

KURDISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

30th July 2017
1pm-9pm

QUORN GRANGE HOTEL
Wood Lane, Quorn LE12 8DB
www.quorngrangehotel.co.uk



PROGRAMME & BOOKING FORM

Pre booking essential for all participants.

*All booking forms must be received
by June 30th.*

*Entry credentials will be issued to all those
booking, entry will be by pre booking only.*

*Please complete the booking form to help
make this day a success for all.*

Celebrate Kurdish culture and politics with great music, great food, stalls, bookshop, childrens' activities, world class Kurdish musicians and dancers, art exhibition, workshop discussions, films, national and international speakers direct.

We will be joined by many colleagues from Kurdistan from national and local government and the media.

FREEDOM for
OCALAN 


GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

ORGANISED BY: The GFTU, Freedom for Ocalan Campaign, Peace in Kurdistan, Kurdish People's Assembly UK, Kurdish Youth Movement Civanan Azad and KNK (Kurdistan National Congress) UK.

PROGRAMME

Speakers

- **Saleh Maslam** MP
- **Christine Blower**, International Officer, National Union of Teachers
- **Simon Dubbins**, International Officer, Unite the Union, and Freedom for Ocalan Campaign
- **Doug Nicholls**, General Secretary, General Federation of Trade Unions
- **John Smith**, President GFTU and International Federation of Musicians
- **Oshor Williams**, Vice President, GFTU, PFA Education Officer

Workshops and Facilitators

Workshops:

- 1 **Kurdish Women's Revolution in Middle East**
- 2 **Freedom for Ocalan; Restart the Peace Process Now**
- 3 **Rojava**
- 4 **Kurdish Question and Political Solution**

1. **Kurdish Women's Revolution in Middle East**

Isabel Käser is a PhD student at SOAS in London where she is writing her thesis on the Kurdish women's movement.

Elif Sarican is a member of the Kurdistan Students Union UK (Yekîtiya Xwendekarên Kurdistan). She is currently undertaking a Masters degree in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Dilar Dirik is an activist of the Kurdish women's movement and writes on the Kurdish freedom struggle. She is currently working on her PhD at the Sociology Department of Cambridge University

2. **'Freedom for Ocalan; Restart the Peace Process Now'**

Simon Dubbins, UNITE International Director and "Freedom for Ocalan Campaign"

Reimer Heider, Spokesperson of the International Initiative "Freedom for Ocalan-Peace in Kurdistan"; translator of several books by Abdullah Ocalan.

Stephen Smellie, Deputy convenor UNISON Scotland; "Freedom for Ocalan Campaign"; trade union liaison officer of Peace in Kurdistan.

Steve Sweeney, journalist, Morning Star and "Freedom for Ocalan Campaign"

3. **Rojava: Democratic Federalism in Northern Syria**

Vasiliki Scurfield is a writer, activist and the mother of the martyred friend of the Kurds Kosta Scurfield. She is also member of the steering committee for Kurdistan Solidarity Campaign and the media spokeswoman.

Saleh Maslem is the co-chairman of the Democratic Union Party (PYD), the driving power behind the Kurdish-controlled region in Rojava (Northern Syria). He graduated from Istanbul Technical University in 1977 as a chemical engineer.

Kurdish women's representative of Northern Syria.

4. **Kurdish Question and the Prospects of a Solution**

Professor Naiv Naif Bezwan (PhD, Universität Osnabrück) is currently based at LSE. Having emigrated in 1991 from Turkey to Germany, he obtained his undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees in the latter country. Dr Bezwan then moved back to Turkey to serve as Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Mardin Artuklu University, a post from which he was dismissed in October 2016 for political reasons through an emergency decree. His research and teaching interests include the political and administrative system of Turkey in the context of the late Ottoman Empire and the early Republican era, the process of Turkey's accession to the European Union, Turkey's foreign policy, Turkey's policy towards Kurds as well as Kurdish quest for self-rule, and Kurdish political parties, modern history and society. Before taking up his post at Mardin Artuklu University in January 2014, Bezwan was a Visiting Scholar at King's College London and at SOAS. He has regularly featured in the press as an expert on Turkey's Kurdish conflict, its Middle East policy, Kurdish politics and intra-Kurdish relations.

