

Founding Statement

National Network to Combat Violence against Women in Iraq

We, the undersigned group of Civil Society organizations working for women and advocating women's rights pursuant to Iraqi constitution and international conventions, hereby announce the establishment of Nuhud Iraqi Women's Network. The establishment of the network comes following about two years of joint work, cooperation and coordination to reach common view and deeper understanding to women issues particularly violence against women and girls in Iraq.

Founding organizations agreed to act independently and refrain from association with any political, religious or ethnic affiliation and set as its top priority advocating women's rights and protecting women from all forms of violence. The network announces the beginning of implementing its agenda and work plan to support women in all aspects of life based on voluntary and participatory contribution from its members without resorting to any form of financial support from any local or international organization during the first year of its work.

By adopting putting pressure on the government to fulfill its commitments and obligations set forth in international conventions and agreements ratified by the Government of Iraq, as well as monitoring national legislations to ensure they are in line with the text and contents of those international conventions, Nuhud network works according to its program focusing on active partnership to identify appropriate mechanisms to ensure respect to the rights of women and girls when setting out public policies and government plans and budgets in addition to laws and legislations at the parliament. To achieve these objectives, the network shall use all forms of civil activism with focus on producing and disseminating annual reports identifying all abuses against the rights of Iraqi women and sharing those reports with all concerned parties at decision making levels with the aim of ensuring respect

of women's rights and women's status as equal citizen and active partner in all aspects of life.

We must applaud here in our founding statement the efforts exerted by all experts, both women and men, who have supported and continue to enrich with their expertise and experience our work and efforts to establish Nuhud network. Our network relies in its organizational structure on an advisory board of 12 members of specialized experts whose expertise cover all topics of The Beijing Platform for Action which we use as roadmap for our program in addition to SCR1325 and other subsequent UN resolutions in relation to women, peace and security.

March 8, 2011

Baghdad-Iraq

Network Founder Organizations:

- Women Leadership Institute, Baghdad
- Baghdad Women Association, Baghdad
- Sada Al Zahraa Women Organization, Baghdad
- Women Development Organization, Najaf
- Iraqi Women Association, Najaf Branch
- Taqwa Association, Basrah
- Al Qurna Center, Basrah, Al Qurna
- Asuda for Combating Violence against Women, Sulaymaniyah
- Women Empowerment Organization, Erbil
- Awan Organization, Diwaniyah
- Bint Al Rafidayn Organization, Babil
- Iraqi Women Foundation, Missan
- Sawa Human Rights Organization, Muthanna

- Itana Organization, Duhok
- Ajyal Organization, Diyala
- Yezidi Social and Cultural Center, Mosul
- Iraqi Human Rights Institute, Kirkuk