

**Question for written answer E-006172/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Human rights and female circumcision in Iraq

The EU has asked all political actors in Iraq to come together in a spirit of goodwill and engage in talks geared towards resolving their differences with the aim of ensuring that all communities can gain equal access to the political process. However, there is a wide gulf between what the EU would like in this respect and the reality on the ground.

As the US troops have gradually withdrawn from Iraq, so the way has been left open for the advance of what is known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIS. This force, numbering at least 10 000 men, and one of the most fanatical and totalitarian strains of Islamic fundamentalism, is terrorising and massacring the civilian population.

The UNHCR reports that more than 650 000 Iraqi citizens have had to flee their homes since January. Moreover, UN sources report how ISIS has ordered that the entire female population of the city of Mosul and the surrounding area – some 4 million women and girls – should be subjected to genital mutilation.

Does the Vice President/High Representative have any specific plan that might protect these women and prevent the violation of their personal and sexual freedoms?