A hopeful future in Scotland





Gemini Notebook

Sajida's Story

I'm Sajida, a mum from Iraq. The best things about my country are the people and the culture, but the worst things are the war and the killing. Leaving my country was very difficult and painful because I had to leave my family, my home, and my whole life behind due to the war: it was very difficult.

On the same day, I had to transit through multiple countries until I arrived in Romania, where I stayed in a camp for 30 days before coming here. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) officers helped me along the way.

Now I live in north east Scotland, and I have been in Scotland for over two years. What I like most here is the safety.

A major challenge I face is that when people know I am from Iraq, they often distance themselves and immediately mention Saddam Hussein. This makes me feel uncomfortable. I want people to know that Iraqis are kind people and that my country is a beautiful land with a rich history and culture.

I do not have any Scottish friends here and hardly talk to anyone, to the point that I feel I am forgetting how to speak. I feel completely isolated, and sometimes I regret coming here and just cry.

To be completely honest, my teachers give me hope and make me feel comfortable and truly hopeful about my future here. Regarding education, I have a strong determination to study hard and reach the highest academic levels possible.



MY DREAM:

"To open my own art gallery where I can display, paint, and sell my artwork."