



**The key challenges and issues of racial discrimination against minorities in Iraq today:**

**A. On constitutional level :**

1. Many articles need to be changed, for instant:

Article 2 (1) a : which disallows any law that contradicts the established provisions of Islam. This Article renders void many legal provisions that strive to include and provide legal protections to minorities. An amendment that broadens the provision to include all heavenly religions rather than just Islam, could effectively validate many existing legal guarantees as well as encourage draft legislation that purports to improve the legal status of minorities.

**B. On laws level :**

1. The need to work on change laws, for example:

**1.1 - National Identity Card Law No. 3 / 2016 :** Article 26 of this law includes two provisions that set the foundation for a systematic discrimination against minorities, which may end their presence in the country:

- a non-Muslim may switch his religion according to the law.
- a minor is registered as Muslim following a conversion of any of the parents to Islam.

These provisions mean that only non-Muslims can convert their religion



to Islam according to the law, while Muslims cannot convert their religion. Moreover, a child born within a marriage between a Muslim and non-Muslim shall take on the Muslim religion, regardless of the gender of the Muslim parent. This means that if one of the parents converts to Islam the child will automatically become a Muslim.

1.2 - **Imports of Municipalities law (New):** adding a new article in the last minutes, out of all parliament procedures.

Article 14:

- Banning the import, manufacture, selling of all kinds of alcoholics.
- Punishment whoever violates the item with no less to 10 Million and no more to 25 Million IQD.

**C. Need for amendments and additions to the Iraqi curriculum (especially basic level):**

Educational curricula should reflect the diversity of Iraq and enable students to learn about their own origins, cultures and religions, but also those of others, in a positive way that recognizes the contributions of all groups to society.

**D. At the community level:**

There are a lot of practices, at the community level, all ethnic or religious groups in Iraq still facing. Such as:



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- Socio cultural environment
  - Media
  - Religious platforms
  - ...etc.
- E. **Legislation of laws on prohibition of discrimination.**

**How we can work to address these challenges and issues ?**

- Through developing projects, organizing seminars, workshops ..etc.
- And developing an awareness or advocacy campaigns to make changes , amendments or legislate new laws that deals with discriminations issues .

**How can the CERD improve its engagement for greater impact ?**

Participating of the CERD in the work of local or regional civil society, with any kind of contribution or consultation, will give the work a great impact.



## Nineveh Center for Research and Development (NCRD) experience of engaging with CERD ?

As NCRD, we have been working for years with our partnership ( Assyrian Universal Alliance – American Chapter - an NGO in Consultative Status with the United Nations since 2013), to participate in different UN in general and OHCHR mechanisms or activities (including CERD), attending meetings , submitting reports. And among that participating in HRC meetings, attending with delivering an intervention for 4 times within the forum on minority issues ( as the vice president of Nineveh center for Research and Development is a former fellowship with Minority Fellowship Program in 2010).

**Note:** on attached files some reports been submitted by AUA and NCRD in different activities.