

News from SAT-7  
March 2017

# INSIGHT



## EQUIPPING WOMEN WITH A VOICE

SAT-7 PROVIDES WOMEN A  
PLATFORM FOR EXPRESSION

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MAKING  
GOD'S LOVE  
VISIBLE



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# INVESTING IN WOMEN

Women across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) face many difficulties and restrictions, ranging from societal oppression to severe physical abuse. A combination of male domination in society, traditional cultural pressures, and a lack of empowerment can leave them feeling worthless.

When I visit SAT-7's studios, I am proud to see the high value that many of our producers, directors, and presenters place on giving women a voice. They care about our female viewers, and they want to listen to them. During our many weekly live programs, women can call us to ask questions, receive guidance, or share their stories and spiritual journeys with us. Our message to these women is that, no matter the background they come from or the circumstances they are enduring, they can become successful, achieve their dreams, and be a positive influence in their communities and societies. We tell them repeatedly that they are special in God's eyes.

SAT-7 wants to inspire and equip women of all ages. Not only does this make a huge difference in women's lives, it also enables them to impact the next generation of leaders and achievers. By helping to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge, wisdom, and practical skills to raise their children, we play an integral role in changing the future of the MENA.

Investing in women, their families, and their children, is a vital part of SAT-7's work. It is a key puzzle piece in our greater vision for a peaceful, developed Middle East and North Africa. Join us in prayer for the women of the MENA, that they may realise their potential and see themselves through God's eyes.



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# A VOICE OF REASON IN A WORLD OF CONFLICT

**SAT-7 ARABIC's current affairs program *Bridges* stands in welcome contrast to the conflicting stories and aggressive talk-show hosts that often dominate the news in the Arab region. With its credible sources and trusted guests, the show guides viewers on a path towards acceptance, empathy, and greater awareness.**

*Bridges* offers its viewers reliable news and unbiased analysis. The weekly program aims to discuss all subjects openly, from important world events such as the wars in Syria and Iraq, to sensitive, taboo topics such as female genital mutilation.

The program is broadcast live and encourages audience participation through phone calls. Many viewers and experts call in and contribute to the live discussions.

## A program for all viewers

*Bridges* never restricts its content to a Christian viewpoint or viewership. The program invites experts and guests from all backgrounds without discrimination, aiming to build bridges of understanding between all factions of society. *Bridges'* guests include researchers, journalists, members of parliament, and activists from all religions and denominations.

Minority and civil rights are high priority topics for the program. In 2016, *Bridges* dedicated a series of episodes to minority rights in the Middle East. Magda Haroun, a representative of the tiny population of Jews remaining in Egypt, was one of the guests.

Attacks on Christians in the region are also discussed. In May 2016, *Bridges* reported on an attack on a

Christian community where fanatics had stripped and beaten an elderly woman over a false rumour. *Bridges* also sheds light on the suffering caused by war, with team members travelling to Iraq and recording with church, community, and government leaders.

## Always quick to respond

When 27 people were killed, and at least 40 wounded, in a suicide bombing at a Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo, Egypt, *Bridges* was quick to respond. On the same day in December 2016, the program went live with a special episode to cover the incident and invited guests from different religions to give commentary.

In another episode, *Bridges* made a live phone interview with Abdullah Kurdi. He is the father of Aylan Kurdi, the Syrian toddler who became an icon for the plight of refugees crossing the Mediterranean when his body was washed-up on the shores of Turkey in September 2015.

## An essential program

Current affairs programs like *Bridges* have high costs associated with research, field interviews, hiring crews, operating studios, and airing live episodes. As moderate voices diminish and Arab societies become more polarised, a balanced program like *Bridges* is much needed. ■

**As moderate voices diminish and Arab societies become more polarised, a balanced program like *Bridges* is much needed.**



Presenter Bassem Maher recording an episode of *Bridges*.

Below: Presenter Ingy Magdy on set.





## STORIES OF JESUS FILMED IN CYPRUS

SAT-7 KIDS will soon air a new program presented by Essam Nagy, also known as ‘Mr Know’ from the popular *Why is That?* show. The new program called *The Stories of Jesus* is produced in a unique way.

Each story is told with an animated cartoon, followed by a reflection and discussion by Essam recorded in a variety of locations. The settings were chosen to evoke the places where Jesus’ ministry took place. “The ‘hero’ of the program is the places,” says Essam. “Filming in a location similar to the place where Jesus performed a miracle, or where He told a story to His disciples, helps children come closer to the story.” The first 13 episodes were filmed in various indoor and outdoor locations in Cyprus.

