Schnellrecherche der SFH-Länderanalyse vom 5. Februar 2018 zum Irak: Frauenhäuser in Kirkuk

Fragen an die SFH-Länderanalyse:

- Wie ist die Situation von unverheirateten schwangeren Frauen in Kirkuk?
- Gibt es in Kirkuk Frauenhäuser oder andere Einrichtungen, die sich um die betroffenen Frauen kümmern?
- Wie ist der gesellschaftliche Umgang mit Scheidung und ungewollter Schwangerschaft?

Die Informationen beruhen auf einer zeitlich begrenzten Recherche (Schnellrecherche) in öffentlich zugänglichen Dokumenten, die uns derzeit zur Verfügung stehen.

1 Situation in Kirkuk

Keine Frauenhäuser in Kirkuk, nur eine «*family protection unit*» in einer Polizeistation. Einem Artikel von *Ekurd Daily* zufolge (Oktober 2012) gibt es in Kirkuk keine Frauenhäuser. Laut einem Bericht der *UN Assistance Mission for Iraq* (UNAMI) und dem *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* (OHCHR) (Juni 2013) gibt es in Kirkuk eine «*family protection unit*» (FPU), welche sich auf Fälle häuslicher Gewalt und Gewalt gegen Kinder spezialisiert hat [UNAMI und OHCHR verwenden den Begriff «*family police unit*», alle anderen von uns konsultierten Quellen verweisen jedoch auf «*family protection units*». Wir gehen davon aus, dass es sich um dieselben Familienschutzeinheiten handelt]. Die Einrichtung habe allerdings beschränkte Kapazitäten; es mangele an qualifiziertem Personal und es habe ungenügend Platz für betroffene Frauen. 2012 hatte die «*family protection unit*» keine weiblichen Angestellten und war im zweiten Stock einer Polizeistation untergebracht – Faktoren, die gemäss UNAMI und OHCHR Frauen davon abschrecken, die FPU aufzusuchen. Während des Berichtzeitraums (Juli bis Dezember 2012) seien nur wenige Fälle an die FPU verwiesen worden. Die wenigen Fälle wurden von Frauenrechtsorganisationen weitergeleitet.

Auf ihrer Webseite verweist die schwedische Organisation *Kvinna till Kvinna* auf das *Pana Centre* in Kirkuk, welches von ihr unterstützt wird (*Kvinna till Kvinna,* ohne Datum, Zugriff am 24. Januar 2018). Das *Pana Centre* bekämpfe Gewalt gegen Frauen und biete kostenlose Rechtsdienstleistungen sowie Beratung für Frauen an. Auch stelle das Zentrum Anwälte bereit, welche Frauen vor Gericht vertreten. Zudem führe das *Pana Centre* verschiede Sensibilisierungskampagnen durch.

Steigende Gewalt an Frauen in Kirkuk. In den Jahren zwischen 2010 und 2012 ist gemäss Angaben von Sicherheitsbeamten und Frauenrechtsaktivist_innen in Kirkuk die Gewalt gegen Frauen «dramatisch» angestiegen (*Ekurd Daily*, Oktober 2012). Auch UNAMI und OHCHR (Juni 2013) berichteten von einer hohen Anzahl von Fällen häuslicher Gewalt in Kirkuk, welche seit 2011 signifikant angestiegen sei. So

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wurden nach Angaben eines Schattenberichtes einer Koalition von drei NGOs an das *Übereinkommen zur Beseitigung jeder Form von Diskriminierung der Frau* (CEDAW) (2014) in Kirkuk 2012 in den ersten vier Monaten 19 Frauen umgebracht, im gleichen Zeitraum im Jahr 2013 waren es 28 Frauen (*Koalition des CEDAW-Schattenberichtes*, Februar 2014). Der Bericht von UNAMI und OHCHR (2013) weist zudem auf Entführungen von Frauen und Mädchen im Gouvernement Kirkuk hin. Verschiedenen Organisationen, Staatsbürger_innen und Regierungsvertreter_innen gehen davon aus, dass die Entführungen im Rahmen von Menschenhandel und sexueller Sklaverei von Polizeioffizieren sowie Sicherheitskräften durchgeführt worden seien (UNAMI und OHCHR, 2013).

