



Jiyan Foundation  
for Human Rights

Biannual  
Report

2023/24





## DEAR FRIENDS,

The last two years have been both challenging and inspiring for the Jiyan Foundation. Despite shrinking financial resources, political instability, and increasing restrictions on civil society, our teams in Iraq and Syria have continued to bring healing, justice, and dignity to survivors of war, terror, and human rights violations.

In 2023 and 2024, we reached more than 42,000 people through therapy, legal aid, information sessions, and education. Since our founding in 2005, nearly 49,000 survivors have received direct mental health care in more than 570,000 sessions, and over 150,000 people have benefited from our programs. Behind each number is a person — a survivor who has shown remarkable strength in the face of unimaginable trauma.

Our Trauma Care & Health Program remained at the heart of our work. Across our treatment centers, survivors of torture, domestic violence, displacement, and conflict received specialised therapy, medical care, and rehabilitation. We also expanded our support for children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups, offering trauma-informed care and reintegration opportunities that break cycles of violence and restore hope.

We reached communities directly through our mobile IT and Toy Buses, which bring psychosocial support, play, and digital learning to children in displacement camps and rural areas. These initiatives foster trust with families often left behind by state systems and ensure access to essential services where they are most urgently needed.

Our commitment to justice and accountability also grew stronger. Through the Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR), survivors played a central role in advancing the Yazidi Survivors Law and holding authorities accountable for promises of reparation. At the same time, our Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue brought together young people from Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities to foster coexistence, strengthen civic participation, and raise awareness on issues such as peacebuilding and environmental sustainability.

We also know that true healing requires care for both people and the planet. In our Healing Garden in Chamchamal, we planted over 9,700 trees, introduced a greywater treatment system, and installed a biogas unit to meet our daily needs. By connecting the garden to clean solar energy and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, we created a therapeutic space that supports survivors while contributing to a more sustainable future.

Yet challenges remain. Political tensions in Iraq continue to undermine fragile trust between communities, while in Syria, minorities remain at risk of exclusion and persecution. Survivors continue to carry the burden of conflict-era atrocities, including arbitrary detention and torture in facilities such as the notorious Sednaya Prison, where thousands have died since 2011. These ongoing violations remind us that the need for justice and human rights protections remains as urgent as ever. Financial pressures forced us to close several facilities, including our Baghdad branch and Women's Clinic — painful decisions that reflect the increasingly difficult climate for civil society organisations. At the same time, international attention to Iraq and Syria is diminishing, even though wounds remain unhealed and the demand for mental health care, justice, and survivor support is as urgent as ever.

As we mark our 20th anniversary, I reflect on our journey from a small treatment center in Kirkuk in 2005 to a regional organisation reaching tens of thousands across Iraq and Syria. Our mission remains unchanged: to defend dignity, restore hope, and build a future where survivors of violence and conflict can live in peace and freedom.

On behalf of the Jiyan Foundation, I extend my deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, and friends. Together, we will continue to heal wounds, protect rights, and build a just and hopeful future for all.



*S. Ahmad*  
Salah Ahmad  
Founder & Chairman





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OUR REACH IN NUMBERS  
2023 & 2024

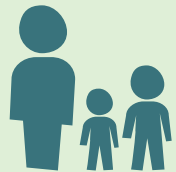


42,282

PEOPLE REACHED  
IN IRAQ,  
KURDISTAN REGION  
AND SYRIA



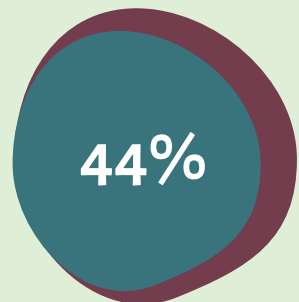
↘ All clients based on target group



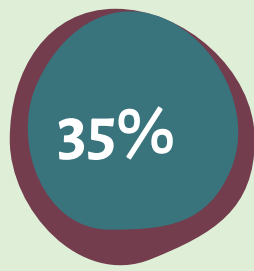
60% Adult  
40% Children



53% Female  
47% Male



IDP



Local



Refugee



Returnee

**8,555 survivors of human rights violations** received mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS).

**17,006 children supported** through our programs

**17,759 people participated in awareness-raising, self-help and empowerment groups.**

**3,935 teachers, social workers, and other professionals** have been trained by our staff on human rights and health issues.

**5,371 people took part in public events** on human rights issues and inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue.

**23,588 sessions of therapy** were conducted by our therapists.

**1,174 sessions of legal counselling and representation in court**

**6,662 children and youths attended our human rights education seminars in schools.**





## INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION MOVES ON. JIYAN STAYS.

In Iraq, the people have survived a range of interconnected dictatorial governments, foreign invasions, and internal conflicts. Generally, in cases of grave humanitarian situations – such as during and after the terrorist attack by the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) – local and international organisations provide emergency relief, like food, shelter, and health services. But when the weapons fall silent, the media and most aid organisations shift their focus elsewhere. Numerous conflicts across the globe prompt the reallocation of funds to contexts deemed more urgent.

A war isn't over when the shooting stops. It continues to influence the lives of those who survived it. The wounds on their bodies might have closed, but their minds have yet to heal. The war has created injustice and mistrust between social groups, neighbours, and residents in different areas. This affects the overall level of violence, influencing families behind closed doors and in front of them. Healing wounds of war and violent oppression is a time-consuming but necessary process. It requires more time than rebuilding a road or reconstructing a hospital. Mental health and accompanying services are a necessity for individual and societal healing and for future conflict prevention. Only healthy minds can produce a healthy, peaceful society.

Mental health barriers can span across generations. In Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, for example, the younger generation grew up in the shadow of the ISIS terror until 2017 and the ensuing market bombings. Their parents remember the destruction by the US-led wars against Iraq in 1991 and 2003 and the internal conflict afterwards. In the Kurdistan region, parents and grandparents survived the Iraqi regimes' genocidal attacks with chemical weapons, house demolitions, arrests, and displacement amid the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Tens of thousands survived torture during detention. From an outside perspective, these are all past events. For the survivors themselves, they are still present.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is prevalent in conflict areas; for families in Iraq (and Syria) to deal with mental health issues and their effects alone is rather unimaginable, especially when looking at the many extreme cases of women and children that survived ISIS terror and enslavement.

Today, Iraq is no longer in the focus of external financial aid and private donations. The attention has moved on. According to the official position, the emergency phase is declared over, accompanied by the demand that governments take responsibility for basic services—such as health—to achieve sustainability.

But what sounds good on paper can be difficult to implement in reality. Post-conflict governments usually do not have the budget to provide (all) the basic services their populations need. And many citizens cannot afford medical or mental health support privately, because food and shelter come first.

This is why the Jiyan Foundation will continue to support survivors in Iraq. Our psychotherapists, medical doctors, and lawyers mirror the social fabric. They have survived the same armed conflicts and human rights violations as their clients. They share their experiences and speak their languages and provide a reliable, familiar anchor.

But in a time of steep decline in development aid, our work to improve mental health services and support a peaceful and sustainable Iraq relies on private donations more than ever.



Peter Schäfer  
Project Development





**Sednaya Prison, Syria** – Since 2011, thousands have died in Syrian government detention facilities, including Sednaya, while tens of thousands more have endured torture and ill-treatment. These violations of international law underscore the urgent need for justice and accountability.

## SYRIA: LIBERATION UNCOVERS TREMENDOUS MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS AMONG SURVIVORS OF THE FORMER REGIME

The Jiyan Foundation has supported survivors of war, torture, and sexualised violence in the Kurdish areas in Syria since 2019. Our center in the city of Qamishlo, supported by Misereor and the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis, provides mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services and organises joint activities for members of different ethnic and religious communities.

8 December 2024 marked a turning point: the liberation from the Assad regime and the first day of a new future for the people of Syria after decades of oppression. For an organisation like Jiyan, which supports survivors, this liberation has led to a dramatic increase in the need for our services. The release of thousands of political prisoners and the emergence of open discourse about past crimes have revealed the true magnitude of untreated trauma.

But truth brings with it uncertainty: How can people who have endured such profound pain, loss, and violence cultivate hope and vitality for the future? How can they build peace for themselves and their families? And how can a healthy society emerge from the ashes of collective trauma?

Trauma is a psychological burden that can last a lifetime – and even be passed on to future generations. When left untreated, societal trauma can bleed into all areas of collective life. For those survivors most deeply affected by their experiences, the Jiyan Foundation offers tailored psychotherapeutic support for individuals, families, and groups.

The needs are vast. Survivors of torture, bombings, sexualised violence, forced displacement, and coerced military service require care and reintegration. At the same time, the wounds inflicted by both the Assad regime and the so-called Islamic State have created deep rifts within society. Bridging these divides requires more than sincere intentions—it calls for a comprehensive, trauma-informed approach for accompanying survivors back to everyday life.

The Jiyan Foundation already provides MHPSS services, hosts dialogue events, and trains local organisations in trauma-informed communication in Qamishlo and surrounding areas, including Raqqqa.

Many young people in these communities grew up surrounded by hostility toward other social, ethnic, or religious groups, knowing little else. We foster social cohesion by bringing together members of these diverse communities. And in our effort to normalise mental health care we also train imams, who serve as trusted figures and multipliers within their communities.

In July 2025, the Jiyan Foundation registered with the new government in Damascus as a local non-governmental organisation. We are ready to contribute our expertise, experience, and commitment to the long and necessary process of rebuilding Syria.

*Peter Schäfer*

*“Rebuilding Syria begins in these moments. It begins when someone dares to speak about their pain. It starts when neighbours choose understanding over hatred. When a former prisoner is treated with dignity.*

*Jiyan’s experience has shown us that recovery must happen in both the heart and the community. We are here to stand with survivors—to help rebuild what was broken, not only buildings, but trust, justice, and the hope that this country can become a place of peace for everyone, regardless of religion or ethnicity.”*

*—Azad Hassou, Qamishlo branch manager*



# SUPPORTING SURVIVORS SINCE 2005

## JIYAN'S HISTORY AT A GLANCE

The year 2025 marks a special milestone for us: the Jiyan Foundation has now been in existence for 20 years—20 years of difficult, often dangerous, human rights work. Throughout this time, major events have shaped our operations and highlighted the increasing need for mental health and psychosocial services.

