

English Supplement

Al-Muntada

Of the Iraqi Association

www.iraqiassociation.org

**IRAQI
ASSOCIATION**

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A home away from home?



London is one of the world's most ethnically and culturally diverse cities, with at least a third of its residents having been born outside the UK and where over 300 languages are spoken. In this melting pot of a city you can attend a whole host of festivals and events, visit countless free museums and galleries and sample cuisine from

every corner of the world. This year also saw London elect its first ethnic minority mayor; Sadiq Khan is also the first Muslim to hold the post. However, research has shown that many refugees and migrants feel isolated and unheard.

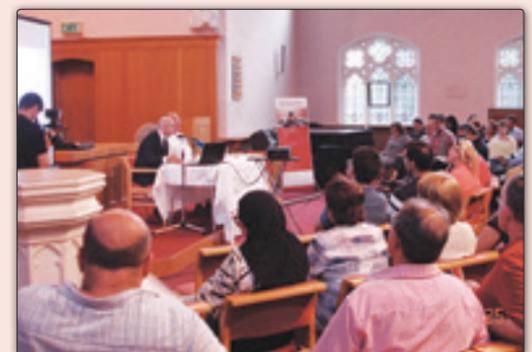
Over the decades, many Iraqis have come to the UK fleeing persecution, numerous wars, crippling sanctions and brutal dictatorship. They fled intolerance and extremism. Yet now, at a time when political tensions are high particularly following the outcome of the EU referendum and the US presidential election, reports have shown that refugees and migrants are facing increasing incidents of discrimination and hate crime. At the

same time, our society is facing the challenge of dealing with radicalisation and extremism.

If these issues are to be addressed, everyone needs to play a role; whether that means supporting and encouraging victims of hate crimes to report incidents, creating an environment which allows for open and tolerant discussion with children, or working with others as part of a counter-narrative campaign. The values of freedom, tolerance, openness and democracy cannot be taken for granted and need to be protected. People continue to risk and lose their lives in the hopes of reaching the shores of a land which prides itself on these values – feeling isolated and unheard is not what they expect, nor what they deserve.

The Iraqi Association is a community-led charity working in the interests of Iraqis in the UK, a platform for Iraqis to be able to share our culture and heritage, as well as find ways to be more engaged and a part of life here. It is only if we come together as a more united and active community that we will help make London, or indeed any other UK city, a home away from home.

Our Recent Data



During the last three months, starting 1st September 2016 to end of November 2016, our charity assisted 379 clients, using one-to-one services. This figure represents 35% female and 65% male clients. The highest borough is Hammersmith and Fulham users, which represents 22% of the total Greater London clients. The second highest is the London borough of Ealing of 8%, and the outer London is 7%. The breakdown of age range is also indicated that the highest is between 35-60 age range, which correlates to 47% of total service users for September, October and November. The category of enquiries using telephone calls, our charity has dealt with the total of 519 enquiries.

Also delivered 39 group sessions and 6 community events attended by more than 500 families & individuals

**A night of Iraqi Blues
in aid of
IraqChild**

Join us for an ensemble of Oriental-Blues
One Thousand and One Nights by The Refugees - Quartet

Featuring: Aya Al-Sultani (vocals), Tony White (soprano saxophone),
Paul O'Flynn (alto saxophone) & Amar Alaw (tenor saxophone)

Friday 16th December 2016
Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

Rivercourt Methodist Church,
King St, London, W6 9LT

£10 entry

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Email your CV to: info@iraqiassociation.org



Hasan's marathon run for IraqChild

On Sunday 23rd October Hasan Al-Haydar successfully completed the Chelmsford Marathon in aid of Iraqi Association's IraqChild Project. To date, Hasan has raised over £700 on his JustGiving page (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Hasan-Al-Haydar).

Hasan explained: "I want to give back to the community I came from, to help the most vulnerable people in the country. I was given the chance to attain a full education and start my own business and I want less fortunate kids to get the same chance. Iraq is not an easy country to live and it even harder if you don't have the support of family."

Funds raised for the IraqChild Project go to supporting a children's education centre in Baghdad as well as a volunteer-led mobile health clinic, with a doctor and nurses providing dental treatment and emergency healthcare to children, particularly orphans.

It's not too late to commend Hasan on his efforts by donating to IraqChild! Please complete and return the form on page 3.

Refugees Welcome Here 2016

On Saturday 17th September members of the Iraqi Association joined tens of thousands of people in the Solidarity with Refugees march through London in a bid to urge the government to do more on the refugee crisis.

The march culminated with a rally in Parliament Square, where a number of politicians and celebrities addressed the crowd including Vanessa Redgrave, Lord Alf Dubs

and Caroline Lucas MP.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, more than 3,700 people have died or gone missing attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Europe so far in 2016, with well over 300,000 having attempted the journey. Many thousands remain stranded in Italy and Greece in terrible living conditions.

'Iraqi House Meeting'



In November, a small group of Iraqis from a range of backgrounds and ages met to discuss the 'right to belong' – an issue highlighted by recent research conducted by Migrants Organise showing that refugees and migrants report feeling isolated, unheard and underrepresented. The lively discussion resulted in the proposal of a number of potential solutions to these concerns and it is hoped that the group, along with others who may be keen to get involved, will choose a project or initiative to take forward.



National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2016



As part of this year's National Hate Crime Awareness Week during 8th – 15th October, local Prevent Coordinator from the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Aysha Esakji spoke at our Hammersmith Older People's Club to raise awareness about hate crime.

Many people do not realise what

constitutes hate crime and that they can report it. A hate crime is an incident which is perceived - by either victim or witness - to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards any aspect of a person's identity. This includes disability, gender identity, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, age or sexual orientation.

We encourage all members of the community to report incidents. A huge number of hate crimes are not reported which makes it difficult for local authorities and the police to take action and monitor. For more information or advice, please contact us or visit: StopHate.org, TelMAMAuk.org & gov.uk/report-hate-crime



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

IRAQI ASSOCIATION (IA)

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

