

Iraqi Women Call for More Than One Source

A group of Iraqi women who represent the spectrum of Iraqi society have discussed women's rights in the draft of the Iraqi constitution that has been submitted recently for national dialogue. Iraqi women have agreed that guaranteeing women's rights is an essential part of protection of human rights in the constitution, and therefore it is necessary to achieve the principle of the equality for all, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, belief, or any other distinction outside citizenship.

Motivated by our hopes for a democratic future in which citizens enjoy equal rights irrespective of gender, we have adopted the following recommendations that we will announce at a press conference in Baghdad and at meetings with senior Iraqi officials:

1. Islamic Sharia should be one of the sources of law.
2. Iraq should abide by all international treaties and agreements that guarantee human rights, women's rights, the rights of children, and the rights of those with special needs, and consider these treaties and agreements as one of the sources of law.
3. Female representation in the three branches of government and in other decision-making positions should not be less than 25% and this provision should not have a time limitation.
4. All Iraqi citizens (men and women) must have equal rights in the law and before the law, without any discrimination for any reason.
5. The constitution should not include any text that is conducive to national, social, ethnic, gender, and/or religious fanaticism.
6. The constitution should ban all kinds of violence against women.

“We Iraqis enjoy an old and proud civilization, and we believe in a bright and prosperous future. We want to see our mothers, our sisters, and our daughters take part in building the new Iraq on a footing of equality. The equality of Iraqi women will ensure success for Iraq's progress and prosperity as a democratic nation,” Rend Al-Rahim said.

The women united on behalf of Iraqi women and equality include:

Azhar Al Shakly
Ahlam A. Lefta
Rend Al-Rahim
Safia Al Souhail
Pascale Warda
Maysson Damalouji
Shireen Amadi
Sundus A Hasasn
Shatha Abdulrazzak
Siham Al Hattab
Suha Al Azawy
Hawjeen Manmi
Sabah Al Khafaji

Zainab Al Sweij
Intithar Al Shammari