



Update on women, peace and security in the Iraq October 10th 2022

The Informal Expert Group (IEG) of the Security Council on Women and Peace and Security discussed the situation in Iraq in April 2016 ([S/2016/683](#)), October 2016 ([S/2016/1104](#)), June 2017 ([S/2017/624](#)), March 2018 ([S/2018/475](#)), and March 2020 ([S/2020/282](#)). This update summarizes relevant developments since then.

Developments in the Security Council

In a **press statement** issued on 22 October 2021, the Security Council congratulated the Iraqi people and the Government of Iraq on the occasion of the 10 October parliamentary **elections** and welcomed efforts of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to promote women's political participation.

On 17 December 2021, the Security Council adopted **resolution 2610 (2021)** renewing the 1267/1989/2253 **ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida sanctions regime** and extending the mandate of the Monitoring Team for a further period of thirty months. The resolution included previous references to gender-related issues, including the reaffirmation of the Council's intention to consider targeted sanctions for individuals and entities associated with ISIL (Da'esh) or Al-Qaida involved in trafficking in persons and in sexual violence in conflict as well as requesting the Monitoring Team to include in their discussions with Member States the issue of trafficking in persons and the use of sexual violence in armed conflict. The resolution does not include a listing criterion related to human rights or sexual violence. On 21 May 2021, the Security Council listed Amir Muhammad Sa'id Abdal-Rahman al-Salbi who, according to the narrative summary, helped drive the abduction, slaughter and trafficking of Yazidi religious minorities in northwest Iraq. None of the listings added since the last meeting of the IEG includes references to violations against women and girls, sexual violence or other gender-specific information in their narrative summaries. The few references to issues related to women, peace and security in the reports of the Monitoring Team mostly concern women's role in ISIL (Da'esh) rather than how they were and are affected by the acts of the terrorist group.

On 26 May 2022, the Security Council adopted **resolution 2631 (2022)**, extending the mandate of the **UNAMI** until 31 May 2023. Since the last meeting of the IEG in March 2020, the Security Council strengthened the mandate's language on women, peace and security. The current mandate recognizes the importance of ensuring accountability for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and the effective and timely implementation of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law. The Council also strengthened provisions concerning the political and electoral participation of women by explicitly requesting UNAMI to support an inclusive political dialogue and national community-reconciliation with the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and to advise and assist the Government of Iraq in ensuring the full, equal, and meaningful participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels, including in the context of elections and government formation. UNAMI was also requested to support the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) and the Joint Communiqué on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). Relevant excerpts of the resolutions are included in the annex below.

In a **press statement** issued on 1 September 2022, members of the Security Council **condemned the violence throughout Iraq** on 29 and 30 August and urged all parties and actors to engage, without further

delay, in a peaceful and constructive dialogue to advance reforms and chart a constructive way forward. The press statement did not include any gender-specific language.

On 15 September 2022, the Security Council adopted resolution **2651 (2022)** extending the mandate of the **Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD)** until 17 September 2023. The resolution included language from previous mandates condemning the commission of acts by ISIL (Da'esh) including involving enslavement, sale into or otherwise forced marriage, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence.

The **Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)** carried out an assessment visit to Iraq between 29 March and 12 April 2022 (virtual component) and 3 to 7 July 2022 (physical component), on behalf of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). The visit report, which includes a number of recommendations to strengthen the integration of gender perspectives in Iraq's counter-terrorism efforts, is currently under consideration by the CTC.

Two Iraqi women from civil society briefed the Security Council in its country-specific meetings since the last meeting of the IEG. In November 2021, **Amal Kabashi**, Coordinator of the Iraqi Women's Network, expressed growing concerns over the assassinations, kidnappings, assaults, and threats against feminist activists and human rights defenders, particularly during the protests in 2019 and 2020, and demanded accountability. Calling for an enabling environment for women's participation, she asked for an increase in the number of women in ministerial positions. She also urged the Security Council to ensure that UNAMI prioritizes the protection of women's rights when supporting the Government of Iraq in its judicial and legal reforms. **Hanaa Edwar**, co-Founder and Chairperson of the Iraqi Al-Amal Association, briefed the Council in May 2022. She recalled women's role in the peaceful protests in 2019 and 2020 but offered a bleak picture of the political situation in Iraq, including the politicization of the justice system, which is being used to convict human rights defenders, journalists, and peaceful protesters. She called on the international community to put pressure on the Iraqi authorities and political decisionmakers to end the political standstill and divisions, to prioritize the interests of the Iraqi people and to respect their commitments under international human rights conventions and highlighted the importance to include civil society organizations in such initiatives.

