

## **Kurdistan Medical and Scientific Federation (KMSF) - UK**

16th March 2009 marks the 21st Anniversary of Halabja Massacre. Over the past few years many events and conferences have been held to commemorate the victims and to gain International Recognition of this atrocity as an act of genocide committed against the Kurds. In the United Kingdom, the Kurdish Medical Association (KuMA) and Kurdistan Scientific Association (KSA) have played an important role in organizing such events and building links with relevant organizations worldwide.

In 2008, the acknowledgement of the Iraqi Parliament that what were committed in Halabja and during Anfal campaign were indeed acts of Genocide was a great achievement, however much more need to be done towards such recognition at International level.

It is imperative that the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) gave Halabja and Anfal affairs priority, at regional, national and international levels. Improving the quality of life for the survivors of these atrocities and the residents of Halabja should be high on the agenda for KRG.

There is a great need for improvement in Health Care provision for the population of Halabja, considering the long term impact of chemical weapons and the complexity of the physical and the psychological sequel of such atrocities on the survivors. It is a moral obligation for all genuine Kurdish health care professionals in Diaspora to offer their help and support to alleviate the on going suffering of these people and to build up hope in their hearts for a brighter future.

It was with this in mind, that KuMA and KSA took the initiative to offer a gift to those children who will be born on 16th March 2009 in the main hospital of Halabja. Our medical and academic members would also be prepared to offer their expertise to the people of Halabja in liaison with the Ministry of Martyrs and Anfal Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

KMSF Board

15 March 2009