

The Forgotten Generation

Over the past 20 years thousands of refugees have fled Kurdistan from the fear of persecution and to ensure safety for themselves and their families. But more importantly, in order to ensure that their children could get educated and return to Kurdistan, and that once and for all the Kurdish people could defeat the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and ensure peace and prosperity in Kurdistan, for generations to come.

Over the next ten years the younger generation that live abroad will come out of obscurity, with excellent qualifications and highly sought after skills. These skills can be used to aid in making Kurdistan and even Iraq a more prosperous country.



Shkow Sherzad

Over the past 19 years I have watched my parents lose relatives to the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein and watched our home towns be bombed with not only shells but chemical weapons. As I have grown and seen my elders shed so many tears for their loved ones and their country, I have so many times contemplated how I can best serve my nation. Do I pick up a gun and fight? Or do I send aid to help my country? Ironically the more I thought about it, the more I felt powerless to do anything. I was far away from Kurdistan, did not understand the culture as well as I wanted to, and felt if my parents could not do anything what could a mere child do?

However as I became older and started my university degree I suddenly understood what my parents had done.

They took me away from the horrors of Iraq not only to protect me but to make me find another way to settle the Kurdish problem. I suddenly understood that all these years of instability in Kurdistan was the result of a life by the sword. For generations our ancestors had fought for our homes and this struggle is still not over today. Even today, although America would like to make it look as though Iraq is getting better, it seems to me like it's as bad as ever with terrorists taking over our home streets and planting car bombs for our relatives.

My father always taught me that "the pen was mightier than the sword" and now I understand why. My parents planted me in rich new soil like a seed, a democratic place where one isn't scared to speak and act as they wish.

They wanted me to take the values of this country and spread it back home. I am sure that these are the same values which most other Kurdish families hold. We are in the middle of a turning point in the History of the Kurds. History in Iraq is being made as we speak. I believe that if we the educated generation of Kurds go back and serve our nation and people, we will be part of the history that is being made now in Iraq. I was once told "Kurdistan has oil, has military might and has a rich culture. What it is missing is the skills acquired through years of education to build a nation." We are the Kurdish people of tomorrow with these skills and we will be playing a big role in building and establishing our nation. It takes patience and hard work but the day will come, because remember Rome was not built in a day.

A response to Shae'e's article...

As I read the previous article by Shae'e which was a review of the Kurdish fashion show that took place in Greenford town hall on the 8th of January 2005, I could say that I was generally surprised to discover the fact that from her words, one could assume that she was the ONLY person who organised and put all the effort in to such an astonishing show which blew the minds of many of the audience.



BY Hazal Kamal Salih

However at the same time I could say I was disappointed to discover that many others who participated and contributed much of their time, energy and effort in to such an event where not recognised or even mentioned in her article. Thus, I am going to take this opportunity to put an end to all assumptions which may have been caused by Shae'e's article, and mentions those who were the real organisers of the event rather than those who thought they were the organisers.

A couple of months before the fashion show was put together, Haji Karim contacted Razan Jalal Aziz and Kamal Salih regarding the event that KDO were sponsoring. Furthermore, both Razan and Kamal were generously asked by Haji to help organise and put together this show.

Razan started her duty by collecting and putting together many of the beautiful Kurdish clothes which were worn by all the girls and boys who participated. Jewellery and many other cultural Kurdish items such as the flag, sword and Kurdish decorations, were also part of her duty.

Razan even hand made a few dresses of her own for the girls to model using her unique idea of beads and sequins which took up the majority of her time.

Kamal organised and put together a small show of a traditional Kurdish wedding which involved all the models who were participating. He also researched and collected traditional songs that were usually sang and danced to in Kurdish wedding.

Both Razan and Kamal contacted and involved many other Kurdish artists and talented individuals such as, Rebwar Saed (Slide show), Hama Jaff (musician), Sabah Rawandizy (Kurdish singer), Bahea Xan and Louisa Xan (Kurdish clothes and jewellery providers) to help and contribute their time towards the event.

Furthermore, a Kurdish dance was put together and performed by Brwa Omar and his friends, which then ended up as one of the many highlights of the night.

Both Kurdish TV channels, Kurdsat TV and Kurdistan TV, also filmed the fashion show.

Despite the minor technical problems in the hall, I am sure that every one will agree with me about the fact that this was one of many pleasant and fascinating nights that the people of Kurdistan living in London had ever witnessed, I



Kurdish Fashion Show 2003 by Delkash Murad