2 Frauenhäuser und Familienschutzeinheiten (FPUs) im Zentral- und Südirak

NGOs werden daran gehindert, Frauenhäuser zu betreiben und müssen im Untergrund ihre Dienste anbieten. Frauenhäuser werden zum Ziel gewalttätiger Angriffe. USDOS (März 2017) und *International Women's Human Rights* (IWHR), *Clinic at the City University of New York School of Law*, *MADRE* und *Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq* (OWFI) (August 2015) berichten übereinstimmend, dass im Zentral- und Südirak NGOs daran gehindert werden, Frauenhäuser für Frauen anzubieten, die von häuslicher Gewalt, versuchten Ehrenmorden, Menschenhandel oder anderen Arten sexualisierter Gewalt und geschlechtsspezifischen Verbrechen betroffen sind. IWHR et al. (August 2015) und das irakische online-Magazin *Nina* (Februar 2017) sprechen gar von einem Verbot, welches irakischen NGOs untersagt, von Gewalt betroffenen Frauen einen Zufluchtsort zu bieten. Laut USDOS gibt es jedoch kein Gesetz, welches Frauenhäuser, die von NGOs geführt werden, ausdrücklich verbietet. Gemäss dem geltenden Gesetz entscheide das Ministerium für Arbeit und Soziales, ob ein Frauenhaus betrieben werden kann. Laut Angaben einer anonymen NGO gegenüber USDOS (2017) verweigert die Regierung die Registrierung und Lizensierung von Frauenhäusern. Diese NGO werde einerseits regelmässig von der irakischen Regierung aufgefordert, die von ihr betriebenen Frauenhäuser zu schliessen. Trotzdem würden andererseits Regierungsbeamt_innen Frauen «inoffiziell» an diese Anlaufstellen verweisen. Einige Tage nach einer Schliessung würden die Frauenhäuser erneut geöffnet (USDOS, 2017). Laut IWHR et al. (2015) sind Frauenorganisationen gezwungen, ihre Aktivitäten im Untergrund durchzuführen. So betreibt gemäss einem von *Kvinna till Kvinna* publizierten Bericht (2015) die Frauenrechtsorganisation OFWI (*Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq*) Frauenhäuser in Bagdad ohne offizielle Bewilligung.

Weil von NGOs geführte Frauenhäuser gegen die öffentliche Ordnung verstossen würden, werden oft Razzien durchgeführt (IWHR et al., August 2015). Ausserdem sind sie nicht vor Gewaltandrohungen extremistischer Gruppen geschützt. USDOS (2017) zufolge werden «*safe houses*», die sowohl von NGOs als auch von der Regierung geführt werden, oft gewaltsam angegriffen.

Frauenhäuser werden im Irak als ordnungswidrig betrachtet und die Frauen, die dort Schutz suchen, werden stigmatisiert. Gemäss IWHR et al. (August 2015) wird im Zentral- und Südirak das Betreiben von Frauenhäusern als Verstoss gegen

die öffentliche Ordnung gesehen. Frauenhäuser seien Orte, wo «sittenwidrige» Frauen ohne männlichen Vormund leben, somit handle es sich dabei wohl um Bordelle. Frauen und Mädchen würden dazu ermutigt, sich ihren Ehemännern zu widersetzen und nicht den Eltern zu gehorchen. Verschiedene irakische Menschenrechtsorganisationen bestätigten das Vorherrschen dieser Haltung gegenüber IWHR et al. (siehe auch *Nina*, Februar 2017).

