



The Legal Regulation of Drug Abuse Control Iraqi Kurdistan Region\Duhok

Governorate as an example

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التأطير القانوني لمكافحة تعاطي المخدرات: إقليم كردستان العراق / محافظة دهوك نموذجًا

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ملخص يُعدّ تعاطي المخدرات من أخطر المشكلات التي تهدد النسيج الاجتماعي في العراق، بما في ذلك محافظة دهوك. وقد خلف هذا السلوك آثارًا سلبية على الأفراد والمجتمع، أدت إلى تفكك الأسر وتدميرها. وعلى الرغم من أن هذه الظاهرة موجودة منذ زمن بعيد، فإنها تفاقمت بشكل ملحوظ وأصبحت قضية اجتماعية واسعة الانتشار. وقد أسفر انتشارها السريع عن نشوء العديد من المشكلات الاقتصادية والاجتماعية على مستوى الفرد والأسرة والمجتمع. وبناءً على ذلك، اتخذت سلطات حكومة إقليم كردستان إجراءات جادة، من بينها وضع أطر قانونية، لمكافحة تعاطي المخدرات والاتجار بها في العراق. وتفترض هذه الورقة أن تعاطي المخدرات ناتج عن عوامل نفسية واقتصادية واجتماعية، مما يستدعي تدخلًا قانونيًا ضمن الأطر المحلية والدولية. وتهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد العوامل الرئيسية المؤدية إلى تعاطي المخدرات، سواء كانت نفسية أو اجتماعية أو اقتصادية، كما تبحث في الآثار الاجتماعية لتعاطي المخدرات على الأفراد والأسر والمجتمع. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تستعرض الدراسة استراتيجيات مكافحة تعاطي المخدرات والحد من انتشارها ضمن إطار القوانين الوطنية. وأخيرًا، تقدم الوثيقة مقترحات لمختلف أصحاب المصلحة، بما في ذلك الحكومات ومنظمات المجتمع المدني، بهدف تعزيز الجهود الرامية إلى مكافحة تعاطي المخدرات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تعاطي المخدرات، الأثر الاجتماعي والاقتصادي، مكافحة تعاطي المخدرات، القوانين الدولية، القوانين المحلية العراقية، محافظة دهوك.

Abstract

Drug abuse is considered one of the most severe problems threatening the social fabric of Iraqi society, including in the Duhok governorate. It has had negative consequences for individuals and society, leading to the destruction and disintegration of families. Although this phenomenon has existed since ancient times, it has now escalated significantly and become a widespread social issue. Its rapid spread has created numerous economic and social problems at the individual, family, and societal levels. Accordingly,

the authorities in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) have taken serious measures, including legal frameworks, to combat drug use and trafficking in Iraq. This paper posits that drug abuse is driven by psychological, economic, and social factors, requiring legal intervention within both domestic and international frameworks. The study aims to identify the key factors leading to drug abuse, whether psychological, social, or economic. It also examines the social effects of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society. In addition, the study explores strategies to combat drug abuse and limit its spread within the framework of national laws. Finally, the document offers suggestions for various stakeholders, including governments and civil society organizations, with the objective of enhancing efforts to combat drug abuse.

Key Words: Drug Abuse, Socio- Economic Impact, Combating Drug Abuse, International Laws , Iraqi Domestic Laws, Duhok governorate.

Introduction

The abuse of drugs has emerged as a profoundly dangerous social phenomenon, threatening societies and yielding detrimental effects on individuals and communities. It has resulted in the dissolution of the family unit, escalated crime and violence rates, and contributed to the erosion of individual dignity, rendering individuals burdensome to their families and society. The growing use of drugs and their prevalence across various age groups is attributable to numerous factors, including poverty, unemployment, adverse social situations, psychological stressors, and environmental influences. This issue has existed since ancient times and has significantly worsened both domestically and internationally. Due to its pervasive nature, it engenders several issues and disruptions; thus, it necessitates legal countermeasures both inside the domestic framework of the state and under international law. The fight against drug abuse in Iraq and Kurdistan Region (KRI), specifically in Duhok Governorate, constitutes a significant challenge for both the government and community. Despite being previously free from drug proliferation, Iraq has emerged as one of the leading nations in drug use and trafficking due to the security, political, and economic crises it has experienced since 2003. This significantly affected all Iraqi governorates, including Duhok Governorate. Drug abuse harms social, economic, and political stability. This necessitates decisive action by the relevant authorities to curb its spread in Duhok Governorate by enforcing legal mechanisms established under international and domestic law.

Methodology

The descriptive-analytical approach is considered a crucial method for accurately examining scientific problems and designing well-structured conclusions. It is particularly appropriate for research that explores social trends, features, and characteristics without relying primarily on numerical data. This methodological approach emphasizes objectivity in research procedures, minimizing personal bias. This study examines and evaluates the legal framework for combating drug abuse in Iraq, with a specific focus on Duhok Governorate. It also investigates the social impact of drug abuse, particularly within the city of Duhok.

The research is based on various reports, laws, and studies issued by institutions in Iraq, as well as field data collected through interviews with drug users, rehabilitation center employees, government officials working with drug abusers, social researchers, court representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. Data collection spanned from January to July 2024, with a geographical focus on Duhok Governorate. Following the analysis of key research components, the study synthesizes its findings and aligns them with its objectives and hypotheses. Based on these findings, the study proposes recommendations for addressing drug abuse within the legal and social framework.

Part 1: The Concept of Drugs and Their Various Types

The problem of drugs and the dangers that result from them affecting the individual, family and society are among the most important problems that trouble the countries of the world. Its danger lies in its destructive impact on the effective human energy in societies, especially the youth category. This results in the waste of natural and human wealth resources, which hinders progress and comprehensive development in all societies. In this chapter, the study address the definition of drugs in the first section, and in the second section we will show the types of drugs, and we will discuss the reasons for drug abuse in the third section

Section 1: Defining Drugs

There are many definitions of drugs, and they vary according to the purpose of the definition. There are jurisprudential, scientific, and legal definitions. Drugs is a term that does not have a comprehensive definition agreed upon by jurists. However, it can be said that drugs are “any intoxicating or stimulant substance, whether natural or chemically prepared, that can partially or completely disturb the mind, and its consumption leads to addiction, which causes poisoning of the nervous system, harming the individual and society. Its circulation, cultivation, or manufacture is prohibited except for purposes permitted by law and in a manner that does not conflict with Islamic law”¹.