In April 2022, **Nadia Murad**, Nobel Peace Prize laureate, briefed the Security Council during its debate on CRSV. Warning that other terrorist groups and oppressive regimes have watched as ISIL (Da'esh) members openly brag about enslaving Yazidi women and girls, without facing any consequences, she called on the Security Council to refer the case to the International Criminal Court or establish a hybrid court by treaty to prosecute ISIL (Da'esh) crimes. Nadia Murad had previously highlighted the importance of accountability to defeat ISIL (Da'esh) and to acknowledge the trauma that survivors continue to endure during her briefing at the Council's meeting on UNITAD in May 2021.

Women's political participation

Women's representation in the Council of Representatives significantly increased following the parliamentary **elections of October 2021**. Women candidates won 95 seats (29 per cent), considerably surpassing the minimum constitutional quota of 25 per cent (83 of 329 seats) as well as the results from the 2018 election where women won 25 per cent of the seats. Almost half of the voters (48 per cent) were women. UNAMI, with DPPA support, provided technical support to the IHEC in the development of gender-responsive electoral processes in preparation for the October 2021 elections. For example, voter registration offices employed women to assist in taking fingerprints and photographs. Mobile registration units were also sent to camps for internally displaced persons, which enabled women who lacked identification and permanent addresses to vote. In a limited number of cases, voter verification devices did

not recognize voters' fingerprints which particularly affected older persons and women. The Board of Commissioners of the IHEC has only one woman among its 9 members.

The application and interpretation of the constitutional **quota**, which guarantees that women should make up a minimum 25 per cent of parliament, was introduced in the new Council of Representatives Election Law (Law No. 9) of 2020. In a UNAMI study, the large majority of interviewed women candidates said that the new law was favorable to women because they could run individually and in smaller districts, giving them more visibility and an opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities. Additionally, under the new law, votes were no longer transferable, making it difficult for political parties to "steal" votes from women. Before the elections, the IHEC, with UNAMI's support, promoted an awareness of the correct interpretation and application of the quota, that it is a floor and not a ceiling, as well as understanding of the new electoral system in a public outreach campaign, including a live Q&A session and multilingual fact sheets.

In rural areas, especially in southern governorates, women candidates reported experiencing **gender stereotypes**, while at the same time receiving support of tribal and community leaders to overcome them. For example, a first-time woman candidate who was running in the rural area of al-Harthah District reported that the head of her tribe had asked her to send a male representative to meet with male potential voters in the area while she met with women voters.

While no serious physical violations against women candidates were documented during the elections campaign, **women candidates were targeted with online attacks**, including defamatory messages on social media, hate speech, fake news, and defamation. Many women candidates reported that their political posters and banners were damaged or destroyed. UNAMI verified the case of a candidate that was attacked after announcing her candidacy for seat in a constituency in Baghdad believed to be controlled by armed groups. Ahead of the elections, the UN supported the development of a new electoral code of conduct that addressed defamation and gender-based violence (GBV) targeting women candidates. The President of the Kurdistan Region, Nechirvan Barzani, had called for a renouncement of smear attacks against candidates, especially against women. Furthermore, the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers had established a **higher committee** to promote and monitor women's participation in elections and adopted measures to prevent and address violence against women candidates, including the activation of free telephone hotlines to receive and respond to complaints from women candidates reporting harassment and violence. However, some women candidates told UNAMI that the hotline was ineffective, and no actions were taken to address reported complaints. The UN supported other efforts to counter GBV and hate speech during the election campaign, including assigning a dedicated judge to address incidents, criminalizing cyberattacks, and providing protection for women candidates.

