



ريکھراوی لیکوآلینة وە زانیاریەکانی جەندەر

Gender Studies and Information Organization (GSIO)

منظمة الدراسات و المعلومات الجندرية

No.:

5

العدد:

Date:

Jan 30, 2014

التاريخ:

Activities Report

Gender Studies and Information Organization (GSIO)

Erbil (2012)

Background:

Gender Studies and Information Organization (**GSIO**) is one of the Iraqi Non - Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that registered by the directorate of organizations registration / General Secretary of Ministers Council. GSIO registered according to the Iraqi law and constitution with the No. **075356**, dated at **May 09, 2012**.

Gender Studies and Information Organization (**GSIO**) is established to raise the awareness towards gender and public gender problems in the Iraqi community and finding the best solutions to keep the gender equation and the main principles of human rights.

Gender Studies and Information Organization (**GSIO**) is an organization, which is non-for-profit NGO, independent entity, specialized with gender studies and issues in addition to women affairs and works on settling the democracy practices and the capacity building for our communities.

Gender Studies and Information Organization (**GSIO**) is an active member of many social organizational networks as:

- Human Rights Watch Network in Kurdistan
- Shams Network of Referendum Monitoring
- MAF Network for NGOs Law
- Justice for the Prisoners Network in Iraq
- Network of No Violence in Kurdistan
- Platform “No for Female Genital Distortion”
- UPR Group – Erbil Coordinator
- Network Against Human Trafficking
- Zayan Group (Network Against the Violence towards Women)
- Insaan Group for Monitoring of human rights violations
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GENDER STUDIES AND INFORMATION ORGANIZATION (GSIO)

ACTIVITIES

(GSIO) implemented and conducted many activities during the period **January 1st 2012** and **December 31st 2012**. These activities varied in the type of the activity and the place of implementation in addition to the funded international organization, activities presented as below:

1- **January 15, 2012:** (GSIO) conducted a seminar “Gender Equation Concept and Advocacy against Gender Based Violence in Kurdistan”. This seminar was held in Salah Al-Deen University and was attended by students of Social Services Department – College of Arts.



2- **January 18, 2012:** (**GSIO**) conducted a seminar “Iraq Report Related to SEDAO Agreement”, it shed the light on the weaknesses and strengths of women situation in Iraq and consolidating the public awareness towards women’s rights. This seminar was attended by (25) members of Parliament, International Organizations, lawyers and local NGOs.



3- **January 21-24, 2012:** (**GSIO**) participated in direct partnership with the International Institute of War and Peace in the workshop that was on “How to Write a Professional Report about Human Rights Violation”. This workshop was attended by (20) director of LNGOs from all provinces of Iraq.



- 4- January 25, 2012: (GSIO) held a workshop “Aggression toward Women and the Role of Religion, Law and Social Traditions in preventing these practices”. This workshop was attended by (28) students of Social Services Department – University of Salah Al-Deen.



- 5- **January 19-20, 2012:** (GSIO) participated in a (2) days’ workshop conducted by Heart Land Alliance related to the law of orphans’ houses in Kurdistan, during the workshop, the attendance discussed the draft of the law and provided their recommendations to find new houses for women. This workshop was attended by Mrs.Asos Majeed (Minster of Labor and Social Affairs in KRG) and the General Manager of Advocacy against Women Violence Directorate Mrs.Kurda Khan, and the managers of all Orphans’ houses in Erbil Dehuk and Sulymania.



6- **February 02, 2012:** (GSIO) held a seminar related to Women's House, GBV, Women Rights and How to report a medical status for abused women. This seminar was attended by (20) member of the medical staff MoH-KRG.



7- **February 08, 2012:** (GSIO) in coordination with International Relief and Development IRD held a discussion meeting for all the laws that support women and reduce the violence toward them as an initiative of transferring these successful laws to the rest of Iraqi provinces. This seminar was attended by (52) members of provincial councils, heads of LNGOs, Kurdistan Women Union.



8- **February 12, 2012:** ([GSIO](#)) participated in coordination meeting with the Deputy Governor of Erbil (Mr.Tahir Abdullah) and (Mrs.Su'ad Ahmed Othman) member of Erbil Provincial Council, during this meeting discussed the role of LNGOs in the reduction of women abuses in addition to prepare for awareness campaigns to prevent similar practices in Kurdistan. Moreover, we planned for a set of trainings to raise women standards of abilities to be as independent and leaders in their communities.



