

# Al-Muntada

Of the Iraqi Association

www.iraqiasociation.org

**IRAQI  
ASSOCIATION**

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## Service User Matters



Iraqi Association held a consultation meeting on 30th October with community members representing different age groups and user groups of the charity. The meeting focused on the long terms strategy development to explore innovative ideas and future direction of the charity in relation to new emerging trends and challenges. The size of the Iraqi community in Britain is estimated to be over 400,000 with majority live in the greater London area, but also scattered in the regions, particularly Cardiff, Manchester, Hull and Birmingham.

As a non-sectarian organisation, Iraqi Association engages with all its users, regardless of age, political, gender, ethnic

or religious background, both to develop strategies and inform future services and projects. This includes, consultation meetings, use of feedback information and service data trends.

The recent strategy consultation meeting was held locally in the borough of Hammersmith. Among the topics discussed were the future direction of the services in austerity times, the development of the capital project and challenges ahead. In the course of the meeting, two workshops were setup to brainstorm ideas. The meeting was ended with summary report and follow up action plan, with two subcommittees to report back in three weeks with a draft proposal.

## Engaging with Children and Young People

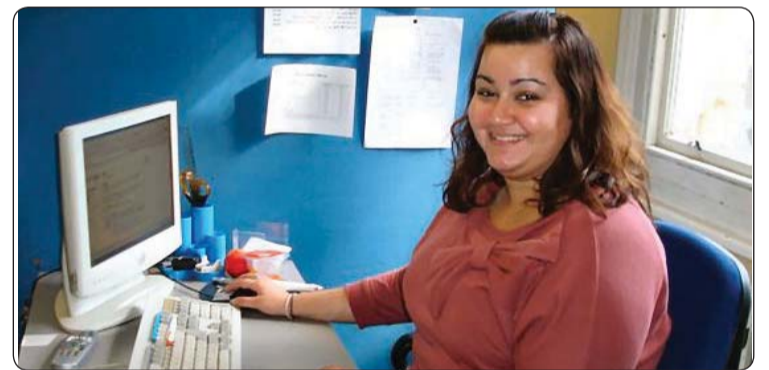
Iraqi Association has organised a workshop on 25th October, for children and young people on IraqChild project, its aim and purpose and how you can help orphan children through the project, to organise activities, raise awareness and fund to help parentless children. Recently IraqChild was nominated by Furze Platt Senior School in Berkshire to be added to the list of their House Charities, we are grateful to the school and to year 8 pupil, Layth. The workshop was led by the participants and many ideas and questions were raised and discussed.

The participants were awarded a certificate of attendance; there will a follow up workshop in February. The workshop was attended by Children from the following schools.

Elliot School
Raynes Park High School
Windsor boys school
Furze Platt Senior School
St Georges Ascot
Ellen Wilkinson School
Queens School
Preston Manor School
Chalports School
Preston Manor – sixth form
Phoenix High School



## Asma is our Volunteer of the Month



Asma, joined our volunteer team recently, she is from Hammersmith and Fulham borough, graduated with BSc Biological Science – and started Teacher Training postgraduate course. Asma allocated 15 hours per week to assist in our busy reception area, often deals with organising events and general administrative work.

We are very grateful to Asma and her valuable time and efforts. Iraqi Association relies on the commitment, hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers. Our charity ensures that the time and efforts of volunteers are fully recognized and valued. A volunteer is an individual who offers their time freely to support a programme

or project on an unpaid basis, and who will receive only travel expenses. There are many roles a volunteer can take and each role has its own commitments, responsibilities and rewards.

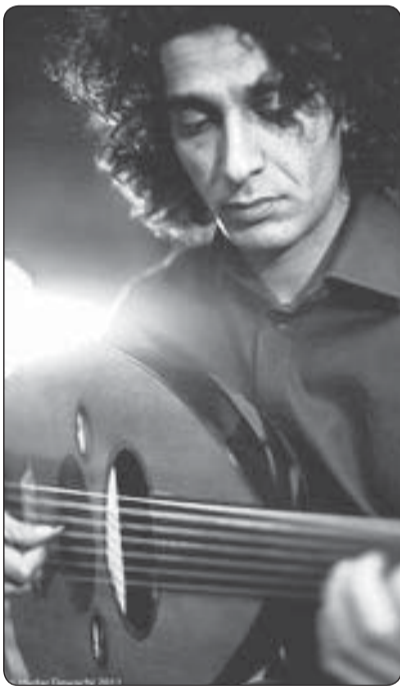
Volunteers have a crucial contribution to make to programmes and projects within our charity. Our community is diverse and by drawing upon the wide range of skills, knowledge and experience that individuals have, volunteers can have an enormously positive impact on the work that we do. Since its inception in 1987, Iraqi Association has been working with volunteers, our volunteer policy is the foundation on which our organisation's involvement with volunteers is based.

