

“Violence against Women in Post-Conflict Areas with a Focus on the Situation in Iraq”

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Members of Norwegian Church Aid spoke about the difficulties of an international NGO trying to work in Iraq. Their NGO is based in Amman, Jordan and meeting with partner Iraqi NGOs can be difficult due to visa issues and security at border checkpoints. The limited access that Iraqi women NGOs have to the international community makes it difficult to bring attention to many of the issues affecting Iraqi women. There is also a total lack of statistics on the number of Iraqi women facing sexual and physical abuse as well as punishment for so called “honor” crimes. Iraqi society tends to deny that women are abused and that the gender construct exists as a means of protection.