Iraq is currently in the midst of an **escalating political crisis** with parties unable to form a government since parliamentary elections were held in October 2021. Efforts to explore a political compromise have not brought about a breakthrough. Despite the increased representation in the parliament since the last election in October 2021, women have been largely absent from government formation negotiations as well as political efforts to resolve the impasse, including two rounds of national dialogue convened by Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi held respectively on 17 August and 5 September with all main political parties except for the Sadrist who boycotted both meetings. Currently, there are no women in senior positions among the ranks of the mainstream political parties and coalitions participating in the dialogue meetings. Unless the level of representation is expanded to include lower-ranking party officials, women are likely to continue to be absent from these political processes. Some women leaders have pointed out that the rivaling blocs share the same misogynistic agenda aimed at subjecting women to ancient religious laws. To date, civil society activists including women-led networks have issued three statements outlining their views and proposing recommendations on how to resolve the current political impasse and lay the groundwork toward the implementation of overdue political reforms. Those recommendations include the launch of an inclusive

national dialogue based on equal citizenship with the participation of diverse groups of Iraqis including women. The **previous Iraqi government** included three women cabinet members, one of whom, a Christian, was the sole Cabinet member from a minority community. UNAMI has continued to engage with the Women's Advisory Group as well as civil society organizations to solicit their experiences throughout the electoral process and their advice on strengthening women's political participation in the Council of Representatives.

The **Government of the Kurdistan Region** formed in July 2020 includes only three women ministers out of 21 holding the portfolios of labour and social affairs, agriculture and water resources, and regional affairs. On 11 July 2020, Rewaz Faiq was elected Speaker of the Kurdistan Regional Parliament; the first woman to hold this post on a permanent basis. Furthermore, on 18 May 2021, Muna Yukna Yaqu was appointed as the new head of the Independent Human Rights Commission of the Kurdistan Region. She is also the first woman in this position.

None of the members of the **Federal Supreme Court** are a woman.

Women played a key role in the peaceful protests in 2019 to 2020 but some were subjected to deadly violence. On 19 August 2020, a doctor and **women human rights defender**, Riham Yaqoob, was killed by unidentified gunmen in Basra. She had led local anti-government protests and advocated for women's rights to exercise in public and use sports facilities. Two days earlier, another women's rights and environmental rights defender had survived a shooting attack in the same city, after she had been subjected to a smear campaign. Both women had led women's marches within the protest movement against corruption and unemployment that started in Basra in 2018.

Iraq is currently implementing its **second national action plan on UNSC 1325 (NAP)** adopted in 2020. UN Women led and facilitated the development of the NAP, a process that included consultations with more than 60 women-led organizations across the country, the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC), representatives from both the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Federal Government, and Sectoral Committees operating across 33 Ministries and governmental institutions. However, the government is now in caretaker mode, limiting its ability to make decisions beyond day-to-day business. As a result, the parliament has not adopted a fiscal budget for 2022 and there is no allocated funding for the implementation of the NAP, nor is there a government programme that sets clear targets for gender equality and empowerment.

Human rights issues, including conflict-related sexual violence

In 2021, the UN verified six cases of **CRSV** perpetrated against girls who were between the ages of 13 and 17 years old at the time of their abduction and subsequent sexual enslavement in 2014 by ISIL (Da'esh) elements and who had returned from Syria to Iraq. CRSV remains largely underreported because of fear of reprisals, stigma, family pressure not to report incidents and a lack of trust in the justice system. Survivors struggle to gain access to services and socioeconomic support. The Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) tracked a 46 per cent increase in CRSV incidents (i.e. rape and sexual assault) reported by refugees in 2021, compared to the same period in 2020.