Some jurists have defined drugs as “a type of poison, although it is true that a little of it is a cure for people, and that addiction to it results in the most severe harm, not only to the user, but also to the family and society”². In the scientific aspect, the definition of drugs is a chemical substance that causes drowsiness, sleepiness, and loss of consciousness accompanied by pain relief. It is a translation of the word (Narcotic) derived from the Greek (Narcosis), which means to numb or make one numb³

Legal experts define narcotic substances as “a group of manufactured plant or chemical substances that are constantly listed by the World Health Organization and the local

1 Al-Aridhi, F. A. (2011). *Drugs and their role in human crime*. Journal of the Message of Rights, College of Law, University of Karbala, (2), 166

2 Mostafa, M. M. (1982). *Explanation of the Penal Code – Special Section* (8th ed.). Cairo: Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabia, 711.

3 Al-Muhannadi, K. H. (2013). *Drugs and their psychological, social, and economic effects in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries*. Doha, Qatar.

legislator (to be included in tables that can be added, deleted, or changed) due to their harmful effects on the individual and the local and international community, as their use results in health, economic, social, political, and security problems for the individual and the local and international community. Therefore, it is prohibited to have physical or legal contact with them except in the cases specified by the legislator in each country and in accordance with what is consistent with the rules of international laws and regulations .

As for the definition of drug addiction, the report of the World Health Organization's Committee of Experts on Narcotic Drugs states that it is "a periodic or chronic state of addiction that harms the individual and society, resulting from repeated use of a natural or synthetic drug."¹ The symptoms of this condition on the addict are:

- 1- The addict's compulsive desire to continue using the drug and insisting on obtaining it at any cost or by any means.
- 2- A tendency to increase the dose of the drug taken.
- 1- Disturbance of the addict's psychological and physical functions due to his dependence on the effects of the drug ².

It is worth noting that all these definitions of drugs fall into one mold. They all refer to those substances that cause a loss of sensation in humans. This loss causes the center of sensation in the brain to be covered and then cannot function properly.

Section 2: Types of drugs

There are many types of drugs with different names. some specific criteria have been adopted for the purpose of classifying of drugs, including the criterion of the origin of the narcotic substance. This criterion is based on dividing the types of drugs according to their plant (natural) or industrial (manufacturing and synthetic) origin. According to this criterion, the types of drugs are divided into the following:

First: Natural drugs: These are plants that were known among human in ancient times and were planted in a certain soil. Their leaves, flowers or fruits contain a narcotic substance and were used for medical purposes. The most important of these are cannabis, hashish and opium, which is extracted from the poppy plant, and from which morphine, heroin and cocaine are derived, which is one of the most dangerous types of drugs and is extracted from the coca plant. Qat also is one of the oldest natural plants known to man in ancient times. These plants, which contain substances that alter the state of the mind, senses and perception, were also used to alleviate the pain and hardships of life and in pursuit of happiness ³.

1 Hassan, N. M. (2012). *The modern encyclopedia of drugs (Definition, Jurisprudence, Judiciary)*. Cairo: Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabia, 11-12.

2 Hassan, N. M. (2012). *The modern encyclopedia of drugs (Definition, Jurisprudence, Judiciary)*. Cairo: Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabia, 11-12.

3 Ibrahim, A. M. (2021). *International cooperation in combating drugs*. Egypt: Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jamei, 39.

Second: Chemical drugs (manufactured and synthetic): Most drug specialists divide chemical drugs into two main categories: manufactured drugs and synthetic drugs, and both of them are not, in fact, natural drugs.

- A- *Synthetic drugs:* It is a group of substances extracted, added, mixed or prepared from plants found in nature that contain an effective narcotic. Its use leads the user to psychological or physical dependence or both, and its use also results in partial or complete loss of awareness. Therefore, this type of drug is not completely natural, nor is it completely chemical, but rather a mixture of both. Such as heroin and morphine, which are derived from opium¹.
- B- *Synthetic drugs:* These are substances produced from complex chemical reactions between various chemical compounds, which happen in the laboratories of pharmaceutical companies or in the laboratories of research centers. They are not of plant origin or do not contain natural drugs such as crystal. It is made in the form of tablets, capsules as well as in the form of powder or liquid. They usually used for therapeutic purposes, while sometimes they are used illegally as an alternative to natural drugs². The spread of drugs of all its kinds and their use is one of the major problems threatening societies, due to its profound impact on all social, economic, health, mental and psychological aspects of life of the human being and society. Through researchers' meeting with a group of imprisoned addicts, juveniles and women in the Directorate of Juvenile and Women's Reform in Duhok Governorate, it was shown that the most commonly used type in Duhok is heroin and crystal due to its easy access and low cost³. Same results confirmed again through the researchers' visit to the Directorate of the Anti-Narcotics Division in Duhok city⁴.

Section 3: Underlying Causes of Drug Abuse

Perhaps among the reasons that lead to drug abuse are psychological reasons, economic reasons, and social reasons, in addition to the role of the media and social networking sites. This can be more discussed as follows:

First: Psychological Factors

The psychological reasons that lead to the emergence of this phenomenon can be summarized as:

1. The desire to experiment⁵.
2. The need to satisfy psychological whims and personal desires⁶.

1 Al-Aridhi, Drugs and their role in human crime., 166

2 Hassan, N. M. (2012). The modern encyclopedia of drugs (Definition, Jurisprudence, Judiciary).

3 Interview with female and juvenile drug users at the Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (24 May 2024).

4 Interview with Ammar Saadallah, psychological researcher, Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (21 May 2024).

5 Saadoun, H. F. (2022). *Drugs and their impact on the individual and society*. Nasaq Journal, 33(4), 286.

6 Khalaf, K. J. (2021). The phenomenon of drug spread in Iraq: Risks and solutions. Journal of Educational Studies, (55), 360-361.

3. Escape from reality and the need to prove oneself, as the feeling of failure and dissatisfaction with the social situation is a major reason for drug abuse⁸.
4. Many addicts resort to use drug , in order to give them good imagination and inspiration, then the person becomes a addictive and cannot escape from it⁹.
5. Some people who suffer from social anxiety, stress-related disorders, and depression start using drugs as an attempt to relieve feelings of distress. Stress can also play a major role in starting drug use, continuing drug use, or relapsing in patients recovering from addiction¹.
6. Medical researches indicate that an individual's feeling of boredom, isolation, depression, or boredom, as well as person feeling of family dis attention, including losing the affection of father, the tenderness of mother, or the compassion of siblings, pushes to resort to taking drugs and escape from these psychological problems that formed as a result of these factors².