## Iraqi refugees flee Syrian Violence



Considering Iraq a safe heaven is unimaginable for most refugees, but for an increasing number of Iraqi refugees in neighbouring Syria returning home now seems like the safest option after a violent crackdown on protestors by the Assad Baathist regime. According to the International Organization for Migration, more than 7,000 Iraqis have fled Syria since the uprising began, back to cities and towns in Iraq which are far from safe. Iraqi Association calls the UNHCR and the international community to immediately take all necessary steps to support Iraqis in Syria, before we have another humanitarian crisis on our hands. Iraq has seen waves of outward migration beginning with the Iran-Iraq war in 1980 and continuing through the sanctions of the 1990s and first Gulf war. Then this followed by massive refugee exodus post 2003 war.

## Khyam Allami' Concert



The British Institute for the Study of Iraq is organising a presentation by Khyam Allami, Resonance/Dissonance & Sound of Iraq in aid of the BISI Appeal for Iraqi Scholars on Tuesday 10 January, 2012 at 6 pm at the British Academy, 10 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AH

At this special concert hosted by the BISI at the British Academy, London based Iraqi musician, composer and teacher Khyam Allami will present his debut album Resonance/Dissonance and the BISI supported project Sound of Iraq.

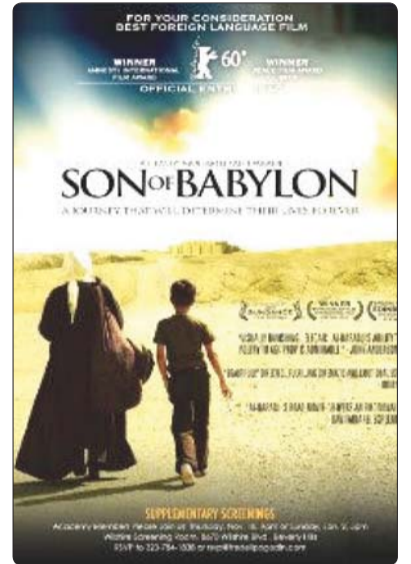
For further information regarding the event, please contact Alan Sandall, BISI Appeal Secretary, at email: [bisiappeal@britac.ac.uk](mailto:bisiappeal@britac.ac.uk)

## Iraqi Association Co-sponsors Viewing Son of Babylon Film on those Still Missing in Iraq

On 8th November, Iraqi Association, with Labour Friends of Iraq, APG and KRG co-sponsored a meeting in the House of Commons to screen the Son of Babylon film, it was followed by a panel of discussion, hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, the Iraqi Association, the Kurdistan Regional Government, international commission on missing persons and Labour Friends of Iraq.

Following the landmark Iraqi Parliamentary screening of the powerful, highly acclaimed film "Son of Babylon" the film initiated a parliamentary review of Iraq's missing person's law.

This multi-award winning film took both the Amnesty and Peace Prizes at Berlin International Film Festival alongside a British Independent Film Award and is serving as a catalyst for monumental social change in Iraq. The film is directed by Mohammad Al-Daradji and produced by Isabelle Stead, the founder of the Iraq's Missing Campaign.



### With Our Deepest Sympathy

**Adnan Al-Radhi**

**08.05.1996 – 12.11.2011**

We are truly saddened to hear about the passing of Adnan on 12.11.2011

in London despite his battle against cancer.

Adnan loved playing piano, music, football and his friends.

This is a really sad day, and a great loss to all who knew Adnan.

Our love and support will always be here for the family, and would like to extend our condolences to the family,

his relatives, and his friends in

Holland Park School.

From Iraqi Association, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers

**From July – End of September 2011 our Charity assisted 244 People directly using Face to Face Method**  
Telephone advice and queries not included

Age Group	July	August	September	Total
15 –0	5	2	3	10
25–16	7	2	14	23
49–26	54	36	48	138
60–50	10	9	19	38
61–69	6	4	14	24
70+	3	3	5	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>244</b>

**The areas of help included, Education, Training, Housing, Health, Immigration and Settlement needs**

## 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