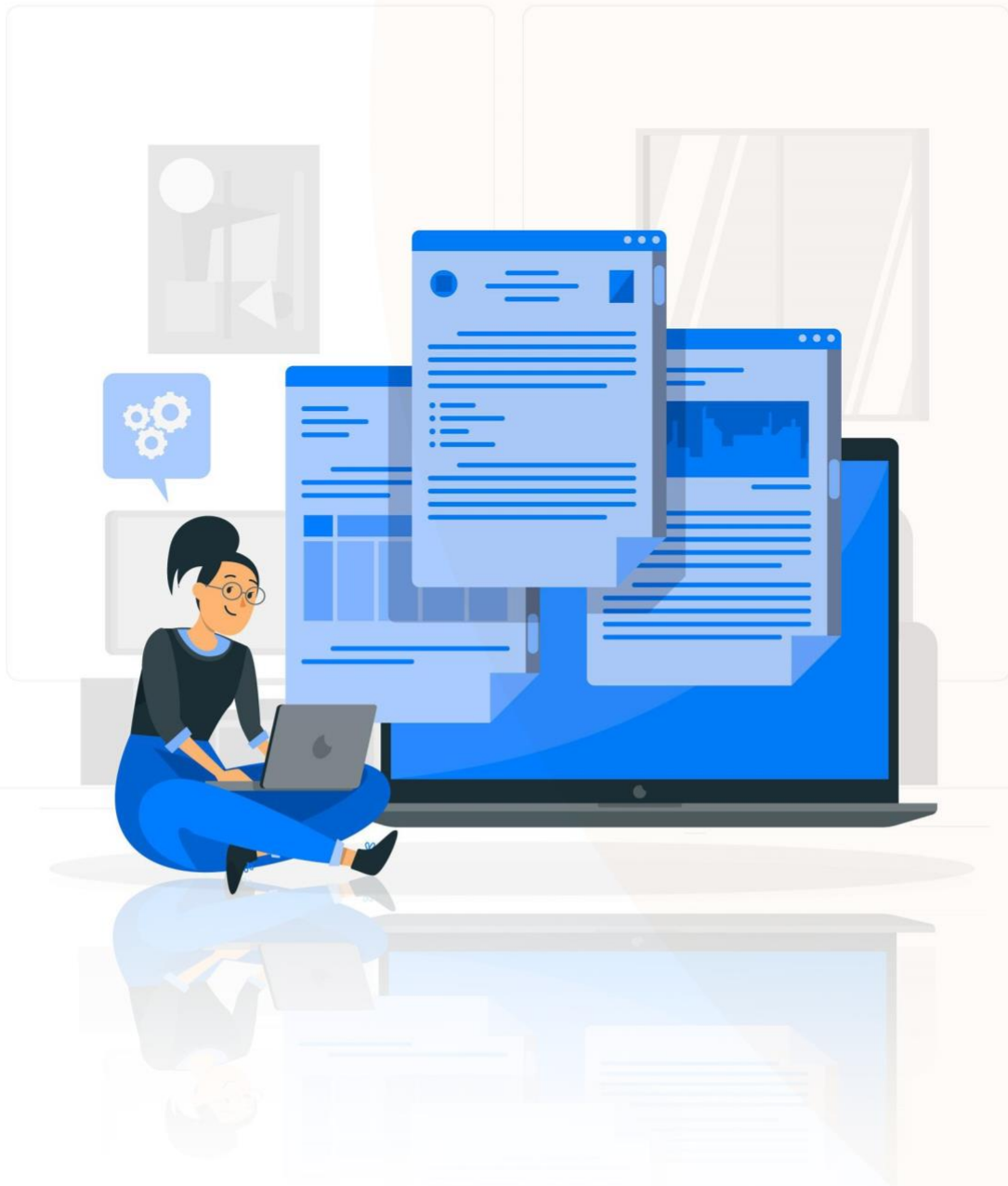




Baghdad Women Association

Organizational Profile

April 2024



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Organizational Profile

Association's Information:

