Photographer: Andrea Bruce
Born 1973

Reflections

How do you think it must be for women to live in modern day Iraq?

What does this woman say to you? Do you think she is happy to be photographed?

Do you think it is easier for female photographers like Bruce to persuade other women to be photographed?

Would you realize that this is a war picture without reading any of the background?

Photograph: Daughters of Iraq
Iraq
Since 2003

Contextual information

Andrea Bruce bases herself between the United States and Afghanistan, and has taken several incredible series of photography in the Middle East’s war zones over the last decade.

She has worked as a staff photographer for the Washington Post since 2003 and during that time has reported on and photographed the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and more. She also wrote a highly acclaimed weekly column for the newspaper called ‘Unseen Iraq’, where she chronicled aspects of life that otherwise wouldn't have made the news, like 'Baghdad beauty pageant', or a day in a girls school in Baghdad.

Her work brings a woman’s perspective to what has historically been a male-dominated issue – war. For instance, she focuses on widows left behind by their husbands and sons who have been victims of war. She also worked on a series called ‘In War’s Wake – Prostitution in Iraq’, which looks at sex workers and their lives following the conflict in their country.

Daughters of Iraq, here, focuses on portraits of women in the country who have lost their husbands, and what their lives are like now following the intervention of the West and the downfall of Saddam Hussein.

Bruce founded and owns ‘Noor Images’ and now shares her time between the Middle East and America.