Second: Economic Factors

The profits that can be obtained from growing and selling drugs push many people to engage into its sector. most of the countries that grow and manufacture drugs belong to the third world, they resort to this in order to raise the economic level, the addict persons, in order to obtain drugs, which are a substance that is expensive, often committing other crimes such as theft or fraud, and becomes a prisoner of this scourge³.

Unemployment is a fertile ground and a major factor in the growth of the drug environment, especially among unemployed youth. There is no doubt that the lack of a job opportunity for young people, the abundance of free time, and spending their free time in places of entertainment and recreation, cafes, and places of amusement make drug dealers in the free time of these young people an opportunity to trap them in the snares of drugs . as they make them, after a short time, a prisoner of using drug , in a way face of negatives that they are unable to confront, Also the individual's feeling poverty pushes person using drugs to escape from this difficult reality that the individual suffer⁴. Therefore, unemployment is one of the direct factors of deviance. This is what pushes the unemployed towards the dangerous social scourge, which is drugs¹³.

Third: Social Influences

Young people are influenced by the environment in which they live. The more disintegrated and abnormal the environment is, the more the person is affected by it and it becomes difficult to control their actions, who is exposed to whims, desires, tendencies and external factors, whether in terms of addiction. In addition, the weaker and disintegrated the relationship between the parents is, the more the child is quick to deviate. Ignorance and the low level of education can be added to the reasons that lead to

1 Kazar, K. O. (2019). Drug use and addiction risks: Its chemical impact on the human body as a social issue. *Journal of Developmental Insights*, 4(19), 560.

2 Al-Atabi, A. A. A., & Al-Ziyadi, H. A. N. (2023). Reasons for drug use in Iraq: A study in social geography. *Iraqi Journal of Humanities, Social, and Scientific Research*, 8(A), 407.

3 Saadoun, H. F. (2022). *Drugs and their impact on the individual and society*. 286.

4 Al-Atabi & Al-Ziyadi. (2023). Previous reference, 405.

the emergence and spread of this phenomenon⁹. However, the most important of these social reasons are

Fourth: Family Impact

The family plays a major role in the process of socialization of young people. The family is the unit shapes the individual's behavior since childhood, and influences young in away include all personal aspects. Most studies indicate that young people living in a broken family suffer from emotional and social problems to a greater degree than those living in healthy families. The most factors leading to the disintegration of the family are divorce, the death of the parents, the mother's work, or the father's continuous absence from the home. The father's addiction to drugs also has a noticeable effect on the disintegration of the family resulting to the poor relationship between family members¹. The family disputes between spouses and with father's drug use lead to neglect of young which is what makes the them to take drugs².

The impact of the home environment, especially during childhood, is a very crucial factor in drug abuse. as parents or older family members who are addicted to drugs or who practice criminal behavior have a direct impact on increasing the likelihood of children being exposed to these problems. Most researchers have emphasized the relationships within the family are one of the most effective causes of juvenile delinquency³. The relationships between parents and children have a major impact on the behavior of the young both negatively and positively. Positive relationships in families provide their children with the necessary living conditions and provide them with the emotional aspect, as the young need security and a sense of belonging that generates self-confidence. While for families with negative relationships, their negative impact on the behavior of their children pushes them toward delinquency and delinquency⁴.

Fifth: Peer Influence and Negative Associations

Almost all psychological and social studies conducted on the causes of drug abuse show that the factor of curiosity and the insistence of friends is the major incentive to experiment using drug. Many young engaged into drug abuse is caused by bad company. Such companies influence young people by each other. Friends and acquaintances at school also have a strong and increasing influence on young drug abuse¹³. As peers of drug abusers can influence even those who do not abuse drugs, leading to academic failure or weak social skills, which can expose the young to a greater risk of engaging in this behavior and then becoming addiction¹⁰. It is worth noting that, one of similar cases is the young who met by researchers at the convicts in the Juvenile and Women's Reformatory in Dohuk. He was born in 2005 and was a student in one of the model

1 Nahmar, M. (2022). Drugs and their psychological impact on users. Hammurabi Journal for Studies, 11(43), 211.

2 Kazar, K. O. (2019). Journal of Developmental Insights, 560

3 Nahmar, M. (2022). Hammurabi Journal for Studies, 211.

4 Jawad, S. K. (2022). Reasons for drug use among a sample of delinquent juveniles. Journal of Psychological Sciences, 33(2), 371.

schools in Dohuk. He took drugs in 2020 through his friends. After that, he became a drug addict and used them twice a week or whenever he was upset about something. He is now convicted of drug abuse.

Six: The Role of Media and Social Networking Sites

The media is no longer just a transmitter of events or a mere showing events, but it has become involved in the production of content that presented to audience according to the policy of the donor where promotes its policy through the ordinary screen and social networking platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, WhatsApp, TikTok, Viber, ... etc. It has become clear that the new media based on the Internet has become a double-edged sword, especially in the issue of promoting or preventing the promotion of drugs. Therefore, the media is of great impact in combating drug crimes and in the same time to abuse it¹. The media, through its educational, developmental and social programs, can deepen the awareness aspect among the masses against drug abuse. The media may also contribute to presenting a different image regarding drug use. It may help to distort the viewer's mind and make vision unclear. For example, it may show the positive euphoria that comes from use, and the comfort that the user feels. Thus make person feeling comfortable and getting rid of worries and psychological pressures². It is necessary to point out, that the same above mentioned reasons can be found for drug abuse in Duhok society. These reasons are mainly unemployment among young people, followed by family neglect of children, family disputes and Bad company. The role of the media, and the development of technology are the final reasons that lead to an increase in drug abuse in society³. Linked to this, the psychological researcher at the Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility in Dohuk indicated that the majority of cases in the correctional facility have a curiosity to try using drugs, and as a result of feeling a sense of improvement. They use them irregularly, and then they reach to the stage of regular abuse, where they use them two or three times a week according to an organized schedule, and after that they become addicted⁴.

Part 2: Effects of Drugs on Individuals and Society

Drug abuse is a social disease that humiliates and destroys individuals. It affects the psyche and reflects personality. It erases virtue from person, pushes toward vice, and leads the person to apathy and indifference, causing to lose the sense of responsibility. Drug dependence is one of the biggest factors of social disintegration and loss of society, which results in poor upbringing of children and their deviation, and their tendency towards crime, vice and smuggling. Therefore, the social effects of an individual's drug abuse are not only on the personal level, but its repercussions appear on the family and

1 Atiya, S. H. (2023). The role of research centers in reducing the spread of drugs and their impact on Iraqi society. *Al-Mustansiriyah Journal for Arabic and International Studies*, (43), 207.

