

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Forum on Minority Issues  
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Intervention for item VII of the provisional agenda  
**The Content and Delivery of the Curriculum**

Chairman of the Forum on Minority Issues

Ladies and gentlemen in attendance

I am pleased and honored to be one of the participants and speakers in this Forum on Minority Issues.

Mr. Chairman,

It is well known that the issue of education is of great importance in the exercise of one's rights as stated in the relevant international treaties and this right must be exercised properly. So, we as minorities, have a glimmer of hope in exercising our right to education in our mother tongue in the Federal Republic of Iraq and as stated in the Constitution. Upon returning to the reality on the ground, there are wrong policies put in place by some political parties in the decision-making body and to cite a few indications of one of Iraq's provinces on the policies of diversities, minorities and nationalities of Kirkuk, which is located to the north of Baghdad. The policies are as follows:

1. The imposition of teaching only a single language without providing an opportunity to learn other major and secondary languages in the country and especially in the province of Kirkuk.
2. The building of competent educational institutions only for certain groups excluding the involvement of others in those institutions for the procession of the cultures in the multi-ethnic society.
3. The enforcement of the use of the old curriculum without allowing development in the curriculum to disallow the capacity of the students to keep up with the pace of the global education system
4. The enforcement of curriculums in sub-dialects of the national language that do not correspond to the tone used by the inhabitants in the province of Kirkuk.
5. The lack of textbooks and essential provisional services in the schools that teach the national language to minorities in the province of Kirkuk.

6. The lack of access to an education in the minority languages in colleges and institutions in the province of Kirkuk.
7. The education system in the national languages schools does not offer the opportunity to learn other languages, making it difficult to communicate with minorities in Kirkuk.

### Recommendations

1. Reform the education system to include minority languages in Iraq to allow them to exercise their rights of learning in their languages thus allowing them to keep pace with the developments in their own global educational system and the other cultures that coexist with them in order not to generate serious consequences such as conflicts and disharmony among the various components of society.
2. The need to support projects that establish centres to help resolve conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence between minority languages through dialogue and identification of minority culture.
3. The necessity of private centres that teach minority languages in Iraq.

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