

THE GCERF CAROL BELLAMY LEADERSHIP AWARD 2023 AWARDEE REPORT: **WOMEN'S VOICE**

AT A GLANCE: WOMEN'S VOICE

Women's Voice Foundation for Peace Building (Women's Voice) is a registered Iraqi non-governmental organisation dedicated to advancing gender equality, nurturing women-focused journalism, and preventing extremism in Iraq.

Since 2018, the organisation has implemented numerous successful projects, bringing about positive change in local Iraqi communities. Women's Voice bases its work on the belief that gender equality is the cornerstone of sustainable peace and development, and seeks to empower women and encourage their participation in decision-making processes at all societal levels.



**Women's Voice has
operated in Iraq
since 2018**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Women's Voice was awarded the CBLA to Firstly, enhance their office setup and, in particular, its security and safety. Secondly, they aimed to train around 10 girls with basic experience in photography or sound production tools to produce visual and audio stories highlighting women who have experienced gender-based violence.

The training would provide technical expertise in story production, photography, camera usage, storyboarding, and audio recording using specialised equipment.

Women's Voice felt that this training would be essential due to the shortage of skilled female photographers and producers in Iraq. Due to this shortage, they felt that, until now, most of the stories produced about women in Iraq had tended to reflect the male perspective, thus often lacking objectivity. They sought to tackle this bias, particularly when regarding the subject of violence against women in Iraq.



Women's Voice focuses on the long-term safety and well-being of women victims and survivors.

As such, in addition to securing a safe, dedicated office space, Women's Voice sought that their CBLA project would help them to create a network of women professionals capable of producing content with objectivity and sensitivity to the issue of privacy and the safety of women.



IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS WITH IRAQI WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

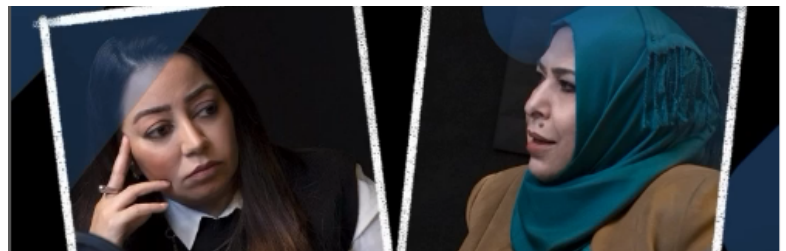
Conversations between Iraqi women entrepreneurs and host Suha Oda shed light on the achievements of these women, their career paths, and the unique challenges they face in a predominantly male-dominated society. By sharing these stories, Women's Voice is able to inspire and motivate other women to pursue their ambitions and break barriers in their respective fields.



MEDIA, CREATIVE, & TECHNICAL TRAINING

Women's Voice used the CBLA to purchase equipment used to train women interested in producing their own podcasts.

The organisation offered hands-on training sessions, teaching participants the technical and creative aspects of podcast production. This initiative not only fostered new skills but also created a platform for more women to share their stories and perspectives, further contributing to the organisation's mission of promoting women's empowerment and representation in Iraqi society.



FUTURE STEPS

Women's Voice believes training young girls in photography and sound production should open new opportunities for them to be recruited to work on projects in visual and audio production in the future.

As planned, Women's Voice will continue to build its network of women professionals who are capable of producing content with objectivity and sensitivity to the issue of privacy and the safety of women.

