

<b>UN Assistance Mission for Iraq</b>  (UNAMI)		بعثة الأمم المتحدة لتقديم المساعدة للعراق

**PRESS RELEASE  
RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE**

### UN Opens Conference on Iraqi Women's Rights

**Baghdad/ The Dead Sea- 19 March 2009:** The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) today opened a conference *“Still Paying the Price, Iraqi Women after Years of Wars, Sanctions and Internal Conflict”* on strategies to promote women's rights in Iraq.

“Over the years, the women of Iraq have borne the brunt of the effects of violence, conflict and sanctions.” said David Shearer the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General in his opening remarks to the conference. “We have an obligation to make women the centre of Iraq's recovery and ensure they thrive in their homes, schools, jobs and in public life” he added.

The two day conference is organized through the UNAMI Human Right's Office and attended by several high-level Iraqi officials, including the Acting Minister of Women's Affairs, the Kurdistan Regional Government Minister of Justice and the Vice President of the EU Parliament. Representatives from a number of human rights and women's organizations from around the region including Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinian territories are also attending

The conference will produce a series of recommendations to Iraq's Government and Parliament on issues holding back women's equality in Iraq. It aims to set a strategy to improve women's political participation, constitutional guarantees for women addressing violence against women and the general impact of conflict.

For more information please contact:

**For more information, please contact:** Juliette Touma, Office of the DSRSG  
toumaj@un.org, +962-6-550-4738, +962-77-67-29-707

For facts and figures on women in Iraq please consult: [www.iauiraq.org](http://www.iauiraq.org) and [http://www.iauiraq.org/reports/Iraqi\\_Women-FINAL.pdf](http://www.iauiraq.org/reports/Iraqi_Women-FINAL.pdf)