

Creation of a new Gender Advisor – Operation Inherent Resolve

In early 2017, the ADF determined that deliberate action was required to actively promote the participation of women in the Iraq Security Forces. This action supports the intent outlined in the Government of Iraq's National Action Plan, which emphasises the importance of women's participation in the security sector as part of ensuring long term security.

A request was made to consider the establishment of a Gender Advisor position, in light of the Chief of the Defence Force's recently approved increase to the manning cap for Embed Positions within the Operation Inherent Resolve Combined Joint Task Force. The ADF deployed the first Gender Advisor for Operation Inherent Resolve in October 2017.

During her time in theatre, the incumbent was required to demonstrate that the position added value and directly enabled the inclusion of a gender perspective within the operation. In addition to continuing gender education and awareness, the Gender Advisor has initiated a number of substantial activities in support of WPS. These include: development and coordination of an Embassy-level 'Gender working Group'; development of specific initiatives to reintroduce women back to the ISF; and drafting of policy to enable the Gender Advisor to train, assist and integrate women into Iraq forces.



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Leah G. Lauderback, director of intelligence for Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve and Australian army Lt. Col. Melanie Lenaghan, gender and protection officer for CJTF-OIR, speak with students from Iraq's Ministry of Interior Police Female Training Institute in Baghdad, Iraq, March 8.



Students from Iraq's Ministry of Interior Police Female Training Institute in Baghdad, Iraq, listen to female leaders from Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve, March 8, 2018.