

Women and Minorities

Here are two different topics, both having one important commonality: marginalization, disregard and exploitation are what face women and minorities but for the sake of brevity we will mention both together.

We will begin with the position of the woman. Who is she the women?

She is our mother, our sister, our daughter and the mother of our children. Why has the woman across the ages encountered mistreatment, injustice, misinformation, exploitation and violence? We are not just talking about exemptions in history but women's status in general either throughout history or in third world countries today or delayed in its history. This could be attributed to the perception of women's role as mother and care taker of children. This doesn't allow her to make a living and gain independence. This has left her a hostage to men whether they be husband, brother or father.

But historical facts on one side and the growing of awareness and knowledge followed by the bitter struggle of women to gain their right to equality and dignity from the other side has led to women gaining their civil, political and economic rights.

Islam was a beacon that lifted women from rock bottom, infanticide, bought and sold to an almost complete level of participation in political, economic and cultural and even military life, but put regulations in place to ease the transition to women's rights.

Women are men's partner in all aspects. A democratic, humanitarian constitution should not differentiate between the rights and responsibilities of men and women. Now is the time for women to realise that they must fight alongside men and to not allow their organizations to turn forums that only serve their purposes. Women

are the same as men in their responsibility towards society, if she so chooses.

Hammurabi's code has 282 laws around which 92 are dedicated to the rights of women. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights' second article states, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind."

Here we address the situation of minorities of geographically large countries like Iraq and diverse in ethnicity, cultures and religion, the majority must be respected with the guarantee of minorities' constitutional rights. In this case it is preferable to adopt an agreement style not majority rule.

Iraq over its long history shows that its people past and present have harmoniously shared the same culture and values despite their different dialects.

Iraqi citizens are equal before the law, but the population's numbers may not allow for representatives to be elected to parliament and as a consequence parliament will be deprived from people who are aware of the problems of their group.

Seats should be set aside for some religious and ethnic minorities. But if there was sufficient social development, so that a representative from a minority group was elected to represent an area inhabited by a majority, then we would have reached an enormous cultural and social maturity.

We are inspired by article 27 of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. The United Nations plays such an important role in the protection of minorities that it issued decision number 13547 date December 1992.

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