The 2022 report of the Secretary-General on CRSV noted an alarming trend of increased suicide among members of the **Yazidi community**, including survivors of CRSV. Many female Yazidi survivors are still living in IDP camps which is a serious impediment for re-building their lives. An increase in women showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder has been reported. Yazidi survivors face multiple legal and cultural barriers to maintaining custody of their children and, in some cases, remain separated from them indefinitely. **Mothers who have conceived children as a result of sexual violence** continued to face barriers to obtain identity cards and gain access to services. Their children frequently lack access to health

care, education, housing and employment owing to a lack of civil documentation. Both Yazidi mothers and children continue to face rejection by their families and communities and the integration of children born of CRSV continues to be difficult due to the position of Yazidi religious leaders. Comprehensive legislation and social support for children born of sexual violence remain lacking. According to the Directorate of Yazidi Affairs of the Ministry of Endowment and Religious Affairs of the Kurdistan Regional Government, of the estimated 6,417 Yazidis who were abducted, 2,763 remain missing (1,470 men and 1,293 women).

On 1 March 2021, the Council of Representatives passed the **Yazidi Female Survivors Law** which constitutes the first legal recognition by the Government of Iraq of the crimes committed by ISIL (Da'esh) against certain ethnic groups, including Christians, Shabaks, Turkmens, and Yazidis as genocide and crimes against humanity. The law provides for access to pensions, land, education as well as reparations and a quota in public sector employment for survivors of ISIL (Da'esh) crimes, including survivors of sexual violence. However, the law does not address the issue of children born as a result of conflict-related rape. Because of difficulties to obtain identification documents, these children continue to be at risk of statelessness which makes them vulnerable to human trafficking and recruitment by terrorist groups. In addition, the law does not apply to those who do not belong to the specific ethnic groups named, such as Sunni women and girls who experienced sexual violence, mainly in the form of forced marriages to ISIL (Da'esh) fighters – nor does it apply to men and boys who also survived CRSV perpetrated by ISIL (Da'esh). Ensuring the law's full implementation is now essential. Following the adoption of the law, the Council of Ministers established a General Directorate of Yazidi Survivors Affairs and appointed a Yazidi woman lawyer as Director General. The implementation of the law requires the allocation of funds which remains pending. UNAMI provided technical support to the drafting on the law and has also supported advocacy for the allocation of resources for its implementation.

A report published by Human Rights Watch and IraQueer in March 2022 documents numerous **attacks against LGBTQI+ people** by armed groups in Iraq, including abductions, attempted murder, extrajudicial killings, sexual violence -including gang rape-, threats to rape and kill, and online targeting. Describing a climate of impunity for such attacks, the report found that the failure of the Iraqi government to address discriminatory social norms and the promotion of an anti-LGBTQI+ discourse through 'morality'-based policies, have fueled violence against LGBTQI+ people. Activists report of "honor" killings due to sexual orientation and gender identity and deplore the lack of tracking of such crimes. Iraqi law criminalizes sexual behavior encompassing homosexuality and including any other acts 'against public morality'. In August 2022 in the federal Iraq government and in September 2022 in the Kurdistan Regional Government, there was political support within both Parliaments for an anti-LGBTQI+ bill. Both draft bills did not progress due to advocacy by the UN and the diplomatic community, but they demonstrate the extent to which rights of LGBTQI+ individuals lack protection in Iraq. They also lack access to services such as safe shelters.

Iraqi women belonging to the black community face constant discrimination and harassment. They often work in low-paying jobs exposing them to the risk of exploitation.

According to a 2021 UN Women report, **online violence against women and girls increased** in Iraq and the region after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Incidents are believed to be underreported due to lack of trust in law enforcement and fears of retribution and stigmatization. The need for effective legislation which incorporates violence happening in the online sphere is underscored by reports from private technology companies stating that since they are not obliged by national Iraqi legal frameworks to act on complaints, their designated resources to respond on the topic are minimal. Inter-agency advocacy is ongoing to include provisions related to the protection from technology facilitated GBV to the draft law against domestic violence.

ISIL (Da'esh)-related issues

Women and girls with perceived affiliation with ISIL (Da'esh), such as widows of alleged ISIL (Da'esh) members, are at risk of harassment, sexual violence and of rejection by their communities which is a challenge for their rehabilitation and reintegration. They also continue to face collective punishment (movement restrictions, lack of access to services/documentation), making them more vulnerable to harmful coping mechanisms and exposing them to further GBV risks. In her statement at the Security Council, Amal Kabashi deplored gaps in government rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for women and girls forced to join ISIL (Da'esh) or marry their fighters making them “ticking time bombs that threaten peace and social security”.

