

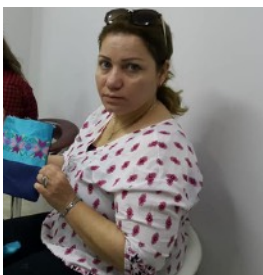


Anaheed Story

We first met Anaheed at one of our Alhadaf campaigns. She was a beautiful woman but with sad eyes that you could not ignore. She wore black from top to bottom. After meeting her, we knew that she had escaped her country because of ISIS all by herself. The reason behind her wearing black is her husband was kidnapped and he's missing until this very day. She assumed he was dead and started wearing black since then. The feeling of not knowing where he is or not being able to bury him never left her alone, it filled her with so much pain and anxiety.

“Since I joined the support group at Alhadaf, I found a safe place to share my feelings, my fears, my anxiety without being judged or looked down to as a weak person” Anaheed said

She started attending our Basic English course because she applied for a visa as an asylum seeker to Australia. She was really quiet at the beginning and didn't participate although her level was more advanced than the other students. After a couple of months, she raised her hand and solved one of the questions on the whiteboard for the first time.



She successfully finished the course with a very high evaluation mark, we were all extremely proud of her. Then, without hesitation, she joined our very first professional makeup course. A couple of classes later and after gaining many of the basic skills needed, we started seeing a great smile on her face while applying makeup on another person's face. We could tell by then how much the programs got the best out of her as if the light inside her started shining again.



Later, we had some guests at Alhadaf while Anaheed was attending one of the courses. They asked the group if they still have faith in Jesus Christ. Anaheed raised her hand and said: “We left Iraq because we love Jesus Christ, why would we ever stop having faith in Him?”

Her successful dedication to surviving trauma did not stop here. Today, Anaheed wears all colors, and more importantly, wears a beautiful smile on her face. She also took our sewing course and happily shared her experience at Alhadaf with everyone she meets. Better news, her application got approved and she is now in Australia with her daughter who recently had a baby. The sadness of losing her husband, her home, her country is still there but now as she told us “I am stronger in him to survive this life”,