

IRAQ

MEET A CHILD

Hashan, a 16-year-old boy, has started a desperate new life since being forced into the sex trade in Baghdad, joining a growing number of adolescents soliciting in Iraq under the threat of street gangs or the force of poverty. Feiraz said, *"Every day I cry at night, I'm a homosexual and was forced to work as a prostitute because one of the people I had sex with took pictures of me in bed and said that, if I didn't work for him, he was going to send the pictures to my family. My life is a disaster today. I could be killed by my family to restore their honour"* he said, explaining that homosexuality was totally unacceptable in Iraq due to religious beliefs.

TOTAL POPULATION 25,856,000
CHILD POPULATION 10,859,520

Population Reference Bureau

TOTAL CHILD LABOUR

8% of children between 5-14 years are involved in child labour

State of World's Children 2005,
UNICEF

ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION

By the year 2010, an estimated 8999,000 people would be economically active with no child in the age group 10-14 being economically active

ILO, Bureau of Statistics,
Economically Active Population.

GENDER RATIO

980 females for 1000 males

CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL

In 2001, there were 348,500 children in the primary school age group of 6-11 who were out of school

UNESCO's EFA Global Monitoring
Report 2005

PROGRESS ON PRIMARY EDUCATION MDG

No confirmed data

CHILD SLAVERY

No confirmed data

CHILD TRAFFICKING

US Dept. of State, Trafficking in
Persons Report 2005

Iraq is a country of origin for women and girls trafficked to Yemen, Syria, Jordan, and Gulf countries for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation.

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Six years of United Nations economic sanctions against Iraq has led to increased malnutrition, prostitution and shortages of medicine.

CATW Fact Book citing ("Effectiveness of Iraq sanctions not clear," Dallas Morning News, 29 September 1997)

CHILDREN USED IN CRIME

No confirmed data

CHILD SOLDIERS

There were no reports of under-18s serving in Iraqi armed forces formed after the United States (US)-led occupation in 2003. The US government confirmed that 17-year-old soldiers were among the occupying forces. Earlier a large number of children received military training under the former government of Saddam Hussein. Armed political groups reportedly used children as combatants.

CSUCS, Global Report on Child Soldiers 2004.

CHILDREN IN UNORGANISED SECTOR

No confirmed data