

Gastvortrag

THE SITUATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN IRAQI KURDISTAN

Haveen Abdulmajeed

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In 2014, Iraq faced the attack of the most vicious terrorist group named the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). As a result of that attack, around one million residents of the affected areas fled their homes leaving behind all their belongings. They now reside in camps spread over different areas within Duhok and Nineveh Governorates in Northern and Middle Iraq. The majority of these IDPs (internally displaced people) are Yezidis and a small number of Christians and Muslims. This is in addition to the war in Syria that resulted in the flow of hundreds of thousands of refugees settled now in camps in the Kurdish region of Iraq. According to the UNHCR office, the updated number of IDPs is 76,596 families and 401,513 individuals. These are residing in camps and non-camp settings. Different NGOs and UN agencies are working with and for these IDPs. This lecture will shed light on some aspects of the situation of women and children within these IDPs from the perspective of a number of the NGOs having worked in the area.

Haveen M. Abdulmajeed Mayi, holds PhD in English language and Linguistics from the University of Birmingham/ the UK. As a civil society activist, she has more than 10 years of experience with international and local NGOs as well as with UN agencies in the Kurdistan region in Iraq. She has worked in many projects on social cohesion, peace education and peaceful coexistence, youth development, women and peace building, gender-based violence, youth entrepreneurship and business including others. She is also a lecturer at the University of Dohuk. She has presented a speech at the UN headquarters in New York on her experience with women and peace in Kurdistan. She and other colleagues established an NGO called Voice of Older People and Family in Dohuk, Kurdistan. She is the Programme Manger in this NGO.