

The accomplishment of Peace Building Project Through Training on Conflict Resolution and Democracy

In mid-August 2007, Iraqi Al-Amal Association, with support from UNOPS (United Nations Project Servicing Office), and in partnership with Baghdad Women Association, completed the project “Peace Building through Training on Conflict Resolution and Democracy”. The principle components of the project included training in:

- Conflict resolution and peaceful coordination
- Building peaceful dialogue and promoting culture of peace
- Building Democratic culture amongst youth and women

During the project, which lasted for 4 months, 24 workshops were organised in Baghdad, Kerbala and Kirkuk. 625 beneficiaries from both sex different age groups and backgrounds participated in the training. They came from various institutions including:

- Civil servants, academics, members of political parties, employees of the General Integrity commission and members of the faculties.
- Members of municipality councils of Al-Sadder sector, Al-Bayia sector in Baghdad, and Kirkuk municipality
- Students from training establishments, colleges and universities.
- Members of youth centers such as Baba Gurgor Youth Center in Kirkuk
- NGO’s activates from the fields of human rights and media

15 specialists in conflict resolution, judiciary and human rights carried out the training. The curriculum included conflict resolution, human rights, international treaties (especially the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women), gender, Iraqi Legislations concerning women focusing on Personal Status Law number 188 of 1959, constitutional reform according to the concepts of citizenship, national unity, Article 41 of the Constitution, human security and personal effectiveness and presentation.

The workshops concluded with several recommendations including:

- The need for further workshops for all government employees, including government institutions, to discuss employee’s rights and the corruption, particularly appertaining to the civil servants responsible for human rights and the application of the legislations.

- Establish a network of youth leaderships, from both sex, in all neighborhoods and sectors, to educate parents and youth to monitor services provisions and any human rights violations, to lobby and advocate for improving the government performances.
- The amendment of Article 41 of the Iraqi Constitution, which, in effect, reinforces sectarianism and destroys the family unity and social ties
- The importance of publicizing, in conjunction with the educational establishments, the culture of nonviolence, making human rights and citizenship part of curriculum for all grades of education, particularly in the training colleges.
- Raising awareness of the dangers of exploiting religion in politics and the spread of sectarianism in society, which will destroy the national unity

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