



2.6 Women and girls

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Women in Iraq are reported to face multiple challenges including violence, poverty, financial exclusion⁷⁴⁵ and societal stigma.⁷⁴⁶ Women also face limited access to the labour market⁷⁴⁷ political marginalisation and limited representation in decision-making bodies.⁷⁴⁸ Women and girls continued to struggle against patriarchal norms embedded in Iraq's legal system.⁷⁴⁹ Despite continued activism by civil society groups, federal Iraq has still not passed a law against domestic violence, stalled in the parliament for over a decade,⁷⁵⁰ while a corresponding law was passed in KRI in 2011.⁷⁵¹ The penal code that is applicable in both territories criminalises physical assaults, but it doesn't mention domestic violence.⁷⁵² Domestic violence is on the rise and cases are underreported and inadequately investigated.⁷⁵³

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