

# What Can The Kurdish Medical Profession in Diaspora Do For The Health System in Kurdistan ?

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# Background

- **Over the past two decades a significant number of Kurdish doctors have settled in Europe and North America.**
- **As a result number of formal Kurdish/Kurdistani medical organisations have been established, such as Kurdish Medical Association (KuMA-UK), and Kurdish Medical Society (Sweden).**
- **One of the main aims of these organisations is to support the medical education and health services in Kurdistan.**

## KuMA - UK

- **Established in 2005**
- **Independent organisation**
- **Represents Kurdish doctors, dentists and pharmacists in the UK.**
- **Over 150 registered members**
- **11 elected council members including president and secretary.**
- **Last election was November 2009**

**Kurdistan Medical and  
Scientific Federation-UK  
(KMSF)**

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**Kurdish Medical Association  
(KuMA)**

**Support Committee for  
Higher Education in Iraqi  
Kurdistan (SCHEIK)**

**Kurdistan Scientific  
Association (KSA)**

## KuMA – UK: Survey of members in 2008

- **Over 90% of its members are from Iraqi Kurdistan.**
- **Over 90% of members are graduates of Iraqi Medical Schools.**
- **Over 80% of members are in training posts.**
- **Members are evenly distributed among different specialities.**

## KuMA – UK: Survey of members in 2008 (cont.)

- **85% eventually will go back to Kurdistan permanently.**
- **100 % are willing to come back to Kurdistan and contribute to improving the health of Kurdistan population on regular bases if needed.**

# KuMA – UK: Activities in the past

## **Medical education**

- **Providing visiting examiners for all three Medical Schools in Kurdistan.**
- **Providing visiting lecturers for all three Medical Schools in Kurdistan.**
- **Participating in medical conferences.**
- **Recommendations/proposals for KRG Ministry of Higher Education with for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical Education and Training in Kurdistan (KBMS)**

# KuMA – UK: Activities in the past (cont.)

## Health

- **Organising clinical attachment for individual doctors from Kurdistan within the National Health Service (NKS) in UK.**
- **Individual KUMA members have visited and organised Clinics and operation lists in Kurdistan.**
- **Coordinated Link between different Royal colleges in the UK and previous Minister of Health.**
- **Organising meetings in London for different KRG Ministers to meet doctors in the UK.**



# KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan

- **Continue as before**

**Or**

- **Have clear vision and task for future with accountability to MoH and mutually agreed responsibilities.**

## KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan (cont.)

- **Coordinating links between KRG MoH And and different Uk universities for training mainly non doctors forces.....**
  - Sheffield's Hallam University
  - University of Essex 's School of Health & Human science
- **Link with different Royal Colleges (KuMA has members form different Royal Colleges in the UK).**

# KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan

## ■ **Supporting the MoH in:**

- Establishing a Patient Centred Health System
- Creating a governing body for doctors in Kurdistan (Kurdish General Medical Council )
- Establishing National Protocols, Audit and Guidelines for Hospitals in Kurdistan
- Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development

# KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan (cont.)

- **Providing expertise from some of our members.**
- **Sharing our experience as doctors outside Kurdistan.**

# KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan (cont.)

- **Having an advisory role for the Ministry of Health in relation to Medical Education in Kurdistan.**
  - Undergraduates training ( Medical schools)
  - Kurdistan board of Medical Specialisation (KBMS)

# Summery

- **KuMA uk is a well established Kurdish independent organisation in the UK**
- **KuMA's members have respectable expertise which is can be utilized better**
- **Coordination between KuMA and the Ministry of Health has been limited and ad hoc**
- **More can be achieved by clear commitment from both sides**

# *What Is The Way Forward?*

- **Establishing a joint committee between MoH and KuMA to agree an action plan**
- **Closer link between MoH and Kurdish Medical Organisations outside Kurdistan (such as KuMA)**