“One of the stories was that of the five loaves of bread and the two fish,” explains Essam, “and it was filmed on a boat out at sea, using real fish and real bread. The result is very different from that of a virtual set or studio – children can really feel connected to the actual place.” ■

## SAT-7 TÜRK - PRAYERS FOR PERSEVERANCE

As political tensions continue to increase in Turkey and the situation becomes more challenging, the SAT-7 TÜRK team have been producing short daily prayer clips for their audience. Join us in intercession by saying one of the many prayers they are lifting to God:

**Heavenly Father, only You can fill the void of pain; only Your peace, Your Spirit, can warm our hearts; only Your beautiful voice can silence our riots; take our sorrows, our anger, forgive us. We know You are a good God; Your love endures forever. Please take all our woes, our fears that we cannot carry alone; destroy them. Surround us with Your love, Your peace and Your joy; We love You. Protect this beautiful country and these people; Protect our hearts from bitterness, anger, hatred; Be with us.**



## LIVING BEYOND PERSECUTION

*Beyond Persecution* investigates the lives of Iranian Christians now living as refugees in Turkey. Using a documentary series format, the program explores the difficulties, struggles, and oppression often faced by the Christians of the Farsi-speaking world.

Recounting their personal experiences, each believer shares what God has done in their lives. Producer Petros Mohseni hopes to return to Turkey soon to reconnect with these Christians and meet more individuals from the scattered, but thriving, Farsi Church there. ■



## EXPLORING IRAN’S DRUG PROBLEM

Crystal meth is now the second most popular drug in Iran and reports on addiction suggest it is a serious social problem. Inspired by the real life story of Bijan, a crystal meth producer and drug dealer in Tehran, one of SAT-7 PARS’ producers takes a cinematic and intimate look at the issue in the documentary *The Reality of Drugs in Iran*.

By contrasting Bijan’s delight in his successful drugs business with its devastating consequences for a Tehrani family, SAT-7 PARS hopes the new documentary will both inform and convince its audience about the dangers of drug abuse. ■



# 300K

Syrian refugee children in Lebanon  
are currently out of school

SAT-7 KIDS had  
**21,646** requests and  
responses in 2016



**63%** increase of  
*My School* Facebook  
page reach in 2016



## NEW SEGMENTS FOR MY SCHOOL

Since its launch in March 2015, SAT-7 KIDS' *My School* has been addressing the educational needs of displaced and underprivileged children. In response to the traumas and issues that viewers may be facing, and following consultation with experts, four unique new segments have been added to the upcoming third season.

To help the program meet the levels that the team is aiming for, the upcoming season will feature teachers and professionals both new and familiar to viewers.

SAT-7 KIDS is committed to sustaining a strong relationship with its viewers with season three of *My School*, scheduled to begin airing in March 2017.

The new segments are comprised of:

- ▶ an interactive figure-drawing segment called *I Can Draw*
- ▶ a lifestyle segment entitled *Nour's Diary*
- ▶ a therapeutic storytelling segment called *My Story*
- ▶ *Oops*, an entertaining five-minute science experiment segment. ■



## HELPING VIEWERS "SPEAK UP"

*Speak Up*, a new live counselling program on SAT-7 ARABIC, offers a window for viewers to share their problems and learn how to handle issues that others are facing. "*Speak Up* is tackling the root of the problem.

Addiction, adultery, and other major issues grow when smaller problems are ignored and develop into something more serious," says Producer Amgad Shafik. "Not all of the stories are negative. We also present positive stories that give people hope. For example, we included a story about a married couple who reconciled after four years of separation." ■

# BEING A WOMAN IN THE ARAB WORLD

**Imagine that your whole life is limited to what your family members choose. How would it feel to be denied education, a career, the choice of a partner, or even freedom of movement?**

In some ways, the situation for women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has improved in recent years. Girls' access to education has increased, as has women's political representation in select countries. But in many places, the situation remains dire. Women may face both gender-based violence and a lack of rights and freedoms. The conflicts that have engulfed parts of the region have only made these problems worse.

## **Threatened by violence**

Many countries in the MENA do not have laws against domestic violence. Women who act against their family's wishes may be attacked or even killed by male family members in "honour crimes". And in some countries, sexual assault and harassment are rife.