Organization's Age:	10 August 2004, Ministry of Planning in Baghdad and continued its work till now.
Registration Status:	Baghdad Women Association was officially registered in the Non-Governmental Organizations Department / the General Secretariat of the Iraqi Council of Ministers, registration number 1017090 for the year 2004, and it has been registered in the Non-Governmental Organizations Department of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq under the number (1-2705) since 2018.
Headquarters:	Iraq / Baghdad / Karada Sec.905, Street 21, House 7
Sub-headquarters:	Kurdistan Region / Dohuk / Shindokha, Metran Street, Street 30, House 84
Email:	info@bwa-iraq.org
Human Resources Manager:	964-7906973103 / 964-7509012905
Admin Specialist:	964-7508530511
BWA Administration:	liza_hido@bwa-iraq.org mcoo@bwa-iraq.org
Website:	http://www.bwa-iraq.org

Vision

BWA's vision is to combat all forms of violence against women and girls, while ensuring their legal protection, equality, respect and all human rights.

Mission

To limit and mitigate violence against women and girls by providing all required services for female survivors of Justice between sexes violence and by calling to implement the appropriate laws, policies, and government programmes to support women, while aiming to increase the political involvement of women through the development of leadership skills through knowledge, growth, and capacity building.

Brief History

In 2004, eleven Iraqi women from diverse elite groups with different ethnic, religious, and scientific backgrounds living in Baghdad came together to establish Baghdad Women Association to serve women and girls and provide them with support in response to the suffering of Iraqi women and the violence they experience at all levels of their family, community, and political lives, from an early age and even in the early stages of their embryonic roles. In addition to poverty, deprivation, and poor living conditions that they have experienced throughout the lean years of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and the international wars that have lasted for years, during which they lost their father, brother, and son, followed by changes in the ruling systems and the bitterness that followed due to arbitrary practices against the Iraqi woman as a citizen and as a woman, and she has been harmed psychologically, emotionally, physically, and economically.

The founding women of Baghdad Women Association held several meetings to organize the association's documents and register it, and held meetings with representatives of local authorities in the region to establish the foundation's roots and its first establishment. All of this was voluntary efforts that were met with security threats and high risks during the period of resistance to the entry of foreign forces into the country and the community's disapproval of new concepts and civil society, accompanied by a tone of objection to the principle of justice between sexes and women's rights, which could reach the level of cultural shock for the general public.

The first donor to Baghdad Women Association was the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 2005. The first project aimed to promote the concept of democracy in Iraq, raise awareness among women and society, and eradicate illiteracy. The other projects that followed focused on building computer and English language skills for women and raising awareness of their civil and political rights. The association also opened its first center to provide psychological support and social guidance services for women and girls in 2009 in a remote area on the outskirts of the capital Baghdad, namely the Al-Amari area, which has a

rural character and adheres to customs and traditions that are the height of intolerance towards women's rights.

Strategic Orientation and Objectives

In order to put in place appropriate strategies to achieve our vision and mission, we have identified a set of clear objectives, as follows:

1. Combating violence and discrimination against women and girls, and programming events to combat stereotypes and patriarchal tendencies that are deeply rooted in society and hinder women's access to their rights.
2. Promoting women's political participation to be proactive and make effective contributions in the public sphere by empowering them socially and economically and building their capacities and leadership skills.
3. Intensifying efforts to establish the women, peace, and security agenda and UN Security Council resolution 1325 by building solid working networks between national and regional civil society organizations and effective partnerships with relevant government sectors.
4. Promoting the social and economic integration of all women regardless of age, disability, race, ethnic origin, or religion, including women with disabilities, rural women, those living in camps, those living in poverty, displaced women, refugees, and returnees, by adopting an approach based on the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan.
5. Responding urgently to the needs of women in a timely manner in line with changes in circumstances and events, such as the recovery phase that followed armed conflicts, the decline of the global pandemic crisis, the political transformations that followed the demonstrations, climate change, and poor food security systems.
6. Achieving personal security and reproductive health well-being for women and girls by providing psychological support centers, social guidance, and legal protection for survivors.