Landesweit gibt es 16 staatliche Familienschutzeinheiten (FPUs), welche auf Versöhnung statt auf Opferschutz setzen. Die meisten FPUs führen keine Frauenhäuser. Nach Angaben von USDOS (März 2017) betreibt das Innenminister landesweit 16 Familienschutzeinheiten («*family protection units*» - FPU) (siehe auch *Minority Rights Group International* und *Ceasefire*, November 2015). Diese hätten das Ziel, häusliche Streitigkeiten zu schlichten und sichere Zufluchtsorte für Opfer sexualisierter und geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt anzubieten. Der Fokus liege jedoch auf Versöhnung innerhalb der Familie und nicht auch auf Opferschutz. Gemäss der *Koalition des CEDAW-Schattenberichtes* (Februar 2014) funktionieren die FPUs ohne gesetzliche Grundlagen zur Regulierung ihrer Arbeit. Zudem seien die meisten Mitarbeitenden männliche Polizisten und bräuchten Schulungen zu geschlechtsspezifischer Gewalt. Laut USDOS fehlt es an Kapazitäten, die Betroffenen zu unterstützen (USDOS, März 2017). Da die meisten FPUs keine Frauenhäuser führen, sei die Anzahl Zufluchtsorte für Opfer häuslicher Gewalt beschränkt (USDOS, 2017). Gemäss *Kvinna till Kvinna* (2015) bestehen im Irak keine öffentlich finanzierten oder unterstützten Frauenhäuser.

3 Situation für unverheiratete oder geschiedene Frauen, Witwen und alleinerziehende Mütter

Unverheiratete, geschiedene oder verwitwete Frauen werden in der irakischen Gesellschaft stigmatisiert. Laut dem *Geneva International Centre for Justice* (2015) werden unverheiratete Frauen im Irak gesellschaftlich stigmatisiert. Ein Bericht von *Care* (April 2015) deutet darauf hin, dass die vorherrschenden sozialen Normen Frauen daran hindern, ohne einen Mann zu leben. Insbesondere weiblich geführte Haushalte riskieren Gewalt ausgesetzt zu sein. Zu den schutzbedürftigsten Gruppen im Irak zählt *Care* unter anderem insbesondere schwangere und/oder stillende, ledige und verwitwete Frauen. Auch in einem Bericht einer *Fact-Finding-Mission* des *Danish Refugee Council* und des *Danish Immigration Service* (Januar 2016) wird hervorgehoben, dass ledige Frauen sowie weiblich geführte Haushalte unter den intern vertriebenen Menschen (IDPs) «besonders verletzlich» sind. Laut der *Koalition des CEDAW-Schattenberichtes* (2014) ist insbesondere die «Kategorie der Witwen und der geschiedenen Frauen» mit grossen sozialen Herausforderungen und diskriminierenden Traditionen konfrontiert. Diese Frauen seien oft dem Risiko der sexuellen Ausbeutung, Prostitution und Ehen auf Zeit ausgesetzt. Haushalte, die von Frauen geführt werden, leben aufgrund des tiefen Einkommens in sehr schlechten finanziellen Verhältnissen.

Angst vor Stigmatisierung und finanzieller Isolierung hält Frauen von einer Scheidung ab. Gemäss IWHR et al. (August 2015) sind irakische Frauen nach einer Scheidung oft von männlichen Verwandten abhängig. Insbesondere geschiedene

Frauen ohne Bildung oder Arbeitserfahrung, vor allem in ländlichen Regionen, seien mit grossen Schwierigkeiten konfrontiert. Aus Angst vor gewaltsamen Repressalien, sozialer Stigmatisierung und finanzieller Isolierung bei einer Trennung entscheiden sich viele Frauen dafür, eine Beziehung mit einem gewalttätigen Partner aufrechtzuerhalten.

