

NGOs Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI)

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NCCI recommend to:

- **Stop the violence by any peaceful means**, which exclude additional troops, more militias, impunity for murderers, safe havens for terrorists, free usage of guns,
- **Stop divisions amongst people as an excuse for reprisals** based on religion, sect, sex, name, country of origin, nationality, and any other ways people can be classified to accentuate their differences.
- **Sensitise and train regular armed forces on respect for human rights** and sanction violations.
- **Disband militias and absorb them into the regular forces** – of course after receiving the training on human rights.
- **Establish an efficient judicial system to implement the rule of law and to provide remedies for victims**. At the same time it must enforces its rulings and punish the perpetrators of violations.
- **Collect guns and ammunition**, and increase border patrols to put a stop to the trafficking of arms. There should be stiff penalties and sanctions for the unlawful carrying of guns

The 31st of May 2006, NCCI (NGOs Coordination Committee in Iraq) held a conference to "Promote Non-Violence and Network Peace Initiatives in Iraq".

This Conference gather 100 people from NGOs, Civil Society organisations, International organisations, Political parties, Medias, etc. It followed 2 days workshop on the same subject.

The Main reasons for organising this workshop:

1 - All Aid Workers face the same risks as civilians (women, children). Some time even more because they are active and have to deliver on the field and in some cases in the middle of armed battles. Many friends and colleagues died this last three years. Many beneficiaries were targeted. There is no one Iraqi family that I know, who didn't lose a relative. These

tensions have dramatic consequences on the population. As such NCCI Stands on the side of the population and the most Vulnerable groups

2 - NCCI already hosted a workshop at the end of March on the impact of violence in humanitarian emergencies in Iraq. One of the main outcomes of the workshop was that the level of violence is intolerable and unacceptable. Iraqi population, civilians and particularly the most vulnerable need security. Aid workers need safe corridors to access the most vulnerable, and social workers need to build the trust with the communities they work with. So the first priority is now to decrease the level of violence faced by the Iraqis.

3 - NGOs principles are not very well known in Iraq. The line is often blurred between companies or organisations that have other agendas than supporting the most vulnerable and NGOs. However, for NGOs, the concept of non-violence, and doing no harm, like doctors with their Hippocratic oath, is key to the activity of NGOs and NCCI must stand up to promote these principles in the field while protecting the vulnerable.

The objectives of this workshop were:

Obj. 1: To clearly Voice out a Stop to the violence. This tension is not acceptable and not tolerable.

Obj. 2: To provide opportunity and forum for debate amongst the different representatives.

Obj. 3: To act as a catalyst for presenting and linking various initiatives, organisations and individuals. There are a lot of activities being carried out, and due to the nature of the work, a lot of you may feel isolated and cut off from everyone else. This conference then is an open-space to meet and exchange experiences and initiatives.

In response to many of the initiatives that are on going, that NGOs are proactive, flexible and quick to respond to the primary needs on the ground. These characteristics should be taken advantage of because while the necessary debates take place at higher levels, NGOs are already resolving concerns and problems at the ground level.

Documents linked with the NCCI workshop and Conference

1 – Workshop participants' recommendations – In English and Arabic.

The outcomes of the workshop are the products of its participants and we are grateful to those who worked until very late at night to produce this document. These participants embody a variety of representatives both within and outside the NGO community. Some recommendations are very practical, useful, and easy to implement with a potential for quick impacts and results. However, not all of them are directly related to the work carried forward by NGOs. This is necessary to have an integrated and networked approach. At the same time, NGOs need to draw distinctions as to what they promote and represent. As such, NCCI cannot fully endorse all the recommendations, but are pleased to share them with you at this time.

http://www.ncciraq.org/article.php3?id_article=1052

2- Initiative 1: **Iraq Week for Combating Violence** – *In English.*

<http://www.laonf.org>
http://www.ncciraq.org/article.php3?id_article=1083

3- Initiative 2: **Baghdad Peace Accord** – *In English and Arabic.*

http://www.ncciraq.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=276

4- **The South African Peace Accord experience** – *In English.*

http://www.ncciraq.org/article.php3?id_article=1086

5 – **Media Coverage of the Conference** – *In Arabic.*

Al Sabaah: <http://www.alsabaah.com/20060606/pdf/p27.pdf>
Peyamner: <http://www.peyamner.com/article.php?id=47982&lang=arabic>