There were times when we worked under immense pressure—unsure if we would even return home safely at the end of the day. Terrorist groups actively target Iraqis. A sectarian conflict between Sunnites and Shiites, compounded by the interference of neighbouring countries, claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and caused widespread destruction. This bloody and senseless conflict devastated infrastructure and set the country back decades.

Reflecting on the past, two initiatives hold a special place in our hearts. They also reflect two of the greatest tragedies we have witnessed: From the very beginning, we focused on the survivors of the 1988 chemical attacks in the Halabja region. During the Iraqi regime's Anfal Operation against the Kurdish population—which culminated in the massacre at Halabja—5,000 people died from exposure to various types of poison gas deployed by the Iraqi army. Survivors continue to suffer from serious physical and psychological trauma.

In June 2010, we established the Halabja Center for Victims of Chemical Attacks, offering medical and psychosocial care for survivors and their families. The center was later handed over to the Ministry of Health and is now integrated into the Halabja Hospital.

In November 2015, the Jiyan Foundation opened its inpatient psychosomatic trauma clinic in Chamchamal for women who had survived violence at the hands of the so-called Islamic State (ISIS). The clinic, staffed exclusively by female doctors, psychotherapists, and nurses, became a vital sanctuary for survivors. In 2024, our last group of women completed their treatment, marking ten years since the beginning of the ISIS-led genocide (2014–2017). The reduced demand among our target group—Yazidi women abducted and held captive by ISIS—was a promising sign of recovery.

*“As we mark 20 years of the Jiyan Foundation’s journey, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has walked alongside us—our dedicated staff, supporters, partners, private donors, and institutional funders. Your unwavering belief in human dignity has made our work possible. Together, we have reached thousands of survivors, established healing spaces, and advocated for justice when it was most crucial.*

*Our vision remains steadfast: to help build a world where every person’s rights are protected, where dignity is respected, and where peace is not merely a dream but a shared reality. Let us continue this vital work—together.”*

*—Salah Ahmad, Chairman and Founder,  
Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights*

Twenty years ago, the Jiyan Foundation was founded to address the urgent need for mental health support in a society where such care had not yet been recognised as essential for peacebuilding. We introduced a new, community-rooted approach to supporting survivors in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

At the heart of our mission are the people we serve and a vision of communities that can rise from unimaginable hardship. We take great pride in our continued perseverance in the field of human rights. We remain committed to sustaining our work through needs-based, community-driven initiatives.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our private donors, partners, and funders, who have enabled the growth and sustainability of our programs. We deeply appreciate your continued support—and your standing with us as we face future challenges.

## Roadmap of Key Milestones

- 2004** ● With initial funding secured, Salah Ahmad begins training staff to support survivors of torture in Kirkuk.
- 2005** ● The Kirkuk Center for Torture Victims is officially recognised as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Baghdad.
- 2009** ● Launch of our Sulaymaniyah and Erbil branches, expanding our presence in the Kurdistan Region.
- 2010** ● A treatment center for children is opened in Chamchamal, and the first rehabilitation center for survivors of the chemical attacks in Halabja is launched.
- 2011** ● We open our branch in Duhok and launch the Democracy and Civil Society Program.
- 2013** ● Our office in Domiz Camp for Syrian refugees opens, enhancing direct support to displaced communities.
- 2014** ● The Kirkuk Center for Torture Victims is officially renamed the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights. As ISIS begins genocidal attacks, Jiyan conducts emergency aid operations across cities, rural areas, and IDP camps, including a helicopter rescue mission on Mount Sinjar. We open an office in Khanke Camp to provide psychosocial care and outreach services to Yazidi IDPs.
- 2015** ● The Women's Clinic opens in Chamchamal. The first group of psychotherapists trained by Jiyan graduates—a first in the country. Salah Ahmad receives the Federal Cross of Merit from German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dr. Gerd Müller.
- 2016** ● Construction begins in the Healing Garden in Chamchamal.
- 2017** ● New treatment centers open in Mosul and Alqosh.
- 2018** ● The Healing Garden is nominated and shortlisted for the ArchDaily Building of the Year Award, recognising its innovative and healing-focused design. Jiyan receives the HIM Award from the Hamburg Initiative for Human Rights for outstanding contributions to dignity and justice. Launch of training programs for child therapists and clinical supervisors, strengthening local capacity for trauma-informed care.
- 2019** ● Expansion continues with a new treatment center in Qamishlo, Syria. Launch of the Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue, promoting coexistence and civic engagement among young people. Establishment of the Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR), a network of Iraqi NGOs advocating for comprehensive reparations for survivors of ISIS atrocities. The Healing Garden wins the ArchNec Prize awarded by the Swedish Virserum Konsthall and is named one of the 20 winners of the Beyond Bauhaus international ideas competition for socially impactful design.
- 2020** ● The Healing Garden receives the National Energy Globe Award for its sustainable design and community impact. The Healing Garden wins the iF Social Impact Prize, an international recognition of its innovative and sustainable trauma-healing approach.
- 2021** ● A new treatment center opens in Baghdad.
- 2022** ● The Halabja Center for Victims of Chemical Weapons is integrated into the newly opened Halabja Hospital, operated by the Ministry of Health.
- 2023** ● Under the Emergency Support Project, Jiyan Foundation distributes relief supplies to internally displaced families affected by the earthquake in Syria.
- 2024** ● The Women's Clinic Project is successfully completed. The Baghdad Center is closed due to funding shortages.



## “NOT ONLY DID I BEGIN TO HEAL, BUT MY ENTIRE FAMILY DID.”

Noora was born in 1983 in Kobani, Syria. Before the war, her life as a mother of five was simple and peaceful. She lived in a rural community with her husband and extended family, where agriculture and raising livestock shaped their daily lives.

Everything changed in 2014 when ISIS attacked Syria and besieged Kobani. The city was devastated. Many were killed and countless others were forced to flee, including Noora's family.

“Two of my brothers, my mother, and my sister were killed in Kobani. Their bodies were found three days later, so badly disfigured that they could only be buried in a mass grave alongside ten others,” she recalls.

The traumatic experience left her in shock. For days, Noora couldn't eat, drink, or speak. In 2019, the family fled to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, first finding temporary refuge in Erbil before settling in Sulaymaniyah.

“For a long time, I was haunted by nightmares, terrifying flashbacks of my loved ones' mutilated bodies. I was so afraid that I wouldn't let my children play outside or talk to other kids. I feared ISIS could be anywhere, even in Sulaymaniyah.”

The trauma didn't just affect Noora. It also deeply impacted her children. They became withdrawn, anxious, and struggled in school. Two showed severe emotional distress: they stopped speaking, cried frequently, and had difficulties eating. Some began wetting themselves from fear. On top of this, the family faced poverty, as her husband was only finding work once or twice a week, leaving them unable to afford basic necessities.

Then, a friend told Noora about the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights. Having received psychosocial and medical support herself, the friend urged Noora to seek help. That moment changed everything.

“Not only did I begin to heal, but my entire family did. I used to sit in the dark all day, frozen in silence. I couldn't even open the door. Now, I go outside, visit relatives, and focus on my children's well-being and education.”

At Jiyan, Noora received regular psychological and medical care. Her children also got specialized trauma therapy tailored to their needs. With the help of child psychologists, they began to recover.

“Thanks to Jiyan, two of my children who were struggling the most are back in school. They're doing well, making friends, and even laughing again. They no longer wet themselves or cry through the night.”

Today, Noora continues her therapy with us, determined to build a brighter future for her family.

“Jiyan didn't just help me; they saved my whole family. They gave us hope when we had none.”

\*Name changed for confidentiality.





## Our Programs

*Through our programs, we promote the physical rehabilitation, psychological well-being, and social reintegration of survivors of human rights violations and their family members. These programs promote the rehabilitation of individuals, families, and communities as a crucial step towards building a peaceful society.*



### Program for Trauma Care & Health

Exposure to violence and human rights violations can lead to a variety of physical, psychological, and social problems. We support survivors in Iraq and Syria by means of psychological treatment and specialised trauma care, as well as accompanying medical and social services.



### Program for Rights & Justice

The rule of law and respect for human rights form the foundation of democratic societies and are the blueprint for peaceful coexistence and prosperity. We offer legal assistance, litigation, collaboration with international human rights bodies, and advocacy for the rights of vulnerable groups. We monitor human rights standards and contribute recommendations to relevant actors for their sustainable implementation.



### Program for Democracy & Civil Society

In order to progress towards a pluralistic civil society and to strengthen democracy, we provide human rights education in schools. We support networks of young activists and coordinate dialogue activities that foster solidarity between members of different ethnic and religious groups.



### Program for Capacity Building

By investing in staff training and offering seminars for external professionals, we can better respond to the complex needs of the people we support. We have built up specialised expertise in mental health and psychotherapy. Our counsellors and therapists are specialised in various methods of clinical intervention, trauma therapy, and supervision. We also include professionals of the Ministry of Health and other governmental entities in our training.







## Trauma Care & Health



### Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ 3,230 individuals received psychotherapeutic treatment.
- ✓ 3,655 individuals received medical treatment.
- ✓ 579 individuals received social support services.
- ✓ 660 individuals received physiotherapeutic care.
- ✓ 17,759 people participated in awareness-raising sessions.
- ✓ 3,935 professionals participated in seminars and capacity-building activities.
- ✓ Strengthened managerial capacity across regional projects for more efficient and coordinated service delivery.



Scan for more

Supply chain disruptions and funding shortfalls have posed challenges, including a necessary 20% reduction in clinical staff. Nonetheless, demand for our services continues to rise—a testament to the growing trust in our work. Our teams remain committed to delivering uninterrupted, high-quality care even in the most difficult circumstances.

#### Culturally Grounded Care

We believe sustainable healing begins with understanding. That's why our clinical professionals not only reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the communities they serve but are also engaged in ongoing training in cultural competence. Through regular workshops, community dialogues, and peer learning, staff adapt their therapeutic approaches to better align with the languages, belief systems, and lived experiences of our clients. This ensures our care is not only effective but also empathetic, relevant, and dignified.