2 Interview with the head of the legal division, Anti-Drug Directorate, Duhok (28 May 2024).

3 Interview with Ammar Saadallah, psychological researcher, Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (21 May 2024).

4 Interview with Ammar Saadallah, (21 May 2024).

society. Therefore, this chapter will discuss the social effects of drugs on the individual and their effects on the family . it will also navigate the effects of drugs on society.

Section 1: The social effects of drugs on the individual

Drugs have negative consequences on the individuals in terms of their work, production, social status and people's trust. Individuals who are accustomed to activity and were trusted by others, their morals are affected and their productive efficiency is weakened, and they are transformed by drugs into individuals lack the professional efficiency. In most cases, the drug user is fired from his job and a penalty is deducted from him or his income and revenue are reduced¹. There are a number of negative effects that result from drug abuse and addiction, including the inability of the drug abuser or addict to establish successful social relationships with others. Starting with the relatives and friends. Also, drug abusers rebel against social values and standards and do not participate in family occasions that are important in achieving family cohesion. Thus, they tend to a life of isolation and introversion, which makes them more inclined to commit crimes and practice vice². The drug abuser learns bad behaviors such as lying, stealing, fraud, immoral acts, neglecting children, and become undesirable in the eyes of the family and society³.

From a health and psychological perspective, drug abuse has a significant impact on the central nervous system, resulting in a general weakness in the performance of mental and organic functions. Some dangerous doses may lead to paralysis of the respiratory centers, a drop in blood pressure, and severe coma. Chronic organic diseases that addicts suffer from include lung cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, paralysis, and intractable pain⁴. Drug abuse leads to a change in feelings, emotions, and sensations. This psychological change pushes the addict to physical and psychological exhaustion which include beating, hair pulling, slapping, violent grabbing, anger, and burning⁵. The effects of drug abuse include causing sudden harm to the addict, such as suicide, car accidents, and serious crimes .

Most studies and research conducted on drugs in different societies have shown that drug abuse has negative effects on the individual relationship with other individuals in society, it negatively also effect productivity whether the young is a worker or a student, due to the changes occur as a direct result of drug abuse⁶.

1 Ibrahim, A. M. (2021). International cooperation in combating drugs., 39

2 Ajlat, A. (2018). The dangers of drugs. Mohamed Lamine Debaghine Setif 2 University, Algeria, 75-76.

3 Khalfa, S. (2018). Drugs and their reflections on the individual and society. Journal of Studies in Human and Social Sciences, University of Jijel, (1), 118.

4 Bin Zeita, A. (2017). Drugs and their impact on the individual and society. Journal of Truth, University of Ahmed Draia-Adrar, (39), 391-392.

5 Abdul Aziz, J. (2010). Drugs and sexual performance disorder. Alexandria: University Publications House, 26.

6 Abdul Amir, H. M., & Ibrahim, M. H. (2023). How drugs affect societal security. Iraqi Journal of Humanities, Social, and Scientific Research, Al-Mustafa Al-Ameen University, (11), 1056.

Through meetings with psychological and social researchers, and with drug users in the juvenile and women's reformatory in Duhok Governorate, it became clear that the problem of drug abuse exists in Duhok city society as it does in other societies and has a significant impact on the individual in all aspects. Drug abuse has a negative impact on the lives of young people. This impact is not only in terms of health, but also expands to socially, educationally and culturally, including dropping out of school, and severing family ties leads to depriving them of their emotional and professional lives. thus opening the doors for young to all immoral acts, including committing crimes such as theft, fraud, sexual assault and even murder in order to obtain money to provide drugs¹.

Section 2: The effects of drugs on the family

Drug addiction is not only the tragedy of the addict, but also the tragedy of the entire family. In this section, the paper discuss the social effects of drug abuse on the family which can be summarized in following points:

1. Drug abuse by a family member destabilizes the social structure of the family and reduces the frameworks of constructive social interaction between its members. The results of these effects vary depending on the membership of the abuser within the family, whether as the father, mother, or one of the children, as well as the type of drug being abused, the level of abuse, and the period of time². During the meeting with one of the convicted inmates ,born in 1979, in Duhok Correctional Facility, she stated that she started using drugs in 2022, and then became isolated after her husband and family abandoned her, and she no longer saw her six children. She also explained that her last arrest took place in her home, where she lives alone, and easily obtains drugs through friends who bring them to her home, which made it a suitable environment for drug use.
2. The father's drug abuse results in the loss of the family's control and bonding mechanism. The abuser may live far from his family's reality and the means of controlling and guiding it. Family Suffering leads the children to be lost, homeless, and inclined to keep up with bad company and perhaps fall into the labyrinths of deviation and crime. In the society view, this family is stigmatized as "infected" and best avoided, and society may not approach them to demand marriage. This family for it side will be avoided to mix with relatives, neighbors, and friends, due to their bad reputation for dealing with drugs³.
3. Drug abuse leads user to the loss the job or a decline in job performance. The abuser may be absent from work for long periods or may be dismissed from work. this is significantly reflected on the family income. Therefore, often drug abusers and their families live at poor life condition⁴.

1 Interview with psychological and social researchers and drug users at the Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (24 May 2024).

2 Abdul Aziz, J. (2010). *Drugs and sexual performance disorder*. Alexandria: University Publications House, 26.

3 Interview with the head of the legal division, Anti-Drug Directorate, Duhok (28 May 2024).

4 Al-Nahi, B. G. (2018). *The phenomenon of drug use among dormitory students at the University of Basra*. *Nasaq Journal*, (19), 45.