Rechtliche Schwierigkeiten für alleinerziehende Mütter und ihre Kinder. USDOS (März 2017) und IILHR (Mai 2013) deuten auf die Schwierigkeiten von alleinstehenden Müttern sowie Witwen bei der Registrierung ihrer Kinder hin. Um die Geburt eines Kindes zu registrieren, verlangen gemäss IILHR (Mai 2013) manche irakische Behörden eine Heiratsurkunde und die ID-Dokumente von beiden Elternteilen. Wenn ein Elternteil gestorben ist, werde manchmal eine Todesbescheinigung eingefordert. Ausserdem verlangen einzelne Beamten, dass die Dokumente in Anwesenheit eines Mannes eingereicht werden, obwohl laut IILHR eine solche Anforderung in manchen Fällen nicht gesetzlich vorgeschrieben ist. Insbesondere für ledige Frauen und Witwen stellen diese Massnahmen zusätzliche Probleme dar (IILHR, Mai 2013). Gemäss USDOS (März 2017) wird Kindern, die keine Staatsangehörige sind, die staatliche Unterstützung verweigert. Familien dieser «*noncitizen children*» müssten für Dienstleistungen, die für andere kostenlos sind, wie zum Beispiel für öffentliche Schulen und für die Gesundheitsversorgung, bezahlen.

Diskriminierung von Frauen, vor allem von Witwen und geschiedenen Frauen bei der Ausstellung eines Reisepasses. Ohne Zustimmung eines Vormundes («*guardian*») oder einer Rechtsvertretung ist es irakischen Frauen nicht möglich, einen Reisepass ausstellen zu lassen (*Koalition des CEDAW-Schattenberichtes*, 2014). Bei Witwen und geschiedenen Frauen, die keinen Vormund oder keine Rechtsvertretung haben, könne der Direktor des Passbüros entscheiden, ob der Pass ausgestellt wird.

Gemäss dem Ehebruchsgesetz sind auch diejenigen strafbar, die eine Beziehung mit einer verheirateten Person eingehen. So wie in den meisten anderen muslimischen Ländern, stellt auch im Irak Ehebruch eine Straftat dar. Dieses Vergehen werde im Irak mit einer Gefängnisstrafe von drei Monaten bis zu fünf Jahren bestraft (*Heartland Alliance*, 2011). Artikel 377 des irakischen Strafgesetzbuches legt unter anderem fest, dass auch unverheiratete Personen, die eine Beziehung mit einer verheirateten Person eingehen, wegen Ehebruches bestraft werden sollen (*Heartland Alliance*).

Care, April 2015:

> *«**The most vulnerable groups are those living in dire dwelling conditions, and particularly pregnant and/or lactating, single/widowed women and persons with disability.** (…)*
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> ***Social norms appear to prevent women from living without men, leaving female-headed households particularly at risk of violence.»*** Quelle: Care, Iraq, Needs Assessment, Kirkuk City, April 2015, S. 5, 11: www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/assessments/CARE%20Kirkuk%20City%20MSNA%20(wash%20and%20shelter)%5B1%5D.pdf

Danish Refugee Council und Danish Immigration Service, Januar 2016:

*«**5.8 Vulnerable groups***

***Various sources pointed to single IDP women and female headed households as being particularly vulnerable**.208 According to IOM, the most vulnerable IDPs are those without financial resources, IDPs living in various kinds of informal settlement like unfinished buildings, the sick and disabled, female headed households and those without family or network, especially single women. (…)*

*Single women and other vulnerable groups among IDPs **According to INTERSOS, female headed households and handicapped individuals are among the most vulnerable IDPs. Without family to protect her, a single woman would be vulnerable**. It does happen that single women live alone, but it is rare. There are some single women in living in IDP camps. This tends to make the women a bit more vulnerable, since tradition dictates that single women are taken care of by family.»* Quelle: Danish Refugee Council und Danish Immigration Service, The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) Access, Possibility of Protection, Security and Humanitarian Situation Report from fact finding mission to Erbil, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Beirut, Lebanon, 26 September to 6 October 2015, Januar 2016, S. 61, 146-147: www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/4B4E8C12-84B7-4ACB-8553-5E0218C5689A/0/FactfindingreportKurdistanRegionofIraq11042016.pdf.

