

**Project Title:** Human Rights Reporting Skills Training for Iraqi Government Officials

**Dates:** May –July 2011

**Location:** Erbil, Iraq

**Unit:** United Nations and Capacity Building

**Core Staff:** Michael O’Flaherty, Bailey Grey, Halim Shebaya

**Training Team:** Michael O’Flaherty, Mervat Rishmawi

**Funder:** United Nations Officer for Project Services (UNOPS)

### **Objectives**

Building on the success of its project *Human Rights Treaties: Maximising the Engagement of Iraqi Civil Society*, HRLC delivered two workshops to Iraqi Government officials on State reporting to United Nations human rights treaty bodies. The two identical five-day workshops focused on equipping Government officials with the skills necessary to draft high quality national human rights reports. Participants were provided with a solid understanding of international standards and the general legal obligations imposed on State Parties under the different human rights treaties. Furthermore, they were equipped with a number of useful tools and skills that will enable them to further develop their writing and analytical skills in their daily work.

### **Participants**

Over 30 participants from the Iraqi Government benefited from the training. The majority of the participants came from the Ministry of Human Rights, but also from the Ministries of Education, Planning, Health, Labour, as well as from the National Institute of Human Rights and the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights.

### **Activities**

Workshop I (30 May – 3 June)

Workshop II (19 - 23 June)

**Method:** The training methodology included presentation, discussion, group work exercises, DVD resources, case studies, participant presentations and role play. The training was held in Arabic and English (with consecutive translation into Arabic). The interactive training methods used in the workshops ensured that all participants had a chance to express their ideas and take part in discussions and group work. Trainers from the National Institute of Human Rights assisted HRLC trainers in coordinating the group work exercises and provided useful interventions on specific issues related to Iraq.

The project was facilitated by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) with the cooperation of the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights and was funded by the European Commission and the Government of Finland.