

Refugee Week 2023

Amjad Nafea's Story



Client

In 2014, I and my family left Iraq when I was only 12 years of age due to war. Leaving Iraq had a detrimental impact on me to the point where I still feel the despair and terrifying atmosphere that surrounded me at that time just by thinking about it. Despite having only seven letters in it, the term "refugee" means a lot to me because in 2014 I became a Refugee only at the age of 12 years. During this time, I had multiple unanswered questions to why I found myself and many other children and young people, what's next, would I be able to achieve my dreams?

Like other children, I wanted and dreamed for a better future for myself, I was fully of ambitions. Life of a refugee is a challenging, difficulties and terrible circumstances that all refugees face particularly children and young people.

After all the despair life as a refugee, a phone call from Australian Embassy in Jordan that we have been accepted to be resettled to Australia completely changed everything for me and my family. This call gave us new life and a sense of freedom to dream and be someone other than a refugee. It was a gift and a beginning of a new chapter. 2019, my family and I come to Australia, a wonderful country that gives us freedom.

To me, Australia is like a mother who embraced her children from many nations, religions, and cultures. In Australia, I experienced freedom from the early beginning of my settlement journey. Often, each morning I take a deep breath and look back in time, all the struggle I endured as a refugee young person, how it was and how it is now.

Since arriving to Australia, I have received a very significant gift of freedom that my mother country took away from me. Freedom makes me feel secure and belonging. It provides me with a platform to speak out and share my story, to dream and planning for my future. I have the freedom to do what I like and that makes me feel happy.

I give thanks to God that I am in this country because it has extended its arms to me as I had lost hope in life. My family and I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Australia for welcoming us and providing us with a renewed sense of freedom and hope to dream and make our dreams come true.



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