Ekurd Daily, 7. Oktober 2012:

***«Security officials and women's rights activists in Kirkuk say that violence against women has increased dramatically in the past two years**. (…)*

***There are no women's shelters in Kirkuk**. Nuri and her colleagues have to send victims of domestic violence to shelters in Erbil (Hewlêr) and Sulêmani (Sulaimaniyah) city. But according to Nuri, this does not provide a solution to the rising number of women in need of shelter.»* Quelle: Ekurd Daily, Activists report spike in violence against women in Kirkuk, 7. Oktober 2012: http://ekurd.net/mismas/articles/misc2012/10/kirkuk748.htm.

Geneva International Centre for Justice, 2015:

*«The deteriorating security situation, displacement of families, **social stigma of being a single mother** and exceptionally low employment rates of women have contributed to the increased number of women living below the poverty line.»* Quelle: Geneva International Centre for Justice, veröffentlicht von UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESR), Iraq; The Deterioration of Economic, Social & Cultural Rights, 2015, S. 20: www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1216794/1930_1461164387_int-cescr-css-irq-21658-e.pdf.

Heartland Alliance, 2011:

*«**2. Adultery***

> ***Adultery is a crime in Iraq as it is in most Islamic countries**.15 In some Muslim countries there is a growing perception of adultery as a moral crime that is a matter better dealt with privately between spouses rather than within the criminal justice system.16 In Iraq it continues to be a criminal act and a grave social offense against family/community/tribal honor, leading women to face serious threats of honor killing by their husband's and natal families. The mere suspicion or allegation of adultery places all parties at risk, but especially women and girls who carry the heavy burden of maintaining honor.*
>
> *Men are also criminally liable under the IPC Article 377, however Iraqi law discriminates against women by holding them responsible for adultery committed anywhere, whereas men are only liable for acts of adultery committed in the marital home. In 2001 the Kurdistan Regional Government amended Article 377 in Law No. 9 to hold men liable to the same extent as women; thus a married man may be charged and convicted of committing adultery whether the act is committed inside or outside the home.17* ***Also liable under Article 377 are unmarried persons who engage in relationships with married persons. The crime of adultery is a misdemeanor offense which is punishable with a jail sentence from three months to five years under the IPC Article 26.»*** Quelle: Heartland Alliance, Institutionalized Violence against Women and Girls. Laws and Practices in Iraq, 2011, S. 21: www.heartlandalliance.org/international/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2017/02/Institutionalized-Violence-Against-Women-and-Girls-in-Iraq-Laws-and-Practices-January-2011.pdf.

Institute for International Law and Human Rights (IILHR), Mai 2013:

> *«**Single women in particular report problems at the directorate level when registering children because some authorities require a marriage certificate and identification documents from both parents, or a death certificate if a parent is deceased. Though in some cases such requirements are not legally or procedurally mandated, individual officials in some ministries and directorates reportedly require submitting documentation in the presence of a male**. Given the destruction of documents over years of war and the significant numbers of IDPs in Iraq over the last 10 years, **this demand is particularly burdensome for single women and widows.»*** Quelle: Institute for International Law and Human Rights (IILHR): Iraq's Minorities and Other Vulnerable Groups: Legal Framework, Documentation and Human Rights, Mai 2013, S. 29: http://lawandhumanrights.org/documents/MinorityHB_EN.pdf.

