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Country matrix 2025

Iraq

The country matrix adopts and adheres to the coding standards adopted in the "Gender Justice and the Law" initiative.

General framework of the State

Has the State ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)? Does it have any reservations on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention?

Iraq acceded to the Convention in 1986, expressing reservations to article 2 (f) and (g) (public policy measures and amendments to laws); article 16 (marriage and family life); and article 29 (1) (management of the Convention and dispute arbitration). In 2014, Iraq withdrew its reservations to article 9 (nationality).

Does the Constitution refer to gender equality and non-discrimination?

Article 14 of the 2005 Constitution of the Republic of Iraq provides that Iraqis are equal before the law, without discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, origin, colour, religion, sect, belief, opinion, or economic or social status.

If customary law is a valid source of law under the Constitution, is it valid if it violates constitutional provisions on gender equality or non-discrimination?

Article 45 (2) of the Constitution provides that the State shall seek the advancement of the Iraqi clans and tribes, shall attend to their affairs in a manner that is consistent with religion and law, and shall uphold their noble

human values in a way that contributes to the development of society. The State shall prohibit the tribal traditions that conflict with human rights.

According to article 13 (2) of the Constitution, any text or law that conflicts with the provisions of the Constitution shall be considered void; accordingly, any customary law that contravenes the Constitution shall be considered void.

If personal law is a valid source of law under the Constitution, is it valid if it violates constitutional provisions on equality or non-discrimination?

Pursuant to article 41 of the Constitution, Iraqis are free in their commitment to their personal status according to their religions, sects, beliefs or choices, and this shall be regulated by law. However, the Constitution does not address the validity of the Federal Personal Status Law if it conflicts with constitutional provisions.

Do national laws clearly define the mandate and jurisdiction of informal justice systems, where they exist, in terms of their enforcement of formal and informal laws, both of which must conform to international standards, including non-discrimination?

National laws do not clearly define the mandate and jurisdiction of informal justice systems. However, despite the law issued in 1981 which

prohibits tribal courts, secondary sources refer to the application of tribal law in practice in the absence of the rule of law in Iraq.

Is there a law on discrimination that prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination against women?

Pursuant to article 14 of the Constitution, Iraqis are equal before the law, without discrimination based on sex, race, ethnicity, nationality, origin, colour, religion, sect, belief, opinion, or economic or social status. But this article does not distinguish between direct and indirect discrimination. The Labour Law of 2015 defines direct discrimination as any distinction, exclusion or preference based on race, colour, sex, religion, faith, opinion or political belief, origin or nationality.

Is there a national action plan or policy to address violence against women and girls that is overseen by a national mechanism with the mandate to monitor and review implementation?

A 2018–2030 national strategy to address gender violence is currently in place. The strategy is implemented under the supervision of a national mechanism representing the Iraqi Women Empowerment Department in the General Secretariat of the parliament through a team formed for this purpose in coordination with specific government institutions and local and international organizations.

Are there budgetary commitments provided for by government entities for the implementation of legislation addressing violence against women and girls by creating an obligation on the Government to provide a budget or allocation of funding for the implementation of relevant programmes or activities?

Article 28 (6) of the Public Budget Law of 2021 requires the State to include gender-responsive programmes. However, there are no budget commitments addressing violence against women and girls.

Is there a national strategy or action plan currently in place containing measures to ensure full and equal access to the entire range of sexual and reproductive health information, services and supplies, with budgetary, human and administrative resources allocated for its implementation?

The 2014–2023 National Health Policy includes a general provision that reproductive health and mother and child health are a priority. The 2021–2025 National Strategy for Family Planning and Birth Control has been launched in addition to the main interventions of the 2021–2022 Strategy for Reproductive Health; also, newborns, children and adolescents were added to the 2016–2020 strategic plan. Budgetary resources have been

allocated to it. In 2025, the National Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health was launched.

Are there laws that explicitly require the production and/or dissemination of gender statistics?

Article 3 (2) of the Iraqi Statistics Law of 2014 provides that the goals of the Central Statistical Organization include developing a gender perspective by conducting studies and surveys and gathering statistical information and preparing annual reports to be used for statistical purposes.

Is legal aid mandated or guaranteed in criminal matters?