Many Iraqi women and children continue to live in the **Al-Hol camp** in Syria where women and children represent 94 per cent of the 60,000 inhabitants. Many of them are survivors of sexual violence committed by ISIL (Da'esh) and are at high risk of indoctrination and exploitation. At the hands of authorities, women and girls with (perceived or real) affiliation to ISIL (Da'esh) living in the Al-Hol camp, in addition to Jeddah 1 and Jeddah 5 camps in Iraq, are subjected to severe abuses, including rape, the organization of prostitution rings within camps, and ‘sextortion’ (meaning the sexual extortion of women for the provision of basic needs such as water, healthcare, food items, etc.). These human rights abuses underline the greater possibility for (re-)radicalization of camp residents. In his reports on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security, the Secretary-General has repeatedly stressed the urgent need to address the dire and precarious situation of foreign terrorist fighters, other ISIL (Da'esh) fighters and their family members, including tens of thousands of women and children perceived to be associated with terrorism, stranded in detention camps in Iraq and in northeast Syria. In addition to legal, human rights and humanitarian concerns, the Secretary-General pointed out to increased violence and exacerbated security threats in these camps, including dozens of killings.

In response to the increasingly difficult situation of women and children in Al-Hol and other camps in Northeast Syria, the **Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees (“Global Framework”)** was launched in September 2021. The Global Framework provides a coordinated ‘all-of-UN’ approach and pooled funding mechanism under which the UN can provide human rights-based, age appropriate, and gender responsive support that addresses the humanitarian and protection needs of returnees from Iraq and Syria, while also promoting security and addressing accountability for offences allegedly committed by returning adults.

ISIL (Da'esh) members continue to be prosecuted and convicted under counterterrorism legislation, which focuses on membership rather than the crimes committed. Despite numerous prosecution cases, **no cases have included charges of sexual violence committed by Da'esh members**. In his latest report on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security, the Secretary-General noted little progress in holding ISIL (Da'esh) perpetrators of sexual violence accountable in Iraq and considered that a “legislation establishing a basis for the prosecution of Da'esh members for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide would be a crucial step towards delivering accountability for their crimes in Iraq” and enabling survivors for receiving holistic support, including reparations and redress.

In November 2021, a **German court issued the first-ever conviction of a member of ISIL (Da'esh) for the crime of genocide**. The perpetrator had bought Yazidi women and her five-year old child and then left the girl to die in front of the eyes of her mother chained up in 50-degree heat.

UNITAD, through its Gender Crimes and Children Unit advanced its investigations into sexual and gender-based crimes committed by ISIL (Da'esh). For example, UNITAD conducted detailed interviews with Yazidi women and girls who were sexually enslaved and who were able to provide information regarding the perpetrators, including foreign terrorist fighters which is particularly relevant for national jurisdictions

that are conducting their own investigations. UNITAD also interviewed elderly Yazidi women who were enslaved and forced to manual and agricultural labor, but not subjected to sexual violence. This information broadens the scope of gender-based crimes and the understanding of the different ways in which Yazidi women were affected because of their gender outside the context of sexual crimes. UNITAD also started an investigation into crimes committed by ISIL (Da'esh) against the LGBTQI+ community which is one of its current priorities. Women account for 50 per cent of substantive and support staff and 60 per cent of personnel covered by extrabudgetary support. At the 2022 open debate on CRSV, Iraq declared that it is prepared to receive the evidence that has been gathered by UNITAD in order to use it in a competent national court. However, there is no core international crime legislation yet in place in Iraq and the death penalty remains applicable, in contradiction with UN best practices.

