



# **WILPF Statement on the Assassination of Iraqi Feminist Activist Yanar Mohammed**

***WILPF Statement 4 March 2026***

WILPF is deeply saddened to learn of the assassination of feminist activist Yanar Mohammed, founder of the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI). Her death, in what is believed to be a targeted attack, is a devastating blow to the community she served and the lives she changed through her activism.

As work in support of women's rights and gender equality has become increasingly dangerous worldwide. Rising waves of opposition against feminism and women's rights are becoming ever more dangerous, especially when compounded by conflict dynamics in the region. This backlash is deeply rooted in a complex web of conflict dynamics and militarisation, political power plays, entrenched patriarchal norms, colonial ideologies and economic hardships.

In the face of ongoing conflict, corruption, and eroded state institutions, feminist activists in Iraq, including Yanar Mohammed, have fought tirelessly to ensure women's basic human rights and meaningful political, economic, and social participation. Yet anti-gender discourse continues to grow with coordinated campaigns to delegitimise and intimidate women human rights defenders, making the work of feminist activists even more dangerous.

Yanar Mohammed's work and legacy will continue through her organisation, OWFI, and the feminist community that she nurtured and engaged with. WILPF remains committed to standing in solidarity with women challenging oppression and advancing justice. We will support feminist activists in Iraq, and the region, in the pursuit of women's rights and broader social justice.