Article 19 (11) of the Constitution provides that the court shall appoint a lawyer at the expense of the State for a person accused of a felony or misdemeanour who does not have a defence lawyer. Article 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure No. 23 of 1971 provides that the president of the Supreme Criminal Tribunal shall appoint a lawyer for a person accused of a felony if he/she has not instructed a lawyer. The court shall pay the lawyer's fees upon settlement of the case. Article 123 of the Code of Criminal Procedure also provides that a lawyer must be appointed for the accused from the initial investigation period for felonies and misdemeanours.

Additionally, the Legal Aid Law No. 7 of 2024 was enacted. It aims to help victims of sexual

crimes, victims of human trafficking, victims of electronic extortion, and displaced persons and immigrants, among other beneficiary groups.

Is legal aid mandated or guaranteed in civil/family matters?

The Code of Civil Procedure No. 83 of 1969 provides that legal aid is provided to a person who is too impoverished to pay the legal fees in claims or appeals brought to the courts. The request for legal aid shall be made to the court with jurisdiction to hear the claim or appeal.

The Law on the Legal Profession provides that a legal aid committee shall be formed in the office of each appeals court for providing aid if one of the parties is unable to pay the lawyer's fees or if a court requests the appointment of a lawyer for the accused. The law regulates the lawyer's fees to be paid by the Iraqi Bar Association or the court.

In 2024, Iraq adopted the Legal Aid Law, which addresses specific groups. It aims to raise awareness of constitutional and legal rights and of guarantees and their practice. It also provides for legal advice, amicable settlement between parties to the dispute, lawsuit petitions and regulations, and representation before courts and administrative authorities.

Legal capacity and public life

Do women and men have equal rights to apply for passports?

Article 5 of the Passport Law provides that every Iraqi who has reached 18 years of age is entitled to receive a passport, without any restrictions on women.

Do women and men have equal rights to obtain an identity card?

Article 34 of the Identity Card Law provides that the Directorate for Nationality and Civil Status Information is responsible for issuing a card known as the national identity card and containing a personal identification number for every Iraqi listed in the Civil Register, without any restrictions on women.

In civil law matters and procedures, are women required to obtain permission from judicial or administrative authorities, spouses and other family members prior to initiating legal action?

The Civil Code does not contain any restrictions on women to initiate legal action.

In personal/family law matters, are women required to obtain permission from judicial or administrative authorities, spouses and other family members prior to initiating legal action?

The Personal Status Code does not require an adult woman to obtain permission from her legal guardian to get married. Article 9

(1) provides that relatives may not prevent anyone who has the capacity to marry under the provisions of this law from getting married. A legal guardian's consent is only required for marriages to someone under the legal age for marriage (between 15 and 18).

The civil law adopts freedom of contract.

Does a woman's testimony carry the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's?

The Civil Code does not include any restrictions on a woman's testimony. In addition, article 6 of the Federal Personal Status Law provides that two witnesses who have legal capacity must act as witnesses for a marriage contract, without indicating a difference in evidentiary weight between men and women.

Can a woman enter into a contract the same way as a man?

Articles 77 to 99 of the Civil Code provide regulatory rules for contracts and the right to enter into or conclude a contract. They are gender-neutral and do not include any restrictions on women. Moreover, the Commercial Law also uses gender-neutral language.

Does the law allow for women to register businesses the same way as men?

Article 106 of the Iraqi Civil Code provides that the age of maturity is 18 years, without any restrictions on women. The

Commercial Law uses gender-neutral language and does not include any restrictions on women owning or registering businesses.

Do women and men have equal rights to own, access, and control or use property?

Article 93 of the Civil Code provides that every person is eligible to obtain a contract unless the law states that he/she does not have capacity or restricts him/her. The law does not include any provision restricting women from owning or controlling or using property.

Do women and men enjoy equal rights and access to hold public and political office (legislature, executive, judiciary)?

Article 20 of the Constitution provides that citizens, both men and women, shall have the right to participate in public affairs and to enjoy political rights, including the right to vote, elect and run for office. According to article 16, equal opportunities shall be guaranteed to all Iraqis, and the State shall ensure that the necessary measures to achieve this are taken.

Are there quotas for women (reserved seats) in the national parliament?

Article 48 of the Constitution provides that the federal legislative power shall consist of the Council of Representatives and the Federation Council. According to Law No. 9 of 2020 on the elections for the Council of Representatives, women shall

represent no less than 25 per cent of the members of the Council of Representatives as well as 25 per cent of the membership of the Council of Representatives in each governorate.

