What Can The Kurdish Medical Profession in Diaspora Do For The Health System in Kurdistan?

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Background

- Over the past two decades a significant number of Kurdish doctors have settled in Europe and North America.
- As a result, a number of formal Kurdish/Kurdistani medical organisations have been established, such as Kurdish Medical Association (KuMA-UK), and Kurdish Medical Society (Sweden).
- One of the main aims of these organisations is to support the medical education and health services in Kurdistan.
KuMA - UK

- Established in 2005
- Independent organisation
- Represents Kurdish doctors, dentists and pharmacists in the UK.
- Over 150 registered members
- 11 elected council members including president and secretary.
- Last election was November 2009
Kurdistan Medical and Scientific Federation-UK (KMSF)

Kurdish Medical Association (KuMA)

Support Committee for Higher Education in Iraqi Kurdistan (SCHEIK)

Kurdistan Scientific Association (KSA)
KuMA – UK: Survey of members in 2008

- Over 90% of its members are from Iraqi Kurdistan.
- Over 90% of members are graduates of Iraqi Medical Schools.
- Over 80% of members are in training posts.
- Members are evenly distributed among different specialities.
KuMA – UK: Survey of members in 2008 (cont.)

- 85% eventually will go back to Kurdistan permanently.

- 100% are willing to come back to Kurdistan and contribute to improving the health of Kurdistan population on regular bases if needed.
KuMA – UK: Activities in the past

Medical education

- Providing visiting examiners for all three Medical Schools in Kurdistan.
- Providing visiting lecturers for all three Medical Schools in Kurdistan.
- Participating in medical conferences.
- Recommendations/proposals for KRG Ministry of Higher Education with for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical Education and Training in Kurdistan (KBMS)
KuMA – UK: Activities in the past (cont.)

Health

- Organising clinical attachment for individual doctors from Kurdistan within the National Health Service (NKS) in UK.
- Individual KUMA members have visited and organised Clinics and operation lists in Kurdistan.
- Coordinated Link between different Royal colleges in the UK and previous Minister of Health.
- Organising meetings in London for different KRG Ministers to meet doctors in the UK.
KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan

- Continue as before
- Or
- Have clear vision and task for future with accountability to MoH and mutually agreed responsibilities.
KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan (cont.)

- Coordinating links between KRG MoH and different Uk universities for training mainly non doctors forces.....
  - Sheffield's Hallam University
  - University of Essex 's School of Health & Human science

- Link with different Royal Colleges (KuMA has members form different Royal Colleges in the UK).
KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan

- **Supporting the MoH in:**
  - Establishing a Patient Centred Health System
  - Creating a governing body for doctors in Kurdistan (Kurdish General Medical Council)
  - Establishing National Protocols, Audit and Guidelines for Hospitals in Kurdistan
  - Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development
KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan (cont.)

- Providing expertise from some of our members.
- Sharing our experience as doctors outside Kurdistan.
KuMA - UK and Future Roles in Kurdistan (cont.)

- Having an advisory role for the Ministry of Health in relation to Medical Education in Kurdistan.
  - Undergraduates training (Medical schools)
  - Kurdistan board of Medical Specialisation (KBMS)
Summery

- KuMA uk is a well established Kurdish independent organisation in the UK
- KuMA’s members have respectable expertise which is can be utilized better
- Coordination between KuMA and the Ministry of Health has been limited and ad hoc
- More can be achieved by clear commitment from both sides
What Is The Way Forward?

- Establishing a joint committee between MoH and KuMA to agree an action plan

- Closer link between MoH and Kurdish Medical Organisations outside Kurdistan (such as KuMA)