4. The drug user becomes a source of danger to others in the family, which causes disturbance and imbalance within the family. The user may commits criminal acts , including sexual harassment as the influence of drugs ¹.
5. Research and studies have shown that the rates of poor marital relations and constant conflict between spouses are high in families where there are drug addicts. Consequently, the rate of disturbances among children in these families increases, which leads to juveniles also resorting to drug abuse and delinquency². One of the case in the Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility in Dohuk where the father and mother are separated. The father was convicted of drug abuse and the mother, and the juvenile are also detained here for drug abuse ²⁵. The administration of the Personal Status Court in Dohuk indicated that divorce rates are constantly increasing due to drug use by one of the spouses. In 2023, there were about 6 divorce cases due to drug use by one of the spouses. In April 2024, there were 3 cases of divorce for the same reason . To be noted, the number of such cases are higher. As in many cases of separation between spouses done through khula' , where both spouses agree to be separated without mentioning the reason of separation id court decision .Also, even for divorce cases decisions, the Personal Status Courts do not directly indicate the reason divorce ³. Thuse this makes it is certain that drug use is a major reason for the separation of spouses, as well as it has negative impact on raising children ⁴.
6. Drug abuse is a severe economic burden on the family's income, worsening its living conditions in all aspects. This may lead to the deviation of some family members. As the father in this case is considered a bad role model for his family.. In addition, the family members slipped into the same abyss that the head of the family descended into, which is addiction. As a result of the head of the family's repeated drug abuse, it pushes the children to abuse as well. Parents may also send their children to buy drugs. It is known that children are quickly influenced by their parents and imitate their actions ⁵.
7. The social effects of drug abuse is can be seen when children lose love and affection within the family. Drug abuse affects the pattern of relationships between parents, causing frequent quarrels between them, which makes the child lose feel unsecure about unknown fate ⁶. The head of the Legal Department in the Duhok Drug Enforcement Directorate confirmed during the meeting that many cases involve husbands introducing their wives to drugs, leading to addiction, conflicts, and ultimately imprisonment. This

1 Aboud, I. N., & Obeid, M. H. (2016). *Causes and effects of the crime of drug use*. Journal of Humanities, 23(4), 1877.

2 Rajab, Z. M. A. (2020). *The social and health dimensions of youth drug use and its impact on comprehensive development*. Anbar University Journal for Humanities, 3(3), 321.

3 Interview with Majid Hussein Taha, social researcher, Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (21 May 2024).

4 Interview by researcher Ali Abdullah Aswad with Abdulwahab, Director of Administration, Personal Status Court, Duhok (22 May 2024).

5 Abdul Amir, H. M., & Ibrahim, M. H. (2023). How drugs affect societal security. Iraqi Journal of Humanities, 1056.

6 Al-Nahi,. *The phenomenon of drug use among dormitory students at the University of Basra*45.

negatively impacts the entire family, depriving children of maternal care . According to interview with an inmate born in 1995, a married mother of three. She used drugs in 2019 under her husband's influence and later became addicted. She has been convicted twice, with a third sentence issued against her. She stated that her relationship with her husband and family is nearly severed . She was arrested after an argument with her husband. while her husband, now has taken sole responsibility for their children ¹. This case shows that the children will grow up without the mother's affection and tenderness, and this will greatly affect them in the future.

Section 3: The effects of drugs on society

Drug abuse and addiction represent a serious social problem that threatens the security and safety of society. It has even become an imminent danger that sweeps across all of humanity. Its social effects on society are reflected in the following issues:

1. Studies show that most drug users are young people, whom society depends on for production. This has affected the national economy because they have become disruptive ².
2. Countries seek to achieve prosperity for their people. The spread of crimes in general and drug abuse in particular makes the state devote most of its attention to combating these crimes, which negatively affects the welfare of citizens and country development ³.
3. Drug abuse is considered a cause of moral deterioration in values, due to the social unacceptability of the abuser behavior in some social circles. The abuser is forced to frequent bad places in order to be able get the drug. Then bring bad behavior to spreads to in society ⁴.
4. The lack of money for the addict as well as the high prices of drugs lead the addicts to commit crimes of another type such as crimes such as theft or fraud in order to obtain and needed drugs. This contributes to the spread of crime within the country, which is reflected in the social system in the country. this highlighting the strong link between the drug use and other crimes that push the addict to commit it⁵.The drug abuse in Dohuk has led to a significant increase in other crimes. Especially theft, fraud and rape. The drug offenders in prisons and their interaction with other prisoners is considered a major reason for the increase in the number of crimes committed by drug offenders when they get back to society ⁶. A detainee at the Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility in Dohuk, born in 2006, stated that drug abuse severely impacted his life. He was arrested for theft, which he committed to fund his addiction. Frequent conflicts with his family,

1 Interview with a female convict, Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (21 May 2024).

2 Nahmar, M. (2022). Hammurabi Journal for Studies, 211.

3 Aboud, I. N., & Obeid, M. H. (2016). Causes and effects of the crime of drug use. Journal of Humanities, 23(4), 1877

4 Al-Nahi, B. G. (2018). *The phenomenon of drug use among dormitory students at the University of Basra.*, 45.

5 Abdul Amir, H. M., & Ibrahim, M. H. (2023). How drugs affect societal security. Iraqi Journal of Humanities, 1056.

6 Interview with the head of the legal division, Anti-Drug Directorate, Duhok (28 May 2024).

worsened by financial struggles, led him to sleep outside. He also mentioned that his brother, unable to afford drugs, resorted to inhaling gas due to its low cost, which led to his death at around 15 years old ¹.

5. Drug abuse is a direct cause of enmity and hatred between people, even friends. Because when the abuser loses the mind become unable to be controlled from saying and doing things that offend people. Abuser overcome by pride and arrogance and quickly becomes angry, which leads to murder, disclosure of secrets, and violation of honor. These are social diseases that harm society . In Duhok, drug-related cases are rising significantly. The Director of the Legal Division at the Anti-Narcotics Directorate stated that in 2000, around 600 cases were recorded, increasing annually by 15-20%. This led to 800 cases in 2021, 1,000 in 2022, and 1,100 in 2023. By mid-2024, approximately 500 cases had already been registered². It is important to note the Kurdistan Regional Government's report, in which the Director General of Corrections stated on 5/25/2024 that drug trafficking and abuse in the KRI have increased by 12% compared to the previous year. He also reported that around 25% of all convicts in the region's prisons are incarcerated for drug-related offenses, with 1,311 out of a total of 5,487 prisoners serving sentences for drugs ³. Also Adnan Al-Jahishi, head of the Committee for Combating Narcotic Substances in the Iraqi Parliament, pointed out to the official statistics on drug use and trafficking in Iraq from 2020 to June 2024. He highlighted that 59,300 individuals are involved in drug trade and use, with 15 to 18 million narcotic pills seized in the country. Additionally, 10,927 individuals have been convicted for drug-related offenses over the past four years ⁴.

Part 3: The Legal Framework for Combating Drugs at the International and National Levels

The trafficking, abuse and addiction to drugs has become a serious problem that threatens the stability, social, economic and legal security of all countries. This has prompted the international community to cooperate and formulate a general policy combating it. From this logic, efforts have been organized and unified within legal frameworks at the international or national level. In this regard, this chapter will discuss the most prominent international efforts and agreements combat drug trade and usage at the international level. As well as the national legal framework for combating drugs in Iraq will be discussed pore precisely.