## **Deprived of rights and freedoms**

In many families in the MENA, depending on the country and community, women have very little

control over their own lives. Many women are forced to marry against their will – some while they are still children. Approximately one in five girls in the region are married before the age of 18; in Yemen, it is almost one third.<sup>2</sup>

Family restrictions or responsibilities prevent women from seeking work. Even when they are free to seek a career, women may face discrimination in employment and within the workplace. In countries such as Iran, restrictions also limit the way in which women may dress and behave in public.

## **Victims of conflict**

The violence that has engulfed Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen has blighted the lives of women.



In some cases, it has reversed years of progress towards greater equality. Women who have lost their husbands to violence often find themselves the sole parent and provider at a time of severe poverty.

More than 70 percent of Syrian refugees are women or children.<sup>3</sup> They are extremely vulnerable to violence, from both outside and inside their families. Displacement can cause domestic violence to escalate.

**99%**

of women and young girls in Egypt have experienced sexual harassment according to a UN study.<sup>1</sup>

**1/5**

girls are married before the age of 18 according to UNICEF statistics.

One survey of Palestinian refugees in Jordan reported that 44 percent of women had been beaten by their husbands.<sup>4</sup> Many families in refugee camps are marrying off their daughters as children. They do this in the belief that it will protect them from the general threat of sexual violence.

#### How does SAT-7 help?

Satellite television is an extremely effective way of reaching women, especially those who are isolated and illiterate. When women rarely leave the house, they often spend a lot of time watching television. SAT-7's programming brings the message of God's love to suffering women who desperately need to hear about it. We have many programs especially for women that raise awareness of the issues that they face. ■



#### Guardianship in Saudi Arabia

In Saudi Arabia, every woman must have a male guardian – usually their father or husband. Saudi women cannot travel or marry without permission from their guardian. They may also need permission before they can work or access healthcare. Without a male relative present, they may face great difficulty with banking or property transactions. Although there is no law against women driving, Saudi society is unaccepting of it.

#### FGM in Sudan

In Sudan, and several other MENA countries, women face the devastating issue of female genital mutilation (FGM). 87 percent of women in Sudan between the ages of 15 and 49 have been subjected to FGM.<sup>5</sup> FGM, usually carried out before the age of five, is a strong social norm often motivated by the belief that it ensures purity. FGM can cause severe immediate pain, long-term pain, psychological distress, and many medical complications.

#### Islamic State abuse in Iraq and Syria

In the summer of 2014, the so-called Islamic State (IS) seized swathes of territory in Iraq. It later established the headquarters of its “caliphate” in Raqqa, Syria. Some of the most heart-breaking stories that emerged were of the group’s brutal treatment of women and girls. Thousands of women and girls from the Yazidi minority were kidnapped, and many were held as sex slaves.

1. Study on Ways and Methods to Eliminate Sexual Harassment in Egypt, UN Women (2013).  
2. The State of the World's Children 2016: A fair chance for every child, UNICEF (2016).  
3. Syria Regional Refugee Response [online], UNCHR.  
4. Working with Gender Based Violence Survivors [online], UNWRA.  
5. Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A Global Concern, UNICEF (2016).

# A PLATFORM FOR WOMEN'S VOICES

**“Every woman has her struggles. *Needle and New Thread* is like a room with glass walls. When we are transparent, women join in, speak freely, and listen to one another.”**

Riham Jarjour, who spoke these words, is the latest presenter to join the women's talk show *Needle and New Thread*. The live program, airing weekly on SAT-7 ARABIC, enables women to express themselves openly without fear of judgment or prejudice.

## Why do women need a platform?

In a culture where the issues that affect them have been sidelined for decades, women are thirsty for recognition. They need a safe space where they can discuss their problems, a community in which they do not feel ignored or abandoned.

*Needle and New Thread* is presented by women, for women. The team discuss culturally sensitive topics such as sexual abuse, attitudes towards mental health issues, and dating in a conservative culture.

That these topics resonate with the women watching is evident from the increasing number of messages and calls received from viewers during live broadcasts. Some women are bravely sharing their experiences of sexual abuse. Others have asked for parenting advice on how to help children who abuse technology, or are viewing pornography.

Episodes that discuss sharing parental responsibilities between wives and husbands and dealing with elderly parents also receive high levels of engagement from viewers seeking spiritual and practical advice.

## Opening up difficult issues

Maggie Morgan, the show's Producer and Director, explains that some issues have been swept under the carpet even by women themselves. Some women are fearful of regular medical check-ups and screenings, such as mammograms. Instead of sharing their fears, they downplay the importance of these appointments.

