

English Supplement

Al-Muntada

Of the Iraqi Association

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**IRAQI
ASSOCIATION**

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Inspiring Success Stories

Since its inception, Iraqi Association has been working with and for the community to settle and integrate successfully. This is continuing despite our shoestring and prudent budget, and most importantly, we are the only Iraqi nonsectarian secular group, to serve all those who come to our door, seeking help and support.

As a proud organisation of its work and the aspirations of the community, we want to highlight the recent success news of two young members of our charity.

Hatem is 17, of Birchwood High School in Bishop's Stortford, son of an Iraqi exile parents. His father was the head of science at Harlow College and his mother is a qualified architect. Hatem's dream was to study Medicine at Cambridge University. Following his

excellent A level results earlier this year, and subsequent Cambridge university entrance examination. He was accepted to study Medicine. Meanwhile, Kiyani is 17, of Tiffin School in west London, had also received excellent A level results and applied to study Medicine at Cambridge University.

He went through a very tough Cambridge University exam process, following his positive results, he was told that he has been accepted to study Medicine. Kiyani, a son of an exile parents is determined to become a successful surgeon. His parents are overwhelmed, Kiyani's father is a GP and his mother is a teacher. We wish Kiyani and Hatem all the best, and we hope that this will inspire other young people to reach the highest of their abilities.



Review of the Austerity Impact



On 22nd September, the Trustees of Iraqi Association (IA), staff, and volunteers met to highlight the impact of the austerity measures and further to review the priorities which were set earlier in the year.

The chair of IA, Muhedeen Mahmoud, he highlighted the areas of progress since the last review meeting, and the important value of such consultation meeting, and he encouraged the full participation of all.

This followed by a detailed report by the IA manager, Jabbar Hasan, of the current work of IA in relation to the impact of the austerity climate

as a client-led organisation, its weaknesses and strengths.

Hasan also presented the next three years strategic areas. Then, the Secretary of the Trustees, Ausama Alwakil, has presented the office space issue and the concept of 'Al Bayt Al Iraqi' as the capital project, he analysed the obstacles and risks behind this idea in detail.

The away - day meeting has also identified and discussed the areas of strengthening volunteers and how to focus more on fundraising, and to diversify IA projects, to meet the new emerging trends of our charity users and the community.

Professor Kais Kubba on the Wall of Honour in London



The Royal Society of Medicine in London hosted the 5th Unveiling Ceremony in October 2013. It was presided by the Society's president, Professor Sir Michael Rawlins.

The ceremony was attended by 300 guests, travelled from as far as the USA, the West Indies and Europe.

For the first time, an Iraqi distinguished academic, Professor Kais Kubba, was honoured and his name was engraved on the Virtual Wall of Honour.

His engraved name was amongst the list of 700 names of doctors and scientists from around the world. Dr Kubba, was the founder of Arab Board Examination of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, many brightest successful Iraqi doctors were trained under him.

We all wish him good health and happiness and he is truly a pride of all our community members.

Advice and Social-Care Service

This project will provide the IA clients, those who live in severe disadvantaged conditions, access to free specialist services in areas of homelessness, welfare, housing, education, training, employment, immigration and health advice by providing drop-in sessions, one-to-one appointments, outreach and home visits. It will recruit volunteers to provide extra advice sessions for people with complex needs. Thanks to the funding support from the Big Lottery Fund

Many of our community members are of working age and eager to work if available.. The project caters for those who have difficulties accessing services and resources available to other community, due chiefly to language difficulties and lack of knowledge about services or benefits to which they are entitled. This project will re-address the imbalance of multiple impact of discrimination against people who speak little English, have minimal or interrupted workforce experience and belong to groups that experience above average discrimination. The project will correct this imbalance by providing information, advice and advocacy, enabling the Iraqi community to benefit fully from services, support and resources. The project will diminish the multiplying effects of dual discrimination, against unskilled workers on the one hand and members of ethnic minority communities on the other. From our work with the Iraqi community and in particular those who fled the violence

in recent years, we have identified the following needs of this particular group of people:

1. Penniless and poor, with no relatives or friends.
2. Trauma of being affected by violence, loss of home and kidnapping.
3. Fear and isolation.
4. Lack of English language and familiarity with British institutions.
5. Anxious about settlement process and fear of uncertain future.

