

Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative

IRAQI CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVE: 25th- 31st MARCH 2009, VELLETRI, ITALY

25 March

17:00-19:00

Opening Session and Welcome Dinner

26 March

What are the challenges facing Iraqi civil society groups and how are they responding to them?

09:30-11:00

What are the problems or challenges that Iraqis face today? Group Discussions

Break

11:00-12:00

Group Discussions

12:00-13:30

Lunch

13:30-15:00

Plenary Reports and Discussion on problems and challenges

Break

15:15-16:30

*What are Iraqi civil society organisations doing and what else needs to be done to respond to these challenges?
Group Discussions*

Break

16:45-18:00

Plenary Reports and Discussion on responses

19:00-20:00

Dinner

20:00-21:00

Presentation of the "Baghdad Marathon : a race for peace" proposal by the Baghdad Marathon sport group

27 March

Iraqi and international co-operation

09:30-11:00

*How can Iraqis and international civil society work together to respond to the challenges facing Iraqis?
Group Discussions*

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Break

11:00-12:00 *Plenary Reports and Discussion on Co-operation*

12:00-13:00 *Lunch*

13:00-22:00 *Free time – to include optional tour of Rome*

27th March Registration and Welcome dinner

18:00 – 21.00 *Internationals' welcome and dinner*

28th March Iraq 2009: What are the current issues facing civil society?

09.30 - 10.30 *Introductions of participants and outline of the conference's aims and objectives*

Break

10.45 - 12.00 *What are the challenges facing Iraqis today?*

12.00 - 13.30 *Lunch*

13.30 – 14.30 *Plenary*

Break

14:45 - 16.15 *What are Iraqi civil society organisations and doing and what else needs to be done to respond to the challenges?*

Break

16.30-18.00 *The role of international civil society in showing solidarity*

29 March Developing an in-depth understanding of Iraqi civil society

9.30 – 11.00 *Issue based workshops on themes in Iraqi civil society such as*

- Employment and welfare rights*
- Public services: Health, Education & Housing*
- Militarisation and security*
- Human rights and the rule of law*

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(final list to be determined at conference by the Iraqis)
Break

11.30 -12.30 *Report back from ' issues' break out groups*

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 *Sectoral-based workshops reflecting various parts of Iraqi civil society represented at conference, such as:*

Trade Unions

Women

Youth

Human Rights

Ethnic minorities

Media

Break

16.00- 17.00 *Report back from 'sectoral 'break out groups*

30 March work

Moving forward: Sustainable and effective solidarity

09.30 – 10.45 *Moving forward A) Identifying areas of work the internationals can take forward on behalf of Iraqis.*

Break

11.15- 12.30 *Moving forward B) Beyond specific projects or campaigns, how do we strengthen and sustain Iraqi and international civil society solidarity?*

12.30 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 *Assessing and Communicating Outcomes of this Initiative*

Break

15.45 – 18:00 *Evaluating the first Iraqi Civil Society Initiative: How can we follow it up?*

20.00 – 22.00 *Social event*

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31 March

10.30-12.00 Press Conference in Rome
Foreign Press Hall, Via dell'Umiltà 83

17.00-20.00 Public Meeting in Rome hosted by the province of Rome
Sala di Llegro, Via IV novembre 119

The press conference and the public meeting will mainly be held by Iraqis.
International participants are welcome to attend.