

Conferences on Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion



Project: Reintegration of Returnees by Incorporating Social Cohesion with Economic Development in North Iraq(Sinjar and Baaj Districts)

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Partner Organization: Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund – Iraq

Implementing Organization: Sunrise Organization for Civil Society Development

Summary of the First Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding Conference – Sinjar 2025

About the First Conference

The Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding Conference was held on 24th September 2025 at the Khmalin Hall in the Markez Sinjar. The conference was organized by Sunrise organization for Civil Society Development in partnership with the Noterdam for Women and Children Organization and the Banan Foundation for Sustainable Development, as part of the project “Reintegration of Returnees by incorporating Social Cohesion with Economic Development in Northern Iraq (Sinjar and Baaj Districts)”. This project is implemented by Sunrise organization for Civil Society Development in partnership with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund – Iraq and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The conference provided a platform for dialogue among the diverse social and religious communities in Sinjar and Baaj to promote communication, mutual trust, peaceful coexistence, and support efforts toward reintegration and community stability.

The conference was attended by 103 participants (69 men and 34 women) representing various ethnic, religious, and geographical communities from Sinjar, Baaj, and other areas. Participants included government officials, tribal elders, community leaders, youth activists, civil society organization representatives, as well as educators and journalists.

Suggestions and Recommendations

Based on the conference outcomes and participants’ feedback, a number of important recommendations were presented to improve and strengthen peacebuilding and social cohesion, including:

First: Content and Activities

- Organize community awareness campaigns to promote a culture of peace.
- Include activities that highlight shared values and customs that support peaceful coexistence.
- Organize similar conferences in other areas such as Al-Ba'aj and Al-Qayrawan..

Second: Engaging Relevant Stakeholders

- Strengthen cooperation with government bodies and decision-makers.
- Involve other organizations with experience in peacebuilding.
- Follow up on the implementation of the conference's recommendations in future activities.

Third: General Community Recommendations

- Strengthen the role of responsible media in supporting peacebuilding and social cohesion in the region.
- Conduct civic campaigns to improve educational curricula to contribute to promoting understanding among followers of different religions.
- Support the participation of women and youth in peacebuilding and social cohesion initiatives.

Conclusion

The conference successfully achieved its objectives by promoting dialogue and building trust among the various communities in Sinjar and Al-Baaj. It demonstrated a genuine willingness among representatives, activists, and community leaders to support efforts for peace and coexistence. The conference also provided important recommendations that could contribute to improving future initiatives, enhancing stability, and facilitating the reintegration of communities affected by conflict.

Summary of the Second Social Cohesion and Peacebuilding Conference – Sinjar 2026

Overview of the Second Conference

The second conference, titled “**Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Sinjar and Al-Ba’aj Districts – Youth and Women Shape the Future,**” was held on 21 January 2026 at Khamlin Hall in the Markez Sinjar, as part of the project “Reintegration of Returnees by incorporating Social Cohesion with Economic Development in Northern Iraq (Sinjar and Al-Ba’aj),” funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The conference was implemented by Sunrise Organization for Civil Society Development, in coordination with Noterdam Organization for Women and Children and Banan Foundation for Sustainable Development, and in partnership with the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund – Iraq.

The aim of the conference was to strengthen dialogue among different community components, support peaceful coexistence, and empower women and youth to actively participate in peacebuilding and enhancing social cohesion in Sinjar and Al-Ba’aj.

A total of 87 participants took part in the conference (49 men and 38 women), representing 13 different areas. The participants came from diverse social and professional backgrounds, including local officials, community leaders, youth activists, representatives of civil society organizations, education and health staff, and journalists.

Suggestions and Recommendations

- Enhance the participation of government leaders and decision-makers in future events to ensure effective follow-up on conference recommendations and translate them into practical actions.
- Involve victims, returnees, and displaced persons in community dialogue processes as an essential component of recovery efforts.

- Organize cultural and social activities that promote peaceful coexistence across different areas.
- Support young women and men in leading initiatives that strengthen the education sector, challenge stereotypes, and overcome the impacts of conflict.
- Emphasize the importance of supporting initiatives that promote justice and ensure victims obtain their rights.
- Develop the capacities of community leaders to better support civic initiatives and community peacebuilding activities.
- Continue implementing social cohesion activities and initiatives in areas that have not been previously targeted.

Conclusion

The second conference served as a bright milestone, functioning as an effective platform to strengthen community dialogue and build trust among the different components of Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj (Muslims, both Shia and Sunni, and Yazidis). Its outcomes highlighted the importance of a participatory approach that focuses on the role of the local community, especially women and youth, in achieving sustainable peace and rebuilding the social fabric in areas affected by conflict.

The conference also emphasized the importance of the social cohesion programs implemented by the organization and its partners in the region, which contributed to building trust among youth and women from different communities and supported them in facing the challenges resulting from the conflict while promoting stability.



Communication

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Annex



Illustration Photo 1: Participants of the First Conference on Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Sinjar



Illustration Photo 2: Participants of the Second Conference on Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion in Sinjar