



Ref: 593 /18

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the note verbale dated 19th July, 2018 as regards the report on child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian setting, pursuant to the resolution 35/16 of the Human Rights Council, has the honour to convey the response of the Iraqi government, as follows:

- 1- Promote the positive perceptions of girls and encourage them to reject that which threatens their future via raising of public awareness of society as a whole.
- 2- To create decent jobs for unemployed girls in order to take their role in supporting their families and not to burden their poor families, as well as women and girls after completing their education and increase their chances of contributing to economic activities and enhancing their cultural position after completing their education, and increasing their opportunities for economic activities and enhancing their cultural, social and economic status, and thus will raise the status of women and enhance their role in society and raise their age at marriage and push them to use family planning methods and adopt the concept of small family.
- 3- Encourage families and girls to continue to attend school and not to drop out of education for whatever reasons. This will help to fight poverty and unemployment among family members and perhaps by using some positive incentives to help them.
- 4- To open youth centers, social welfare centers and civil society organizations and to encourage young people, particularly girls,





to visit them and provide a number of social workers to conduct dialogues, awareness workshops and seminars to discuss the negative effects of this phenomenon and to clarify the various health and psychological risks.

- 5- Adoption of the media, be they audio and printed media to constantly raise awareness campaigns on various levels to combat the phenomenon, and to identify its dangers and negative effects on society, family, adolescence and children.
- 6- Prepare health awareness programs within hospitals and maternity and childhood care centers by informing of early marriage and thus of the dangers of early pregnancy on the mothers, the fetus and postpartum.
- 7- To establish advocacy campaigns and awareness workshops aimed at establishing laws that support women and to amend the legal provisions of the Iraqi Personal Status Law that is in force so that the minimum age for marriage is 18 years to ensure that the girl has acquired the physical, psychological and social maturity, thus enhancing her position and participation in taking personal decisions, including marriage and to have completed her basic education.
- 8- Conducting dialogue sessions and workshops involving judges and psychologists to look into issues related to early marriage and study the subject and develop solutions to the problems that result from early marriage and be joined by social workers and psychiatrists.
- 9- Conducting qualitative and quantitative studies and research from all specialists to identify the real reasons for the spread of this phenomenon and identify appropriate solutions in a more comprehensive and accurate manner, especially in light of the

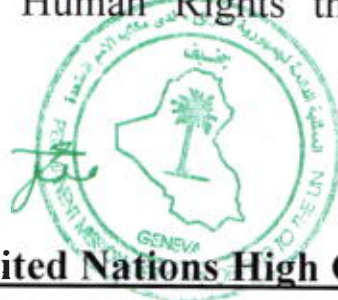




vulnerability of several countries in the region of political instability and the consequent problems of asylum and displacement and increased levels of poverty among many families due to the deterioration of economic and political conditions, which contributes to the increase in poverty levels among them, and the spread of the phenomenon of early and forced marriages, both in the areas of residence or areas of displacement.

- 10- Work to introduce the detriments of early marriage into school curricula.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



22nd October, 2018

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