International Women's Human Rights (IWHR) Clinic at the City University of New York School of Law; MADRE; Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI): 31. August 2015:

> ***«A. The Iraqi Government does not provide adequate shelter to women fleeing violence in Iraq, and prohibits Iraqi NGOs from providing such services.***
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> *With over 3 million displaced and over 8 million Iraqis in need of humanitarian assistance, it is no surprise that in the current climate of the conflict in Iraq, there is an exponentially higher need for NGO-run shelters for displaced persons.*

Unfortunately, ***in central and southern Iraq it is against public policy for Iraqi NGOs to provide shelter to women escaping domestic violence, attempted honor killings, trafficking or other forms of gender-based violence. Consequently, NGO-run shelters and their service providers are not only vulnerable to police raids; they also lack protection from threats of violence by extremist groups****.* *(…)*

One Iraqi women's rights activist explained, "[S]helters are thought of as encouraging women to disobey their husbands, and daughters to disobey their parents. This leads to the presumption that a shelter----a place where a group of immoral women reside without a male guardian----is likely a brothel.*" This belief towards women's shelters has also been touted in other countries including Afghanistan.9* ***Several Iraqi women's human rights organizations also confirmed this belief. (…)***

Women contemplating divorce in situations of domestic violence are faced with the harsh realities of life as a divorcee, which weigh disproportionately heavy on women. Less likely to have education or professional work experience, particularly in Iraq's rural regions, many women are dependent on male relatives for survival. Many opt to stay in abusive relationships rather than risk violent reprisals, crippling social stigma and financial isolation created by leaving their violent spouses.

In addition to being denied protection by the legal system, women threatened with honor crimes are also left with limited recourses should they try to flee. Options may include shelters and even prison, though neither is a sustainable long-term setting.88 Any available shelters that can provide support are under-resourced, and ***shelter employees may even become targets of violence themselves for providing services to victims****.89 Further limiting options for victims is the fact that* ***in Central and Southern Iraq, women's shelters are outlawed****.* ***Women's organizations seeking to help potential victims of "honor"-based violence are forced to run their operations underground****.»* Quelle: International Women's Human Rights (IWHR) Clinic at the City University of New York School of Law; MADRE; Organisation of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI): Women's Rights Violations in Iraq, 31. August 2015, S. 7-8, 13, 21: www.ecoi.net/file_upload/1930_1461163226_int-cescr-css-irq-21592-e.pdf.

Koalition des CEDAW-Schattenberichtes (Coalition of CEDAW Shadow Report), Februar 2014:

*«****The category of widows and divorced women in particular face harsh social challenges and difficult discriminatory traditions, and often are at risk of sexual exploitation, prostitution and temporary marriages. The households headed by women live in miserable economic conditions, due to the low income.*** *(…)*

Iraqi women still cannot get a passport without the consent of the guardian or anyone represents her legaly to the law and in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Interior, and in the following cases and in accordance with the following: *1. The vigin girl the age of 12 -40 , a married woman, the widow and divorced women to get a passport without the consent of the parent or of his legal*

representative. 2. ***For widows and divorced women, if there is no guardian or her legal representative, the Director of the Passport Office has the right to issue the passport or not.*** *(…)*

d. Family Protection Units (FPU)

1. The Iraqi government has taken measures to reduce gender-based violence by establishing Family Protection Directorates in the Ministry of the Interior, in 2007 by two directorates in Baghdad and one directorate in each governorate, ***they are still operating without a law regulating their work, most of its cadres are men from the police force, and they need training for their cadres on violence and GBV,*** *and to strengthen its capacity to increase the number of women officers, policewomen and social workers at various administrative levels, the challenge lies in establishing an effective referral system to provide support and protection for survivors. (…)*

As part of the 16 days of Activism campaign to combat violence against women in November 2013, No to Violence against Women Gathering in Kirkuk, issued a statement on the following statistics about the ***murder of women in Kirkuk*** *in 2012, as well as the first months of 2013 (taken from credible resources). The statement noted the growing proportion of cases of women assassination in general in 2013 compared to 2012, as recorded* ***19 cases of murder from the date of 1/1/2012 to 20/4/2012, whereas 28 cases for the same period in 2013****, with an increase of (9) murder cases.»* Quelle: Koalition des CEDAW-Schattenberichtes (Coalition of CEDAW Shadow Report), Iraqi Women in Armed Conflict and post conflict Situation, Shadow Report submitted to the CEDAW committee at the 57th Session, Februar 2014, S. 26, 40, 47, 49: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/IRQ/INT_CEDAW_NGO_IRQ_16192_E.pdf.