As a non-sectarian group, Iraqi Association offers community-led services; we never coerce our users, but instead offer them choices based on our community-led skills experiences. The need for high-quality, equal, non-sectarian services can be seen in the dramatic rise in demands for our service. During the last six months for example we have been asked to provide for 1178 inquiries for help and support, including women and children.

Advice & Social-Care service will help vulnerable and poor, including disfranchised youth, and isolated older people. We provide unemployed youth receive advice & guidance on employment, volunteering, work placement and training. Older people receive appropriate information, advice and training in community languages and will provide respite for carers. Also newly arrived clients of all ages will benefit from information, advice and guidance on settlement issues

Racial discrimination against ethnic minority trainee doctors can't be ruled out



ethnic minority doctors and those from abroad are four times more likely than white candidates to fail their clinical GP exam, the General

Medical Council has found. The review into 5,000 candidates was ordered after ethnic minority students complained the exam was unfair. Prof Aneez Esmail, an expert on racism in the NHS who led the investigation, said «unconscious bias» could explain the findings. But the Royal College of GPs, which sets the exams, denies they are unfair. RCGP chairwoman Dr Clare Gerada said the college took equality and diversity issues «extremely seriously». She added that the college: «strongly refutes any allegations that the exam is discriminatory in any way». The Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) - introduced in 2010 - is a practical test in which trainee GPs are assessed by an examiner while they treat actors in a mock-surgery setting. They have up to four attempts to take the test which they must pass before they can practise as a GP. During the six-month review for the GMC, Prof Esmail analysed data on more than 5,000 candidates who sat the CSA exam over a two-year period. He said he could not exclude racial discrimination as the cause of the findings. He told BBC One's Breakfast: «Many of us who do work in this area describe the problem of unconscious bias. He said all British doctors, whether white or from ethnic minorities, had «gone through medical school and passed all that and so we're not talking about people who aren't as good as - they're exactly the same». He has made a number of recommendations to try to combat bias in the exam including having more examiners and actors who are from ethnic minority backgrounds. But the RGCP's Dr Clare Gerada said the review found «no evidence, either through the examiners or through the actors, or through the process of the examination, of discrimination». The review also found that trainee GPs from abroad were 14 times more likely to fail the CSA exam than white British doctors.

Stories My Mother Told Me

Saturdays, 13:30pm - 16:30pm 19th October - 23rd November 2013



It is a community art project, involving British-Iraqi adults living in London, commissioned by the Iraqi Cultural Centre and led by community art worker, Tara Jaffar. The workshops aim to bring together a range of adults with a shared Iraqi heritage, potentially with no religious, ethnic or professional affiliation, who may otherwise never meet or have reason to interact.

At the end of the six workshops, there will be a short public pre-sensation of the project findings, at the ICC, inviting former workshop participants and co-facilitators to share their experiences of the process. The sessions are free and open to anyone between the ages of 21-41 years. Places are limited. For more information and to book your place, please contact Tara: t.jaffar@iraqiculturalcentre.co.uk Mobile: 07793059397 Address: Iraqi Cultural Centre, 4th Floor, Threshold and Union House, Shepherd's Bush

Green, London W12 8TX.

Tara Jaffar designs and facilitates community art workshops, which are intrinsically therapeutic, aiming to Engender dialogue between people and their communities. Tara has worked to devise community theatre, facilitating interfaith dialogue between British Muslim and Jewish adults (MUJU), and intercultural collaborations between London-based Palestinians and Israelis (Conflict Relief). She has also worked with recent refugees and asylum seekers in London (Tricycle Theatre), adolescent therapy groups (GroOops) and with orphan and street children in Basra (Living Light International). Tara trained in classical theatre acting (Drama Centre, Central Saint Martin's School of Art and Design), with experience in physical theatre (Passe Dieux, Paris), and has grounding in Gestalt Psychotherapy from the Gestalt Centre, London.

IRAQI ASSOCIATION (IA)



The Iraqi Association is a non-profit organisation that exists to enable Iraqis to settle and integrate in this country with rights to express their cultural identities. Our work aimed at Iraqis, by providing volunteerism, advice, public health support, counselling, training, employment guidance, information services, and organising

cultural events. It is also our mission to raise awareness about relevant events in Iraq and the integration process in this country."

Our Aims and Methods:

We provide the following services to our clients regardless of their race, ethnic origin, language, and gender, religious or political background.

- Face-to-face support session
- Group empowerment session
- Workshop advice session
- Training session
- Outreach work
- Client-led information