Zinar Demeni is a Kurdish activist who escaped Turkey after the 1980 military coup. He was one of the first Kurds to start campaigning for the Kurdish cause in the UK. He is one of the spokespersons of the Kurdish National Congress.

A Kurdish MP will also attend this workshop.

PROGRAMME

Bands, Musicians, Performers

Internationally renowned performers in the main marquee.

Silbus Tari

A Kurdish family group based in Switzerland. Silbus Tari have performed throughout the world.

Çarnewa

Until late 90s Carnewa was performing successfully in Northern Kurdistan. Due to their popularity they were persecuted by the Turkish state which consequently led to their escape to Germany. Today they are regarded as one of the most popular Kurdish groups.

Suça Alan

A Kurdish singer who has millions of fans in the Kurdish speaking world. She has performed in many international festivals.

Kellys Heroes

To add some traditional Celtic rhythm renowned local performers with 12 albums under their belt will add to the international mix.

Art Exhibition

Dogan Ors Kurdish artist fled from Turkey after military coup. His work is known amongst the Kurdish community; over 300 paintings.

Film Room

Short, brilliant Kurdish films will be shown throughout the day.

Please book your chosen times on the form below.

The films shown will be:

N

Since ISIS began its advance on Iraq in June 2014, fewer than two million people have become displaced refugees in Kurdistan. In this documentary Christian Refugees retell their story from the beginning of the ISIS attacks, leading to the mass evacuation of their homes, and arrival in Kurdistan to seek safety.

*Director: Yasaman Sharifmanesh, Iraq, 2015
Arabic with English subtitles.*

Duration: 24 minutes

Yoghurt

Although he is living under a Turkish government that has banned the Kurdish language, Ali (who is just a teenager) comprehends the moral and spiritual importance of an individual experiencing their mother tongue freely. He embarks on a perilous journey to deliver a cassette of Kurdish music, much desired by his grandfather. Here is a thought – provoking narrative of individual acts of courage in the face of oppression.

*Director: Tahsin Ozmen, Turkey, 2015
Kurdish (Kurmanji) with English Subtitles .*

Duration: 14 minutes

Rear Window: Bakur

The short documentary explores the making of Bakur. Censored at the Istanbul Film Festival, banned by the Turkish government, Bakur follows a group of PKK guerrillas going about their daily lives in the mountains of southeastern Turkey. Reflective and intimate, this documentary marks the first time a professional film crew has had full access to the PKK.

*Director: by TeleSur
Spanish, English subtitles.*

Duration 14 minutes

Bark

This story takes place in Kurdistan during the conflict in the 1990s. A remote Kurdish village is about to be evacuated by the Turkish security forces and the only remaining people in the village are an elderly couple and a young man who has lost his family. Based on true events.

Note: The main role was played by Haci Lokman, who was brutally murdered in October the 2nd 2015 in Şırnak, during the curfews implemented by the AKP government. He was murdered by the Turkish army and police forces.

Director: Ömer Çakan, Turkey, Kurdish with English subtitles.

Duration: 19 minutes

PROGRAMME

Number 73

Yezidi's are a predominantly Kurdish ethnic group, upholding a six thousand year old ancient religion of Yazidism. Judged to be "devil-worshippers," the ethnic minority has faced its worse oppression yet with the rise of ISIS in recent history. In the plight of escaping genocide, mass execution and enslavement, the Yezidi have been scattered in Kurdistan. In this documentary we follow one young man to his besieged village to save his elderly parents, whom were left behind by the first wave of refugees.