Kvinna till Kvinna, ohne Datum (Zugriff am 24. Januar 2018):

«Pana centre – Kirkuk

Pana centre for combating violence against women works to increase the knowledge among Iraqi women about their rights. The centre has several lawyers who defend women's rights in courts and provide free legal services and consultations to women. It is also running an awareness raising campaign, for increasing the knowledge and understanding of gender equality*. Pana centre aims to strengthen the voices of women in the Iraqi community.»* Quelle: Kvinna till Kvinna, ohne Datum (Zugriff am 24. Januar 2018): http://thekvinnatillkvinnafoundation.org/country/iraq/organisations-we-support/.

Kvinna till Kvinna, 2015:

«Lack of protection

A woman or a girl who has been the victim of violence has little hope of seeing her abuser or abusers being brought to justice. She also has great difficulties in accessing protection against further abuse and medical and psychological rehabilitation. Often a woman's possibility to get support is dependent on her being able to seek out

one of the women's organisations offering counselling or legal aid. ***In Iraq there are no publicly funded or supported shelters for victims of domestic violence. The women's rights NGO OFWI (Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq) runs shelters in Baghdad but without government permission****. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, there are government shelters for women victims of gender-based violence. However, even when women are admitted to a shelter it is rare that they find effective protection against future violence. Both the legislation and the authorities are focusing on mediation with the families involved. Too often a woman at risk has no other option than returning to the family where she was originally abused.»* Quelle: Kvinna till Kvinna, Violence against Women in Iraq, 2015: http://thekvinnatillkvinnafoundation.org/en/files/qbank/91394d0fbf2b331b4859ae219f2d6ea6.pdf.

Minority Rights Group International und Ceasefire, November 2015:

*«**In recent years, the Iraqi government has established Family Protection Units (FPUs) under the auspices of the Ministry of the Interior in each of the country's governorates**. The FPUs are mandated to receive complaints from women and children about domestic violence and other abuses, conduct initial investigations, and refer the cases to the competent judicial authority when necessary.22 Between 2010 and November 2014, the FPUs recorded a total of 22,442 cases of family violence across the country.23 The vast majority of these cases were assaults perpetrated by the husband against the wife. These numbers likely represent a very small proportion of the true number of domestic violence cases, due to under-reporting. The Personal Status Court in Maysan Governorate saw 8,646 cases of divorce due to domestic violence throughout 2013 and the first quarter of 2014, suggesting a much larger problem.»* Quelle: Minority Rights Group International und Ceasefire, The Lost Women of Iraq: Family-based violence during armed conflict, November 2015, S. 17, 30: http://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Lost-Women-English.pdf.

Nina, 18. Februar 2017:

«Despite the struggle and the turbulent situation in Iraq, ***shelters for women fleeing from persecution or domestic violence are banned****. The government maintains a hardline approach against opening shelters for battered women despite rising levels of violence against women and the security and political turmoil in Iraq. (…)*

The progression of women has been forgotten to the extent such that ***it is now thought that women shelters "are thought of as encouraging women to disobey their husbands and daughters to disobey their parents. This leads to the presumption that a shelter – a place where a group of immoral women reside without a male guardian – is likely a brothel****" according to Yanar Mohammed director of the Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI). This attitude reflects the high levels of patriarchy and misogyny in Iraqi society and more importantly the frightening level of neglect and disconcert in securing women's safety. It is shocking that even a time of such danger and threat from ISIL, patriarchal attitudes and behaviours prevail, even at the level of government.»* Quelle: Nina, A Call for Protection over Patriarchy, 18. Februar 2017: http://nina-iraq.com/2017/02/18/call-protection-patriarchy/.

UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Human Rights Office / Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Bagdad, Juni 2013:

> *«During a visit to Kirkuk Court on 4 July, UNAMI observed a number of cases involving allegations of domestic violence made by women against their husbands. According to investigating magistrates, and although precise statistics are not available,* ***there appears to be a high incidence of cases of domestic violence in Kirkuk, with a significant rise in numbers since 2011****. Although a Family Police Unit (FPU) specialising in cases of domestic violence against women and children was opened in Kirkuk, the unit has limited capacity owing to a lack of suitably qualified staff and inadequate space. The Unit currently has no female staff. The FPU is located on the second floor of a regular police station, which discourages women from entering it. During the reporting period, only a few cases had been referred to the FPU, all of them through women's rights organizations****. (…)*
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> ***There were a number of cases of kidnapping of women and girls reported in Kirkuk and Salahaddin governorates, some of which involved allegations that women and girls had been targeted by police officers and members of the security forces involved in trafficking and sexual slavery rackets****. These allegations were made to UNAMI in relation to a number of cases by a range of reliable sources, including individual Iraqi citizens, civil society organisations and government officials speaking anonymously, out of fear of possible retaliation if their allegations were to be made public****. UNAMI is not able to verify these allegations. However, UNAMI calls on the GoI to do all it can to fully investigate such claims, to protect women who may be the victims of such abuse, and to hold any perpetrators accountable according to law.»* Quelle: UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) Human Rights Office / Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Bagdad, Report on Human Rights in Iraq: July–December 2012, Juni 2013, S. 19: www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/HRO_July-December2012Report.pdf.

USDOS, März 2017:

> *«****Another NGO reported the government refused to register and license its women's shelters. The government periodically asked the NGO to close them down, even though government officials "unofficially" referred women to the shelters. After each such closure, the shelters would reopen a few days later****. (…)*
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> ***Public policy prevents NGOs from maintaining shelters****, which severely limited the number of NGO-run shelters available to victims of gender-based crimes and their ability to access health care and psychosocial support. The Organization for Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI) recommended legislation to provide a legal status for women's shelters administered by NGOs.* ***While the government does not have a law that explicitly prohibits NGO-run shelters, current law allows the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to determine if a shelter can remain open****. OWFI reported that many communities viewed the shelters as brothels and asked the government to close them down. To appease community concerns the ministry regularly closed shelters, only to allow them to reopen in another location and at a later date.*

***The Ministry of Interior maintained 16 family protection units around the country, which aimed to resolve domestic disputes and establish safe refuges for victims of sexual or gender-based violence. These units tended to prioritize family reconciliation over victim protection and lacked the capacity to support victims**. Hotline calls went to the male commanders of the units, which did not follow a regular referral system to provide victims with services, such as legal aid or safe shelter. Victims of domestic violence in Basrah told UNAMI they feared approaching the family protection units, because they suspected that police would immediately inform their families of their testimonies. **Shelters for victims of domestic abuse were limited; the family protection units in most locations did not operate shelters. Safe houses, which the government and NGOs operated, were often targets for violence**. Minority Rights Group International, an EU-funded human rights organization, noted that the Ministry of Interior Family Protection Units, responsible for receiving complaints about domestic violence, recorded a total of 22,442 cases of family violence across the country between 2010 and November 2014, the latest date for which statistics were available. (…)*

*Birth Registration: The constitution states that anyone born to at least one citizen parent is a citizen. Failure to register births resulted in the denial of public services such as education, food, and health care. **Single women and widows often had problems registering their children.** Although in most cases authorities provided birth certificates after registration of the birth through the Ministries of Health and Interior, this was reportedly a lengthy and at times complicated process. The government was generally committed to children's rights and welfare, although it **denied benefits to noncitizen children. Families of noncitizen children had to pay for services, such as public schools and health services that were otherwise free.»***
Quelle: USDOS, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2015 – Iraq 2016, März 2017 S. 48, 50-51, 55: www.state.gov/documents/organization/265710.pdf.