Programs and Work Methodology

1. Managing listening centers, psychological and social guidance, and legal protection for women and girls

These centers are distributed different locations in Iraq such as (Baghdad, Anbar, Duhok, Nineveh), providing free services to women and girls, including individual and group psychological support, social guidance, and legal representation in court. The centers also have

social researchers, case managers, and lawyers. They write case studies, document the conditions of women and girls in the workplace, conduct needs assessments, and write project proposals. They also provide practical analysis and lessons learned on the implementation status and challenges facing women in all areas of their lives. They offer training workshops for women and girls on a variety of topics, such as reproductive health, livelihoods, rejecting violence against women and girls, legal rights in national legislation, and protecting girls from cyberbullying.

2. Raising the level of societal awareness of clerics and tribal sheikhs of women's rights:

It is essential to gain the support of men for women's issues, represented by religious leaders and tribal leaders, due to their leadership and influence in their communities. This can be done by holding dialogue sessions with them to change their beliefs and win them over as supporters and advocates for women's issues. They can also be given leadership roles in community initiatives related to advocacy campaigns to encourage them to support and defend the rights that Baghdad Women Association is working on.

3. Building the capacity of local authorities and government employees

The association takes on the responsibility of providing knowledge and skills on women's rights to local authorities and employees in Iraqi ministries from various security, health, education, and service sectors, with a focus on international charters and UN Security Council resolutions on women's rights, and mechanisms for dealing with women survivors of violence. They also activate the referral system between them and the association to provide the best services to women.

4. Political empowerment of young women

Through its programs, the association seeks to achieve fair and effective women's participation by generalizing the justice between sexes perspective and applying the women's quota in all executive and judicial authorities, without being limited to the legislative authority by setting a minimum limit for women's participation that cannot be reduced. The association is also continuing to empower young women by building their capacities and capabilities for beginners in civil and political work and candidates. It also supports the establishment of parties led by young women, and we have successful experiences in this regard.

5. Supporting the women, peace, and security agenda

The association works to ensure the optimal implementation of international laws and charters related to women's rights, especially the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. In particular, the association's strategy for 2021-2024 is derived from the pillars of the resolution and the national plan for prevention, protection, and participation to address the conditions of women and girls before, during, and after conflict. It also calls for enhancing

women's participation in security, peacebuilding, and decision-making. The association plays a leading and distinctive role in preparing national plans for implementing the resolution. It has also contributed to the preparation of government sectoral plans for the ministries concerned with implementing the first national plan and the emergency plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325. It has made great efforts to raise awareness of the workforce in the government security, health, and education sectors and to strengthen their monitoring, documentation, reporting, performance measurement indicators, follow-up, and evaluation skills.

6. Mainstreaming policies and legal frameworks and leading national and regional advocacy campaigns

Baghdad Women Association is committed to strengthening and developing government policies related to women and adopting possible reforms to specific legal texts in order to reduce the phenomenon of discrimination against women in the legal framework. The association participates in the advocacy efforts of the local network to prevent the passage of the "Jaafari Personal Status Law" which could harm women's rights. The association also works to enhance women's participation in political parties, government, and all decision-making positions.

The association also supported the government's strategy to combat violence against women and worked with the Women's Welfare Department (affiliated with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs) to develop a strategy to enhance the protection of widows.

Baghdad Women Association also implemented an extensive advocacy campaign entitled "#WeProtectOurFamily" under the slogan "Make your opposition to domestic violence a law" since 2015 to date, with the aim of creating a safe legislative environment for women and girls and enacting a law on protection from domestic violence. The campaign focuses on abolishing and amending discriminatory texts in the Personal Status Law, the Penal Code, and the Law on Combating Human Trafficking, and providing safe shelter for women and girls. The association also participated in writing comprehensive periodic reports that focus on women's rights for the period from 2010 to 2014. Finally, the association contributed to writing shadow reports on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The association led a regional campaign entitled # Marriage_Does_Not_Covering_Rape in 2018 with the aim of abolishing legal texts that facilitate rapists' impunity in accordance with the Iraqi Penal Code No. 111 of 1969, The association also led a campaign to prevent the conclusion of marriage contracts outside the court in the offices of clerics, and led a campaign to provide services and potable water in some remote areas of the capital, Baghdad. It is worth noting that Baghdad Women Association is leading an advocacy campaign to prevent child marriage under the title (Young brides are often deprived of their rights), which has been running since 2021 until now.