Is there a law that explicitly prohibits violence against women in politics and elections?

There is no law that prohibits any form of violence against

women in politics and/or elections.

Protection from violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres

Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes all forms of physical violence?

There is no federal law in Iraq guaranteeing protection in cases of domestic violence.

In the Kurdistan region, Law No. 8 of 2011 against domestic violence was passed which includes a broad definition of domestic violence encompassing physical, sexual and psychological violence, while excluding financial or economic violence. Yet in the list of forms of violence, forcing or not allowing a spouse to pursue employment and forcing a spouse to engage in prostitution are included. The law provides women with protection measures and punishes violation of these measures.

Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes all forms of sexual violence?

There is no federal law in Iraq guaranteeing protection in cases of domestic violence.

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Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes all forms of psychological/emotional violence?

There is no federal law in Iraq guaranteeing protection in cases of domestic violence.

In the Kurdistan region, Law No. 8 of 2011 against domestic violence was passed which includes a broad definition of domestic violence encompassing physical, sexual and psychological violence and excluding financial or economic violence. The law provides women with protection measures and punishes violation of these measures.

Is there legislation on domestic violence that includes all forms of financial/economic violence?

There is no federal law in Iraq guaranteeing protection in cases of domestic violence.

In the Kurdistan region, Law No. 8 of 2011 against domestic violence was passed which includes a broad definition of domestic violence encompassing physical, sexual and psychological violence and excluding financial or economic violence. The law provides women with protection measures and punishes violation of these measures.

Are there criminal and civil protection orders available for victims of violence for which a breach (constitutes a criminal offence) has legal consequences?

There are no protection order provisions in Iraqi laws.

Article 4 of the law against domestic violence in the Kurdistan region (Law No. 8 of 2011) provides that if a protection order is violated, the offender

shall be punished by no more than 48 hours in prison or a fine of at least 300,000 Iraqi dinars.

Does the law allow mitigating circumstances for femicide?

Article 128 of the Penal Code provides for a reduced punishment for perpetrators of honour crimes. Article 409 provides for a reduction in the punishment of a person who is surprised by their wife or a female relative in the act of adultery and kills her and her partner, or kills either of them, or assaults them or either of them.

This article was amended in the Kurdistan region so that there is no mitigation for killing or harassing a woman on the pretext of "honour" (Decision 59 of 2000).

Does the law criminalize adultery?

Pursuant to article 377 of the Penal Code, a woman committing adultery and her partner in this are sentenced to prison and the husband will be punished with the same punishment if he commits adultery in the marital home.

Is sexual harassment defined in any legislation?

The Labour Law prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace. Articles 400 and 402 of the Penal Code prohibit some forms of sexual harassment such as acts violating public morals, or conducting activities which violate public morals, or assaulting a woman in a public place.

Do laws that criminalize rape act based on absence of consent without requiring

proof of the use of physical force or penetration?

Article 393 defines rape as the act of sexual intercourse with a female without her consent or the act of sodomy without his or her consent. So, proof of physical force or penetration is not required.

Does the law include exoneration if the offender marries his victim?

Article 398 of the Penal Code permits the rapist exoneration if he lawfully marries the victim and any investigation or other procedure is then stopped. If a sentence has already been given, then it will be overturned.

Does the law criminalize marital rape?

Marital rape is not criminalized. However, a husband is generally under obligation not to harass his wife. He may be interrogated under articles 412 or 413 of the Penal Code which relate to harassment.

Does the law criminalize female genital mutilation (FGM) or cutting if practised?

There is no national law in Iraq that prohibits FGM.

In the region of Kurdistan, article 2 of the law against domestic violence [Law No. 8 of 2011] defines FGM as a form of domestic violence. Article 6 of that law prohibits FGM and imposes punishments on any person who does or helps do or incites this practice.

Is there a provision in the law that criminalizes cyberviolence against women and girls?

There is no provision in the law that criminalizes cyberviolence, but article 430 (1) and (2) of the Penal Code may be relied upon, which punish with a prison sentence of no more than seven years or with detention any person who threatens another person with a felony against any person or their money or by the imputation of certain dishonourable matters or with the revelation of those matters.

Are sex work and prostitution criminalized?

Prostitution is prohibited under the Anti-Prostitution Law No. 8 of 1988.

Are there comprehensive provisions (punitive, protective and preventive) on human trafficking in any law?

The Iraqi Anti-Human Trafficking Law No. 28 of 2012 prohibits human trafficking and provides protection and prevention measures. The parliament of the Kurdistan region passed this law in 2018.

In addition, Iraq adopted the Yazidi Women Survivors Law in 2021 with the aim of compensating, rehabilitating and caring for survivors subjected to domestic violence crimes such as kidnapping, sexual slavery, selling in the market, and physical and mental harm, among others. This law also includes provisions aimed at preventing the recurrence of incidents faced by survivors.

Iraq has also recently ratified the Arab Protocol to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, by virtue of Law No. 4 of 2024.

Employment and economic benefits

Does the law mandate non-discrimination against women in employment?

Article 25 (1) of Labour Law No. 37 of 2015 defines direct discrimination as “any distinction, exclusion or preference based on race, colour, sex, religion, religious community, opinion or political belief, origin or nationality”. Article 8 prohibits any violation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment and any discrimination between workers, whether it is direct or indirect discrimination. In addition, article 11 provides that “[t]he worker may resort to the Labour Court to file a complaint when exposed to any form of forced labour, discrimination or harassment in employment and occupation”.

Does the law mandate equal pay for the same work as men?

Article 53 (5) of the Labour Law provides for the right to equal pay for work of the same value.

Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?

Article 53 (5) of the Labour Law stipulates that the employer must pay women and men equally for work of the same value.

Does the law allow women to do the same jobs as men?

Article 85 (2) of the Labour Law prohibits women from working

in dangerous or hard labour jobs.

Does the law allow women to work the same night hours as men?

Article 86 of the Labour Law prohibits women from working nights unless the work is necessary or because of a force majeure event or to conserve raw materials or perishable products.

Does the law prohibit dismissal during pregnancy and maternity leave?

There is no clear provision in the Labour Law specifically prohibiting dismissal because of pregnancy but it is possible to rely on Article 87 (6) of the Labour Law, which provides that a working mother is guaranteed to return to her same job or an equivalent job on the same pay at the end of her maternity leave and pregnancy.

Does the law provide for maternity leave that meets the International Labour Organization (ILO) standard of 14 weeks?

Pursuant to article 87 of the Labour Law, a working woman is entitled to paid maternity leave of 14 weeks from her employer. However, there are no guarantees for compliance with this legal condition. Civil service female employees are entitled to six months’ maternity leave on full pay and six months on half pay.

In addition, under article 87 (4), the law provides leave before

the birth of an equal length to the time period between the birth due date and the actual date without reducing the maternity leave entitlement after birth. Moreover, according to article 87 (5), a specialist medical authority may decide that the maternity period set out under clause 1 should be a maximum of nine months in the case of a difficult birth or multiple births, or if there are postnatal or prenatal complications. The increased period is formed of the period under article 87 (2) as well as the period required under the Law on Retirement and Social Security. Under article 87 (6), the law provides that at the end of her maternity leave a woman shall return to her same job or to an equivalent job on the same pay.

Does the law provide for paid paternity leave available to fathers?

The Labour Law does not provide for paternity leave. Article 82 of the Labour Law allows a male worker holiday for personal reasons such as marriage, marriage of children, the hajj and other situations but not for the birth of a child.

Does the State provide or subsidize childcare facilities?

Article 92 (2) of the Labour Law stipulates that an employer must provide a nursery for enterprises with female workers, either as the employer alone or in partnership with other employers, in accordance with guidance from the Minister of Labour. The Ministry of Labour, pursuant to the legislation of

1992 on the nursery system, has the power to open a nursery and grant licences to private sector entities and supervise them. But the legislation does not provide for any subsidies.

Article 1 of the Law on Education provides that education shall be free and mandatory for all children who have reached the age of 6.

Do national labour and civil service-related laws (labour codes, civil retirement acts, etc.) discriminate between men and women in terms of retirement age?

The retirement age for both sexes is regulated by Article 29 of the Retirement and Social Security Law for Workers No. 18 of 2023. Under this provision, a woman is entitled to retire at the age of fifty-eight, fifty-five or fifty, depending on her years of service. A man becomes entitled to a retirement pension upon reaching sixty-three, sixty or fifty years of age, depending on his years of service.

