

Rights in Your Pocket:

# Women's Rights



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for Human Rights

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# Rights in Your Pocket: Women's Rights



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## Dear Reader,

The Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights has been assisting survivors of human rights violations in Iraq since 2005. With this booklet we want to help you protect yourself and your family before you become victims.

We have prepared three brochures to put your human rights in your pocket and in your hand at any time you need them: One for all humans, one for women, and one for children. Each of these booklets summarizes and explains your most fundamental rights.

By reading and carrying these books you can protect yourself and others in situations of need. Often it is enough to show

people that you know your rights to stop them from harming you. That is exactly what we at the Jiyan Foundation want to achieve:

To make you and all other members of our society aware of the human rights we all share. Only if we know our rights, can we claim them. Let us start together by reading a book.

Salah Ahmad

President of the Jiyan Foundation

## Dear Reader,

This is a book with a purpose. A book that does not signify its importance by its size or author, but by its contents and use. The book contains a human's most basic rights, and in the case of women and children, those rights which are special to them because of their increased vulnerability.

I know about the power of these rights because I applied them. I also know that it is important you do not only rely on others but know how to protect yourself. That way wrongs can be stopped before they occur.

All too often people's rights are abused because the perpetrator knows that his victims

are unaware of their legal protection. This book can stop that. Carry it with you and use it to prevent and challenge the abuse of your rights.

Your rights now literally lie in your hands. Should you, however, encounter situations where you feel helpless, I am confident that you will find a strong and supportive partner in the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights.

Rizgar Mohammed Amin  
Former Chief Judge, Iraqi Special Tribunal

## List of abbreviations

**CEDAW:** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

**Draft CoK:** Draft Constitution of Kurdistan Region – Iraq

**Law No. 8:** The Law on Domestic Violence, Act No. 8 of 2011

**UDHR:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



# Equality

All laws apply in the same way to everyone and no difference can be made between women and men in terms of the rights of the law. This also applies to contracts and other private legal matters.

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Art. 20.1 + 20.3 Draft CoK;  
Art. 2 (c) + 15 CEDAW; Art. 7 UDHR

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It is not allowed that you are treated differently in any way because you are a woman, especially when it relates to laws and public institutions.

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Art. 20.2 Draft CoK; Art. 2 (d) CEDAW;  
Art. 2 UDHR

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If women are treated differently from men in any way, especially concerning their rights and security, including economic and financial matters, the state has the duty to change this because it is a human right of women.

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Art. 20.3 Draft CoK;  
Art. 2 (e)-(f) + Art. 3 CEDAW

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Women and men should have the same educational opportunities and have the same education in schools.

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Art. 27 Draft CoK; Art. 10 CEDAW

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Women have the same right to family benefits and bank loans as men.

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Art. 13 CEDAW

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Men and women should be paid equal amounts if they do equal work.

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Art. 24.5 Draft CoK; Art. 11 (d) CEDAW;  
Art. 23.2 UDHR

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At least 30% of seats in the Parliament of Kurdistan must be for women.

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Art. 41.2 Draft CoK; Art. 7 CEDAW

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# Protection

You have the right to be free from physical harm, including beating, psychological or sexual abuse and female genital mutilation.

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Art. 19.6 Draft CoK;  
Art. 2.1 – 2.2 Law No. 8

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You must not be forced or coerced into prostitution and the state must protect you from it.

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Art. 2.1.6 Law No. 8; Art. 6 CEDAW

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You have the right to freely decide who you want to marry, without coercion or payment of money.

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Art. 2.1.1–2.1.2 Law No. 8;  
Art. 19.8 Draft CoK; Art. 16.1–16.2 CEDAW;  
Art. 16.2 UDHR

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You have the right to protection from further harm when you have been the victim of domestic violence and are entitled to support from the state such as social support, shelter and rehabilitation.

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Art. 2.2 + Art. 3.1–3.4 Law No. 8

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A court can declare that you need special protection from the person that harmed you and can prohibit the person from entering your house, even if it is your husband, father or brother.

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Art. 4.1 + Art. 4.3.1-4.3.3 Law No. 8

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All mothers have the right to special protection and the right to social security, meaning that they are entitled to help from the state if they themselves cannot afford a living.

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Art. 24.3 Draft CoK; Art. 22 + 25.2 UDHR

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The government must provide special homes and protection for women who have lost their family security.

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Art. 27.4 Draft CoK; Art. 3.2 Law No. 8

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## Seek Help

We hope to have given you encouragement to defend your rights. But we also know that you might not be able to do so in some situations. If you feel that one of your rights has been violated and you cannot stand up for yourself, **we will listen to you, back you up, and help you to react.**

All our services are free of charge and we will treat your problems with confidentiality. Our multi-professional team has long lasting experience in assisting survivors of human rights violations!



## Contact Us

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