9- **February 13, 2012:** ([GSIO](#)) participated in the meeting of the High Council of Women in Kurdistan in addition to other (10) LNGOs from Duhok, Erbil and Sulymania as a coordination meeting to prepare of the grand festival of Woman Day (March 08).



- 10- **February 14, 2012:** (GSIO) presented a lecture about Gender and SEDAO Agreement. The lecture was attended by (25) court judges, lawyers and police officers from (8) provinces (Baghdad, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Duhok, Kirkuk, Najaf, Mosul and Diwaniyah). The lecture shed the light on the gender based violence, women abuse and women's rights in Iraqi law.



- 11- **February 14, 2012:** (GSIO) held a seminar presented in direct coordination with Bristol University by Prof. Gell Haick and Dr. Nazand Bagakhan. This seminar came to study the ways of cooperation between the university and the NGOs in Kurdistan in the field of knowledge sharing, women development and empowerment.



- 12- **February 19-21, 2012:** (**GSIO**) Participated in a workshop on women advocacy and solving the social problems. This workshop presented in direct coordination with the European Technology Center for Training and Development.



- 13- **February 22, 2012:** (**GSIO**) presented personality building movie to (50) female students from Erbil High School (evening studies). The movie aims to empower the students' personalities, and to overcome the social problems they face in their daily lives.



- 14- **February 24-25, 2012:** (**GSIO**) held a (2) days training course for (13) LNGOs in Baghdad that specialized in providing services for children. This training course was in direct coordination with Baghdad provincial council, AlNajjda organization and Training League of Human Rights. Many topics covered in this course as, strategic planning, report writing, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation.



- 15- **February 26, 2012:** (**GSIO**) and Mrs.Su'ad Ahmed Othman (Erbil Province Council Member) visited Dr.Kawa Mohamed (Minister of Youth and Culture-KRG). The visit aim was to wide coordination to do training for the ministry staff on Gender, Capacity Building and participation in strategic planning. The minister welcomed the idea and showed his support.
- At the same day, we headed to ministry of planning and met the general manger Mr.Nawzad Tawfiq to provide us with total numbers and statistics of women working in the whole ministries in Kurdistan region.



16- **February 27, 2012:** (GSIO) visited the Environment Public Authority with another (4) local non-governmental organizations and international to the purpose of coordination with Makhmour for planting trees in this region because it is suffering from a lack of greenery.



- 17- **March 01, 2012:** (**GSIO**) visited the Directorate of Education and the city council in accompany of some other LNGOs for planting trees in Makhmour.



- 18- **March 06, 2012:** (**GSIO**) held seminar on Gender, Capacity Building and Women Empowerment for Leadership as a part of coordination with Erbil province council that presented by Mrs. Su'ad Ahmed Othman. This seminar was attended by (30) women from the ministry of youth and culture.



- 19- **March 07, 2012:** (GSIO) held a seminar on women rights, GBV, absurd and rapid review on the laws that keep women rights. This seminar was attended by (180) women from Hardee Literacy Center. In addition, they have been gifted with roses as it was the day of women.



- 20- **March 08, 2012:** (GSIO) in the occasion of the (March 8) International Women's Day and in cooperation with the Organization of UNFPA and in coordination with the Organization of Time held (5) awareness training in six

different cities (Bisalawa, Qawshtaba, Shaqlawa, Khabat, Dartoo) with total beneficiaries (311).



At the same day, (**GSIO**) conducted a conference “Women Participation is an Aspiration of Better Future” at Jawar Jaral, Erbil. This Conference was attended by (40) parliaments, lawyers, province council’s members, international NGOs and local as well. It focused on two sections:

A. The increase of the divorce rates in Kurdistan, reasons? In addition, methods of treatment

B. Anti-domestic violence law obstacles to the implementation of this law and the mechanism of the implementation of this law



(GSIO) have a tree-planting campaign in the district of Makhmour in the presence of Supreme Council for Women, and the Environment Agency and the Organization of UNDP and the Organization of Time for training and developing young people in collaboration with the LNGOs and Makhmour mayor.



