



**The Second Lalish Conference for Peace and co-existence  
25 April 2016  
Lalsih temple  
Shekhan**

**Introduction:**

Two years of occupation and war in Shingal and Ninawa Plains by Dae'sh (ISIS) terrorists, has led to near total destruction of the towns and villages in those areas. The huge devastation can be classified in two ways:

- 1- Destruction of the infrastructure, economy, and services in those areas
- 2- Destruction of the actual fabric of society, and the individuals from those areas

Even though coexistence and social cohesion prospered in Ninawa Plains historically, the invasion of Dae'sh, and subjecting the residents to ethnic and religious cleansing has changed the delicate balance. These crimes of genocide against the local population have led to the destruction of the existing social fabric of society. Which is why as the physical reconstruction of those areas move forward, it is vital that importance is given to the reconstruction of the society as well.

To discuss topics relating to the future of peace and coexistence in those areas, Women's Peace Group, will hold the Second Lalish Conference For Peace in Shekhan, a town with a majority Yazidi population and other religious and ethnic groups on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The aim of the conference will be to discuss the implementation of social justice and help build peace and bring back coexistence to Shingal (Sinjar) and other areas of the Ninawa Plains.

**Conference Goal/ Slogan: Rebuilding the Peace and Coexistence in Sinjar and Ninawa Plains.**

The main topics/ panels for discussion in the conference will be:

- 1- Opening remarks and presenting the follow-up report of the First Lalish Conference.
- 2- Keynote address (TBD)
- 3- Video address by Nadia Murad (ISIS Survivor)
- 4- Launch of #EzidiWomen Campaign
- 5- **Panel I:** Understanding examples of countries, regions, and communities that overcame ethno-religious divides and have healed after wars and fighting. On this panel speakers will share their experiences as participants in peace building efforts in their respective countries. How did they come to sit at the table with their adversaries? Was it possible to overcome their differences? What were the steps that were taken to overcome these rifts? Have these communities moved on? Is there a chance that violence will return to their areas? How have the different groups maintained the peace? Is it sustainable for the future? How do the different communities feel justice was applied? What were the major challenges they faced? How were these challenges overcome? These and many other questions will be discussed to help us understand how they did it.

Speakers Are:

- a. Mr. Adnan Mufti: Former Speaker of the Kurdistan Parliament
- b. Niaamat Ahmadi: Darfur Women Action Group
- c. Prof. Paul Separovic: Former Minister of Justice, Kosovo

6- **Panel II:** International bodies and mechanisms that exist or existed in the past which helped in the reconciliation and rehabilitation processes between the different communities after war, examples from around the world. On this panel of experts, who have worked on Reconciliation, we will discuss: What are the different theories and mechanisms that exist and have been applied? Is there a simple recipe that can be applied in post conflict areas? Is there right or wrong when pushing for reconciliation? How can the results of reconciliation maintain sustainability? At what stage of the reconciliation process should justice be applied? Before they even start? Or should it take place after reconciliation has been agreed on? Is there a single correct way or formula to devise such a process

Speakers are:

- a. Dr. Grgory Stanton (Genocide Watch)
- b. UN: Anne Hagood (UNDP)
- c. Role of Media: Hiwa Osaman (Media Expert)

7- **Panel III:** The role of women in advocating for social justice, reconstruction and Peace building. On this panel the speakers will discuss how women can be part of the rebuilding effort on different fronts: economically, socially, politically, and psychologically. , and as part from Development

Speakers Are:

- a. Pakhsahn Zangana (Hight women's Council- KRG)
- b. Dr. Balkis from Yemen
- c. Dr. Choman Hardi (Head of Gender Studies Research Center- AUIS)
- d. Dr. Chnar Saad; Ashti Group
- e. Mrs. Bayan Tawfiq; Former Iraqi Minister of Women's Affairs
- f. Dr. Bayan Rasul; Psychiatrist (Emma organization for human development)

8- **Panel IV: The Future of coexistence between the ethno-religious groups in Shingal (Sinjar) and Ninawa Plains from the social, psychological and political perspective.** Leaders from the different ethno-religious groups will speak about previous experiences of co-

existence; and if there is hope for the future. On this panel we will explore how life used to be prior to the invasion, did co-existence exist previously? Is there hope that the different ethno-religious group will be able to live side by side again? What will it take to bring things back to the way life used to be? Will they be willing to work together to rebuild those areas?

Speakers Are:

- a. Nawfal Hamadi Al- Sultan Mayer of Mosul
- b. Jubraeel (Christian cleric)
- c. Sido Jito :Yazadi (Member of the Mosul Provincial Council)
- d. Khazwan : Shabak
- e. Luqman Najim Abdulla :Turkman

**Conference Details:**

- Duration: 1 day
- Location: Shekhan District, Mosul - Opening in Lalish
- Number of attendants: 70-100 persons
- Dates: Monday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016