

# **A BULWARK TO ROOT OUT THE VIOLENT EXTREMISM THROUGH EDUCATION: GULEN (HIZMET) MOVEMENT SCHOOLS IN IRAQ**

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## **Abstract**

According to the UN General Assembly report, declared in 2015, humans are experiencing catastrophic problems on a world wide scale such as; food, water and shelter. Poverty, corruption and ignorance are effecting billions of individuals in a world that is facing ever more war, violence and terrorism. Iraq is one of the suffering and conflict zones that has been damaged and destroyed by a series of war, refugee crisis, sectarianism, and the Salafist Jihadists extremist terrorist groups. The Iraqis, who are now suffering from the conflict and violence and with the challenges identified by UN, need peace, dialogue and coexistence culture. Education have crucial roles in solving conflicts and prevent extremism by using knowledge and communication tools for problem solving and could resolve social ills such as prejudice, violent crimes, and issues of health and nutrition. It is a means of socialization and identity development through the transmission of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes across generations. Gulen (Hizmet) movement schools have been serving in Iraq for more than 20 years, dedicated to the peace and coexistence, aim to bring up individuals who will build inclusive and enabling environments that will help humans realize their potential without necessarily changing their ethnic, religious or political convictions. The institutions have a vital importance in leading the society by its science and moral education. The aim of this study is to demonstrate how those Gulen Movement schools contribute to the peace building and cope with extremism with its students, parents, lecturers and other duty bearers by implementing the best practices.

**Keywords:** Conflict, Education, Iraq, Ishik University, Peace Building.