



Praying for Reunification

Nadre is a member of the Yezidi community living in the GTA. She escaped slavery with four of her children in 2016 but without her daughter Ronya.

Ronya was almost 11 years old when she was abducted by Daesh (ISIS) in 2014. When Nadre escaped Daesh she had no idea where Ronya was. For five agonizing years, Nadre had no word about her daughter's whereabouts.

In 2017, Nadre and her other children came to Canada as government-sponsored refugees. Both Ronya and Nadre's husband were included in the application so that, if they were found, they would be eligible to come here too.

After the defeat of Daesh in 2019, Ronya was released and learned from her uncle that her family had resettled in Canada. More than six years after her nightmare had begun, Ronya was finally able to speak with her mother and siblings by phone. In the fall of 2020, Nadre flew to Iraq to visit her daughter.

Sadly, after numerous attempts through Costi and the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) to process Ronya's resettlement application and bring her here, her application remains in the Canadian visa post in Jordan.

"My daughter has already gone through so much, mentally and physically. Even though we've found her, we can't support her." said Nadre.

Given the backlogs due to COVID, and all the usual red tape, reunification is a painfully slow and frustrating process. Project Abraham has joined JIAS in doing whatever we can to support and reunite Nadre with her daughter.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Nadre and Ronya.

Our vision is to become the leading resettlement organization supporting victims of persecution, empowering them to create a future for themselves and their children as fully integrated Canadian citizens.

Donations are gratefully accepted: [projectabraham/donate](https://projectabraham.org/donate)

Yezidi Youth Integration Program

Project Abraham was encountering Yezidi high school students who had no awareness of what opportunities awaited them once they completed secondary school. As a result, we have partnered with JVS (Jewish Vocational Services) to offer career counseling to Yezidi students who are currently in grades 10-12. Although JVS has been offering these services to the larger community for many years, this new program is specifically tailored to Yezidi youth.



Eight participants are engaged for the current session and another seven will join a new session beginning in April. Each student establishes a personalized plan (e.g., going to university, college or entering a trade) and then group sessions will explore career interests, information about universities and colleges, how to volunteer for positions related to potential careers, and the designing of resumes and cover letters. The program will also help the youth reach out to the community and hook up with mentors.

Hopefully, this is just the beginning to getting Yezidi youth on their way to success.

Meet the Team Aimee Nikmard

Since April 2020, Project Abraham has been blessed with having Aimee Nikmard as part of our staff.



In 2002 Aimee graduated from Humber College with a diploma as a Court and Tribunal Agent. For over 7 years she worked in the legal field as a legal assistant. Before joining our team, Aimee left the legal sector and moved into administration in real estate.

Up until April 2020, Aimee had never heard about the Yezidis and their situation but working for Project Abraham has opened her eyes. She has found the experience of helping the community very rewarding -- especially when the Yezidi community responds with love and friendship.

Aimee puts her wide range of talents to use in carrying out a huge list of responsibilities including bookkeeping, working with volunteers, booking interpreters and settlement support. Since Covid, Aimee has worked in partnership with Family Services York Region in delivering care packages to Yezidi families each month. More recently, Aimee became the coordinator of the Youth Integration Program. Her personal goals are to keep learning new skills and to take on more roles in helping the Yezidi community.