#### Promoting Mental Health Awareness and Reducing stigma

Mental health remains a sensitive and often stigmatised issue in many communities affected by conflict, displacement, and prolonged instability. Cultural taboos, limited access to services, and a lack of public understanding frequently prevent individuals from seeking the support they need. Recognising this challenge, the Jiyan Foundation has integrated awareness-raising and psychoeducation as core components of its trauma care and health program.

Through structured outreach activities—including community seminars, school-based sessions, and public campaigns—our teams work to increase mental health literacy, challenge harmful misconceptions, and normalise seeking psychosocial support. These sessions offer accessible information on the signs and effects of psychological trauma, the connection between emotional and physical health, and available pathways to care.

Beyond reducing stigma, awareness-raising also functions as a form of early intervention. We often connect participants who resonate with the shared information directly to our clinical and social support teams, ensuring timely access to appropriate services.

*“We don’t just treat symptoms; we walk alongside survivors on their path to reclaiming safety, trust, and dignity. Every step forward they take is a powerful reminder of why this work matters.”*

*Chenar Sirwan, Head of Trauma Care & Health program*

#### Healing the Invisible Wounds of War

Years of conflict, displacement, and prolonged exposure to violence have left deep psychological scars across Iraq—including the Kurdistan Region—and Syria. Many individuals continue to suffer from the long-term effects of trauma, including chronic anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and psychosomatic conditions. These challenges are further compounded by widespread instability and uncertainty about the future, fuelling persistent fear, hopelessness, and emotional fatigue.

In response, the Jiyan Foundation's Trauma Care and Health Program provides comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services through our regional centers. We deliver free, confidential care to individuals of all ages, genders, religions, and ethnic backgrounds—grounded in trauma-informed principles and a holistic view of healing.

Our services integrate psychological treatment with medical and social support, reflecting our belief that recovery must address emotional, physical, and social well-being simultaneously.

With a deep commitment to cultural sensitivity, our local teams offer care that is respectful of the values, beliefs, and lived experiences of those we serve—building trust, safety, and lasting impact.

#### Optimising Clinical Practices

Over the past two years, we have made significant progress in strengthening internal structures and clinical coordination. By investing in localised program leadership, we have enhanced communication between teams, improved operational efficiency, and deepened our responsiveness to community needs. These improvements also allow us to better monitor program performance, support staff wellness, and maintain flexibility in times of crisis.

#### Adapting in Times of Adversity

Amid global and regional crises—including the COVID-19 pandemic, economic hardship, and declining international attention—our program has remained resilient.

### LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead, we are committed to expanding access to underserved and rural areas where mental health services remain scarce. In collaboration with the Program for Capacity Building, we will continue to align our work with international standards of excellence in trauma-informed care. We also prioritise the well-being of our staff by investing in wellness and burnout prevention programs—ensuring sustainability in this demanding field. Through these efforts, we aim to further strengthen the quality, reach, and resilience of our trauma care services across Iraq, the Kurdistan Region, and Syria.







Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ Nearly 3,000 Yazidi women and children received intensive trauma recovery services.
- ✓ Majority of participants completed the four-week residential program.
- ✓ 20% continued psychotherapy and follow-up care through regional Jiyan centres.
- ✓ Survivors gained long-term stability, reintegration, and skills for recovery.
- ✓ The clinic's holistic model inspired Jiyan's wider trauma care approach in Iraq and Syria.



# JIYAN TRAUMA CLINIC FOR WOMEN

## EMPOWERING YAZIDI WOMEN SURVIVORS

The so-called Islamic State (ISIS) launched a systematic campaign of genocide against the Yazidi community in northern Iraq in August 2014. Thousands of Yazidi women and girls were abducted, enslaved, and subjected to severe and repeated acts of sexual violence, torture, and exploitation. Many spent years in captivity, returning with profound psychological and physical trauma. Their children, likewise, were affected—separated from their families, exposed to extreme violence, or traumatised by forced indoctrination and displacement.

Upon their return, many Yazidi women faced a new set of challenges, including social stigma, marginalisation, and a lack of adequate, trauma-informed mental health services. These circumstances point out the urgent requirement for targeted, long-term support tailored to the complex needs of female survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

In response, with help from Misereor the Jiyan Foundation established a dedicated Women's Clinic in Chamchamal, Kurdistan Region of Iraq, in 2015. The clinic was among the first in the region to offer specialised, structured, and culturally sensitive trauma recovery services for Yazidi women and their children.

### A Holistic Model of Trauma Recovery

The women's clinic provided a four-week residential treatment program focused on comprehensive, survivor-centered care. This interdisciplinary and trauma-informed model included:

- **Integrated Therapies:** Survivors engaged in individual and group psychotherapy, art and play therapy, and therapeutic activities in the Healing Garden, designed to foster emotional expression and resilience.
- **Psychoeducation:** Structured sessions helped participants understand the psychological and somatic impacts of trauma and provided tools for long-term coping and self-regulation.
- **All-Women Clinical Staff:** A team of female psychotherapists, medical professionals, and care providers offered round-the-clock support in a secure and culturally appropriate environment.
- **Family-Centred Approach:** Children accompanying their mothers received tailored psychosocial support, and families were engaged to help sustain the survivor's recovery journey beyond the clinic.

### Successful Completion and Continuity of Care

After nearly a decade of impactful work, the Women's Clinic project successfully concluded in 2024. While the clinic itself has closed, the Jiyan Foundation remains committed to the long-term well-being of its former beneficiaries. Survivors are now supported through mobile mental health teams and regional treatment centers, which continue to provide psychotherapy, follow-up services, and referrals within their home communities.

This decentralised model ensures continuity of care, reduces barriers to access, and supports survivors' reintegration in ways that are responsive to and respectful of their circumstances.

### Recognising the Complexity of Trauma

Many of the clinic's participants presented with trauma-related conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and somatic symptom disorders, where psychological distress manifests through chronic physical symptoms. The clinic's interdisciplinary approach addressed these challenges through a blend of therapeutic and physiological care, acknowledging the full scope of trauma's impact on survivors' health and daily functioning.

This integrated model not only reduced suffering but also empowered survivors with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate their recovery beyond the clinical setting.

### A Lasting Legacy

The Women's Clinic in Chamchamal represents a landmark initiative in survivor-led, trauma-informed care in post-conflict settings. It established a replicable model for holistic, culturally grounded support services that now informs the broader practices of the Jiyan Foundation across Iraq and Syria.

Its legacy continues through the survivors it served, the communities it supported, and the dedicated professionals who continue to provide care inspired by its example. Though the project has formally concluded, its impact remains embedded in the Foundation's ongoing work and commitment to the rights, dignity, and recovery of survivors.

*"At the Jiyan Clinic, I didn't merely receive treatment—I was given space to breathe again. For the first time since my captivity, I felt like more than a victim. I felt seen. I left the clinic not as the same woman who had arrived, but as someone beginning to trust herself again."*

— Yazidi female survivor, participant in Jiyan Clinic's stabilisation and healing program





## “MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOCIETY ISN’T LIMITED TO PEOPLE WITH FORMAL EDUCATION. ANYONE WITH AMBITION AND CLEAR GOALS CAN CHANGE LIVES.”

At just 11 years old, Nada\*, a Yazidi girl from the Sinjar region, was forced into marriage to settle a family dispute. Torn from childhood and denied an education, she found herself responsible for the daily care of 15 in-laws.

“I was lost and didn’t know who I was,” she says. “But after coming to Jiyen Foundation and going through therapy, I discovered myself.”

The trauma of her early years only deepened in 2014 when ISIS attacked her village on the day of Eid. Amid screams, chaos, and gunfire, she fled on foot with her four children—carrying two, holding one in her arms, and the last clinging to her clothes. They escaped through fields of corpses to Mount Sinjar, where they spent 15 days without food or water.

Displaced and living in an overcrowded camp, Nada endured deteriorating physical and emotional health. Her children were hospitalised. She suffered chronic back pain, insomnia, anxiety, and emotional numbness. The news that ISIS had captured her mother and siblings only compounded her despair.

In time, she was referred to the Women’s Clinic and later to the Duhok branch, where she began a long but steady recovery journey. Through psychotherapy, medical treatment, and physiotherapy, she found stability, voice, and purpose.

“Before therapy, I had no stability or direction,” she says. “Now, my life is moving forward with confidence and purpose.”

Her mental and emotional growth was equally profound. The nightmares stopped. Her relationship with her children improved. And her sense of self-worth returned.

“Before I began my healing journey, I felt no joy when I saw or smelt flowers,” she says. “Now, when I see a flower in the garden, I feel joyful and pick it to smell its fragrance.”

With time, her relationship with her husband improved. She reconnected with her family and became a source of strength in her community.

“I used to lack confidence in myself,” she says. “Fear held me back—I couldn’t even walk or ride in a car alone. Now, I do both. Today, I truly believe I am a strong, empowered woman.”

Her psychotherapist, Shang Sabah, highlights the influence Nada has had beyond her recovery: “She played a key role in supporting and empowering individuals to speak about their mental health without shame. She encouraged more than ten family and community members seek support through Jiyen Foundation’s services.”

Today, Nada lives with her family in Sinjar. Her children excel in school. She advises girls about the risks of early marriage, supports pregnant women during medical visits, and guides teens in crisis toward help.

She’s also planning for the future: opening her own restaurant and becoming a fitness trainer.

“I will never leave this path,” she says. “I will walk on it—and continue forward.”

\*Name changed for confidentiality.







Scan the QR code for the program's page.

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ Provided a healing environment to over 50,000 visitors, including survivors, children, families, and professionals.
- ✓ Delivered specialised therapeutic programs, such as animal-assisted interventions and horticultural therapy, that supported emotional recovery, psychosocial development, and resilience among children and youth affected by conflict.
- ✓ Pioneered environmentally sustainable design, featuring natural clay construction, solar and biogas energy systems, and an on-site water treatment and reuse system that promotes ecological responsibility.
- ✓ The initiative contributed to long-term environmental and community resilience by planting over 9,700 trees, avoiding CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and conducting regular awareness seminars.



