

Kurdish Diaspora and Advocacy- Lobbying Efforts



Dr. Pary Karadaghi

The Meaning of Diaspora

- Diaspora is originally from the [Greek](#) language meaning scattering or dispersion
- Diaspora is "the movement, migration, or scattering of people away from an established or ancestral homeland" or
- People dispersed by whatever cause to more than one location, or
- People settled far from their ancestral homelands

The Role of the Kurdish Diaspora

- Kurds in the US
- Kurds in Canada
- Kurds in Europe
- Kurds in Australia
- Kurds in New Zealand
- Kurds in Middle East
- Kurds in North Africa

The Role of the Kurdish Diaspora in Promoting Kurdish rights

- Kurdish Diaspora have played and continue to play a significant role in promoting human rights, the right to self-determination, and the branding of Kurdistan as an internationally accepted nationality
- In Iran, Syria and Turkey the basic rights of Kurdish identity is forbidden. Kurds in Syria have lost their citizenship and are stateless since the 1960s.

Definition of Lobbying

Lobbying or **lobby** is the act of attempting to influence decisions made by officials in the government, most often legislator or members of government agencies. Lobbying in the US is done by many different types of people and organized groups:

- Individuals in the private sector, corporations, fellow legislators or government officials, non-profit organizations, or advocacy or interest groups.

Advocacy Groups

- Advocacy groups, or lobby & interest groups;
- Special interest groups use various forms of advocacy to influence public opinion and/or US foreign policy; they have played and continue to play an important part in the development of political and social systems. Groups vary considerably in size, influence and motive; some have wide ranging long term social purposes, others are focused and are a response to an immediate issue or concern.

The Role of Kurdish Advocacy Groups

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- Motives for action may be based on a shared political, faith, moral, the rights to self-determination, or basic human rights position.
- Kurdish Diaspora can use varied methods to try to achieve our aims including lobbying, media campaigns, publicity stunts, polls, research and policy briefings.
- Socio Economic Factors-Kurds in the United States are still relatively new to this country some are still struggling economically and have adjustment issues, education, immigration, employment, housing, etc.
- Community Building in the United States and Canada
- Business Initiative and Income Generation for our population- Encouraging business development in Kurdistan-KRG and Southern Kurdistan

The Role of Kurdish Women

- Kurdish women continue to play and have played significant role in preserving the culture and the ethnic heritage
- Kurdish women have sacrificed and are equal partners of men
- Recognition of women rights as human rights
- Promotion of girls and women education
- Participation of women in the decision making process as it pertains to Kurdish cause and Kurdistan

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