The right to compensation

In 2008, both the Iraqi Supreme Court and the Iraqi Appeal Court characterized the chemical attacks on Halabja as a crime against humanity and as genocide. In March 2010, the Iraqi Parliament subscribed to this view.

“All the victims and their families who survived the tragic March 1988 crimes are entitled to compensation.”

“There are two types of compensation: financial, covering shelling damages; and moral which is a formal apology by Iraq’s government in Baghdad.”

Iraqi Supreme Court, 2010
Chemical attacks

In the course of the Anfal operations, the Iraqi Army destroyed about 5,000 villages by means of chemical attacks and systematic destruction campaigns. In Halabja alone, thousands of people died within two days of March 1988 as a result of exposure to lethal mustard gas and various neurotoxins.

Chemical weapons can cause severe physical ailments such as chronic respiratory diseases, skin disorders and blindness. But victims may also suffer from psychological problems. Many people feel a permanent sadness or even wish to die. Others cannot control sudden memories of their terrible experiences. Some suffer from panic attacks, feelings of shame and guilt, sleeplessness, nightmares or anger.

All these difficulties can have severe effect on the ability to lead a healthy family life and to access education and employment.

If you have one of these problems or are worried about a family member or friend, you can contact our team.

We help survivors to reestablish their health and well-being. We aim to help them lead normal lives and to participate actively in society.

Who can turn to us for help?

We help **men, women and children of all ages** who have experienced

- chemical attacks
- war or armed conflict
- forced displacement, massacres or ethnic cleansing
- physical or psychological torture
- detention under degrading conditions
- other life-threatening experience
- disappearance or killing of close family member
- rape and other forms of sexual abuse or
domestic violence.

We also serve family members of survivors who are worried about a relative or need other help.

**We help victims regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity or spiritual beliefs.**

What kind of help do we offer?

Our services include **free-of-charge**

- medical diagnostics and treatment
- psychiatric consultation
- psychological and social counseling
- legal advice regarding access to justice and redress
- family counseling and mediation
- self-help and discussion groups
- physiotherapy
- referral to medical specialists.

These services are carried out by our multidisciplinary team of medical doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and physiotherapists.

**We treat all information you give us as strictly confidential. If you are a woman, you can talk to one of our female staff.**

Are you working in a health or social care institution or in a prison?

Our experienced team offers free-of-charge counseling and seminars on:

- basics of human rights
- effects of human rights violations on individuals, families and the society
- effective protection and rehabilitation mechanism for survivors of violence.