



Facing the Future: working together for justice for the women of Iraq and Burma

Thursday 21 February 2008 saw a unique event take place at the Inter Parliamentary Union room, Palace of Westminster.

Under the auspices of the International Coordination for Gender Justice in Iraq (ICGJI) and UNIFEM UK.(United Nations Development Fund for Women), activists for justice gathered together to hear more about the work of organisations working in the UK, Iraq and Burma for justice for women.

A diverse group of organisations were represented. They spoke with passion and concern on the plight of Iraq women and the women of Burma. By the end of the morning participants said that they had gained greater insight and forged relationships with other organisations. As a result of a highly interactive session, many recommendations were put forward for concrete action to improve the lot of the women of Iraq and Burma both inside and outside the country. One of these was the need for higher profile of the activities of the organizations and closer collaboration between them.

These concerns and recommendations were taken to a meeting with the Attorney General, Baroness Scotland after the meeting.

Speakers included Iraq Community Association Chair, Jabbar Hassan; Iraq Women's League - Shatha Jafar Besarani, Kurdish Womens' Rights Project – Nazand Rashid, ICGJI – Noamun Mona, Global Justice Center – Professor Janet Benshoof, Burma Lawyers' Council - Aung Htoo. Burma Muslims Association, Burma Women's Association.

The ICGJI was thanked for its organization of the event. All speakers voiced support for the work of the ICGJI and the desire to work together more closely.