From left to right: Presenters Sandra Wadie, Maie ElKharrat and Mary Daniel



## SAT-7 ARABIC'S INSPIRING WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

### Daughter of the King

A powerful program now in its fourth season, *Daughter of the King* discusses important issues around women's rights to get an education, work, vote, and take leadership positions in society. Women in the Middle East and North Africa were, and are still, mistreated, abused, and looked down upon as second class citizens. The series shines a light on biblical truths such as the fact that God created woman equally to man and that He loves both genders equally.

### She's the Story

This new program tells the stories of Middle Eastern women who have successfully reached top positions in the public and private sectors, managing to break through not only social barriers but also the glass ceiling in their respective careers. *She's the Story* aims to offer a more positive and empowering perspective of women in the MENA. “The message of the program is to tell women that whatever their circumstances, they can still become successful and achieve their dreams,” says Rafik George, Producer and Director of the program.



Another such issue is physical abuse, which is widely accepted in Middle Eastern societies without laws that criminalise domestic violence. The program continually receives shocking stories and testimonies around this topic. “In one interview with a young boy, he expressed that it was fine for a man to beat his wife if she made him a bad meal,” Morgan says.

### Experience and empathy

Riham Jarjour, herself a young mother of two, engages openly with the audience about life’s daily issues. During one episode, she spoke about her relationship with her grandmother and how mother figures in a family can leave long-lasting legacies.

“I respect callers who make an effort to call in live and share their problems,” says Riham. “It takes a lot of courage to open up publicly on air. I pray before each episode that I will handle every call well, because

if a caller’s feelings are hurt, you lose your credibility. Every single reaction is seen by the audience, so we must be very careful with our facial expressions during a call,” she continues.

### Dedication to serving viewers

Riham herself goes to great lengths because she believes in women and their equal right to a wholesome life. She lives in Alexandria, Egypt, and travels to Cairo to present the live broadcast of *Needle and New Thread*. On broadcast days, Riham wakes up at 5:00 in the morning to get her children ready for school. Then, she catches the early morning train to Cairo, later spending the night in the city and returning home early the next morning.

Riham is from Syria but has lived in Egypt for 10 years. Her knowledge of Arab culture in several countries has prepared her for her unique contribution to the show, viewed by so many women across the Middle East. She sees a great opportunity in the program to empower and support women. ■

**40%**  
of messages to SAT-7 ARABIC include questions about marital problems, relationship issues, and addiction.

### You are Precious

Produced in Arabic with Kabyle subtitles, this women’s program gives a voice to the troubles and concerns of women from different communities throughout North Africa. The program confronts controversial issues such as divorce, domestic conflict, choosing a spouse, and finding value in one’s identity. “We want to remind these women that they are very precious in God’s eyes. We want to encourage them to believe in themselves and find peace and comfort in the Lord,” says Presenter and Producer Samia Jallali Kessai.

### Start from Here

Currently in its fourth season, *Start from Here*, is a talk show that discusses topics concerning women, and elaborates with sketches. The program includes a “word of the day” segment and short interviews with guest experts. It aims to give women practical information to organise and plan their goals, and achieve more in their lives.



Left to right: Presenter Yara Gossous, Producer Mirna Adaymi, Presenter Basma Gammoh, Presenter Martina Qandah Fakhoury

# “IF WE CAN DO IT, YOU CAN TOO!”

The brand-new SAT-7 TÜRK women’s show *Homemade* aims to inspire female viewers all over Turkey, through a variety of creative and insightful segments.

Broadcast for two hours every weekday, *Homemade* is packed full of diverse, energetic live segments. Each segment is different. One segment is comprised of workshops on creating homemade crafts. Another segment involves successful Turkish women who are invited as guests to speak about their careers and their journey to success, to inspire the female audience. The show’s motto is, “If we can do it, you can too!” and its objective is to help women realise their full potential and believe they can succeed at whatever they put their minds to.

## Social impact

Producer Deniz Çolak says SAT-7 TÜRK wants to encourage women to develop skills and interests that will boost their confidence. Cookery, jewellery design, book recommendations, events and theatre news are some of the topics *Homemade* will cover in workshops, conversations with artisans, and street interviews.

“Women in Turkey are often prevented from pursuing their aspirations because they feel insecure and lack confidence,” explains Deniz. “By including workshop segments in the program and informing viewers about social institutions, charities, and foundations that

focus on the use of home materials for the creation of homemade crafts, we are broadening our audience’s horizons and helping them dream big.”

