



Join Texans for Peace's Delegation to Visit with Iraqi Women and Families in Jordan

April 2007

Texans for Peace is pleased to announce a delegation to Amman, Jordan for Texas women and professionals to meet with their Iraqi counterparts to gain understanding of the challenges faced by Iraqi families, develop entrepreneurial partnerships, and investigate other ways to support those seeking peace through private-sector initiatives.

During the weeklong trip, delegates will meet a diverse set of Iraqis – some already resident in Jordan and others traveling from Baghdad – and learn firsthand the difficulties they face. The trip will also include meetings with international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide aid to Iraq.

Your participation will provide you with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the diversity of viewpoints while getting some feel for the modern Middle East. It will also allow the Iraqi women to get to know you and learn about Texas perspectives.

This trip is a continuation of the Women's Business Center of Baghdad (WBCB) initiative that was begun in early 2004 with a goal to assist Iraqi women and professionals to organize, finance, and operate their business even while the war continued. Due to the worsening conditions in Iraq, many of these women now reside in Amman as they attempt to provide for their families.

Texans for Peace has been actively involved in Iraq since before the current war. The delegation leader, Charlie Jackson, has traveled to Iraq as recently September 2005 and is in constant communication with a wide range of organizations working to end the war.

When:

Late April (from April 17-25). The delegation will leave Austin on April 17 and spend a total of 7 days in Jordan. A brief orientation will be scheduled for the evening of April 16 before departure.

Where:

Delegates will spend most of their time in Amman (the capital of Jordan) including two days of group meetings with Iraqi women and follow up meetings with individual Iraqi families. The trip will also include visits to outlying areas where Iraq refugees have settled and some contemporary and archeological sightseeing.

Who:

We encourage all interested Texans, particularly business women, professionals and entrepreneurs, to participate. Our objective is to have a delegation that represents a cross-section of Texas in all its ethnic, religious, and social diversity.

How:

Persons interested in participating in a delegation must possess a current passport and must first complete and submit a Delegation Application. Upon receipt of your application and supporting documents, we will begin the selection process. Due to limited availability of seats for this trip, we are obliged to select only the most qualified candidates.

Successful applicants will be contacted with further information about the delegation and requirements for the trip.

Cost:

The cost for each delegate is \$2,600. This covers all costs including: international airfare, hotels and meals, visa expenses, orientation costs, basic tips and gratuities, and an English-speaking tour guide. Delegates are responsible for any incidental or gift purchases and travel to and lodging in Austin.

For selected delegates, a deposit of \$500 will be due on January 30 with the remainder due six weeks before the trip.

Why:

As an organization of "Texans who believe in peace and social justice," Texans for Peace continues to work towards an end to a war that has destroyed the lives and families of both Texans and Iraqis. One way to accomplish this goal is by facilitating direct dialogue and promoting people-to-people diplomacy among citizens of countries whose governments are in conflict. Through firsthand activities we reach out and build trust with our fellow human beings from the "other side" and exchange ideas that can build stable and democratic societies.

We hope this delegation will be the start of greater dialogue and economic partnership between Texans and Iraqis. Ultimately we hope this will generate new processes for ending animosity without resorting to violence.

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