Humanitarian issues and women's socio-economic situation

Women that have been displaced by ISIL (Da'esh) attacks and subsequent military operations experience challenges in accessing services and have limited access to employment opportunities. While all IDPs in camps have access to a primary health care facility within one hour reach from their dwellings, only 66 per cent have access to a hospital with maternity services within one hour. Furthermore, one quarter of all households in camps reported that women faced difficulties accessing specialized reproductive health services. Women-headed households in IDP camps are three times more likely to face unemployment compared to the rest of the households which has the potential to affect their ability to access food. Analysis of the conflict-affected population shows that they are twice as likely as male-headed households to experience moderate or severe hunger. Furthermore, 16 per cent of women-headed households reported missing at least one core legal document, which is a barrier to accessing basic services. The most reported barriers to accessing civil documentation are the absence of an attempt to obtain or renew documents (41 per cent), high costs (15 per cent), and the complexity of the procedure (10 per cent).

UN reports indicate that members of the Iraqi security forces harassed and sexually abused women in camps under their control, such as Ninawa. Furthermore, according to focus group discussions conducted in three refugee camps in Dohuk governorate in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, women and girls also reported facing sexual harassment when working outside the camp as daily workers.

Women and children make up 78 per cent of those who are affected by the **sudden closure of IDP camps** by the Iraqi government that started in October 2021. In surveys carried out by humanitarian partners of the UN country team 42 per cent of respondents indicated that they could not return to their areas of origin due to destroyed or damaged housing, homes being occupied by other people, or the unavailability of basic services, and that they did not have other options for safe, voluntary and dignified durable settlement.

According to the 2022 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview, more than 919,000 people are at risk of different forms of **GBV**, 87 per cent of whom are women and 46 per cent are children. The first half of 2021 recorded a 226 per cent increase in reported incidents compared to the same period of 2020. More than three quarters of the incidents are linked to **domestic violence**, which increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. A COVID-19 assessment conducted by UNFPA and GBV subcluster partners in April and May 2020 revealed a sharp rise in GBV incidents with 94 per cent of respondents reporting an increase in acts of domestic violence perpetrated by a spouse or other family members within the household. Limited safe shelter options for GBV survivors remain a challenge, as government-run shelters require an official complaint by the survivor, and this poses an obstacle for those who may not wish to report against an intimate partner or involve government authorities.

Despite years of advocacy from civil society and the UN, the **draft law against domestic violence** has still not been adopted. Moreover, women leaders deplored that the current draft version of the law requires civil

society organizations that are running shelters to obtain approval from the government, which would be very hard to get.

Access to psychosocial support and mental health care is insufficient due to the low number of service providers. Furthermore, there is a considerable **gender gap in COVID-19 vaccination coverage**. As of 26 September 2021, of the 16 per cent of Iraqis who had received the first dose or were fully vaccinated, an estimated 65 per cent were men and only 35 per cent women.

On 22 November 2020, UNFPA, together with the Ministry of Health, launched the **national family planning strategy** in response to the unmet need for family planning among women. The strategy is multisectoral and engages all relevant ministries, religious institutions, media, and civil society organizations.

Women face significantly higher rates of unemployment with 32.8 per cent of women with no job in 2021 compared to 11.3 per cent of men. Women with disabilities are particularly affected because it is harder for them to find employment due to institutional and cultural barriers. The precarious socioeconomic situation compels many to resort to **negative coping strategies**, including child marriage and transactional sex. On average, among conflict-affected communities, 1 per cent of children are married and 6 per cent work to contribute to the family's income.

Recommendations

In response to the current political crisis, the Security Council and its members should:

- Urge Iraq's political leaders to ensure the inclusion of women in government formation negotiations, including national dialogues convened by the Prime Minister and other fora on the future of Iraq's political and electoral processes.
- Call for the meaningful inclusion of women in the new Iraqi government.
- Encourage UNAMI to continue to promote the inclusion of women in government formation processes and their meaningful participation in the new government, including through a stepped-up public communication strategy.

In the next negotiations on UNAMI, the Security Council should retain the references to women, peace and security in resolution 2631 (2022), and consider the following language in operational paragraphs:

Urges the Government of Iraq to ensure the full, equal, meaningful and safe participation of women in all political and electoral processes, including decision-making processes on electoral frameworks and government composition.

Requests UNAMI to regularly engage and consult with a wide range of diverse women's civil society organizations and women human rights defenders in all areas of its work.