## THE HEALING GARDEN IN CHAMCHAMAL NATURE AS A PATH TO RECOVERY

The Healing Garden is located in Chamchamal, a town deeply affected by the Anfal Campaign. It is a unique therapeutic space dedicated to survivors of mass violence. In 1988 alone, the former Iraqi regime's brutal military operations killed, displaced, or disappeared thousands of residents from Chamchamal and surrounding villages. Chemical attacks, the destruction of entire communities, and forced relocations left behind profound psychological and inter-generational trauma.

Today, Chamchamal serves as a place of both remembrance and resilience. Here, the Healing Garden offers survivors and their families a peaceful, nature-based setting where they can access specialised therapy and begin to reconnect with a sense of safety and dignity.

### Therapeutic Innovation Rooted in Nature

The Healing Garden combines natural surroundings with structured, trauma-informed interventions to support emotional regulation, psychosocial development, and recovery. Its services are open to children, youth, and families affected by conflict-related trauma.

### Animal-Assisted Interventions

One of the garden's most effective modalities is its Animal-Assisted Intervention (AAI) program. Children participate in sessions with trained professionals and gentle animals—feeding horses, petting cats, or playing with dogs. These interactions help children affected by post-traumatic stress (PTSD), anxiety, or adjustment disorders to build trust, manage emotions, and improve concentration. The sessions often incorporate arts-based activities, providing a space for creative expression and emotional processing.

### Horticultural Therapy

Participants are also invited to engage directly with the natural world by planting seeds, tending gardens, and working with soil and plants. This hands-on horticultural therapy supports emotional stability, focus, and a sense of personal agency—and for many local children, provides their first meaningful connection with nature in a safe, supportive setting.



9,700

Trees planted



Connected to  
clean energy



+50k  
Visitors



Avoided  
Emissions

### An Environmentally Sustainable Sanctuary

The Healing Garden is not only a space for emotional healing—it is also a model of environmental sustainability and ecological responsibility in a post-conflict setting.

- **Eco-Friendly Design:** All structures are built using natural clay, providing breathable, energy-efficient environments that blend into the landscape.
- **Clean Energy:** The garden is powered by solar panels and biogas systems, significantly reducing carbon emissions.
- **Water Reuse:** A customised water treatment system supports sustainable irrigation and the recycling of wastewater.
- **Reforestation and Carbon Impact:** Over 9,700 trees have been planted, contributing to improved biodiversity, shade, and offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- **Community Reach:** Since its opening, the Healing Garden has welcomed over 50,000 visitors—including survivors, schoolchildren, professionals, and local families—each experiencing the garden's peaceful, restorative atmosphere.

This sustainability-first approach reflects the garden's holistic mission: to promote the renewal of individuals, ecosystems, and communities.

### Community Engagement and Awareness

Beyond therapy, the Healing Garden plays a vital role in building long-term community resilience. The Jiyan Foundation regularly hosts awareness seminars for teachers, social workers, and local government representatives—demonstrating how nature-based, trauma-sensitive spaces can support individual healing and collective well-being.

These visits promote mental health literacy and equip local stakeholders to integrate trauma-informed practices into schools, social programs, and public policy—extending the garden's impact well beyond its physical boundaries.

*"In the Healing Garden, therapy doesn't begin in a chair—it begins in the soil, under the trees, beside a calm animal. I've seen children who arrive withdrawn and fearful slowly open up while planting a seed or brushing a horse's mane. These natural moments create trust where words sometimes cannot. That's the quiet power of this place."*

— Hawre Rasool, Psychotherapist





Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ 407 Play Bus sessions across six IDP camps.
- ✓ 15,092 children reached with play, creativity, and psychosocial support.
- ✓ 382 IT Bus training sessions.
- ✓ 3,568 youth equipped with digital literacy skills.
- ✓ Inclusion of children with physical and mental disabilities.
- ✓ Entry points for psychosocial support and referrals to therapy.



## PLAY- AND IT-BUSES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH JOYFUL RELIEF ON WHEELS

Many children are living in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) across remote areas of northern Iraq. Having endured displacement, violence, or even captivity under ISIS, they carry invisible wounds that deeply affect their development. For them, receiving care and attention beyond their family circle is not just a comfort – it is a lifeline. Group play and creative learning in a safe, non-competitive environment foster healing and resilience, while building trust between communities and survivors.

To meet these needs, with funding from the German Foreign Office the Jijan Foundation launched two unique mobile projects: the Play Bus and the IT Bus. Both were converted from regular buses into safe, interactive spaces designed to support children and youth affected by war, displacement, and trauma.

### Healing Through Play

The Play Bus is filled with toys, games, and interactive activities for children of different ages, offering them the chance to play, laugh, and heal. For many, it is their only opportunity to feel like children again. These structured sessions are not only recreational; they also serve as an entry point to psychosocial support.

Under the supervision of Jijan psychotherapists, play activities allow trained staff to gently observe children's behaviour, identify trauma-related challenges, and provide parents or guardians with guidance on further care. Children (and their parents) with urgent needs are referred to Jijan centers for specialised therapy and support.

*“When my children return from the Play Bus, they are happier and more confident. It’s the only place where they can feel like children again.”*

— A mother from the Essyan IDP Camp

### Information Technology on the Move

While the Play Bus creates safe spaces for emotional healing, the IT Bus bridges another critical gap: digital education. Equipped with 12 laptop workstations and internet access, the IT Bus functions as a mobile classroom for youth in camps and rural villages. Participants learn essential IT skills such as Windows OS, Microsoft Office, and Adobe Photoshop in short structured courses that typically span three to five days. At the end of each course, participants receive a certificate, validating their new skills and boosting their confidence for future employment and education.

The IT Bus is also a space for psychosocial recovery. Structured learning fosters self-confidence, teamwork, and a sense of accomplishment – vital tools for youth who have experienced trauma, including some formerly associated with armed groups.

### Looking Ahead

Both buses regularly travel across IDP camps and remote villages in the Dohuk Governorate and Nineveh Plain, connecting with children who would otherwise have little or no access to psychosocial support or education. Looking forward, the Jijan Foundation plans to align bus schedules more closely with school calendars, expand outreach to underserved areas, and diversify activities to further integrate educational, psychosocial, and recreational stimuli.

Through these buses, the Jijan Foundation offers more than play and skills – it offers hope, resilience, and the foundation for a brighter future.

*“Every time I see a child who once carried the weight of war and now jumps for joy or smiles in front of a computer screen, I’m reminded of their incredible resilience. This program is not just about recovery—it’s about building a life where these children can believe in themselves again.”*

— Renas Younis, Senior Project Coordinator





## "THEY TAUGHT ME TO FIGHT, BUT NO ONE SHOWED ME HOW TO LIVE. AT JIYAN, I'M LEARNING COMPUTERS— AND HOW TO START AGAIN."

When the Islamic State terrorists attacked Sinjar, Shores<sup>\*</sup>h was six years old. He was abducted and forcibly recruited by the armed group. The violence he endured left him with heavy psychological wounds. After escaping captivity, he withdrew from school and isolated himself at home, burdened by trauma.

In early 2024, hope arrived when the Jiyān Foundation's IT bus visited Khanke IDP camp. For Shores<sup>\*</sup>h, it was his first structured group activity in years. By the third session, his initial shyness had faded, and he was actively participating in the IT training. However, one of the psychotherapists present during the session noticed signs of emotional distress and approached him to discuss the available support services the Foundation offers. Shores<sup>\*</sup>h shared about his struggles with flashbacks and nightmares. He was then referred for regular one-on-one counselling sessions at the Alqosh branch.

"For the first time, I feel like someone understands me and wants to help not just with learning, but with what's inside," Shores<sup>\*</sup>h shared during therapy.

Over the following months, Shores<sup>\*</sup>h not only gained digital literacy but also developed coping strategies, rebuilt trust, and reconnected with his aspirations.

Today, Shores<sup>\*</sup>h mentors younger boys in his community and dreams of becoming an IT trainer or starting his own computer repair business to support others who, like him, never had access to technology. He is already helping classmates learn basic computer skills and hopes to continue building his knowledge.

His story is a powerful reminder of how combining technical training with trauma-informed care can nurture resilience and unlock new opportunities for former CAAFAG youth (Children Formerly Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups).

<sup>\*</sup>Name changed for confidentiality.







## PSYCHOSOCIAL TREATMENT OF CHILDREN THAT SURVIVED WAR

Interview with Asmaa Ibrahim M. Salih, psychotherapist with the Jiyen Foundation about psychosocial treatment of children that survived war

Eight years after the military defeat of ISIS, the international attention has moved away from Iraq and the Kurdistan Region in Iraq. However the Jiyen Foundation has been providing psychological support for survivors of war, torture, and sexualized violence since 2005 and continues to do so. Why is this still necessary?

You see, trauma is like throwing a stone into a calm lake. You see the ripples for decades, and they grow wider. This affects every aspect of life. People start thinking differently, they cannot build trust anymore. Some feel ashamed or are extremely angry. Even if a war or captivity might be physically over, in the mind of a survivor it is ongoing.

What is the concrete aim of your mental health services?

We enable our clients to lead a normal life again. We take them by their hand, point them in the direction, walk a few steps with them, and then they must manage. The service is free-of-charge, because our clients struggle economically as well. Also, women often seek our services without the knowledge of their families. This means they would not be able to justify the expense and not seek help.

How can you reach a traumatised person?

At first, we hold public information sessions, these are low-threshold access points to our services. It is often family members or friends of people with problems that come and then convince them to go see us. Or the parents of affected children.

Do you involve a client's family in the treatment?

Our social workers try to, if the client agrees. And when we work with children, parents are always part of the process. We talk with them about healthy parenting styles, techniques in helping the child, correcting certain parental behaviors, and accepting emotions.

Once a way forward is agreed between psychotherapist and client, what are the psychotherapeutic approaches that have proven successful with younger clients?

Mostly, it is Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR), and Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) to deal with traumatic experiences. CBT includes confrontational techniques to deal with your fears and anxieties. For children who have experienced war, it is often anxiety of being separated again from their parents. This must be done very sensibly.

And what is EMDR?

This actually comes out of the treatment of veterans with PTSD. While the client goes through traumatic memories, he or she follows with the eyes the psychotherapists finger movements and they follow specific protocols. In short, this reprograms the way the client thinks about these memories. It has proven to be very effective.

