

New York, March 10, 2010

Press Release

On the occasion of the 54th session of the CSW at the United Nations - New York aiming at tracking progress of conditions of women in the context of the Beijing Platform for Action 15 years after it was announced in 1995.

The conference was attended by Ms. Sundus Abbas Women's Leadership Institute and Ms. Khanum Lateef from Asuda and Ms. Liza Nissan of Baghdad Women's Association.

From March 3 to 10, 2010, the delegation participated in most of formal and informal meetings held within the Commission's agenda, where Ms. Sundus Abbas gave a presentation on the progress made in women's participation in decision-making positions within the framework of the integration of the Security Council resolution 1325/2000 confirming the importance of addressing the lack of implementation of the resolution and its integration, as well as discussed the reasons for the adoption of a national plan for the integration of the resolution in Iraq.

The delegation also visited a Safe House Center in New York City on 4 March, and members of the delegation discussed with the Co-Executive Director, mechanisms for cooperation, coordination and exchange of experiences between the institutions involved in providing protection for women.

As part of parallel events and in the framework studied the efforts of women's organizations in South Africa and Iraq, on March 6, 2010, Ms. Khanum Lateef of Asuda presented Asuda's experience of protection of women in Iraq from violence live testimonies of women survivors of violence. Ms. Sundus Abbas underlined the importance of solidarity between women of the world and its impact on the success of their efforts to enjoy their rights, noting that solidarity exists between the Masimanyane in South Africa and some women's organizations in Iraq.

Entitled "Challenges facing women under occupation", Ms. Sundus Abbas gave a presentation on March 7, 2010 on challenges facing Iraqi women in the absence of security and stability and lack of services as well as high rates of violence against women, poverty and illiteracy amongst women in Iraq.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, the delegation visited the Headquarters of the Open Society Institute International in New York, where they discussed the situation of Iraqi women and the priority needs of women and women's organizations in Iraq.

The delegation also attended the presentation on March 9, 2010 by Iraq's Chief of Mission at the United Nations on women's role in bringing about the change and participated in the discussion of the submitted working paper.

At the end of the event attended by the delegation on 10 March 2010 the delegation met with representatives of Equality Now in New York. Within the framework of the working sessions on the challenges and difficulties faced by women's organization working on addressing violence against women, Ms. Lisa Nissan a gave a presentation on the experience of listening and consultancy centers for women. Ms. Sundus Abbas underscored the importance of providing protection mechanisms for women victims of violence and the importance of the adoption of programs to support women activists and defenders of women's rights.

Asuda, Combating Violence against Women

Women Leadership Institute

Baghdad Women Association