

SLEMANI: KSC President Sara Rashid Celebrates Decades of Impact, Highlights Vision for Every Child's Future at the KSC Variety Show

'KSC is more than an organization. It is a movement. A family. A light. We must see every child safe, every youth empowered and every adult engaged in building a compassionate society.' – Sara Rashid

KSC – Press Release

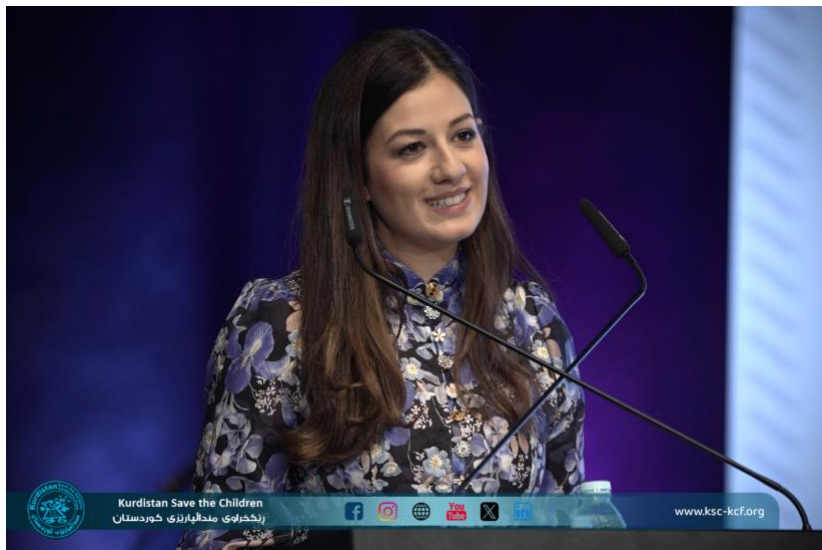
12 December 2024

Sleman, Iraq – Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) President Sara Rashid outlined an ambitious vision for the organization's future, building on its proud legacy to expand initiatives and forge new partnerships. The plan reaffirms KSC's steadfast commitment to supporting children and youth across Iraq's Kurdistan Region and beyond.

Speaking at the KSC Variety Show in a hall filled with children, youth, families and prominent guests, including Iraq's First Lady and KSC founder Shanaz Ibrahim Ahmad, Sara Rashid highlighted KSC's groundbreaking initiatives over the past decades, including the establishment of a pediatric heart hospital, national cancer awareness campaigns and the "No to Drugs, Yes to Life" campaign.

She emphasized that KSC's achievements are made possible through the generosity of kind donors—individuals, companies and charities.

"Without them, we wouldn't be able to do our work. Alone, we cannot do anything without our partners," she said.



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Sara Rashid went on to share her personal connection to KSC, recalling childhood memories of participating in fundraising events with her mother.

“These were more than just events—they were lessons in compassion, resilience, and the power of collective action,” she said, emphasizing that her journey to KSC leadership was shaped by these early experiences and her lifelong commitment to the organization’s mission.

Looking to the future, she described KSC as more than an organization: “It is a movement. A family. A light. We must see every child safe, every youth empowered, and every adult engaged in building a compassionate society.”

As the evening concluded, KSC’s President expressed her optimism and gratitude: “Yes, the challenges are immense, but so is our determination. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.”

The full transcript of Sara Rashid’s speech follows:

First Lady of Iraq, Shanaz Ibrahim Ahmed, dear children, and respected families—welcome.

It is truly an honor to stand before you tonight at this wonderful event, and see this hall filled with children, youth and adults—all united in support of creativity.

As many of you know, Kurdistan Save the Children (KSC) was born in 1991, founded by two remarkable women: Ms Hero and Ms Shanaz, alongside a group of dedicated volunteers. Some of them are with us today, like Ms Runak, while others are deeply missed. Together, they planted seeds of hope and change during a time when these were desperately needed. Their vision was simple yet profound: to ensure every child, no matter the circumstances, has the right to a childhood.



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I remember being just 4 years old when I accompanied my mother to fundraising events, helping collect donations for children in need. These were more than just gatherings—they were lessons in compassion, resilience and the power of collective action.

Let me be clear that I am not here by chance. Beyond the profound influence of the two founders, this work is my life's calling. I dedicated my academic journey to this very purpose, studying Global Health and researching post-conflict development. And no matter where else I worked, my heart always belonged to KSC.

Since joining the organization in 2012, I have worked at every level. From volunteering at Hiwa Hospital to teaching English at Sarshaqam Kaziwa—although I must admit, I wasn't very good—to supervising emergency child protection responses during a time when there was an influx of 1.2 million displaced persons, as well as representing KSC on global platforms.

Today, as President of KSC, my commitment is to uphold the original values of KSC, and I am deeply proud to continue the journey the founders started, but, on a new path, finding new ways to address today's challenges. Over the past decade, we have tried to adapt to meet the evolving needs of our children and youth. Some of our key initiatives include opening the Pediatric Heart Hospital, and launching national campaigns, such as "No to Drugs, Yes to Life".

Allow me to share a few statistics of our work:

- Since 1991, the sponsorship program has supported 11,930 children.
- In 2024 alone, 1,726 children have accessed our child protection services, and 722 have benefited from surgeries or medical care.
- Over 7,200 youths have participated in skills development projects, and 2,100 children have received services through our educational projects.

These numbers are just a glimpse of what we do.

Many people often ask, "How do you fund your projects? Do you receive government financial support?" The answer is no. Our work is made possible thanks to kind donors—individuals, companies and charities. Without them, we wouldn't be able to do our work. Alone, we cannot do anything without our partners.

To me, KSC is more than an organization. It is a movement. A family. A light. We must see every child safe, every youth empowered, and every adult engaged in building a compassionate society.

As I stand here tonight and look out at all of you, I am filled with optimism. Yes, the challenges are immense, but so is our determination. Together, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

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Thank you to Kurdsat Broadcasting Cooperation for supporting this event. And thank you all for being here tonight, for believing in our cause.

I hope you enjoy the evening.

-ENDS-

ABOUT KSC

KSC is a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian organization that provides assistance to children regardless of race, gender, political or religious affiliation. It operates through four essential programs: Child Protection, Education, Health and Youth Ability Development as well as emergency relief during disasters.

KSC's main aim is to work directly or indirectly to ensure a better future for children by improving and providing their various medical, social, economic and educational needs.

KSC was co-founded in 1991 by Hero Ibrahim Ahmad and Shanaz Ibrahim Ahmad, currently First Lady of Iraq.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: press@ksc-kcf.org

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