

# Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum

Supporting local Refugee Community Organisations

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ***Refugee group to hit the airwaves with radio project***

Kurdish refugees in West London may soon get their voices on air thanks to a new training initiative.

The Western Kurdistan Association (WKA) based in Palinswick House on King Street, Hammersmith, is planning the Training and Outreach Refugee Project (TORP) - a training scheme that will offer Kurds and Arabic-speaking refugees in the area the chance to obtain broadcasting skills and access job opportunities in the media.

At the same time, refugees will be able to contribute to a project to get WKA onto the airwaves by filling a regular slot on a digital and satellite station, Radio Rojava. The broadcasts will be in two Kurdish languages, Arabic and English.

The training scheme will offer accredited training in radio broadcasting and will serve to increase job opportunities for Kurdish and other refugees in the area. It will also improve social and economic integration, disseminate information and guidance, and increase understanding of current affairs and human rights issues. The project also aims at improving links with other communities in West London, to reflect the cultural diversity of the area.

The radio training will give those taking part skills in digital editing and recording, interviewing techniques, presenting and producing a radio programme. And it will be supported by a mentoring service where experienced broadcasters will offer career advice to participants.

“We are looking forward to the opportunity of offering training to local refugees, thereby increasing self confidence, employability and community integration in the area. The training scheme is also a great chance for refugees to get their voices heard and raise awareness of refugee issues” said Dr Jawad Mella, Executive Director of the Western Kurdistan Association.

More follows ...

**Moves are currently underway to set up a radio recording studio in Palingswick House and WKA is appealing for assistance from any individual, organisation or body willing to dispose of any radio equipment or a desktop computer they may have and so support the Project in its endeavours.** For any donation please contact Jawad Mella on 020 8748 7874 or email [wka@knc.org.uk](mailto:wka@knc.org.uk)

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***Further Information:*** Phil Cooper, Press Officer, Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum on: 07889 949173 or Roudabeh Shafie, Co-ordinator, Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum, on: 020 7386 9060

**Notes to Editors:**

1. The Western Kurdistan Association is a member of the Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum with represents 28 refugee community groups based in the borough.
2. There are currently estimated to be around 70,000 Kurds living in the London area. The Kurdish homeland is divided among five other countries; Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria and part of the former Soviet Union.