Do national labour and civil service-related laws grant men and women equal rights to pass on their pensions to their spouses?

Article 40 of the Retirement and Social Security Law for Workers No. 18 of 2023 regulates entitlement to the retirement

pension. To be eligible for the pension, the wife must not be legally married to another man, and the husband must be totally and permanently incapable of earning a livelihood and must have completed sixty years of age.

Does legislation tackle sexual harassment in the workplace?

The Labour Law prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace and contains numerous clauses on sexual harassment. Article 10 prohibits sexual harassment when looking for work or in vocational training. It prohibits any behaviour which creates a hostile or unpleasant environment.

Article 10 also provides a broad definition of sexual harassment as covering any physical or verbal behaviour of a sexual nature or any other behaviour based on sex which affects the dignity of women and men and which is unwanted, unreasonable and insulting to the person receiving it.

Are there provisions allowing for civil claims/remedies for sexual harassment in the workplace?

There are provisions for civil claims/remedies for sexual harassment in the workplace but

there are no punitive provisions of dismissal. Article 11 of the Labour Law provides that a worker may apply to the Labour Court to file a complaint, which guarantees civil remedies and criminal sentences. The penalty shall be a prison sentence of no more than six months and/or a fine of no more than 1,000,000 Iraqi dinars for any person who violates the provisions of that law.

Does the Labour Law provide protection for domestic workers?

Article 3 of the Labour Law stipulates that the law includes domestic workers. It provides protection for domestic workers by prohibiting discrimination and hard labour.

Is there a public entity that can receive complaints on gender discrimination in employment?

Workers have the right to apply to the Labour Court to file a complaint when he/she is the subject of any form of hard labour, discrimination or harassment in employment and occupation (article 11). However, the Labour Court is a public entity and not a special entity for receiving complaints on gender discrimination in employment.

Family matters (personal status)

Is 18 the minimum age at marriage, with no legal exceptions, for both women and men?

Article 7 (1) of the Federal Personal Status Law (amended in 1978) provides that the legal age for marriage is 18. However, article 8 of that law provides that the judge may allow marriage of a person as young as 15 years of age if it is proven that he/she has capacity and with their legal guardian's consent.

Is marriage under the legal age void or voidable?

Article 40 (3) of the Federal Personal Status Law provides that any married person may request a divorce if the marriage contract was concluded before one of the spouses reached the age of 18 without the judge's consent. However, the law does not address the issue of the validity of marriage under the legal age.

Do women and men have equal rights to enter marriage (i.e. consent) and initiate divorce?

Women do not enjoy equal rights with men to enter marriage and initiate divorce. The Federal Personal Status Law stipulates that a husband must support his wife and that the wife must obey the husband (articles 23 and 25). A husband can divorce his wife by divorcing her three times (article 37). A wife can ask for a separation when one of the specified reasons is fulfilled and she can request a voluntary separation (*khula* divorce) without reason

on the condition that she renounces her financial rights (articles 43 and 46). Article 23 of the Federal Personal Status Law in the Kurdistan region of Iraq provides that a wife has the right to maintenance from her husband, but if the wife is financially able, her maintenance is split between them, provided that the wife agrees.

Does the law prohibit polygamy?

The Federal Personal Status Law permits polygamy on the condition that legal permission is sought from the court.

The conditions for polygamy are stricter in the Personal Status Law as amended in the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Do women and men have equal rights to be legal guardian of their children during and after marriage?

Article 57 of the Federal Personal Status Law provides that in the case of divorce the mother is assigned custody of her children until the age of 10 and the father is responsible for their financial maintenance. He may have the authority to make decisions on his children's education. The custody period can be extended to 15 years of age if the interests of the child so dictate. After that, a child has the right to choose which parent they wish to live with. Article 5 of the Federal Personal Status Law in the Kurdistan region of Iraq considers the mother the legal guardian if the father has died or is absent and she had custody.

Does the law grant women and men equal custody rights of their children?

Article 102 of the Civil Code provides that the father is the legal guardian.

Do women and men have equal rights to choose where to live?

Women and men do not have equal rights to choose where to live. Articles 23 and 25 of the Federal Personal Status Law provide that the wife may lose her alimony if, without a legitimate excuse, she refuses to move somewhere with her husband or refuses to travel with him.

Do women and men have equal rights to choose a profession?

