

FOUNDATION

MASARAT

FOR CULTURAL AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT
N.G.O

مؤسسة
حسارات
للتنمية الثقافية والإعلامية
منظمة غير حكومية

"Countering hate speech in Iraq" conference

Masarat Foundation for cultural and Media Development

Declaration of Baghdad

To counter hate speech on Iraq and the Middle East

We face today in the Middle East, the risk of the demise of religious diversity, especially in Iraq and Syria, and the rule of hate speech includes the countries of the region as a whole. Moreover, ISIS committed every hour crimes in the name of religious truth or ideology, or under the pretext of defending the law or the system.

With respect to stereotypes and prejudices against religious minorities, in some cases, historical trauma or superstition can be instilled in minds of people for purposes of political mobilization or in search of a scapegoat.

These violations occur in a political amid impunity, which indicates the existence of a vacuum state in the field of human rights protection. It also incidents that discrimination or violence against the backdrop of the widespread availability of prior provisions can turn into political paranoia.

On the other hand, when we are facing the end of diversity risks, the circumstances through which Iraq and the region has facilitated the

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other hand, the return of religion had vanished for five centuries since the arrival of Islam in Iraq, namely, Zoroastrianism, as it constitutes an eloquent lesson that beliefs do not die, and that the provision in favor of a climate of freedom of religion would make gains for all in promotion of diversity, that is the strength of Iraq.

To protect this diversity, up to 125 participants from Baghdad and various provinces: Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya, Erbil, Najaf and Basra, Maysan and DhiQar, met in Baghdad, forming a broad coalition of representatives of religious minorities in Iraq Christians, Yazidis, Mandaean and Baha'is, Zoroastrians and Kakaiaan, coinciding with the rights of religious minorities, the Marrakech Declaration in the world Muslim fired (declaration of Baghdad to confront the hatred in Iraq and the Middle East), in order to respond to attempts by the fragmentation of society, seeking to rebuild its identity and the university which is based on the common motto (different and equal) and (unity in diversity)).(

Baghdad conference tried to counter hate speech, and through its meetings to draw attention to the need to confront patterns of advocacy of hatred that could constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, no matter how many forms: at the feet of individuals or religious leaders or curriculum or the mass media or blogs or forums and electronic means of social communication to embrace hatred and incitement messages.

Baghdad conference to counter hate speech was divided into four sessions dealt with various aspects of hate speech:

-The first session included the (peace makers in the face of hatred) letters of religious hatred against others who are different religious, painted a road map to face them on the level of the clergy from various religious components in Iraq.

-The second session dealt with (media figures in the face of hate) hate speech in the media, newspapers, radio stations and satellite channels, as well as social media, and tried to draw a road map for the media to address hate speech.

-The third session focused on (law and legislation in the face of hatred) to analyze the position of Islamic law on hate speech and the other atonement because of their religious differences, as well as the position of the Iraqi legislation, and tried to draw a road map in terms of the law and legislation to counter hate speech on Iraq and the Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Included a fourth session (the work: strategies to face the hatred in 2016) to form a committee to pursue the recommendations of the conference. The committee consist of Princess Iamia Bayezid Ismail (a Yazidi), Mishaal Mitti (a Christian) Asil Salam (a Baha'i), Bhnaz (Zoroastrians) Nadia Fadel (Mandaeans) Yasser Makki (youth initiatives- from provinces except for baghdad), Nour Al-Jazaree (youth initiatives- from Baghdad).

Conference's recommendations will be implemented during 2016 by a committee to pursue the recommendations of the conference, and under the direct supervision of Masarat Foundation, namely:

(At the State level)

Religious intolerance is not often inherent in religious diversity, but is often a result of the politicization of religious identities, and political leaders who manipulate the religious feelings of collective communities they represent politically, and the exploitation of religion for narrow political purposes. So we should work on the following:

putting end to forms of discrimination based on religious grounds, addressing violations of freedom of belief regardless of their religious affiliation for those who breach the party that violated religious rights.

