

# NEUTRAL PLATFORM TO DISCUSS ISSUES



**DOES YOUR UNIVERSITY AS A BODY PROVIDE A NEUTRAL PLATFORM AND "SAFE" SPACE FOR DIFFERENT POLITICAL STAKEHOLDERS TO COME TOGETHER TO FRANKLY DISCUSS CHALLENGES?**

**UNIVERSITY :**

Al-Mustaqbal University College

**COUNTRY :**

Iraq

**WEB ADDRESS :**

<https://uomus.edu.iq/en/>

**SDG 16.3.4 :**

Neutral platform to discuss issues



Al-Mustaqbal University College provides a neutral platform and "safe" space for different political stakeholders to come together and frankly discuss challenges. Due to the imbalance of power in Iraqi politics stemming from the 2003 political shift, a safe space to voice different political opinions is more needed than ever.

The youth political movement has been a crucial democratic movement in Iraq in the past three years. The government was trying various ways to suppress and intimidate the movement, without providing a safe space for youth to voice what they really want and properly respond. Therefore, this event was one among a few events that opened a neutral and safe platform for youth to voice their political opinions.

Our college is at the forefront of the attempt to provide a safe and neutral platform for these voices. The following activities are important examples of how Al-Mustaqbal provides this kind of platform.

**First**, Al-Mustaqbal university College was organized on May 28, by Women's Empowerment Unite. This was a full-day event, discussing several issues including women's political representation in Iraq, wider issues of women's rights in Iraq. Each session was participated by academia, youth leaders, civil society organizations, as well as politicians.

Please see the details of the event here:

(see: <https://uomus.edu.iq/NewCol.aspx?newid=12898> ).

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**Second**, the "Constitution Dialogue: A New Constitution, A New Iraq" was a public seminar and a research project that aimed to create a platform for the public to deliberate about the reform of the constitution for the future of Iraq. This activity was hosted by the Law Department, Al-Mustaqbal University College, and partners.

The Constitution Dialogue project focused on 8 sensitive political issues, namely, (1) New political structure: redesigning power relations between the Monarchy, the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, the Judicial Branch, and the people; (2) Election system: House of Representatives, the Senate, and political parties; (3) People Politics: Rights, Freedom and People Participation; (4) Constitutional Court; (5) Independent Organizations; (6) Decentralization; (7) the reform of Judicial system; (8) the State, Public Policy, the National Strategies and the National Reform.

Please see the details of the event here:

(see: <https://uomus.edu.iq/NewCol.aspx?newid=13582>).

The faculty members in various academic departments at Al-Mustaqbal University College not only carry out academic research and publish research results in different professional fields but also create a neutral platform and safe space by organizing symposiums and outreach activities, among other programs. Besides publicizing and promoting relevant academic and professional achievements, they also invite different political stakeholders to gather at symposiums or for outreach activities to discuss various issues honestly and safely.