

Pascal Esho Warda

Pascal Esho Warda was the Minister of Immigration and Refugees in the Iraqi Interim Government. She was one of only 6 women in the 32-member interim Iraqi Council of Ministers, which operated following the transfer of power from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the Iraqi Interim Government in 2004. She currently serves as president of the Hammurabi Human Rights Organization.

A Chaldean Catholic and an ethnic Assyrian, she was born in 1961 in the Northern Iraqi city of Dahuk, but later exiled to France. There, she attended the University of Lyon and received her Masters in human rights studies. Ms. Warda was the representative in France of the Assyrian Democratic Movement, the highest position of any woman in the ADM, the primary Assyrian political party in Iraq. She later directed the ADM diplomatic relations office in Damascus, Syria.

While in Damascus, she also co-founded the Iraqi Society for Human Rights. After returning to Iraq in 2001, Ms. Warda served for three years as head of the Assyrian Women's Union, applying her experience with human rights, refugees, and civil society to her work with Assyrian women. Now external affairs manager for the Assyrian Aid Society, she recently co-founded the Iraqi Women's Center for Development in Baghdad. Ms. Warda holds a master's degree in human rights studies from the Catholic University of Lyon, France. She co-founded the **Iraqi Society for Human Rights** and was the President of the **Assyrian Women's Union** in Baghdad.

As minister she expressed her support for the death penalty for Saddam Hussein. During her minister position post, she was invited by the First Lady of the United States Laura Bush, for a discussion on global women's issues at the G8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia.

She is married to William Warda and has two daughters.