

Media coverage of the International Women's Day 2024 celebration

# International Women's Day 2024



Iraqi Australian University Graduates Forum



The Iraqi Australian University Graduates Forum (Almuntada) in collaboration with Settlement Services International had organised International Women's Day 2024 under the theme of "Accelerating gender equality through economic empowerment" with the focus on success stories of refugee women in Australia. The event was sponsored by Liverpool City Council and CORE Community Services.

A celebration of multicultural and inspiring women, their contribution and resilience. Some of key highlights of the program:

- Officials Speeches Federal & State MPs, Mayors, Almuntada
- Resilience of Refugee women Interactive Videographic Performance
- Panel of Women Success Stories
- Multicultural Entertainment, Iraqi, Turkish, Kurdish, Assyrian
- Award Presentation for outstanding women delivering services to the community
- Artistic video presentation of Sorrows of Women

The celebration was attended by Federal & State MPs, diplomats, Mayors, CORE, SSI, community organisations and members of the community. Key speeches delivered by:

- The Honorable Mrs. Anne Stanley, Federal MP for Werriwa
- Mrs Intisar AL-DAWOODI, Consul General of Iraq
- Mr Ned Mannoun, Mayor of Liverpool City Council
- Ms Charishma Kaliyanda, NSW State MP for Liverpool
- Ms Yamamah Agha, General Manager of Settlement Services International SSI

- Ms Juana Reinosa CEO, CORE Community Services

A key segment in the program delivered a panel moderated by SSI of success stories of women of different cultural background who presented their experiences in the Australian diaspora and their means of success. They were stories that were a source of pride and pride. As the Forum is accustomed to embracing and honoring women, talents, and scientific and societal energies, the Forum honored in this ceremony the women with success stories, namely:

- Rosanna Barbero, gender equality and fighting racism and discrimination
- Selva Daniel, empowering women in the legal sector
- Dina Petrakis, community worker
- Orshina Korko, community worker
- Ashwa Al Kalmashi, empowering women in the finance sector

Women in the community have exemplified high degree of achievement during their social and working life, the program has awarded and honoured high achieving women, the following are the award recipients:

Professor Oula Ghannoum	Caroline Barton Sahar Yousif	Hanin Al-Sayfee Jennifer Shahin
Dr Mariam Josef	Mahasti Askari	Marlin Shawool
Dr Batool Samir Nadim	Lina Ishu	Jana Fayyad
Dr Tiba Almarae	Sanae Ouahib	Hosna Mamoury
Dr Dina Mahmood	Joumana Tanana	
Dr Skala Al-Dawoodi	Ektfaa Hani Abed	

The role of our creative colleague “Amal Al-Hamdani” came in her aesthetic performance through a short film entitled “Woman’s Sorrows” that combines her paintings that also mimic the story of immigrant women and their struggle with compelling circumstances to achieve the dream of salvation and success, with narrative and poetic clips that explain the subject of the paintings, and this is a distinctive experience. To our colleague Al-Hamdani in adapting the paintings with narrative paragraphs to describe the cases, and in her charming voice as well. The film was prepared by our colleague Jalil Doman.

In an important artistic connection, a videographic interactive performance, a group of women from the forum presented representative clips entitled “The Resilience of Refugee Women,” in which they told the story of women’s migration and their suffering in their countries as a result of wars, sieges, and social injustice, their escape in boats and other ways to asylum-granting countries, and how they adapted to new societies, and became active in all aspects of life. The silent acting performance was accompanied by various video shows on the hall screen, expressing every phase of the women’s journey. The work team completely succeeded in presenting artistic, aesthetic and expressive harmony consistent with

the saccharine scenes. It dazzled the audience, and our colleague Husam Shkara, the curator and director of the production. The artistic synthesis and the cast consisted of female colleagues:

Nahla Albakal

Hana Shaba

Linda Eshiaa

Tanya Mohammed

Azhar Matti

The celebration was wrapped with traditional and folkloric Turkish music and performance, followed Iraqi singer and live musical band singer Ehab Hadi. Thanks to the media representative from Al-Iraqia Mr. Samir Kasim, Mr. Mohammed Alkhatir. Ms. Ilham Hafith from ME2 radio, and from SBS Petra Alhindi and Dima AlQaed.

























