



# **Baghdad Women Association**

## **Organizational Profile**

## Baghdad Women Association

### Organizational Profile

#### BWA Information:

**Organization's Age:** Baghdad Women Association was officially registered with the **Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation in Baghdad** on August 10, 2004, and has continued its work to the present day.

**Registration Status:** BWA was officially registered with the Non-Governmental Organizations Directorate of the General Secretariat of the Iraqi Council of Ministers on February 22, 2012, registration number **1017090**

BWA was also officially registered with the Non-Governmental Organizations Directorate of the Kurdistan Region Government of Iraq on May 21, 2018, registration number **2705-I**

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**Sub-headquarters:** Kurdistan Region/Duhok

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## **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 women survivors of violence; 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 Direction 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 in 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.

### 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.

### 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.

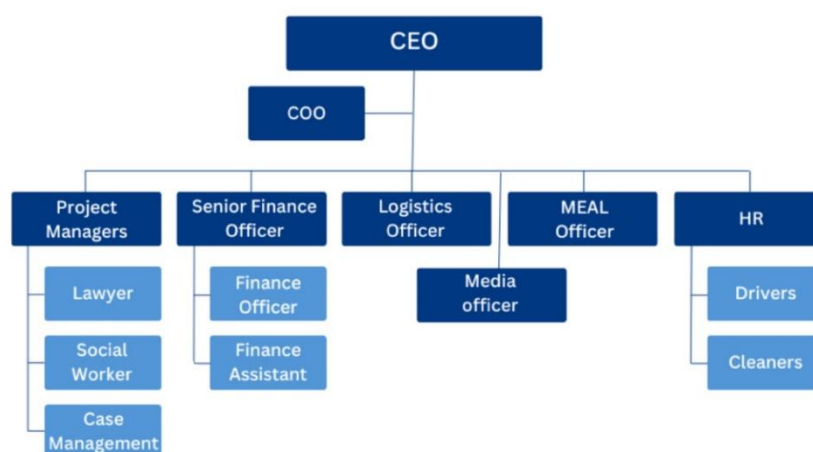
### Major achievements since establishment

- Total number of beneficiaries of the association's projects since its inception (males and females, excluding women and girls' survivors of violence) 2,000,995 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: 214,629.
- Achievements of the Studies and Research Unit at Baghdad Women Association: Preparation and publication of 30 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.
- Achievements of the Training Unit at Baghdad Women Association: Implementation of 319 capacity-building activities, including training workshops and courses since its inception to 2025.
- Completed 54 comprehensive training manuals covering topics like violence against women, financial management, and women's rights in national legislation.
- Launch of high-level national conferences annually, hosted 24 high-level national conferences, each with at least 100 participants, including government decision-makers, aimed at promoting women's empowerment and rights.

### Administrative Structure of the Association



#### BWA Organizational Structure



## Leadership and Key Personnel

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

### Board Members:

Board Members of Baghdad Women Association started their work on July 1, 2024.

- Eng. Liza Nissan Hido
- Dr. Mohammed Raad AL mukhtar
- Mrs. Entesar Jabar Ajeel
- Mrs. Rajaa Hameed Rashid
- Dr. Bushra Hussein Saleh

## Staff and Volunteers

Baghdad Women Association is dedicated to fostering youth participation in civil society, with a strong emphasis on employing young women. Our team consists of a diverse group of individuals committed to our mission.

We also actively promote volunteerism, encouraging women, girls, and young people to get involved. Through comprehensive training programs, we equip our volunteers with the skills needed for effective participation and provide opportunities for personal and professional development.

## Regional and National Networks and Alliances

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 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 for Peace Network WPN: 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 to ensure its support for its implementation.
- Arab Feminist Network (Rowaa ): It is a regional Arab Feminist Network that works to bring together Arab women's organizations to exchange knowledge and work on common issues.
- INEVAWG: the International Network to End Violence Against Women and Girls
- Regional Reconciliation and Forgiveness Network.

## Donors

### 2005

- Department for International Development (DFID)
- Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
- Women for Women International (WFWI)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

## **2006**

- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

## **2007**

- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

## **2008**

- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- Non-Governmental Organizations Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

## **2009**

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- HIVOS Organization
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

## **2010**

- Open Doors Organization
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

## **2011**

- Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Oxfam International
- Women for Women International (WFWI)
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)

## **2012**

- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Women for Women International (WFWI)
- Open Doors Organization (OSFI)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Justice for All Program

## **2013**

- United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Norwegian Embassy



- Mercy Corps
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)

## **2014**

- Norwegian Embassy
- Open Doors Organization (OSFI)
- Mercy Corps
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- UN Women Iraq
- Justice for All Program (INL)

## **2015**

- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- Canadian Embassy

## **2016**

- UN Women Iraq
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)

## **2017**

- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Salt Foundation
- Equality Now

## **2018**

- Tearfund
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
- UN Women Iraq
- EuroMed Feminist Initiative

## **2019**

- Management Systems International (MSI)
- UN Women
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)

## **2020**

- Tearfund
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

- International Republican Institute (IRI)
- German Institute for Foreign Relations (IFA)
- UN Women in Iraq
- Women's Fund for Peace and Humanity
- Global Fund for Women (GFW)
- Euro-Mediterranean Feminist Initiative
- International Management Systems (MSI)

## **2021**

- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- UN Women Iraq
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- OXFAM Organization
- African Women Development Fund
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
- BLUMONT
- Global Fund for Women
- Canadian Embassy
- INTERNEWS
- Tearfund
- Norwegian Church Aid

## **2022**

- African Women Development Fund
- United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women
- OXFAM Organization
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Tearfund
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Canadian Embassy
- UN Women Iraq
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Cordaid Organization Iraq
- RNW Media
- Care International

## **2023**

- German International Cooperation for Development (GIZ)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- OXFAM Organization
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- UN Women Iraq
- Cordaid Organization Iraq
- United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF)
- Tearfund
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- African Women Development Fund (AWDF)
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

- CARE International
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

## 2024

- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- OXFAM Organization
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- UN Women Iraq
- United Nations Trust Fund (UNTF)
- Tearfund
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- CARE International
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- Heartland
- The SecDev Foundation
- Democracy Human Rights Labor (DRL)

## 2025

- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- German International Cooperation for Development (GIZ)
- OXFAM Organization
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- CARE International
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
- The SecDev Foundation
- Democracy Human Rights Labor (DRL)
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

**This Organizational Profile document was formally reviewed and approved by the President of Baghdad Women Association on May 30, 2025.**

**Signature:**



**Name: Liza Nissan Hido**

**Position: President of Baghdad Women Association**