



Newsletter of BINXET=Underline, No. 30, London 6-12-2007

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU

Western Kurdistan Association

1. The aims:

- To advance education of refugees in the Kurdish and English languages, as well as history, heritage and culture
- To relieve poverty of refugees through education and training, particularly for Kurdish women and young people
- To promote moral welfare
- To help integrate the Kurdish community into British society.

2. objectives.

- Training course scheme: History, Culture and Heritage.
- On 9-9-2007 opened the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive, through collecting culture and heritage items of the Kurdish community in the UK.
- Radio broadcasting training scheme: developing project to broadcast the problems and needs of the Kurdish community in the UK on Kurdish Radio of ROJAVA and on the internet.
- Workshop, seminars and websites on the History, Culture and Heritage of the Kurdish community in the UK.
- English and Kurdish languages courses: (English Language for Speakers of other Languages)
- Introductory computer training for the target group.
- Advice and guidance services for the target group, helping them to access mainstream provision where necessary. Housing, health, immigration, etc.
- Employment and education advice for the trainees on our training courses; as well as refugees in the wider local community.

- The partnership also brings together local RCOs with the aim of increasing links through networking, as well as encouraging RCOs to partake more fully of the partnership through sharing ideas for future strategies and examples of good practise, with Refugee TV and Black Minority Ethnic Groups....
- On 21st March and every year, the WKA of Music, Drama, Folklore groups performed at the Kurdish New Year celebrations.
- WKA hosted a cultural evening of Kurdish traditional songs and dancing which was attended and enjoyed by members of many different communities in London and many famous British personalities as Mr Robert Evans MEP and others.
- The WKA with other Associations held a memorial seminar on the works and contribution made by Apo Osman Sabri (1905-1993), a noted Kurdish poet, intellectual and writer, with attendance of many Kurdish intellectuals as Professor Dr Jemal Nebez.
- The WKA held many seminars on the social and historical movements in the Kurdish society as conference for Kurdish Students and Youths.
- WKA established "Kurdistan Football Club" which played and won many times with other national and local football teams as tournaments.
- WKA set up many courses and sessions for job and interview skills for jobs.

The WKA as well has previously run five courses in film making for young people and each course resulted in the production of a short film. The films produced are:

- **Tetela and Bebela** – an animation film produced in collaboration with Connexions Communication Centre in 2000 which was shown in the Curzon Soho Cinema, and the famous British journalist Mrs Jasmin Albahai talked about all the six cartoon films been shown in front of hundreds of people, and she asked who are the children who made that film which screened that the sheep can kill the wolf? The Kurdish children raised their hands and said: we are. Mrs Jasmin said: if so you are thinking in your age, you will have a bright future. Our Kurdish children (8-12 years old) who had completed their cartoon film became very proud and confident, especially in the Curzon Soho Cinema been given a certificate and a shirt written on it "Animator". And many officials introduced them and their great job to the people. It were very exiting moments not for the Kurds in the cinema only but everyone enjoyed the event, on the top of it the film that the children produced is now on the video cassette which we already sent it to the Kurdish Satellite TVs, who distributed worldwide, and it is still shown on Kurdish TV from time to time.
- **Lost and Found**, in 2003 WKA held a training course for the Kurdish children age 11-16. In the end of the course the children themselves were able to use the camera and to write a scenario and to act in front of the camera as actors, and in the end of the course they produced an educational film called Lost and Found, which tells a story of a Kurdish family during the war in Kurdistan. Their son was as a Kurdish freedom fighter, separated from his parents and his baby brother, who came to the UK as refugees, and after ten years they discovered that their son reached Australia. They invited him and met again in London and his baby brother after ten years had become a young man. This story is of one Kurdish family, but we have in the Kurdish community hundreds of families with similar stories. When the children completed the film they became very proud and confident especially when the film was shown at the Cinema of Watermans in front of hundreds of people. Their parents told that their children had changed positively at home and at schools and become different, proud and confident.
- **Our Village**, in 2004 WKA held another training course for the Kurdish children age 11-16. In the end of the course they produced an educational film called "Our Village", which tells a story of the Kurdish family in Kurdistan and the life style in the country side. The film was shown in different local seminars and at Refugee Week.
- **Halabja**, in 2005 WKA held another training course for the Kurdish children age 14-19. In the end of the course they produced an educational film called "Halabja", which tells a story of a Kurdish girl 19 years old from the city of Halabja which was hit by chemical weapons in 1988. The girl lost the most of her family during the war. The film was shown as well in different local seminars, events and at Refugee Week.
- **Kahoon's Story** – in 2006 WKA held another training course for the Kurdish children age 14-19. In the end of the course they produced an educational film called "Kahoon's story", which tells a story of a disabled Kurdish young boy of 19 years old from the city of Qamishli who had been attacked by the Syrian police and army in 2004. During a Kurdish demonstration Kahoon was hit by a police car. As a result Kahoon lost his arm. Here in the UK he was struggling to gain his case with the Home Office as an Asylum Seeker. The film was shown as well in different local seminars, events and at Refugee Week at Hammersmith Town Hall.

Western Kurdistan Association supported by: Age Concern of England, Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Fast Forward Grants/European Social Fund and Football Foundation





Free English and computer courses for refugees at Western Kurdistan Association



Kurdistan Football Club established by Western Kurdistan Association since 2004



Hammersmith and Fulham Council organised a special celebration for over 50 years old on 19-10-2007, Western Kurdistan Association and Kurdish Association joint the celebration, as shown above Mr Andy Slaughter MP visited our stall, and as shown below members of our community in the main Hall of Hammersmith and Fulham Town Hall





Kurdish Radio of WKA on newspaper of Gazette of Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush on 20-10-2007



Cllr Stephen Greenhalgh, Leader of the Council, among members of Refugee Forum. Dr Jawad Mella and Cllr Stephen Greenhalgh talking on some issues of the community.



The police leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Dr Ali Dezaei, among all refugee organisations at Palingswick House (front of the main gate)



Dr Jawad Mella, chairman of WKA, with the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, Mrs Della Murad and Mr Sherko Zen Aoush during Newroz party, the Kurdish New Year at the Mayor office on 20 March 2007

Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive

The first Museum for the Kurdish Heritage in the world, its collections are Kurdish handwork and some of them are up to 100 years old



Kurdish ladies dress



Kurdish Male costume



The Kurdish collections at the Kurdish Museum



The Kurdish Library and Archive

The first Museum for the Kurdish heritage in the world is one of the main culture resources for the school-age children of Hammersmith and Fulham Borough and to the academics and researchers in the UK. Let's make Hammersmith and Fulham Borough more colourful and tourist area for all nations and for the 3 million Kurds living in Europe for the coming London Olympics on 2012.

<http://www.westernkurdistan.org.uk/documents/KurdishMuseumLibraryandArchive.pdf>