And NET, Narrative Exposure Therapy?

It is a short-term, evidence-based approach for trauma spectrum treatment. We use an adapted version of it to treat people who were formerly children associated with armed forces and armed groups (CAAFAG), what some people call "child soldiers". It is known because of its application in the treatment of forcibly militarized children in Congo. The clients talk about their life from birth to today. They will go through all the events in individual sessions.

They were trained and forced to commit war crimes as children. Now, they are rejected and outlawed by many, making it difficult to rebuild trust. How do you approach these children?

We have used a playful and skill-building approach to establish contact and create a safe space where they feel comfortable seeking psychotherapy

*"It is important to engage former child soldiers and provide support. We do not want them to see a return to a militarized group as their only solution."*

when they are ready. Our goal is to foster a supportive therapeutic atmosphere that encourages them to open up.

They support each other, but they also ridicule those that seek psychotherapy. I cannot emphasise enough how important it is to engage them and provide support. We do not want them to see a return to a militarised group as their only solution. Some do not know what it feels like living in a house, because they grew up in tents. And if they interact with people outside camps, they feel alienated.

You also work with younger children who cannot have an active memory of the events, like the ISIS attacks. So, what is transgenerational trauma?

Our brain works by visualising the things we hear. So, if a child repeatedly hears the story of her or his parents or grandparents, the child lives with these images. It is mainly transferred through traumatic reactions. There are children that talk about traumatic events as if they happened to them personally, even if it was long before they were born. On the individual level, this can change the behaviour of the child, like with addictions or a neglect for safety, and social withdrawal. Some stop talking completely, others cannot focus anymore.

Do you have a different approach when working with them?

We create a comforting environment for them. We have child-friendly, colourful rooms equipped with toys. The children can take off their shoes and feel comfortable. The approach is playful. We also use musical instruments and art therapy. We have a healing garden in Chamchamal, where we can provide animal-assisted therapy for the children that are extremely withdrawn.

Interview: Peter Schäfer

Asmaa Ibrahim M. Salih holds a master's degree in psychotherapy and psycho-traumatology. She has worked with the Jiyen Foundation as a psychotherapist since 2015 and co-heads the Trauma Care and Health Program since 2020. She teaches at the Institute of Psychotherapy and Psychotraumatology (IPP) in Dohuk, Kurdistan Region of Iraq.





## Rights & Justice



Scan for more

### Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ Provided free legal aid to 1,174 individuals across Iraq.
- ✓ Held 15 survivor-focused events and joined 18+ advocacy forums.
- ✓ Mobilised 35+ NGOs and survivor groups for solidarity and collaboration.
- ✓ Engaged Yazidi male survivors to claim rights under the YSL.
- ✓ Advocated before UN bodies through strong local and international partnerships.
- ✓ Developed indicators to measure rehabilitation under the YSL.
- ✓ Supported global recognition of wartime sexual torture, including facilitating the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's visit to Iraq.



*“Building bridges and remaining persistent in the face of continued setbacks, going back to survivors for consultations, reaching out to partners over and over again, ... moving forward regardless of cost – this is, in a nutshell daily routine of the Coalition for Just Reparations.”*

*Dr Bojan Gavrilovic, Head of Right and Justice program*

The Program for Rights and Justice advances justice and reparations for survivors of conflict and persecution in Iraq and Syria. Through legal aid, advocacy, and coalition-building, we support victims of ISIS atrocities and systemic abuse, ensuring their rights are upheld and their voices amplified.

#### Monitoring the Yazidi Survivors Law (YSL)

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR), initiated by the Jiyan Foundation, is an alliance of 34 Iraqi NGOs calling for comprehensive reparations for survivors of atrocity crimes perpetrated during the ISIS conflict in Iraq. To ensure that reparative measures reach their intended beneficiaries, the Coalition monitors the implementation of existing legislation, such as the Yazidi Female Survivors Law (YSL) and publishes regular updates through newsletters and annual reports. Moreover, C4JR is uniquely positioned to offer a truthful and balanced account of YSL implementation, including progress made by the Directorate of Survivors Affairs and the challenges survivors face when applying for reparations.

In 2024, C4JR established a Legal Working Group to coordinate the work of lawyers and lay the groundwork for effective legal assistance to survivors.

#### Legal Services and Expansion to Syria

Jiyan lawyers provide free legal assistance to those in need across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Legal services were also initiated in Qamishli, northeast Syria, accompanied by a comprehensive needs assessment targeting the displaced population and clients of the Jiyan Foundation's Qamishli Center, to gain a deeper understanding of the legal challenges and issues faced by these people. The findings helped us refine and tailor the organisation's legal service provisions, ensuring greater alignment with the most pressing needs and priorities of its beneficiaries in this area.

#### Advocacy

In close collaboration with a group of young male Yazidi survivors advocating for boys abducted and indoctrinated by ISIS, we co-created a position paper outlining legal reforms in Iraq to support the rights of

children formerly associated with armed groups and reintegration with their families. Building on the YSL, the paper highlights its potential to support child survivors through reparations, education, and rehabilitation. It also identifies critical gaps, including restrictive application requirements, inadequate rehabilitation services, limited educational access, and insufficient support for families and carers. The paper also advocates for the removal of procedural barriers and alignment with international child protection standards. Regular consultations with Yazidi male survivors have ensured the paper reflects the lived realities and current needs of Yazidi men who survived ISIS captivity as children.

Jiyan was also one of the founders of the Torture-Free Trade Network, a global coalition of NGOs working on torture prevention, combating police violence, and human rights protection. In January 2023, more than 30 civil society groups came together in Shoreditch, London, and issued the Shoreditch Declaration for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty. The declaration calls for a treaty to prohibit the manufacture and trade in inherently abusive equipment (such as spiked batons), as well as the introduction of human rights-based controls on the trade in more standard law enforcement equipment (such as pepper spray). Jiyan remains actively committed to this initiative.

In 2023, the Program for Rights and Justice co-organised and participated in virtual Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional consultations. Together with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Margaret Satterthwaite, the consultations focused on legal empowerment and its associated challenges. Additionally, the Jiyan Foundation facilitated

confidential consultations between over 20 local NGOs—engaged in the rehabilitation of torture survivors, the prevention of torture in criminal justice facilities, and the fight against impunity—and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Dr Alice Edwards. These consultations were providing a platform for civil society actors to brief the Special Rapporteur and share their insights and experiences.

### LOOKING AHEAD

The Program for Rights and Justice will continue to drive the implementation of the Yazidi Survivors Law through sustained monitoring, advocacy, and survivor-centered engagement. A key priority is the transformation of the Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) into a fully independent and locally led civil society platform.

We will expand collaboration across Jiyan's programs to address critical issues like land restitution and share successful models of justice and reintegration in Iraq to support similar efforts in Northeast Syria.

Despite challenges—including the early closure of UNITAD's mandate—our commitment remains strong. We will continue to stand with survivors, especially those whose childhoods were stolen by ISIS, ensuring their rights are protected and their voices heard.





**C4JR**



Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ 2 reports, 9 newsletters, 6 podcasts, and 6 key documents on YSL progress.
- ✓ First survivor satisfaction survey on the YSL process.
- ✓ Toolkit for Ethical Engagement and Guide to Monitoring Rehabilitation.
- ✓ Engaged with 30+ UN missions, Special Rapporteurs, and NGOs to amplify survivor voices.
- ✓ 10+ statements and advocacy papers, including on UNITAD's closure, ISIL crimes, "10 Demands 10 Years After the Genocide", and calls for a state-run rehabilitation system.



# COALITION FOR JUST REPARATIONS (C4JR) SURVIVOR-CENTERED JUSTICE

The Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR) is a network of Iraqi NGOs advocating for comprehensive reparations for survivors of atrocity crimes committed during the ISIS conflict. As part of the Jiyan Foundation's Program for Rights and Justice, C4JR unites 34 civil society organisations, creating a safe platform for survivors from all communities—including Yazidis, Turkmen, Shabak, Kaka'i/Yarsan, Christians, Shias, and Sunnis—to voice their needs and influence change.

### From Law to Practice

C4JR advanced the implementation of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law (YSL) in 2023 and 2024, making it more than just a piece of paper. We published two annual reports, nine newsletters, and six podcast episodes featuring survivor voices and experts such as Dr Barham Salih, Dr Clara Sandoval, Shireen Khudeda, and Dr Alice Edwards.

We engaged with UN human rights mechanisms and contributed to Iraq's 4th Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures, and treaty bodies. We also collaborated with Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Global Survivors Fund, IRCT, CVT, REDRESS, and others while briefing key actors such as the UN Security Council, UNAMI, U.S. Department of State, EU External Action Service, German Federal Foreign Office, IOM, and UNITAD.

To strengthen accountability, Jiyan conducted the first survey measuring survivors' satisfaction with the YSL application process. Through C4JR working groups, we created safe collaborative spaces to advance rehabilitation as reparation, survivor-centered justice, ethical engagement, and joint advocacy.

### Ethical Engagement

Jiyan co-created a Toolkit for Ethical Engagement with Survivors, developed through consultations and survivor input. This resource guides NGOs, journalists, and policymakers in ensuring ethical and respectful interactions with survivors of human rights violations.

### Rehabilitation as a Right

In June 2023, Jiyan convened over 100 survivors, experts, and officials to adapt global standards for the right to rehabilitation in Iraq. The outcome was an innovative Guide to Monitoring Rehabilitation under the YSL, launched in June 2024 with IOM-Iraq, featuring a keynote by Dr Alice Edwards, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

## Global Advocacy

C4JR amplified survivor voices internationally. We contributed to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's report on sexual violence in conflict and hosted her in Erbil and Duhok in June 2024 for direct survivor consultations.

When Iraq announced the premature termination of UNITAD's mandate, C4JR mobilised survivors and civil society, issuing statements, holding consultations, and co-hosting an international event with Amnesty International, Yazda, and Human Rights Watch.

## Survivor-Led Demands

To mark the tenth anniversary of the ISIS genocide, Jiyan, SEED Foundation, and Yazda published 10 Demands 10 Years After the Genocide, reflecting survivors' priorities for justice, accountability, and reparations.

