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EuroMed Feminist Initiative  
المبادرة النسوية الأورومتوسطية  
Initiative Féministe EuroMed

**Erbil, 2 December 2018**

## **Press release**

### **First Meeting Advisory Committee Kurdistan Region of Iraq of EU Madad Project "Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, Internally Displaced People and host communities"**

**2 December 2018, Ministry of Interior, Erbil**

The 2-year multi-country project "Strengthening access to protection, participation and services for women refugees, IDPs and host communities" funded by the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the EU Madad Fund was kicked off in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) by the first meeting of the Advisory Committee of the project in KR-I. The meeting took place on the 2 of December 2018 at the Ministry of Interior, Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and was chaired by H.E. Mr Sinjari, Minister of Interior KRG and H.E. Bakshan Zangana, Secretary General of High Council for Women KRG. It was organized by EuroMed Feminist Initiative and consortium members in Iraq/KR-I, Women Empowerment Organization (WEO) and Baghdad Women Association (BWA).

High level representatives attended the meeting: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Department of Foreign Relations, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs as well as the project consortium member attended the meeting as part of the Cross-Sector Task Force on the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP 1325).

H.E. Mr. Sinjari underlined in his welcoming address the importance of this project in supporting the development of the second NAP 1325 in Iraq and strengthen the cooperation of all relevant actors to improve the response to the needs of most vulnerable IDPs and refugees. H.E. Ms. Zangana, reminded that this project builds on the achievements of the CSTF 1325 in service provision and contributes to the strengthening of the capacities in data collection and information sharing.

Mr. Mathieu Goodstein, responsible for EU Madad Fund at the EU Delegation to Iraq, in Erbil, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, emphasized the two pronged approach of the project. The added value of the project lies in addressing the immediate needs of the most vulnerable women, notably through legal consultation and advice, as well as bringing them to policy level and awareness raising campaign.

Ms. Suzan Aref, Director of WEO and Liza Hido, President of BWA presented the project objectives and the main activities in Iraq and KR-I: provision of comprehensive specialized services to women survivors of GBV, improving institutional cross-sector coordination and capacities to better address the needs of women and girls, social dialogue, campaigning and advocacy for improving awareness and legislation favoring of women's rights.

Ms. Borianna Jonsson, EuroMed Feminist Initiative discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee in KR-I as well as channels of communication on national and regional level. Participants agreed that the meeting of the Country Advisory Committee for both Iraq and Kurdistan Region of Iraq would take place on 17<sup>th</sup> December in Baghdad, linked to launching of the national report on the implementation of first NAP 1325.