



Women Quotas in Iraq

Iraq is one of the few countries in the Arab region to implement a legislated quota guaranteeing women at least 25 percent of the seats in the transitional assembly. While Djibouti, Jordan, Morocco and Sudan have reserved seats for women, political parties in Iraq are required to place a woman in every third position on its lists of candidates under the list Proportional Representation electoral system. This system will ensure that Iraq meets the requirements of the interim constitution of 2004 which states that women must comprise no less than one-quarter of the representatives in the assembly. The importance of these provisions in safeguarding women's presence in the assembly that will have primary responsibility for drafting a permanent constitution for Iraq must be underscored.

Below is a table summarizing the use of quotas in Iraqi legislation.

IRAQ	Electoral System: List PR (PR) - Turnout	
Number of Women in Lower House:	Election Year: 2005	Number of Women Elected: 0 , 0.0%
Constitutional Quota for National Parliaments?	Yes -- The Interim Constitution adopted on 8 March 2004 states that the National Assembly shall be elected in accordance with an electoral law and a political parties law. The electoral law shall aim to achieve the goal of having women constitute no less than one-quarter of the members of the National Assembly and of having fair representation for all communities in Iraq, including the Turcomans, ChaldoAssyrians, and others.	
Election Law Quota or Regulation, National Parliament?	Yes -- The Electoral Law, Coalition Provisional Authority Order Number 96 - Section 4 (3) - states: No fewer than 1 out of the first 3 candidates on the list must be a woman, no fewer than 2 out of the first 6 candidates on the list must be a woman and so forth until the end of the list.	
Sanctions for Non-Compliance?	No	
Political Party Quota for Electoral Candidates:	N/A	
Sources	Law of Administration for the State of Iraq for the Transitional Period. Coalition Electoral Law number 96.	

This information is excerpted from the Quota Database at www.quotaproject.org