## Other Highlights

- During the 16 Days of Activism 2023, Jiyan showcased YSL's potential to reduce gender discrimination and violence.
- Jiyan made submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on Truth, Justice, and Reparation, urging caution against excessive documentation of sexual violence to avoid re-traumatisation.
- In August 2024, Jiyan issued an urgent call for the establishment of a sustainable, state-funded rehabilitation system under the YSL.

*"The C4JR YSL Newsletter and YSL Monitoring Reports are essential tools for transparency, survivor-centered advocacy, and accountability. They not only track the implementation of this critical legal framework but also ensure that survivors' voices remain central to shaping how reparation is delivered. Grounded in empirically based documentation of both progress and shortcomings, these tools create space for critical reflection and compel all actors to work toward the full and ethical implementation of the Yazidi Survivor Law in a truly survivor-centered manner."*

— Mairéad Smith, Human Rights Consultant







*“I have been inspired by the resilience of Iraq’s diverse communities. Despite enduring protracted instability, recurrent setbacks, and challenging circumstances, these communities demonstrate remarkable determination to strive for peace, dignity, and a better future!”*

## Interview with Dr. Bojan Gavrilovic, Head of Program for Rights and Justice

### How did you come to work for the Jiyan Foundation, and why have you chosen to stay?

I initially joined Jiyan in 2018 as a consultant tasked with delivering training to Iraqi lawyers on key human rights topics. Following this engagement, I was invited to stay with the organization to contribute more broadly to its work in promoting human rights and advancing transitional justice in Iraq. It is a privilege to work alongside my Iraqi colleagues – of various ethnic and religious backgrounds – who are united in their commitment to supporting victims of human rights violations. Their collective efforts, carried out in an atmosphere of mutual respect and shared purpose, illustrate the potential for cross-community collaboration in the service of justice and societal healing.

### Can you explain the concept of transitional justice?

Transitional justice (TJ) refers to processes and mechanisms through which societies address large-scale past human rights violations to ensure accountability, deliver justice, and promote reconciliation. This is done largely through criminal accountability, truth seeking, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence. In practice, TJ is often applied through a one-size-fits-all approach and donor-driven, rather than based on local needs assessments. An example of this is the prioritization of criminal justice mechanisms at the expense of truth commissions, reparations programs, institutional reforms, and psychosocial support for victims. This may unintentionally fuel future conflicts rather than prevent them. A good example of that is a sweeping purge of Iraq’s civil administration and military following the fall of the Ba’ath regime. This played a key role in the subsequent civil conflict and also facilitated the rise of ISIS, whose leadership absorbed former military officers with professional expertise and organizational capabilities.

### How is the situation of transitional justice in Iraq different from other contexts?

A persistent challenge in Iraq is the chronic absence of political and social stability. The lack of sustained periods free from crisis has hindered the development of democratic institutions and processes, which require time, security, and steady economic growth to take root. This fragility is compounded by the continued powerful influence of paramilitary groups. Addressing these structural issues is essential for the success of any long-term transitional justice and reconciliation efforts in Iraq.

### What led to the creation of the Coalition for Just Reparations (C4JR), and what are its core objectives?

The C4JR was established to challenge divisive narratives, foster intercommunal solidarity, and promote mutual recognition of suffering. The coalition embodies the Jiyan Foundation’s commitment to preventing future violence by acknowledging the need to expand beyond its core mission of providing rehabilitation services to survivors. As one organization cannot produce a meaningful effect on its own, a reasonable decision was made to join forces with other like-minded organizations. The coalition emphasizes the importance of designing strategies that resonate with local realities. Rather than issuing vague calls for justice, the coalition advocates targeted interventions by addressing specific authorities and proposing precise measures.

### What have been the successes and missed opportunities concerning TJ in Iraq in the last 10 years?

One of the most significant achievements was certainly the passing of the Yazidi Female Survivors Law (YSL) in the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The Jiyan Foundation, through its work on C4JR, has substantially contributed to the improvement of the initial draft of the YSL and its eventual successful adoption. More broadly, we have played a key role in placing reparations for survivors of the ISIS conflict at the center of transitional justice efforts. Our work has emphasized the importance of ethical and survivor-centred engagement.

Furthermore, we have contributed to advancing survivor-friendly criminal justice processes, conducted effective reporting, and addressed critical issues through evidence-based advocacy. We have supported the creation of an environment in which survivors and civil society actors can influence policy, pursue justice, and contribute to lasting societal healing.

Regarding missed opportunities, I would say that between 2015 and 2020, Iraq missed the chance to establish a criminal accountability mechanism for prosecuting international crimes committed by ISIS.

The Global Coalition against ISIS provided major support to Iraq in the process of defeating ISIS militarily. Therefore, the creation of a specialized or even a hybrid tribunal was probably feasible. Additionally, this period presented a critical opportunity to advance the right to truth by establishing a Truth commission to investigate the rapid rise of ISIS and its swift territorial gains, which left civilians exposed to widespread atrocities.

### To what extent could the lessons learned from the Iraqi experience be applied in Syria?

Iraq and Syria share several structural and historical similarities. A notable distinction lies in the nature of the regime change. While Iraq’s regime was overthrown through a foreign-led military invasion, the overthrow of the Assad regime in Syria emerged largely from internal dynamics.

By applying lessons learned from Iraq, where UNITAD’s mandate ended prematurely without a single case of international crimes adjudicated in the country, the UN should request clear commitment from the Syrian government where support is to be conditioned with reaching concrete milestones, and prosecuting cases.

Unlike Iraq, Syria should swiftly establish a legal framework to support a criminal accountability mechanism capable of addressing atrocities. Syria would benefit from a grassroots strategy, encompassing key TJ mechanisms such as criminal accountability, truth-seeking processes, reparations and especially guarantees of non-repetition.

Syrian civil society and survivor groups are encouraged to form collaborative platforms or coalitions. Such a coalition could critically monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of TJ mechanisms, including reparations programs, criminal trials, survivor participation, and efforts to locate missing persons.

Finally, it is essential to distinguish these TJ initiatives from parallel efforts such as development aid, institutional reforms, rule of law reforms, or disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs to ensure that TJ maintains its unique focus on accountability, truth, and redress for victims of mass atrocities.

**Dr. Bojan Gavrilovic is the Head of Program for Rights and Justice at the Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, where he focuses on reparations for survivors of atrocity crimes. He holds a doctoral degree from the University of Hamburg and has more than 20 years of experience in the Balkans, MENA region and Germany working on torture prevention, monitoring places of detention and transitional justice.**





## Democracy & Civil Society



*“Every dialogue session feels like a small victory. We witness walls coming down one by one as communities begin to realise they have more in common than what divides them. It’s in these moments that real hope for coexistence takes root.”*

*Viyan Azad, Dialogue Program Coordinator*

Our Program for Democracy and Civil Society brings people together to address the fractures that divide Iraqis and Syrians. We strive to build trust between communities, strengthen agency, and promote democratic values. Over the past two years, activities included interethnic and interreligious dialogue, human rights education in schools and educational institutions, and volunteer mobilisation among young adults within the Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue. Activities took place across all Jiyan branches in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, as well as Mosul, Kirkuk, and Qamishli in Syria. Towards the end of 2024, we also began small-scale community mobilisation in rural areas to address both past and current conflicts.

Despite these efforts, tensions between ethnic, religious, and political groups in Iraq and Syria continued to rise in 2023 and 2024. Solidarity and trust—already fragile—remain at risk of further deterioration through fragmenting governance structures, hindering reconciliation and peace. Against this backdrop, our work remains deeply relevant to society’s immediate needs.

### Dialogue and co-existence

We significantly expanded our interethnic and interreligious dialogue sessions, reaching 5,371 participants—four times more than in the previous two years. These sessions, often hosted at religious institutions, brought together adults from diverse communities and included clerics wherever possible to add legitimacy. The meetings revealed a growing curiosity among communities to learn more about their neighbours, yet the challenges of social fragmentation persist. Through these dialogues, we aim to create instigators of social cohesion within communities themselves.



Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ A total of 5,371 individuals participated in 386 interethnic and interreligious dialogue sessions.
- ✓ 442 human rights education sessions reached 6,662 children and teenagers.
- ✓ 3 workshops on memory, peace, and trauma attended by all 40 members of the Youth Network.
- ✓ 1 staff manual for strengthening youth engagement and peacebuilding.

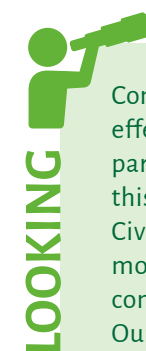


### Human Rights Education

Our staff conducted 442 human rights education sessions, reaching 6,662 children and teenagers. Each program consisted of three classroom sessions, giving students the opportunity to review material, think critically, ask questions, and engage with human rights on a deeper level. The three-step approach also allowed staff to adjust content to the needs of each group. However, with reduced funding and human rights education being gradually integrated into the official school curriculum, this project is likely to be phased out.

### Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue

The Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue continued to grow stronger. In 2023–2024, all 40 members participated in three workshops on memory, peace, and trauma. Additionally, we developed one practical manual for staff working with young adults, providing a framework for fostering dialogue, resilience, and collaboration.



## AHEAD

Confronting issues through activism is most effective when it includes the direct participation of those most affected. With this in mind, the Program for Democracy and Civil Society is enhancing its efforts to mobilise communities to deal with the consequences of past and present conflicts. Our specialised staff received training to guide this process. Currently, the most advanced effort supports the rural Kaka’i community south of Kirkuk, many of whom have been denied access to their land by the Iraqi army or lost land and homes in the past. In response, we’re working to organise local youth groups, promote advocacy, and connect stakeholders. This framework not only strengthens local resilience but also enables knowledge exchange and mutual support across Jiyan’s projects.







Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ 40 active youth members from Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities.
- ✓ 3 workshops on memory, peace, and trauma.
- ✓ 2 annual Summer Academies in Germany, organized by Wings of Hope in cooperation with the Youth Network, connecting Iraqi youth with peers from other conflict-affected regions.
- ✓ 15 community awareness sessions on peace, dialogue, and social cohesion.
- ✓ 8 environmental initiatives, including tree planting, clean-up campaigns, and awareness sessions on protecting nature.



