

10 Ways Women Will Be Affected By A War in Iraq

1. ALL war kills civilians, that means women and children die.

Civilian casualties made up 90% of the deaths in the Gulf War. A new war with Iraq would likely bring even MORE casualty deaths.

2. It is our sons and daughters who will be sent off to war in Iraq.

Many soldiers are killed in the perils of war, and many who do come home develop deep psychological scars from the trauma of war.

3. The war on Iraq is estimated to cost upwards of \$200 billion.

Every dollar spent on war and militarism is a dollar denied to essential social programs like education, healthcare and welfare. These cuts will dramatically increase women's poverty nationwide. This estimate does not figure in the ways women's programs will suffer **globally** due to an increase of international military spending and rebuilding efforts due to war.

4. Sanctions on Iraq have denied all the people in Iraq, including women and children, the food and medicine they desperately need.

Due to this basic deprivation, caused by sanctions, hundreds of thousands of children have died. How many more must die?

5. During the Gulf War the U.S. deliberately destroyed the infrastructure of Iraq. Electricity plants were completely demolished.

This destruction is a leading cause for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, denying Iraqi's clean water and causing a substantial rise in mortality rates for all ages, especially infants. Because of sanctions, the plants have never been rebuilt and more deaths continue to this day. There is no reason to believe that this type of devastation will be avoided in a new war.

6. Iraq has historically given women's education top priority.

With the onslaught of economic hardships formal and informal education has suffered. A full-fledged war will only be MORE destructive to women's education.

7. War makes armed violence and abuse of power more acceptable.

This abuse of power seeps into all of society's institutions, reinforcing privileges for the powerful and promoting armed force as a solution to problems.

8. War on Iraq will further our militarized culture of violence.

This cultural behavior exposes women and girls to an increase of systematic sexual, psychological and economic violence within the United States AND globally. These violations include rape, domestic violence and other forms of direct physical VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.

9. War on Iraq will encourage discrimination, racism, religious intolerance, and hate.

During times of war, stigmatized populations of women, gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender persons, immigrants, non-English speakers, disabled persons, and the mentally ill become MORE vulnerable. We will not tolerate racism against Women of Color and Third World Women!

10. At a time when Bush is creating a "you're either with us or against us" scenario, critical and oppositional voices are silenced.

Appeals to "patriotism" suppress the exercise of our civil and human rights. Women must be heard and heeded!

Provided by American Friends Service Committee <http://www.afsc.org/>

**We cannot leave the search for real security to the
politicians, generals and corporations!**

No War on Iraq

www.louisvillepeace.org