

**Iraqi Women Movement Conference**  
***"Iraqi Women Call: Stop the Humanitarian Crisis"***

**Opening statement**

Dear Distinguished guests,

It's an outstanding chance for us to come from all over the country to gather in Baghdad, opening the cruel and harsh crises' files, tolerated daily by millions of Iraqi people, where the plight is crushing them physically, psychologically and financially, increasing their desperation from politics, politicians, and the political process, specifically the inability of Iraqi state institutions and international community to address pragmatic solutions to basic crises, that has multiplied into new ones, threatening to jeopardize resolutions to the Iraqi plight,

We come to this forum to discuss in dialogue, our worries as women and as devastated people, with state officials, and all concerned international stakeholders, to help us, in joint willing efforts to build a democratic Iraq, saving Iraqis dignity, resources, and unity and independence of its lands,

Here we will share with you documented eye witnesses and reports, mixed with pains and sufferings of Iraqis, let's listen to them and think together of practical measures to even slightly ease their pains, let's share the burden of resolving piling crises that have wearied our people for the past five years, within a frame of a comprehensive national strategy for reconstruction and development in Iraq,

We come here, women and men, filled with hope to open a window for peace, harmony, security, and stability in a country that has endured bitterness of many decades of wars, coercion, oppression and deprivation, where blood is still shedding in different parts of the country, and the ghost of death, and humiliation of homelessness hovers over our homes, cities and streets,

In the name of Iraqi Women Movement, in the name of all Iraqi women, descendants of the ancient civilization, the women who planted the pillars of stability in Mesopotamia, descendants of the glorious history of Iraqi women heroism stories; we represent a wide range of slices from the Iraqi being spectra with its ethnicities, ideological and social tendencies, as a live and active part of the civil society movement. We have worked together under different frames, of which are the: Iraqi Women Network, Rafidain Women Coalition, Iraq Pledge, Advocacy Campaign for Legislative and Civil Women Rights in Kurdistan, National Women Coalition, and Country of Peace Movement against violence, in addition to prominent political, academic and social women figures, working jointly for the welfare of our people, with persistence and open minds, enthusiastically and tirelessly dedicated to keep

Iraqi citizenship identity incorporated in our dialogues, activities and programmes, rising above sectarian, or religious, or limited political parties trends, and exclusion, with sincerity to maintain dialogue and negotiation to find peaceful resolutions to the conflicts and contradictions threatening our people and our future generations,

Our conference today is concurring with the International Day of Actions (January 26<sup>th</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup>) launched by World Social Forum, which comprise of many organizations, groups, and movements all over the world, carrying out different activities to identify a replace current globalization of monopoly and exploitation led by multinational companies, with a globalization that calls to respect human rights and solidarity amongst peoples to achieve justice and equality. We anticipate from our conference to enhance the role of Iraqi civil society movement locally, regionally, and internationally.

Ahead of us, we have two full days of hard work, where we'll be addressing six difficult and entangled topics: Displacement, Crimes of violence against women, Women trafficking and prostitution of others, Juvenile detainees sufferings and their families, Plight of street children, drug victims and child labour, Failure of public services including health and education. Our legitimate ambition is to nurture the conference results with tangible recommendations on issues raised, to face contemporary humanitarian challenges, to expand joint efforts between government, international community and civil society stakeholders in Iraq

Let us sing together:

Let's build our home together,  
Let's push aside the pain,  
To bring happiness to its eyes,  
This home is wounded and needs a hand,  
For our home is honour and duty,  
We should keep it safe and sound

Thank you for listening,

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