There are no restrictions on women choosing a profession.

Do women and men have equal rights to own, access, and control or use marital property including upon divorce?

The Federal Personal Status Law does not include any provision restricting a woman's access to her property and/or property registered in her name, including upon divorce. Women have full capacity and authority to manage and access property.

Where rights to inheritance are enshrined by law, do women and men have equal rights?

Pursuant to the Federal Personal Status Law, women have

inheritance rights but in many cases a woman will receive less than a man. Girls receive half the share of boys.

Are there specialized civil courts or civil court processes for family law matters that provide for the equal rights of men and women?

The work of the family courts was reformed by Communiqué 9 of 2021, which gave jurisdiction to investigating courts and misdemeanours courts to hear domestic violence cases as well as their other work and made the courthouse in the premises of

each appeals region. But there is no provision guaranteeing equal rights for men and women in these courts.

Do women have equal rights as men to pass their nationality to children?

Nationality Law No. 26 of 2006 allows women to pass their nationality, in the same way as men, to their children born in Iraq. However, specific rules apply if a child is born outside of Iraq with an unknown father or a stateless father. A person born to an Iraqi mother and an unknown or stateless father may apply for Iraqi nationality during

the year in which he/she reaches legal majority, on condition that he/she is resident in Iraq at the time of the application.

Do women have equal rights as men to pass their nationality to a foreign spouse?

An Iraqi woman may pass on her nationality to her husband so long as he has been resident for at least 10 years and that this relationship is continuous. An application should be made to the Interior Minister in accordance with article 7 of the aforementioned Nationality Law.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Do law(s) or regulation(s) exist that guarantee access to maternal health care for all women and girls, irrespective of marital status and without third-party authorization?

Article 7 of the Public Health Law stipulates that the Ministry of Health shall provide maternal and child health services including medical tests prior to marriage, pregnancy, and childbirth care and child development. The law focuses on married women and does not provide any guarantees for unmarried women.

Do law(s) or regulation(s) exist that guarantee access to contraceptive services for all women and adolescent girls, irrespective of marital status and without third-party authorization?

The Iraq National Health Policy (2014–2023) and the National Birth Spacing & Family Planning Strategy (2021–2025) create the means of accessing and benefiting from these rights through the institutional mechanisms of the Ministry of Health, without stipulating any of these considerations.

Do law(s) or regulation(s) exist that guarantee access to emergency contraception for all women and adolescent girls, irrespective of marital status and without third-party authorization?

The clinical handbook for providing healthcare to women exposed to domestic and sexual violence was adopted. It regulates the provision of emergency contraception.

Is induced abortion legal at least when the life or health of the pregnant woman is at risk and in cases of rape, incest or severe fetal impairment, and is abortion decriminalized in any case for both the pregnant woman as well as health-care providers performing it (when consent is fully given)?

The law does not address safe abortion in cases where the life or health of the pregnant woman is at risk. However, the regulations issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Health under No. (77260), dated 2018, permit abortion in certain therapeutic cases based on the decision of a specialized committee in government hospitals.

Irrespective of the legal status of abortion, do law(s)

or regulation(s) exist that ensure access to post-abortion care for all women and girls, independent of their marital status and without third-party authorization?

No law(s) or regulation(s) exist that address abortion or post-abortion services.

Do law(s), regulation(s) or national policies exist that make comprehensive sexual health education a mandatory component of the national school curriculum?

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Public Health Law No. 89 of 1981, school health aims to provide an appropriate and healthy environment for learning; offer preventive health

services to children, pupils, students and those working with them; and incorporate health and environmental components into school curricula through the educational process. However, this article does not extend to comprehensive education on sexual health in all its components.

Do law(s) or regulation(s) exist that guarantee access to voluntary HIV testing and counselling services for all women and girls, irrespective of marital status and without third-party authorization?

There are no legal or procedural constraints preventing the exercise of this right or access to it as it is available in relevant public and private health

institutions. Iraq is one of the countries that has put in place policies for HIV prevention, including plans for testing for the virus and responding to it. In addition, applications for marriage at the personal status court are referred to specialist health institutions to confirm and certify that the applicants do not have any communicable and infectious diseases including HIV.

In 2024, Iraq has adopted Law No. 3 on compensation for patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). This law provides for granting one hundred million dinars as compensation to every person suffering from AIDS.