# YOUTH NETWORK FOR PEACE AND DIALOGUE STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION THROUGH YOUTH ACTIVISM

The Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue, first conceived in 2019 with our partners at Wings of Hope, brings together 40 activists between the ages of 18 and 28 from different ethnic and religious communities in Iraq—including Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians, Yazidis, Turkmen, Shabak, Kaka'i/Yarsan, and Christians. The purpose of the network is to build social cohesion, encourage activism, and foster agency among young adults who share a vision of peace and cooperation with their neighbours.

### Dialogue, Activism, and Shared Learning

Members of the Youth Network engage in workshops, community coordination meetings, and awareness-raising sessions that encourage meaningful interaction across communities. Through these sessions, participants share perspectives, gain knowledge of one another's histories and traditions, and learn practical tools for conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The program also includes training on memory, trauma, and peace, fostering a deeper understanding of Iraq's complex past and present.

Dialogue alone can only move the needle so far in conflict resolution. While intergroup friction may be a precursor to war, material disputes and political exclusion are often instigators of violence. The Youth Network therefore promotes activism as a tool for implementation and political pressure, encouraging young people to advocate for equal rights, accountability, and democratic representation.

### The Summer Academy

For many participants, the highlight of the program is the annual Summer Academy in Germany, organised by Wings of Hope in cooperation with the Youth Network. The Academy provides intensive training in conflict transformation and peacebuilding, while also connecting Iraqi youth with peers from other conflict-affected regions around the world. This international exchange strengthens solidarity and inspires new approaches to peacebuilding at home.

### Environmental Engagement

The Youth Network recognises that protecting the environment is an essential part of building peace. Members have launched environmental initiatives such as tree planting, waste collection campaigns, and awareness sessions on climate change. Young activists foster unity, responsibility, and pride across long-divided communities by caring for their shared environment.

### Building a Culture of Peace

The Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue has grown into a professional youth-led movement that combines dialogue, activism, and environmental engagement. By empowering the next generation of Iraqi leaders, it nurtures trust, resilience, and coexistence in a region long scarred by division and violence.

*"Protecting nature has become a way to protect peace. Planting trees or cleaning our streets together serves as a reminder that everyone, regardless of religion or ethnicity, owns the environment."*

— Sara, Youth Network Member

*"When young people from different backgrounds sit together and talk, something powerful happens. We start to see each other not as strangers, but as neighbours with the same hopes for peace."*

— Aram, Youth Network Member





## "I SAW HUMANITY AND FELT SAFETY AMONG THEM."

The Youth Network for Peace and Dialogue aims to transform antagonistic or discriminatory group dynamics into meaningful connections that foster coexistence. For Samira, a young Yazidi woman, this mission became personal.

For years, she had longed for an opportunity to speak openly about the suffering of her community. She believed dialogue was not only a path to healing but also a way to create understanding among neighbours who often knew little about the Yazidi experience. When a friend recommended the Youth Network, Samira gathered her courage and joined a workshop, aware of the challenges that came with sharing painful truths in such a diverse space.

What she found was unexpected: "I saw humanity and felt safety among them," she recalls. "I shared with them what had happened with me and the Yazidi community, and I felt that there were people who felt my sadness. It was a difficult period, and at the same time a very beautiful one, because I had been waiting for this opportunity for many years, to let some people know what happened to us, and what we lived through."

Through the Youth Network, Samira shared her story and discovered that difference does not need to be a barrier to peaceful coexistence. Her courage and honesty created a ripple effect, encouraging others to listen, empathise, and carry the message of peace back to their communities.

"Samira showed the power of speaking from the heart," reflects Sidel Jamal, project coordinator. "Her story created empathy in the room and inspired others to open up. This is precisely how peace begins—through honesty, trust, and human connection."







## Training & Capacity Building



*“The training on art therapy provided me with powerful tools to use with refugee and IDP children. Through creative expression, they were able to release painful emotions, reduce anxiety, and take their first steps toward healing.”*

*Bakhtyar Hadi, psychotherapist*

The years 2023 and 2024 were both intense and insightful for the Capacity Building Team. Despite changes in team size and structure, we pursued all projects with high quality, expanding knowledge with external partners while strengthening Jijan's own internal expertise.

Over these two years, we reached more than 4,000 external participants through seminars tailored for full-, para-, and non-professionals in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). These sessions raised awareness about the importance of mental health, its components, and practical ways to support it. At the same time, we conducted over 250 internal training sessions for our staff, equipping them with skills relevant to their roles.

Our training covered a wide range of topics, from MHPSS fundamentals such as self-care, psychotraumatology, and therapeutic approaches (including art therapy and narrative exposure therapy) to organisational skills such as administration, facilitation, didactics, case management, leadership, and advanced communication. We also included training on human rights and democracy, strengthening both professional expertise and civic engagement. These efforts have solidified Jijan's reputation as a regional leader in high-quality MHPSS education and capacity building.



Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ 4,000+ external participants trained in MHPSS.
- ✓ 250+ internal training sessions for Jijan staff.
- ✓ Expanded use of Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) for children who were formerly associated with armed forces and armed groups.
- ✓ Training programs integrated with human rights and democracy education.



## Strategic Direction

In 2023–2024, the Capacity Building Team chose to deepen and consolidate knowledge in established applied methods, rather than expand into many new approaches. The exception was our work with children associated with armed groups, where we introduced Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET). This approach has proven to be highly effective, but our evaluations also showed the importance of combining it with methods such as cognitive behaviour therapy.

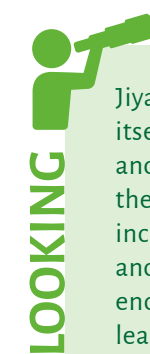
This reflects Jijan's strength: not only implementing and testing new approaches but also evaluating their effectiveness and adapting them to meet the complex needs of survivors.

*“For me, these trainings are more than professional development. They reflect Jijan's mission: restoring dignity and hope to survivors of trauma and human rights violations.”*

*— Dr Nabaz Ahmad, psychotherapist*

*“I attended training on trauma-informed care. While I was already familiar with the subject, the sessions offered new perspectives and explained key concepts in a simple, accessible way. This has helped me communicate more effectively with clients who face similar challenges in their recovery journey.”*

*— Roza Taha, psychotherapist*



## AHEAD

Jijan is continuing its efforts to establish itself as a prominent provider for training and education in various MHPSS topics in the region, Syria and Iraq alike, and aims to increase its capacity to promote civil society and democratic development. It is Jijan's endeavour to establish institutionalised learning opportunities for different target groups. Aside from the continued project of establishing an MA-program for mental health and psychotherapy at one of Iraq's Kurdish universities, we also plan to establish an academy with a non-academic requirement to allow consecutive education, open for para- and full-professionals, either in Syria or in Iraq.





Scan for more

## Achievements 2023/24

- ✓ 3 scientific studies on MHPSS in Kurdistan, highlighting service gaps, professional challenges, and the impact of Jiyan's therapy model.
- ✓ Conference, "Mental Health and Psychological Support in Kurdistan: The Provider's Perspective," with 70+ participants from 20+ institutions.
- ✓ Advanced planning for the Jiyan Institute for Mental Health, including curriculum development, university partnerships, and staff recruitment.



# JIYAN INSTITUTE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

## ADVANCED EDUCATION SERVES AS A CORNERSTONE FOR BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

Providers of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) face profound challenges. Cultural stigma, weak institutional frameworks, and limited educational resources continue to create barriers to effective mental health care. Many people still turn to traditional or religious healers, while psychotherapy remains stigmatised and poorly understood. The lack of governmental willingness and resources to building the needed mental health services is a consequence of this stigma. In effect, standardised training for therapists is lacking, referral systems are underdeveloped, and the constitutional framework for mental health professions is highly insufficient. Recognition of psychotherapy as a profession, including a formal job description and legal framework, is urgently needed.

Responding to these challenges, the Jiyan Foundation commissioned three scientific studies to examine research, professional conditions, and the efficiency of therapeutic methods in KRI:

- The first study provided a comprehensive literature review of MHPSS in the region over the last ten years. It highlighted the shortage of trained professionals, inadequate healthcare infrastructure, and persistent stigma, while reaffirming the urgent need for services.
- The second study focused on the occupational challenges of psychologists in KRI, including restrictive licensing procedures, lack of public employment opportunities, and limited professional recognition. It called for systemic reforms to strengthen licensing, expand training, and ensure government support.
- The third study evaluated Jiyan's therapy model, showing strong results: adults reported reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety; children and adolescents showed improved emotional and behavioural well-being; and gender-specific physical symptoms, especially among women, were alleviated. The study also emphasised the need for targeted interventions for displaced populations and culturally adapted approaches.

These issues were brought to the forefront during the conference "Mental Health and Psychological Support in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Survivors' Perspective," hosted by Jiyan in December 2024. With over 70 participants from more than 20 institutions, the conference called for culturally sensitive practices, stronger collaboration between psychiatrists and psychotherapists, and formal recognition of psychotherapy as a regulated profession in KRI. Participants stressed the importance of clear job descriptions, legal frameworks for clinic operations, and ensuring quality of care.

Building on two decades of experience, the Jiyan Foundation is now working to establish the Jiyan Institute for Mental Health at an Iraqi-Kurdish university. This institute will offer a comprehensive two-year master's program, integrating trauma-informed care with culturally adapted methodologies to prepare a new generation of professionals to meet the region's specific needs. We are already developing the curriculum, forming partnerships with the Kurdistan Region's universities, and recruiting faculty. By bridging research, education, and clinical practice, the Jiyan Institute has the potential to transform mental healthcare in Iraq. It will create a sustainable model that prioritises accessibility, cultural relevance, and professional excellence.

We extend our gratitude to the Else-Kröner-Fresenius-Foundation for providing crucial funding for our endeavour.

