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.
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 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 and with complex needs. Thanks to the funding support from British institutions.

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

The Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) - introduced in 2010 - is a practical test in which trainee GPs are assessed by an examiner while they treat a patient in a mock-surgery setting.

It Is a community art project, involving British-Iraqi adults living in London, commissioned by the Iraqi Cultural Centre and led by community arts 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-senation of the project, 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: 07798659397. 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 engage in 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 D’eix, Paris), and has grounding in Gestalt Psychotherapy from the Gestalt Centre, London.

Stories My Mother Told Me

Saturdays at 13.30 - 16.30
19 October - 23 November 2013

Stories My Mother Told Me

A Creative Inquiry into Iraqi identity and belonging in London.

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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

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