7. Monitoring violations of human rights in general and women's rights in particular and documenting this in national and international reports and case studies and analyzing

social, economic, political and other phenomena related to women's rights in in-depth studies and research.

Major achievements since establishment in 2004 until 2023

- Total number of beneficiaries of the association's projects since its inception (males and females, excluding women and girls' survivors of violence): 1,980,312 males and females.
- Number of women and girls' survivors of violence who have benefited from the psychological and social support services of Baghdad Women Association: 213,680.
- Achievements of the Studies and Research Unit at Baghdad Women Association: Preparation and publication of 27 policy papers and research papers on essential and fundamental topics related to women's rights in various fields and levels, and their launch coincided with international occasions, most notably (International Women's Day statements, Women's empowerment is the key to future recovery in the face of climate change, Justice between sexes and informal housing/challenges and risks, justice between sexes and education deprivation/causes and effects, Modern slavery/Food insecurity and its impact on Iraqi women, Child marriage).
- Achievements of the Training Unit at Baghdad Women Association: Implementation of 189 capacity-building activities, including training workshops and courses since its inception to 2023. The target groups have varied to include (women and girls survivors of domestic violence, students, protesters, female political candidates, female MPs and women in decision-making positions from the three authorities: legislative, executive and judicial, beginners in civil and political work, employees in government institutions, civil society activists, community leaders, religious leaders, representatives of local governments from all sectors).
- Completion of 50 complete training manuals on a variety of topics, most notably (violence against women and girls, case management, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, national plans related to women's rights, leading advocacy and advocacy campaigns, financial management and women's economic empowerment, project management, monitoring and evaluation and learning, women's political and civil participation, protection from domestic violence, stopping child abuse and child marriage, international conventions related to women's rights, negotiation skills, volunteer work, social cohesion, establishing small businesses and livelihoods, cash for work, women's political and electoral rights, women's rights in national legislation, cybercrime and protection guarantees, reproductive health, conflict resolution and mediation, report writing skills).
- Launch of high-level national conferences annually, with 23 major conferences held since its inception, with no fewer than 100 participants in each one. Some of these conferences were held under the patronage of the Women's Empowerment Department

in the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers and adopted the participation of decision-makers in the Iraqi government in the three authorities: legislative, executive and judicial, in the presence of MPs, ministers, advisors, as well as civil society and the media.

It is worth noting a number of these conferences:

- The conference on (Women, Peace and Security to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Resolution) - Erbil, supported by the Peace Institute.
- A conference to launch two studies (Women's Participation in Decision-Making) (Women's Status in National Legislation) supported by the Norwegian People's Aid and the implementation of the #WeProtectOurFamily advocacy campaign in Baghdad.
- A major conference (Preventing the Distortion of Personal Status Law No. 188 of 1989) supported by the Norwegian People's Aid and the implementation of the #WeProtectOurFamily advocacy campaign in Baghdad.
- A conference (Women from Community Roles to Politics) under the patronage of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers/Women's Empowerment Department to discuss two political studies, the first (Iraqi Women and the 2021 Electoral Entitlement) and the second (The Impact of the Social Environment on Women's Hesitation to Participate in Political Experience), which were prepared in (10) Iraqi governorates with the support of the Norwegian People's Aid and the implementation of the #OurFamily advocacy campaign.
- A conference on (Justice between sexes and Electoral Districts) to discuss the study (Analysis of the Reality of Women's Political Participation as a Voter or Candidate, Monitoring of the Political Process) supported by the Norwegian People's Aid and the implementation of the #OurFamily advocacy campaign in Baghdad.
- A conference (Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325) supported by the World Lutheran Federation and the Swedish Church - Duhok.
- A press conference (Women's Demands and Needs in Iraq) for fair and inclusive women's participation, supported by the Norwegian People's Aid and the implementation of the #OurFamily advocacy campaign in Baghdad.
- - A conference (launching the first monitoring report within the follow-up and advocacy project for the implementation of the Iraqi national action plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325), with the support of the United Nations Women and the Women's Fund for Peace and Humanity, and in cooperation with the National Team Secretariat/General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in Baghdad.
- - A conference (Draft Law on Protection from Domestic Violence between Necessity and Objection) sponsored by the Women's Empowerment Department in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, with the support of the European Union

Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the Madad Fund, and implemented by the Coalition led by the Euro-Mediterranean Feminist Initiative.

- A conference on the occasion of International Women's Day (Women's Political Participation in Iraq - Opportunities and Challenges) with the support of the United Nations Women's Organization and on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- A closing conference within the project to strengthen the resilience of returnee/refugee/displaced women and the host community in the Kurdistan Region with the support of the United Nations Women and the German International Organization GIZ in Dohuk.
- A conference within the project "Youth Potential as Peacebuilders" with the support of the Women's Organization for Swedish Women, during which a draft study on the impact of extremist ideologies on youth behavior in Baghdad was presented.
- A closing conference to discuss two studies (Women's Attitudes about Suicide in Sadr City) and (Early Marriage and Forced Marriage), two field studies in Baghdad with the support of the Canadian Embassy.
- A national conference entitled (Young brides are often deprived of their rights) coinciding with the International Day to Combat Human Trafficking, discussing the study (The Economic Cost of Child Marriage Violence) with the support of the African Women Development Fund, in which 9 Iraqi governorates participated.
- A conference (Stronger Together, for them and to them, we continue) to present the results of the advocacy campaign. Young brides are often deprived of their rights, with the support of the African Women Development Fund, Baghdad.

Administrative Structure of the Association

Leadership and Key Personnel

President of BWA: Liza Nissan Hido/ bachelor in Electrical and Electronic Engineering/ Women Activist, and the founder of BWA.

Board Members:

- Liza Nissan Hido
- Serri Hazim Mahmood/ MA in International Affairs, Global Security and Human Rights.

- Mohammad Abd Ali Mu'alla/ Diploma in Education.
- Barween Mohammed Ameen/ bachelor in Chemistry.
- Samar Albeer Nooh / bachelor in Business Administration

Staff

Baghdad Women Association employs young people of both sexes, with a special emphasis on employing young women to encourage youth participation in civil society. The total number of staff in the association for the year 2024 is 67, of which 43 are female and 24 are male.

Volunteers

Baghdad Women Association supports volunteer work and encourages women, girls, and young people to volunteer. Through the necessary training to clarify the concept of volunteering, it provides volunteers with the opportunity to participate in capacity-building courses and other topics offered by the association or other organizations. The number of volunteers in the association during 2024 is one, of which is a female.

Regional and International Networks and Alliances

In order to exchange experiences and expand the circle of coordination and influence, Baghdad Women Association works within national and regional networks and alliances, according to the following:

- Iraqi Women's Network: This network includes a group of Iraqi organizations working in the field of women's rights, with a total of 106 organizations. It leads campaigns to defend Iraqi women at the local and international levels.
- Women Peace Network: It brings together women's organizations that have dedicated their efforts to implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Iraq. The alliance has developed a national action plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325, in addition to its impact on the Iraqi government in order to ensure its support for its implementation.
- Rowaa Network: It is a regional Arab women's network that works to bring together Arab women's organizations to exchange knowledge and work on common issues.
- NEAR Network: It is a global network that promotes civil rights and women's rights.
- Arab Civil Society Network for Climate Change: It includes a number of women's organizations in the Middle East and North Africa that specialize in several areas related to women's issues.