Requests UNAMI to monitor and report specifically on violations, abuses and reprisals committed against women in public life, including women human rights defenders, protestors, candidates and politicians.

Urges the Government of Iraq to establish national laws and regulations that protect all women and girls regardless of nationality from gender-based violence in all spheres of society -online and offline-, to align national laws and institutional policies with international human rights standards, and with international humanitarian and criminal law, and to adopt a core international crimes legislation covering genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes and including a definition of sexual and gender-based violence related offences.

Urges the Government of Iraq to ensure the full implementation of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law with adequate budgetary resources and in consultation with survivors and calls on the Government of Iraq to include survivors from all ethnic groups and to consider similar provisions relating to the children of survivors, including children born of conflict-related rape.

Calls on the Government of Iraq to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and safe access for survivors to multisectoral services, including safe shelters, in line with the 2016 joint communiqué to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence.

When renewing the sanctions regime, the Security Council should consider including a listing criterion related to conflict-related sexual violence, requesting the Monitoring Team to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across its investigations and reporting, and requesting the Monitoring Team to include the necessary gender expertise.

In addition, the IEG co-chairs and other Council members should:

- Support the implementation and adequate resourcing of the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and advocate for the creation of government structures to ensure oversight.
- Urge the Iraqi Government to ensure accountability for attacks against women human rights defenders and civil society activists during the 2019 and 2020 protests.
- Advocate with Iraqi authorities that sexual violence crimes committed by terrorist groups are included in indictments and adjudicated at trial, to ensure criminal accountability for members of terrorist groups who perpetrated sexual and gender-based violence.
- Encourage and support all actors interacting with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Iraq to follow a survivor-centered and do-no-harm approach, including the principles contained in the Murad Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.
- Advocate in the ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee to list individuals and entities specifically for sexual violence crimes or include a specific mention of sexual violence in cases of those already designated for United Nations sanctions on other grounds, given the abundant evidence of its use by ISIL (Da'esh) members.
- Provide flexible funding to women's rights organizations and local women's peacebuilding initiatives.

ANNEX

Relevant language in resolution 2631 (2022) extending the mandate of UNAMI

Supporting Iraq in addressing the challenges it faces as it continues its stabilization efforts, including the ongoing fight against terrorism and ISIL, Al-Qaida and their affiliates, and continues the task of recovery, reconstruction, stabilization and reconciliation, including the requirement to meet the needs of all Iraqis, including women, youth, children, displaced persons, and persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities (...),

Recognizing the importance of the effective and timely implementation of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law and the need to hold perpetrators of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence accountable, to provide mental health and psychosocial support to victims, and to provide reparations and redress measures for all survivors identified in the law, and calling upon the Government of Iraq to extend its provisions to all victims,

2. Requests that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and UNAMI, at the request of the Government of Iraq, shall:

(a) prioritize the provision of advice, support, and assistance to the Government and people of Iraq on advancing inclusive, political dialogue and national and community-level reconciliation, taking into account civil society input, with the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women;

(e) approach gender mainstreaming as a crosscutting issue throughout its mandate and to advise and assist the Government of Iraq in ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation, involvement and representation of women at all levels of decision making, including in the context of elections and government formation, and the promotion of women's economic empowerment, by supporting the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security consistent with resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, and the Joint Communique on Prevention and Response to Conflict Related Sexual Violence;

Relevant language in resolution 2651 (2022) extending the mandate of UNITAD

Recalling that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) constitutes a global threat to international peace and security through its terrorist acts, its violent extremist ideology, its continued gross, systematic and widespread attacks directed against civilians, its violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, particularly those committed against women and children, and including those motivated by religious or ethnic grounds, and its recruitment and training of foreign terrorist fighters whose threat affects all regions and Member States,

Condemning the commission of acts by ISIL (Da'esh) involving murder, kidnapping, hostage-taking, suicide bombings, enslavement, sale into or otherwise forced marriage, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence, recruitment and use of children, attacks on critical infrastructure, as well as its destruction of cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, and trafficking of cultural property,