-Activating punitive materials stipulated by Iraqi legislation in regards to incitement to hatred, and offenses against the religious feeling of the members of minorities.

-Enactment of legislation to combat discrimination based on religion or any other reasons, it prevents the division based on religion or sectarian within the community, and reinforces the other hand, a sense of individual and collective exercise of religious freedoms safely for all followers of religions and religious sects in Iraq.

- addressing the state of the manifestations of religious intolerance through legislation criminalizing religious hatred, as well as to take necessary and appropriate action to combat hatred, discrimination and violence and intimidation and coercion or instigation of, which runs from the motives of religious intolerance.

-The recognition of religious minorities which are not officially recognized, such as Kaka'is and Zoroastrians, and the abolition of legislation that constitute a restriction on the freedom to practice certain religious beliefs, such as legislation banning the Baha'i activity.

(In education)

-Drawing educational policies eradicate prejudices and concepts that are inconsistent with freedom of religion or belief; it is part of its commitment to guarantee freedom of religion for all its citizens.

-Examination of the curriculum in primary and middle schools and junior high and adjusted in line with the goal of addressing a speech of incitement and hatred, and the best way is to curricula adapted to a multi-ethnic and religious groups, community design.

-Must not contain textbooks in educational institutions on a stereotype or prejudices may give rise to discrimination or inflame hostility toward any religious group, as it should be repealed or amended, if any, it should contribute to the curriculum in the elimination of negative stereotyping or prejudice against different religious, and that it must move away from a centralized or give preference to belief without the other.

(At the level of media)

Can the media, public and private media can play a positive role by addressing issues of concern to all segments of society; in the forefront of the issue of freedom of religion or belief, and may also have to play a pivotal role in the induction of hatred, so it should work on the following:

-The face of these letters through the province of preachers of hate, and to refrain from providing a platform for them.

-Can the media, their ability to get multiple sources and voices within different communities and providing information on religious diversity in Iraqi society, to contribute to the elimination of stereotypes and prejudices against religious minorities.

-According to the first article of the Iraqi Constitution, the Penal Code, in article (47), the conference recommends activating own legal materials include incitement to punish offenders through any port or media outlet, visible or audible or Read. And restore the role of the Attorney General the right to hunt down and prosecute the perpetrators of the crime of incitement or hatred.

-Launching a wide campaign to put pressure on media organizations to organize a "binding Charter", in cooperation with the committees relevant in the House of Representatives, and civilian institutions interested, depriving Post or transmit any information products calls for hatred or encourage racism in all its forms, as stipulated in respect for the identity of ethnic minorities or ethnic groups in the small media discourse.

(Dialogue between clerics)

-Promotion of civil frameworks for dialogue between Muslim clerics and clergy of other religious minorities, since the creation of communicative dialogue through mutual visits and participation in various religious occasions (Muslim and Christian and Yazidi and the Mandaean and Baha'i and Zoroastrianism, etc.) provide a suitable ground to correct the stereotypes about each other.

-A commitment to religious elites (positive) in the expression firmly and clearly denounced intolerance and discriminatory stereotypes and hate speech, and the commitment of (negative) to refrain from statements that incite religious violence and lead to the emergence of collective manifestation of religious hatred-

-Strengthening the structures of official and non-official religious dialogue mechanisms, and all forms of communication between the religious elites, because of their role in eliminating prejudices and

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stereotypes that form the root causes of the fear of the other and intense distrust and hatred, and a motivation for violence and discrimination, and the accompanying violations of various human rights.

--Must elites and religious leaders to emphasize the commonalities between religions and sects, and stripping allegations of religious extremists, who make up only a minority (but vocal), by confronting them openly, and to expose their ignorance of the essence of religious teachings on different, which is based on the other's love, and celebrate the dignity of man.

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