

# Refugee Week 2023

## Dhafer Shano's story



Volunteer

My name is Dhafer Shano, I am a Christian Chaldean from Iraq. I am a husband and father to one son. I came to Australia from Iraq, my birth country. To me, freedom is the everyone's need in life. We humans have the right to exercise their freedom. There must be a law that protects human's freedoms world-wide, and this is what I was missing in my own home country- Iraq forcing me to leave for safety.

In Iraq, there is no law that provides gender equal rights and freedom between men and women. Unfortunately, there are first class citizens, and the rest are nothing. In Iraq, religious belief, expression of opinion, dressing code, freedom of women and more are very restricted both in private and public spaces.

Unlike in Iraq where kidnaping and extortion are very common, in Australia, I do not have to worry about my son's safety when he is out and about, schooling, in private or public spaces.

Here in Australia, I am never concerned of my families' safety either when at home alone, shopping or afternoon walk in the local parks.

I thank the Australian government for giving me and my family the opportunity to start a new life here and exercise our human fundamental right to freedom of expression without fear, practice our religious belief.

Right now, I volunteer with CORE Community Services, by this I want to say thank you Australia. When a country and its systems treat its people as equals with provision of Safety and freedom, people live in prosperity and harmony active members in their community.

#FreedomwithCORE