Section 1: The International Legal Framework for Drug Control

1 Interview with a detainee, Juvenile and Women's Correctional Facility, Duhok (21 May 2024).

2 Aboud, I. N., & Obeid, M. H. (2016). Causes and effects of the crime of drug use. 1877.

3 Rudaw TV Report. (25 May 2024). *Drugs in Kurdistan*. Retrieved from <https://www.rudaw.net/sorani/kurdistan/250520248>

(Accessed: 29 May 2024).

4 GAV TV Report. (6 April 2024). *The drug issue in Kurdistan*. Retrieved from <https://gavtv.net/ku/14811> (Accessed: 5 June 2024).

This section covers the international legal framework for combating drugs through a set of international agreements dedicated to this matter. The following is a review of the most prominent of these agreements

First - International efforts to combat drugs and psychotropic substances: In order to confront and combat drugs and psychotropic substances, countries have joined forces, cooperated with each unified efforts to mitigate this phenomena threatening structure of the international and national community, due to its impact on the future of generations and humanity. In this regard, it is necessary to point out the most important the efforts of the international community including international conferences and agreements, and international agencies specialized in combating drugs.

- 1- The Shanghai Conference of 1909: This conference is considered the first step of countries solidarity starting a global campaign against drugs trade. The conference was held in Shanghai in 1909, with the representatives of (13) countries with the aim of monitoring the illegal drug trade. As an attempt to limit the spread of the drug iPhone and its derivatives. A number of recommendations were issued, including imposing control over the iPhone trade, especially in the Far East region ¹.
- 2- The Hague Convention of 1912: It is considered one of the most important convention related to limiting the spread of drugs. It was concluded in the Netherlands on January 23, 1912. Its importance lies in its quest to achieve international legal cooperation to control drug usage and drug trafficking by obligating the contracting states to identify the agencies and persons who have the right to traffic in drugs materials, as well as the areas of trafficking and its purpose ².
- 3- Geneva Convention of 1925: The convention is issued with the representatives of 63 countries, which aimed to combat drug smuggling and misuse. The Convention articles required the States Parties to issue the necessary laws and regulations to carry out effective mechanism control over drug and its export ³.
- 4- The Geneva Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs of 1936: This convention is complementary to the previous conventions. The articles obligate the state parties to establish regulation that criminalize the cultivation, harvesting, and production of narcotic substances, except for medical and therapeutic purposes, making such acts punishable by laws⁴.

1 Hussein, M. A. (2010). *International efforts in combating drugs and psychotropic substances*. Diyala Journal for Humanities, 1(45), 456.

2 Shali, N. A. N., et al. (2023). *Combating drugs and psychotropic substances in international and national laws – Iraq as a model*.

College of Law Journal for Legal and Political Sciences, 13(46), 59-60.

3 Hussein, M. A. (2010). *International efforts in combating drugs and psychotropic substances*., 1(45),

4 GAV TV Report. (6 April 2024). The drug issue in Kurdistan. Retrieved from <https://gavtv.net/ku/14811> (Accessed: 5 June 2024).34 GAV TV Report. (6 April 2024). *The drug issue in Kurdistan*. Retrieved from <https://gavtv.net/ku/14811> (Accessed: 5 June 2024).

- 5- The Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations Economic and Social Council:
The main functions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs are as follows:
- A. Assisting the United Nations Economic and Social Council in supervising the implementation of international drug control agreements. Providing the council with advice on issues related to the control of drugs and psychotropic substances. The Committee prepares proposals to strengthen the control of drugs when necessary ¹.
 - B. Amending the attached tables to the in force international agreements , by adding, deleting or transferring from one table to another, in coordination with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Secretariat.
 - C. Adopting the reports and annual plans of the United Nations drug control bodies.
 - D. The Committee proposes scientific research programs and work to exchange scientific information.
 - E. The Committee coordinates with non-party states to consider the possibility of taking measures consistent with international drug control agreements.
 - F. International Narcotics Control Board: The mission of this body focuses on monitoring and combating drugs with an emphasis on treatment and rehabilitation of the drug abuser. The annual report of the body issued in 2017 confirmed that raids and arrests indicate an exacerbation in cocaine trafficking in Jordan, the Emirates, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and Saudi Arabia. As known most of these countries have common borders with Iraq which had a negative impact on Iraq. Especially after 2003 where lack of tight border control with neighboring countries led drug dealers to open a new market for drug promotion in Iraq ².

Second: International agreements specialized in combating narcotics and psychotropic substances:

There are four conventions in this regard. Two of them are relevant to the combating narcotics, and other two related to combating psychotropic substances. These can be clarified as follows:

1. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961:

It was concluded under the supervision of the United Nations, in order to collect and coordinate the provisions stipulated in the previous multiple international agreements in the regarding the drug control. This convention ended the enforcing the work of all the provisions that were included in the previous agreements³. Therefore, it was called the

1 Ragheb, A. A. (1992). *Criminal policy for combating drugs: A comparative study* (PhD dissertation). Police Academy, Graduate Studies College, Cairo, 305+.

2 Musa, M. A. (2022). *Harmonizing international conventions with domestic legislation: Drug crimes as a model*. College of Law Journal for Legal and Political Sciences, 11(43), 334.

3 Abdelghani, S. (2010). *Principles of drug control: "Addiction and Control" Confrontation Strategy*. First Edition. Dar Al-Kotob Al-Qanuniyah and Dar Shatat for Publishing and Software, Egypt, p. 211.

Single Convention. The most important provisions of the convention by studying its articles of the can be extracted and summarized as follows:

- A- Combating illicit drug trafficking.
- B- Regulating legal drug trafficking.
- C- Establishing the International Narcotics Control Board.
- C- International cooperation.
- C- Treatment of addiction.
- H- Drug schedules ¹.

The convention granted the States Parties the right to take special control measures. It also gave states the right to prohibit the production, manufacture, export, import, trade, possession and use of such drugs, except for quantities necessary for scientific research appropriate to protect public health ².

2- The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as Amended by the 1972 Protocol.

The abuse of narcotic drugs increased dramatically in many countries over the world in the late sixties, which prompted the international community to consider amending the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 196 ³. The Convention was indeed amended by the 1972 Protocol, and perhaps the most important amendments introduced by the Protocol are the following:

- A- Strengthening the powers, responsibilities and capabilities of the International Narcotics Control Board.
- B- The Protocol allowed the States Parties to tighten control to limit the cultivation and production of opium and also allowed them to replace the penalty for drug users, or add to it the necessity of subjecting them to treatment, education, rehabilitation and social care procedures.
- C- The Protocol emphasized the new direction of the Single Convention, that efforts should not be limited to combating the supply of narcotic substances only, but that efforts should also extend to the same extent to reducing the demand for them ⁴.

3- Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971:

From 11 January to 21 February 1971, the United Nations organized a conference in Vienna to adopt a convention on psychotropic substances. At the conference, the draft convention prepared by the Council's Commission on Narcotic Drugs was presented,

1 Eid, M. F. (1992). Drugs (Causes - Instruments - People). Crime Control Research Center, Ministry of Interior, Riyadh, Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, p. 28.

2 Al-Araji, F. M. S. (2002). International combating of narcotic drugs across the seas. Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, p. 66

3 Taha, S. M. A. (2002). The International Combat against Drugs Across the Seas. 1st ed., Dar al-Nahda al-Arabiya, Cairo, p. 322.

4 Al-Mazuri, M. H. K. (2017). The Role of International Organizations in Combating Transnational Organized Crime. 1st ed., Dar al-

Kitab al-Qanuniya and Dar Shatat Publishing, Egypt-UAE, p. 70.

along with other documents drafted by the Secretary-General. After extensive discussions, the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances was adopted and opened for signature¹.

By analyzing the thirty-three articles of the Convention, its most important provisions can be concluded, that it has subjected psychotropic substances that are being misused, or may be misused in the future which harm public health to national and international control².

4- The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988:

In 1984, the United Nations General Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to assign the Commission of Narcotic Drugs to prepare a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In order the convention address the various aspects of the drug use and trade problem⁴³. Based on this, the Economic and Social Council decided to hold an international conference to adopt the convention from November 25th to December 20th, 1988. As the result, The conference adopted this convention.

The Convention included a preamble and thirty-four articles. The introduction of the Convention emphasized that illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is an international criminal activity that requires urgent attention³. It is considered a collective responsibility of all countries. As It poses a serious threat to human health, which must be eliminated⁴. The most important substantive provisions of the Convention concluded in following points :

- 1- Crimes and penalties.
- 2- Judicial jurisdiction.
- 3- Confiscation.
- 4- Mutual legal assistance.
- 5- Controlled delivery.
- 5- Measures to eliminate the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants. As well as the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Section 2: The National Legal Framework for Drug and Psychotropic Substance Control in Iraq

1 Al-Araji, F. M. S. (2002). International combating of narcotic drugs across the seas. Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, p. 66

2 United Nations International Drug Control Programme. (1991). United Nations Training Manual on Drug Enforcement Law

Enforcement: Handbook for Law Enforcement Officials. United Nations, p. 6.

3 Al-Araji, F. M. S. (2002). International combating of narcotic drugs across the seas., p. 66

4 United Nations. (1992). United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances, Vienna, 25 November–20 December 1988, Vol. I, Travaux préparatoires. United Nations, Vienna, pp. 1 et seq. (E/CN.7/1987/2).

The Iraqi legislator, similar to other countries legislations, sought to combat drugs and psychotropic substances. The Iraqi legislator did not neglect to criminalize any type of dealing in drugs and psychotropic substances. It also joined and ratified international agreements specialized in combating drugs and psychotropic substances. Accordingly, in this chapter , the studied discuss the relevant strategy combating drugs and psychotropic substances in Iraqi law which in Duhok governorate as well.

First - The Extent of Iraq's Implementation of Global Drug Control Agreements

Since ancient times, Iraqi society, including Dohuk society, has been the most immune and immune society against narcotic substances, due to its social, educational and legal conservatism. However, after the changes that affected the world in general and Iraq in particular, specifically after the global opening of borders and the opening of societies to each other, this type of crime has affected Iraqi society, including Dohuk. Given the seriousness of drug crimes and the Iraqi state's belief in methods of combining international efforts to combat this type of crime, Iraq has joined over the years international agreements that combat trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. These include the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and its Amended Protocol of 1972, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 .A specified law was enacted for this ratification by joining each agreement .Iraq government also took all necessary measures to prevent and combat this crime.

Iraq's accession to the conventions to combat narcotic drugs represents a distinct qualitative step in enhancing international cooperation in this field. However, Iraq's accession to these conventions entails legal effects and international obligations that must be implemented in order to reduce the phenomenon of drugs in Iraq. Accordingly, these international obligations reflected in Iraqi legislation to achieve the purpose and goal for which these international conventions ¹. Hence, Iraq, through the legislative authority represented by the Iraqi Council of Representatives issued the Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law No. (50) of 2017 ².

Second: Iraq's Specialized Laws on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances:

The Iraqi legislative, in alignment with national processes to address the issue of narcotics and psychotropic substances, has endeavoured to combat this scourge in all its manifestations. The Iraqi legislature has meticulously addressed all facets of drug and psychotropic substance regulation, as demonstrated by a succession of laws imposing stringent penalties on users and traffickers through various mechanisms. The Iraqi legislature is regarded as one of the pioneers in the region to implement legislation that

1 Shali, N. A. N., et al. (2023). Combating drugs and psychotropic substances in international and national laws, 59-60.

2 Hashim, S. J. (2020). Implementation of the Republic of Iraq's International Treaties in the Field of Combating Narcotic Drugs and

Psychotropic Substances. Journal of the College of Law, University of Nahrain, 22(4), p. 282.

criminalise drug-related activities, aim to combat drug use, and mitigate its risks and adverse effects on individuals and society, hence safeguarding health and social security. The inaugural Iraqi legislation addressing drug-related issues was enacted in 1933. This legislation was designated as the Law to Prevent the Cultivation of Cannabis and Opium Poppy No. 12 of 1933. Additionally, the Dangerous Drugs Law No. 44 of 1938. These statutes have been repealed. The applicable legislation includes Narcotics Law No. 68 of 1965 and the modified Iraqi Penal Code No. 111 of 1969. The Iraqi legislature has adopted the most recent law, namely the Iraqi Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law No. (50) of 2017, together with the Law to Combat Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for the year 2020. In this context, the following sections more elaborate each of these laws:

1- Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law No. 50 of 2017.

The issuance of deterrent legislation with severe penalties significantly contributes to prevention of drug smuggling and trafficking operations. Given the seriousness of drug abuse, which poses a serious threat to the health of individuals and the serious damage to social, cultural and economic foundations of society, the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law No. (50) of 2017 was issued in Iraq. Among the objectives of this law is stipulated in paragraph five of Article (2), which states “Preventing addiction to drugs or psychotropic substances, their misuse and treating addicts in any qualified clinics and hospitals .”

