

# Youth



# Speak

## Who we are:

Youth Speak is an internationally registered grassroots organization based out of New York and operating in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Our small team includes members from the United States, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and Syria who work to **identify creative ideas** of youth activists to promote social change, work internationally and locally to **foster community networks** to support those ideas, and work with youth activists to **provide mentorship** on project sustainability. Our team only pursues programmatic activities that come from the voices of young people themselves, and sees youth activists as our primary partners.

## Where we work:

Youth Speak currently operates only within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), particularly in Duhok and Ninewa governorates, which are among the regions hardest hit by displacement of Iraqi IDPs (internally displaced people) and Syrian refugees in all of Iraq. However, long term, Youth Speak intends to work with youth affected by conflict across the Middle East and in the United States.

## What we do:

Youth Speak works to identify young people with creative community ideas that have the possibility to create positive social change, but who lack the resources to sustainably support their projects. Youth Speak coordinates with local and international partners who can contribute tangible resources to support these projects, and provides follow-up and mentoring to help projects succeed. To ensure that projects remain locally owned, Youth Speak's aim is to provide discreet support wherever possible, and to amplify the voices of young people in the community rather than taking ownership of the activities they are doing.

Additionally, Youth Speak works with local activists and international partners to provide confidential support to LGBTQ+ youth in Iraq. Through our network, we work to resettle and support young people who are vulnerable to violence through a network of safe-houses within Iraq that we have helped to establish. Additionally, we work to provide referrals as needed for LGBTQ+ refugees to receive support once they leave the country.

## Contact Us:

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