*Director: Rekesht Shahbaz, Iraq, 2015
Kurdish (Kurmanji) with English subtitles*

Duration: 23 minutes

Ice Cream

A hot summer day greets the arrival of an ice cream peddler motorbike into a small remote village. Soon, all the children start bringing items from their home in the hope of exchanging for some ice-cream. As the commotion unfolds, eleven year old Rojhat learns lessons of perseverance when his mother is unwilling to accommodate. A hilarious and wonderfully filmed day in the life of a child.

*Director: Serhat Karaaslan, Turkey, 2014
Kurdish with English Subtitles*

Duration: 16 minutes

Food

In addition to food stalls throughout the site there will be three sittings in the restaurant of a la carte Kurdish food.

This will be a three course meal for £15.95 payable on the day.

Reservations in advance only.

Starter

Lentil Soup

A healthy vegan lentil soup with Mediterranean spices.

Baba Kanuç

Baked aubergine blended with garlic, tahini and a touch of natural yoghurt.

Lopkeye Hundir

Grounded with bulgur stuffed with minced lamb and vegetables and seasoning.

Mains

Sote Tawa

Choice of chicken or lamb, pan fried with pepper, spring onion, parsley, garlic, tomatoes and olive oil.

Beyti

Choice of chicken or minced lamb seasoned with herbs and spices barbecued and served in lavas bread.

Vegetarian Guvec

A selection of oven baked aubergines, potatoes, peppers, tomatoes topped with grated cheddar.

Dessert

Baklava

A rich, sweet pastry made of layers of filo filled with chopped nuts and sweetened and held together.

FULL PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Time	Marquee	Workshops	Film Room	A la Carte Meals	Children's Activities
1pm	Opening Ceremony				
2pm	Music		Opens		
2.45	Commence				
3.00	Music			1st Sitting	Open
3.30	Rojava Workshop	Close			
4.00					Close
5.00				2nd Sitting	
5.15		Commence			Open
5.30					
6.30					
6.45		Close			Close
7.00	Music			3rd Sitting	
7.45	Folk Dancing				
8.00	Music and Closing Ceremony		Closes		

BOOKING FORM

Please return by June 30th

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS where completing by hand.

Please give ages of children wishing to participate in activities (5-11 years old only).

Please complete one booking form for each person.

First name
Second name
Email address
Postal address
Postcode
Mobile phone number
Age of child

Do you have any special needs or requirements that you would like us to take into account. There will be disabled access throughout and vegetarian food options.

All personal information will be used confidentially and strictly only for the purposes of organising credentials for this festival.

Entry will be by credentials only. All personal liabilities are with those attending on the day.

We hope everyone attending will attend the opening and closing ceremonies.

Workshops

All workshops will run twice at the times indicated except the Rojava Today workshop will run once in the main marquee. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Please tick preferred time:

Freedom for Ocalan; Restart the Peace Process Now

Location: Goodacre Suite

3.00pm-4.30pm 5.15pm-6.45pm

Rojava

Location: Main Marquee

4.00pm-5.30pm

Kurdish Women's Revolution in the Middle East

Location: Oak Panel Room

3.00pm-4.30pm 5.15-6.45pm

Kurdish Question and Political Solution

Location: Lounge area near reception

3.00pm-4.30pm 5.15pm-6.45pm

Film Showings

Location: Meeting Room 1

N	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.45pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.25pm
Yoghurt	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.20pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.00pm
Rear Window: Bakur	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.40pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.20pm
Bark	<input type="checkbox"/> 4.00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 6.40pm
Number 73	<input type="checkbox"/> 4.30pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 7.10pm
Ice Cream	<input type="checkbox"/> 5.00pm	<input type="checkbox"/> 7.40pm

A la carte Kurdish meal in the Restaurant

There are three sittings for this special three course a la carte meal prepared by professional Kurdish chefs. Places will be allocated on a strictly first come first served basis.

Sittings will be at 3.00pm, 5.00pm and 6.30pm.

Guests can choose from three starters and three main courses.

Please indicate the sitting time you would prefer and the number of people booking:

3.00pm Number of people:

5.00pm Number of people:

6.30pm Number of people: