



## Iraq in the Regional Indexes on VAWG and WPSA



Legal and gender experts from Federal Iraq and Kurdistan Region of Iraq (Iraq/KRI) met on 5th April 2023, in Erbil to discuss the Regional Index on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPSA) and mechanisms to include Iraq.

Experts highlighted the importance of the Regional Index in documenting meaningful data to support informed decision-making and actions in combating VAWG and implementing WPSA in Iraq/KRI, underlining the continuum of VAWG in peace times and its exacerbation in times of armed conflicts. They discussed the scoring methodology as a tool meant to provide a global documentation and quick overview

that allows carrying out comparative studies on laws, public policies and services related to VAWG and WPSA and their alignment with international laws and women's rights instruments. Experts also focused on the methodology of work and agreed on the future steps both on national and regional level.

Iraq was the first country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to adopt in 2014 a National Action Plan (NAP) for United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security, thus opening new opportunities for the promotion of women rights in the region.

Combating VAWG comprehensively and in its continuum, and supporting women's role and participation in decision making, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding is particularly relevant in Iraq, where more than one million people still need to be re-integrated into host or home communities.

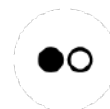
Click [here](#) to view the photo album.

**EuroMed Feminist Initiative is a policy network that provides expertise in the field of gender equality and women's rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, and advocates for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.**

**The Regional Observatory on VAWG aims at producing knowledge and enhancing the understanding and awareness of VAWG and its continuum in peace times and armed conflicts, as well as of the implementation of WPSA. To this goal, the Regional Observatory identifies gaps, collects and analyses data on existing laws, and in all areas of life, and provides recommendations to support a better informed and evidence-based policymaking and legislation towards ending of VAWG.**

**Hosted by Euromed Feminist Initiative, the Regional Observatory follow up on the implementation of the UfM Ministerial Declarations on strengthening the role of women in society in the area of combating all forms of VAWG and implementation of WPSA.**

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