- 21- **March 12, 2012:** (GSIO) held a seminar on “SEDAO Agreement, and to which extent it was implemented?” in addition to shed light on the role of NGOs and governments in the implementation of this agreement. This seminar was attended by (20) women representing Women Union of Workers.



- 22- **March 15-16, 2012:** (GSIO) Participated in workshop conducted by Heartland Alliance to discuss a draft of Women’s House, attended by managers orphan houses in Kurdistan and Director General of the Department of Violence Against Women, UNAMI, UNDP and two from the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs. The workshop shed the light on the important points; as a result, a group from the audience was chosen to follow up the matter.



- 23- **March 27, 2012:** (GSIO) attended a seminar on the development and gender and to which extent women participate in the strategic planning of the KRG. This seminar was attended by Mrs.Su'ad Ahmed, staff of ministry of culture and youth in addition to some LNGOs.



- 24- **March 28, 2012:** (GSIO) visited the Supreme Council for Women and met Mrs.Bakhshan Zangana (the head), the meeting shed the light on the role of women in absurd reduction against women, in addition to discuss of the implementation of government laws in Kurdistan.



25- **March 28, 2012:** (**GSIO**) participated in a workshop on the law of NGOs in Kurdistan in accompany of (25) LNGOs working in Kurdistan region.



26- **April 06-10, 2012:** (**GSIO**) participated in training course and workshop (ToT) held by UNFPA last for (5) days. UNFPA has chosen (5) NGOs to be trained, GSIO was one of them.



27- **April 14, 2012:** (**GSIO**) was visited by delegation from the embassy of Finland and the Finnish Human rights organization to discuss the main obstacles that hinder the implementation of laws that keep the rights of women. Furthermore, we discussed circumcision of females and the best ways toward stopping and prevent it

socially and legally. At the end of the visit, we agreed on high coordination efforts in the mentioned fields.



28- **April 19, 2012:** : (**GSIO**) conducted an applied workshop to (10) LNGOs who were trained lately in Baghdad, but this held in Sulymania to apply all what they trained. These LNGOs were divided into three groups; each group visited three LNGOs in Sulymania for knowledge sharing and applies the topics of budgeting, proposal writing...etc.



- 29- **April 19, 2012:** : (GSIO) participated in (2) days' workshop on the role of Women as a Leader. The workshop held by Mercy Corps for (40) women who are leaders in their communities from all Iraq.



- 30- **April 23, 2012:** : (GSIO) participated in the training course, which was held by UNDP for the ministry of interior and the directorate of advocacy of women against violence in Kurdistan.



- 31- **May 10, 2012:** : (GSIO) participated in Peace Ambassadors project in addition to another (10) organization specialized in youth services. During the meeting, the attendance discussed the problems faced by youth in Kurdistan.



32- **May 17, 2012:** : (GSIO) participated in “Sport for Peace” project in coordination with Time organization for youth training and awareness.



33- **July 16-17, 2012:** : (GSIO) in cooperation with Jara center and Hawkar Group opened photographic exhibition with (12) photographs titled “Children at Photographers’ lenses”.



34- **August 10-23, 2012:** : (GSIO) supervised - the (10) LNGOs who were specialized in children – the training of each of the ten to another three LNGOs in their neighborhood. They were supervised by GSIO office in Baghdad.



35- **October 03, 2012:** : (GSIO) in cooperation with Jara center and Hawkar Group opened photographic exhibition with (12) photographs titled “Children at Photographers’ lenses” in Kara city.



36- **November 06, 2012:** : (GSIO) in cooperation with the British Art Role organization opened a handy craft exhibition. This came after a series of training courses inside the prisons and the Women's houses.



37- **November 25 – December 10, 2012:** : (GSIO) in coordination with AlNajjda organization, Time center for training and Supreme Council for Women implemented (21) seminar on women advocacy and the miss use of media in (Erbil, Sulymania and Duhok).



38- **December 10, 2012:** : (**GSIO**) opened a photograph exhibition with 11 photos that address the violence towards women and absurdity, it opened under the supervision of Mr.Arslan head of Kurdistan Parliament and Mrs.Bakhshan Zangana. In addition, GSIO exhibited the handy craft of female prisoners and those in the Women House.



GSIO Manager

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