

Refugee Week 2023

Ghazi Lazer's story

My name is Ghazi Lazer, born in Iraq 1966. This is my story.

I left Iraq in 2016 to Jordan because of the worsening security situation and threats to my life as armed terrorist groups had taken control of large parts of Iraq. We arrived in Australia in 2020 after waiting for over three years.

I lived through dark days, as if I was in a dark nightmare. I saw with our own eyes horrific situations beyond movies imaginations including regular explosions in my streets. When I left the house, I expected not to come back home again. On one occasion, a car bomb full of explosives was placed next to my house but thank God that the car did not explode and was dismantled, otherwise it would have flattened my house from the map. Freedom that I live here in Australia has no comparison to the nightmare I lived in Iraq during the war because here in Australia, I enjoy a safe and decent life, and it is enough that I feel that my children are on the right path towards the desired future, and that they will achieve what they aspire to. In this Australian, freedom of opinion is guaranteed for anyone to express their own opinions.

Australia is also distinguished as a country of diverse cultures and orientations, where all Australians, including indigenous people and immigrants, live in harmony and safety. Unlike Iraq where people are persecuted for being who they are, freedom to practice my religious belief and culture without fear is protected by laws in Australia. The lack of freedom back in Iraq was the main reason why I was so worried about my families' safety resulting in forced migration to safety. Despite the struggles in search for freedom, finally, I and my family have found one in Australia- my new homeland. A place where my children are safe, a place where their dignity is preserved, dreams for brighter future for future generations can be realised.

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