

# NEWROZ RECEPTION



Photo: Nemam

Kurdish New Year Newroz had a fantastic start with a reception that took place at the London Assembly.

More than 100 people were present at this fabulous venue to give a start to Newroz.

There were Kurds from Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran, also important guests present to greet Newroz with the Kurdish community and to show their supports to Kurds, including MPs, politicians and councillors.

Newroz celebration at Alexandra Palace. Left to Right: Steve Hitchens (leader of Islington Council), Sarah Lutford (member of European Parliament), Ibrahim Dogus (Chairman of Halkevi), Joan Ryan (minister in Home Office), Barbara Roche (was MP for Haringey), Dianne Abbot (MP for Hackney), Jeremy Corbyn (MP for Islington), Simon Ghoster (Respect Reps), Sheila Peacock (Mayor of Haringey).

Some of the people who attended the night are below:

**Jennette Arnold** Councillor London

**Joanne McCarthy** Councillor London

**Lynne Featherstone** Councillor London

**Andrew Pelling** Councillor London

**Richard Barnes** Councillor London

**Linda Kelly** Councillor Hackney

**Jamie Carswell** Councillor Hackney

**Nilgun Canver** Councillor Haringey

**Stephen Twigg** Education minister of schools for London

**Sarah Lutford** European Parliament member

**Mark Thomas** Famous English comedian

**Mark Muller** 2nd Chair of Human Rights Committee London

**Meg Hillier** Mp candidate Hackney

**Emily Thornbery** Mp candidate Islington

Many chair and managers of most Kurdish, Turkish, Turkish Cypriot Community .



Reception started at 6:00 pm. The chair of Halkevi Ibrahim Dogus made the opening speech for the night. He welcomed all guests and thanked them for being with the Kurdish community for this important event. He told about the importance of the Newroz for Kurdish people and how meaningful it is for them.

Later Ibrahim Dogus, Arzu Pezmen chair of Fed-Bir made a welcome speech and mentioned that Newroz being celebrated all over Kurdistan and Middle East with a big enthusiasm.



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Newroz Reception at London Assembly. Left to Right: Arzu Pesmen (Chairman of Kurdish federation in the UK), Jennette Arnold (London Assembly member for Islington, Hackney and Waltham Forest), Yashar Ismailoglu (co-ordinator of Halkevi), Ibrahim Dogus (Chairman of Halkevi).

After Arzu Pezmen some of the MPs and councillors made short speeches. It was mentioned that Kurdish people suffered years of struggle just to keep their identity and to be able to speak their language. It was also mentioned that changes have been happening in terms of human rights in Turkey but Kurdish people still do not have all the rights they deserve because there continue to be human rights violations against the Kurds in Turkey. The Kurdish issue can only be solved with a democratic solution.

After speeches, Kurdish food was served while people listened Kurdish music. People socialised during the time it took to serve food.

At the end of the evening speeches were made by other guests, and the night ended with Ibrahim Dogus' closing speech.

It was very satisfying to see all these important people greeting the New Year for Kurds and giving their support to this important event.



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Newroz Reception at London Assembly. Left to Right: Ata Mufty (Chairman of Kurdish Exile Association), Jennette Arnold (GLA member), Linda Kelly (Hackney Council Speaker), Jamie Carswell (Hackney Council cabinet member for Housing, Arzu Pesmen (Chair of Fedbir), Ibrahim Dogus (Chairman of Fedbir).

## Wish you together for ever

Namam's own Sas Draey married Mohammed Alipour on 29th of may 2005 in London after a year long engagement. Mohammed is from east Kurdistan in Sardasht and Sas is from South Kurdistan in Suleymania. It was an unforgettable party, both bride and groom wore traditional Kurdish dress. The bride wore traditional Eastern Kurdish bridal dress, with a red veil and a white sequined dress, with a bouquet of red and white roses to match. The handsome couple entered the hall to a massive crowd of family and friends surrounding them with cheers and dance. Namam wishes the happy couple a long, happy and prosperous life together, all the best xxx.



together for ever