



RAFTO

## FACT SHEET THE 2016 RAFTO PRIZE LAUREATE

### YANAR MOHAMMED (55)

#### Personal information

Place and date of birth: Baghdad, Iraq, 1960  
Residence: Baghdad, Iraq  
Toronto, Canada 1995 – 2003 (exile)

#### Education:

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1993 Masters degree in architecture at Baghdad University  
1984 Bachelors degree in architecture at Baghdad University

#### Positions and work history

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2009 Launched Al-Mousawaat Radio  
2004 Opened shelter for refugee women  
2003 Leader and co-founder of Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq  
2003 Editor of the newspaper Al-Mousawaat (Equality)  
1998 Founder of Defense of Iraqi Women's Rights  
1998 Member of the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq, a Marxist party which stands for a more humanist communism founded on the teachings of Karl Marx.

#### Prizes received and other notable appearances

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2015 Spoke at the UNs Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security  
2008 Peter and Patricia Gruber Foundation's Women's Rights Prize og \$500,000

#### About OWFI

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**The Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (OWFI)** is a feminist organization that works for women's rights, and against the conservative political forces that uphold today's situation, and prevent progress in Iraq. The organization was founded in 2003.

Yanar Mohammed is the leader and co-founder of the organization.

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Women fleeing from sexual abuse and threats are treated as second-class citizens and OWFI provides shelters, protection, and legal services for these women.

The group focuses on protecting women's rights. This includes fighting against trafficking of girls and women. OWFI also operates six safe houses for victims of sexual violence, and importantly OWFI provides protection for Yazidi women and girls fleeing from IS.

OWFI's Al-Mousawat radio station and newspaper informs millions of people on human and women's rights and advocates nationally and internationally to rebuild Iraq on the basis of secular democracy and human rights for all.

Webpage: [www.owfi.info](http://www.owfi.info)

### **Sources**

[http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org/muslimwomen/bio/yanar\\_mohammed/](http://www.wisemuslimwomen.org/muslimwomen/bio/yanar_mohammed/)

<http://gruber.yale.edu/womens-rights/yanar-mohammed>

<https://www.madre.org/people/yanar-mohammed>

<http://www.vday.org/anniversary-events/superlove/bios/mohammed.html#.V8AJYZN94xc>

<http://www.azadizan.net/arc-to-06/english/html/yanarmohammed.htm>

<https://philanthropyforum.org/people/yanar-mohammed/>