*"I see it as our responsibility to establish an Institute for Mental Health in Iraq. Traumatic survivors of conflict have a right to fair treatment. The need remains enormous, and we must increase efforts to build capacity. The institute will lay a cornerstone for the future, not only in Kurdistan but in the entire region."*

— Salah Ahmad, Chairman





# Financial Transparency

## 2023 & 2024



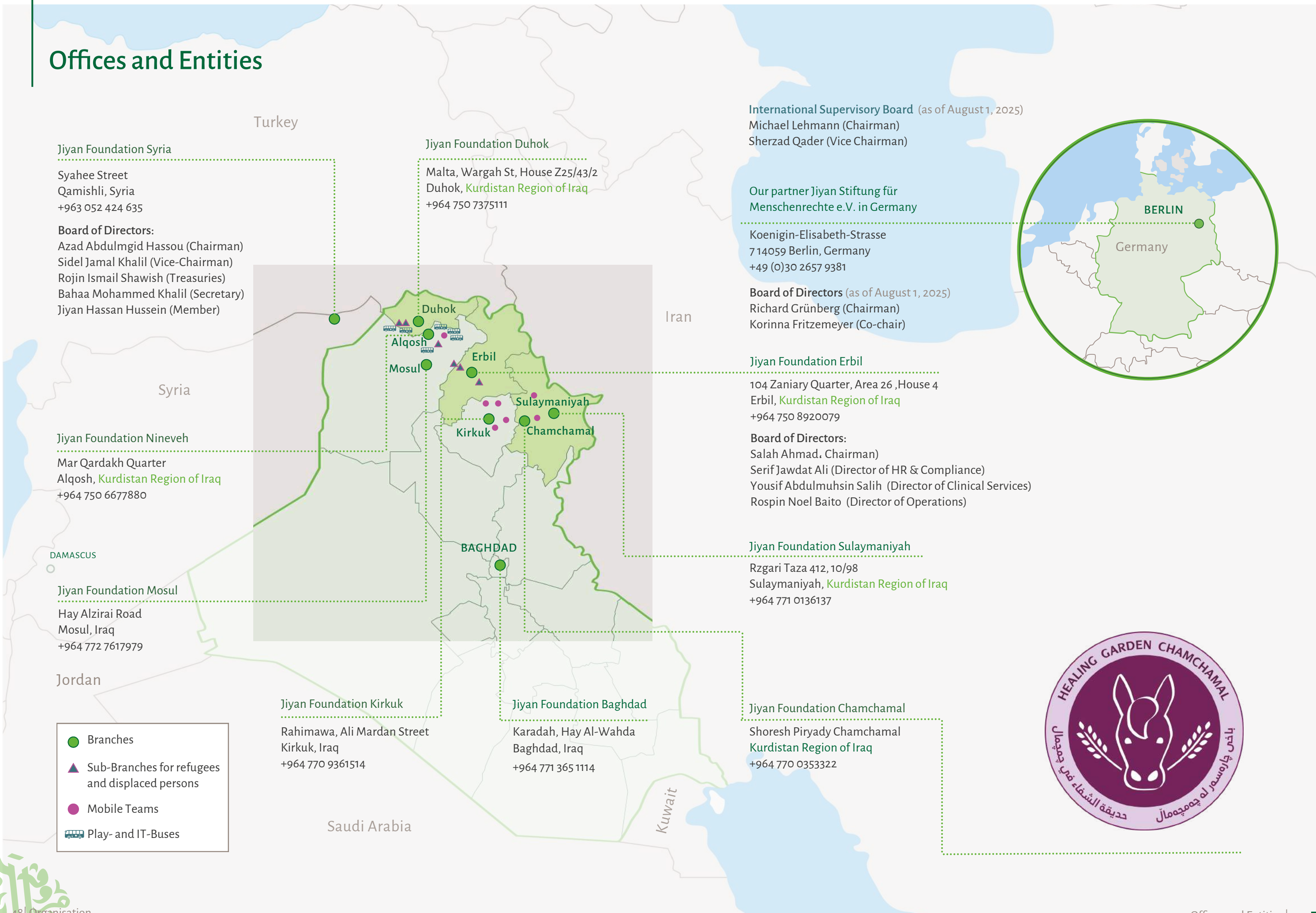
Income in US Dollars	2023	2024
Grants	3,619,641.22	3,210,059.91
Donations and Fundraising	2,664.15	21,291.37
Total Grants and Donations	3,622,305.37	3,231,351.28
Other income	9,017.42	110,824.51
Previous Years balance carried forward	643,001.32	-139,719.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,274,324.11</b>	<b>3,202,456.52</b>

Expenses in US Dollars	2023	2024
Investment costs	55,102.46	26,613.48
Staff costs	2,463,360.44	1,710,577.15
Operations	459,474.88	303,045.03
Public relations	19,289.81	44,255.73
Patient services	112,907.86	83,133.69
Capacity building	343,560.66	407,500.47
Medication	195,385.83	80,972.14
Travel costs	99,440.07	78,161.37
Office costs	251,539.21	180,670.77
Auditing	21,255.96	21,251.60
Funding forwarded to project partners	392,726.20	259,752.88
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,414,043.38</b>	<b>3,195,934.31</b>
Amount carried forward for next year	-139,719.27	6,522.21

Our Donors	2023	2024
German Foreign Office	361,015.95	400,570.22
GIZ	318,139.78	249,444.70
Center for Victims of Torture	122,108.50	63,420.77
Ein Herz für Kinder	36,515.00	
Misereor	1,693,375.29	1,680,093.65
Autonomous Province of Bolzano-Alto Adige	57,889.91	13,282.95
US State Department	276,846.82	460,000.00
Johanniter	730,901.30	
ECPAT	24,821.94	2,685.43
United Nations	8,000.00	42,000.00
Evangelical Church in Hesse and Nassau		61,592.92
Else Kröner-Fresenius Stiftung		5,787.98
IRCT		25,550.40
European Union		202,848.13
Donations	2,664.15	67,725.87
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,632,278.64</b>	<b>3,275,003.02</b>



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Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our partners and donors

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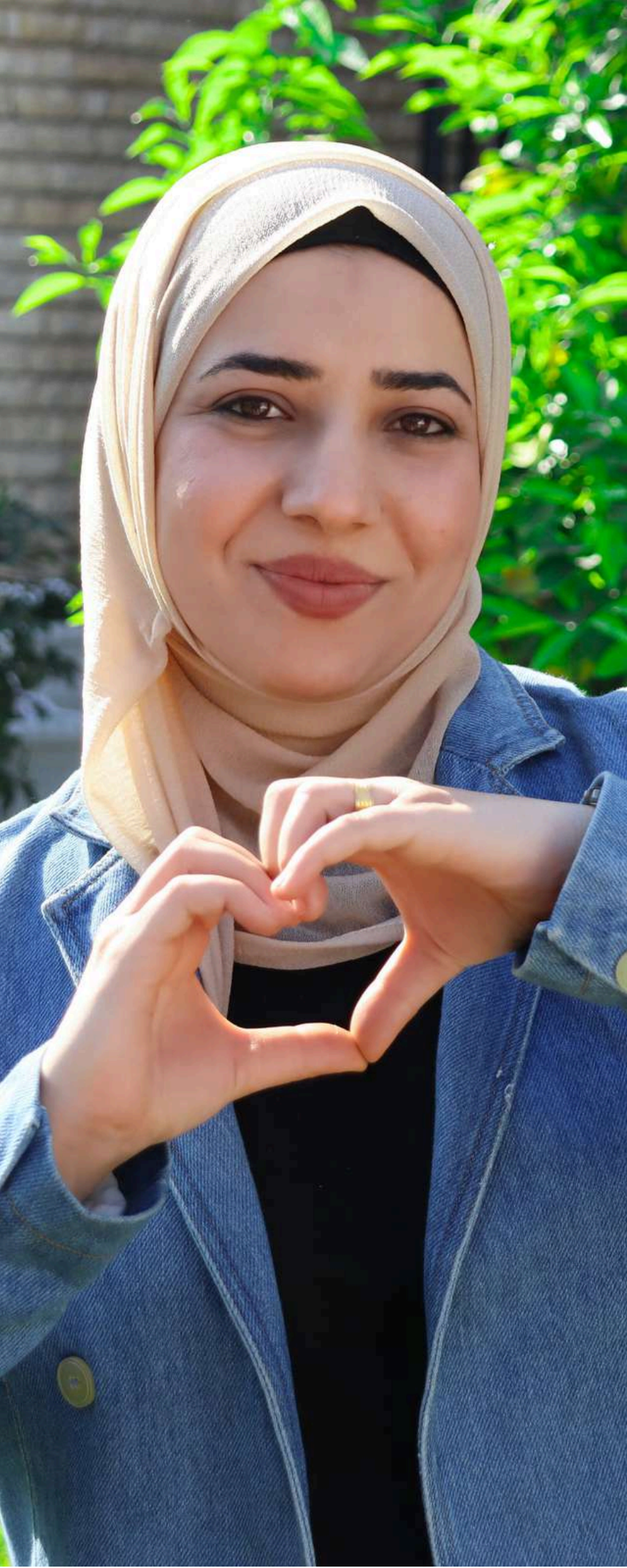


## Membership



...and the individual supporters from around the world.





## OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF FUNDERS AND DONORS LIKE YOU.

We invite you to join our efforts and make a gift towards our work in Kurdistan-Iraq, Iraq and Syria.

Our work follows the core values set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We believe in human dignity and promote respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the declaration. We help survivors of human rights violations, regardless of their age, gender, ethnic or religious affiliation.

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights seeks a democratic society that protects the dignity of the human being, where adults and children realise their rights to life and liberty, and citizens are free from torture and terror.

Our programs provide mental health, medical treatment and other support services to survivors of war, terror, domestic and sexualised violence and human rights violations throughout Kurdistan, Iraq, and Syria. Since 2005, these programs have supported over 150,000 survivors.

## Ways to give

### ➤ Donate via our website

It's quick and easy to donate via our website. You can make a donation by credit card, SEPA direct debit or PayPal.

[donate.jiyan.org](https://donate.jiyan.org)



### ➤ Donation account in Germany

Jiyan Stiftung für Menschenrechte e.V.  
Ethikbank  
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IBAN: DE48830944950003319644

### ➤ Donation account in Iraq

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights / Sulaymaniyah  
Kurdistan International Bank for Investment and Development  
BIC/SWIFT: KIBIIQBA  
IBAN: IQ30097825163006820001

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