As for the illegal trade in narcotics, the legislator has considered it a felony. Its penalty is death or life imprisonment¹. In order to combat drug abuse, the Iraqi legislator has punished life imprisonment or temporary imprisonment with fine of no less than ten million dinars and no more than thirty million dinars anyone who provides narcotics or shares for use, or encourages their use, or manages, or prepares, or arranges a place for use. in addition to seizing the person movable and immovable property , as well as not allowing release on bail until the case is decided .

As per article 27 of this law which stipulates that anybody who engage in any of the following acts shall face capital punishment or life imprisonment: Firstly: Imports, introduces, or exports narcotic substances, psychotropic substances, or chemical precursors, with the intention of trading them under conditions not authorized by legislation. Secondly: Manufactures narcotic or psychotropic substances with the intention of distributing them under conditions not authorised by law. Third: Cultivates a plant that yields narcotic or psychotropic substances, or imports or exports such plants at any growth stage, with the intention of trading them or their seeds under conditions not authorized by law.

The law imposes stringent penalties on any physician who contravenes its provisions. Article 31 stipulates that any doctor who issues a prescription for narcotic or

1 Iraq Anti-Drug Law No. 50 of 2017.

psychotropic substances for non-medical purposes, with knowledge of this, shall face imprisonment for no less than three months and a fine ranging from three million to five million dinars, or one of these penalties, along with a one-year prohibition from practicing the profession.

Regarding the importation, production, or possession of narcotic substances, Article 32 stipulates that any individual who imports, produces, manufactures, possesses, or purchases narcotic substances, psychotropic substances, or chemical precursors, or cultivates a plant yielding such substances for personal use and consumption, shall be subject to imprisonment for a term of no less than one year and no more than three years, along with a fine of no less than ten million dinars.

Article 33 also stipulates the subsequent sanctions including First, Any individual who permits another to utilize drugs or psychotropic substances in any property under their ownership, regardless of whether it is at no cost. Second, Is apprehended in any location where drugs or psychotropic substances are manufactured or organized, and their use occurs with tenure awareness. The stipulations of this paragraph shall not pertain to the spouse, ancestors, or descendants of the individual who prepared or organized the location or who resides inside.

With reference to the legal articles, Iraqi Law No. 50 of 2017 on Iraqi Law No. 50 of 2017 on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances comprehensively tackles issues and crimes pertaining to this subject. This legislation, via its punitive provisions, demonstrates the significant actions undertaken by the Iraqi legislator to address narcotics and psychotropic substances, and provides to security and judicial authorities the requisite powers to implement measures aimed at curtailing the proliferation of drug abuse within Iraqi society. Furthermore, the law facilitates the execution of national legislation mandated by international and regional accords to which Iraq is a signatory¹

2- *Law No. 1 of 2020, "Combating Drugs and Psychoactive Substances in the Kurdistan Region,*

Law on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in the Kurdistan Region - Iraq No. (1) of 2020: This law is issued by Kurdistan Region of Iraq parlement in the footsteps of the Iraqi Law on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances. It defined the meaning of narcotic substances and psychotropic substances in expanded concept .To include all of the illicit trade ,trafficking in narcotic substances and psychotropic substances, export and import, production, manufacture, possession and ownership for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of this law . The law stipulated criminal penalties for anyone who imports, exports, produces or cultivates narcotics and psychotropic substances with the intent to trade it in circumstances other than those permitted by law .Moreover the law stress the treatment of addicts by stating that the Kurdistan Regional Government shall take all necessary measures to treat drug and psychotropic substance addicts. Aiming of treatment and rehabilitation of addicts as

1 Iraq Anti-Drug Law No. 50 of 2017.

well as ensuring an addiction-free society. The law stressed that KRI to cooperate with the central government in Iraq to intensify efforts to combat narcotics and psychotropic substances¹.

By examining both the Iraqi Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Law No. (50) of 2017, and the Law on Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in the Kurdistan Region - Iraq No. (1) of 2020, it becomes clear that the legal framework combating narcotics and psychotropic substances in Iraq has a remarkable development in this field. However, both laws have not been able to fully confront the illicit trade in narcotics and psychotropic substances in Iraq. Due to the state's inability to implement the law and the strategies followed in this regard.

Conclusion

The study focused on the drug problem in Duhok society, which is one of the serious problems that threaten the lives of the individual, family, and society. The study addresses the concept of drugs, their types, and the reasons leading to drug abuse in society. According to the study, a number of results and recommendations can be summarized as follows:

Results

- 1- This study shows that the causes of drug abuse in Duhok are a multiplicity of individual, family, and societal problems. Heroin and crystal are considered the most abused drugs in the community due to their easy access and cheap price.
- 2- The study showed that poverty and unemployment have a significant impact on young people, pushing them toward drug abuse, especially when combined with family problems and negative peer influence, which boost contribution to substance abuse and addiction.
- 3- The spread of drug abuse after 2020 has been increasing in Duhok society. Official data show that the rate of drug-related crimes is rising each year.
- 4- Many international conventions were issued, and various United Nations bodies operate to monitor the extent to which the States Parties implement the provisions of the international instruments. In addition, these instruments evolve into international ones based on the common interests of the States. Among the key monitoring bodies are the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Narcotics Control Board.
- 5- The Iraqi legislator, through Law No. (50) of 2017 on combating drugs and psychotropic substances, included punitive provisions against individuals involved in drug use and trafficking. This law is considered a step in the right direction toward addressing this issue and curbing its spread, particularly in Duhok society and Iraq in general. However, the implementation of the law has not been sufficient to effectively reduce the level of such crimes.

Recommendations:

1 Kurdistan Anti-Drug Law No. 13 of 2020.

1. Activating the role of society through social, cultural, scientific, and political institutions in cooperation to curb and prevent drug use
2. Opening recreational and sports centers to exploit the free time of young people..
3. Broadcasting awareness programs through the media to raise understanding of the threat of drug abuse and its psychological and social effects on the individual, family, and society.
4. Opening treatment and rehabilitation centers to support users in returning to society in a healthy way.
5. The KRI to provide job opportunities for young people. This is crucial to prevent economic challenges and unemployment from pushing them toward drug abuse as a way to escape the harsh reality they face.
6. States to increase international cooperation in combating drugs and psychotropic substances by exchanging information and expertise with specialized international organizations.
7. Iraqi and KRI governments to enhance legal mechanisms in order to monitor the methods of smuggling, production, manufacturing, importing, exporting, and planting narcotic substances.

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