## Emotional empowerment

Although Turkey is a democratic, secular parliamentary republic, the role of women remains defined by an ongoing gender equality struggle. Rape, honour killings, and child marriages are still all too commonplace in contemporary Turkey. Women continue to be discriminated against in the workplace and, in some regions, in education.

“We are speaking to Turkish women who have become lawyers, doctors, psychologists and researchers,” says Deniz. “We want our audience to be inspired by these courageous women, who stand on their own two feet despite the struggles they have faced.”

The presenters and guests talk about women’s issues and give biblically inspired advice during the show. “Speaking about these issues will help us show God’s love to more people. We want to make programs, such as *Homemade*, available to every citizen in our country. If we are able to touch just one person’s life, it will have been worth it,” explains Deniz. ■

“

We want our audience to be inspired by courageous women, who stand on their own two feet.

Left to right: Presenter Sema Deniz Tolunay and art therapist Hale Gencel, exploring the topic of imagination.



# EQUIPPING WOMEN WITH PARENTING SKILLS

In times of turmoil parents are in desperate need of support to provide stability for their children. The SAT-7 KIDS program *With Smyrna* is helping women with practical parenting advice from a biblical point of view.

*With Smyrna* not only teaches parenting skills but also encourages intellectual and spiritual wellbeing that improves family relations. In its first season, the three-minute segment suggested practical steps for resolving day-to-day parenting issues. The second season, scheduled to air early 2017, will cover trauma-related topics particularly relevant to women affected by the conflicts in the region.

## Why parenting skills?

“In view of the conditions in the region today, mothers and mothers-to-be are seeking greater intellectual, relational, and spiritual knowledge,” Presenter Smyrna Khalaf explains. “What better way to serve God than through educating, encouraging, and empowering these women for life’s most important job... parenting!”

## Engaging viewers

*With Smyrna* encourages viewers not only to take in the advice the show offers but to respond with their own questions. In the first season, the program received a considerable number of responses from viewers who shared their questions in video clips.

“Our audience, especially women and mothers, are communicating their thoughts more often,” says Smyrna. “Women are enthusiastic about the tips given on *With Smyrna*, describing them as practical and straight-to-the-point. Many viewers are not only watching the show on SAT-7 KIDS but also revisiting the episodes through the SAT-7 KIDS YouTube account.” ■

“

Smyrna, my kids use bad words that my husband and I don't! How can we stop them from doing it?

Teresa - A mother of two

“

I notice sometimes that kids have no respect for their parents, especially when asked to do something. How can this be solved?

Muna - a viewer from Egypt



HOME  
SWEET  
HOME

# INSIDE THE WORLD OF THE FARSI-SPEAKING WOMEN

**SAT-7 PARS is supporting girls and women in Iran and Afghanistan through *Insiders*, a new live chat show. The show’s four presenters provide a Christian perspective as they help women work through their problems together.**

Although many women in the Farsi-speaking world can access secondary education, their place in society is far from equal to that of men. As a result, many educated Iranian and Afghan women are in need of an open forum to discuss the issues they face. Moe Pooladfar, *Insiders*’ Producer and Director, explains:

“There is a great need for a talk show for intelligent discussion among educated Iranian women, and this is an opportunity to bring many interesting issues to the table. There is very limited programming on Iranian television for women and their problems.”

### A varied host panel

The weekly program is for women of all ages. To help this varied audience relate to the topics, the four female hosts all come from different backgrounds.

Tarrlan is a single young woman who also speaks Azeri. Her three co-hosts Nasrin, Sally, and Hengameh are all married. Nasrin has no children, Sally recently gave birth to her first child, and Hengameh has two children. Because of their

varied life experiences, each host brings a unique perspective to the discussion.

### A judgment-free platform

Unlike other SAT-7 PARS talk shows that focus on theology and doctrine, *Insiders* tackles the day-to-day issues that women talk about with their friends and on social media. Topics range from deeper, more complex issues, such as abortion and mental health problems, to questions such as:

- What characteristics does your child look for in their future partner? Are they the same attributes that they see in you as a parent?
- Is it acceptable to lean on your child for emotional comfort?
- How soon is too soon for a widow to re-marry?

Moe says, “We want to help create a culture where different opinions are heard and not pre-judged. *Insiders* is a platform where Farsi-speaking women can speak out, be heard, and be guided by our presenters into biblical truth.” ■

According to the UN Development Program,

**62%**

of Iranian women over the age of 25 have completed secondary education.

This is much higher than the equivalent figure in neighbouring Afghanistan, which stands at a meagre

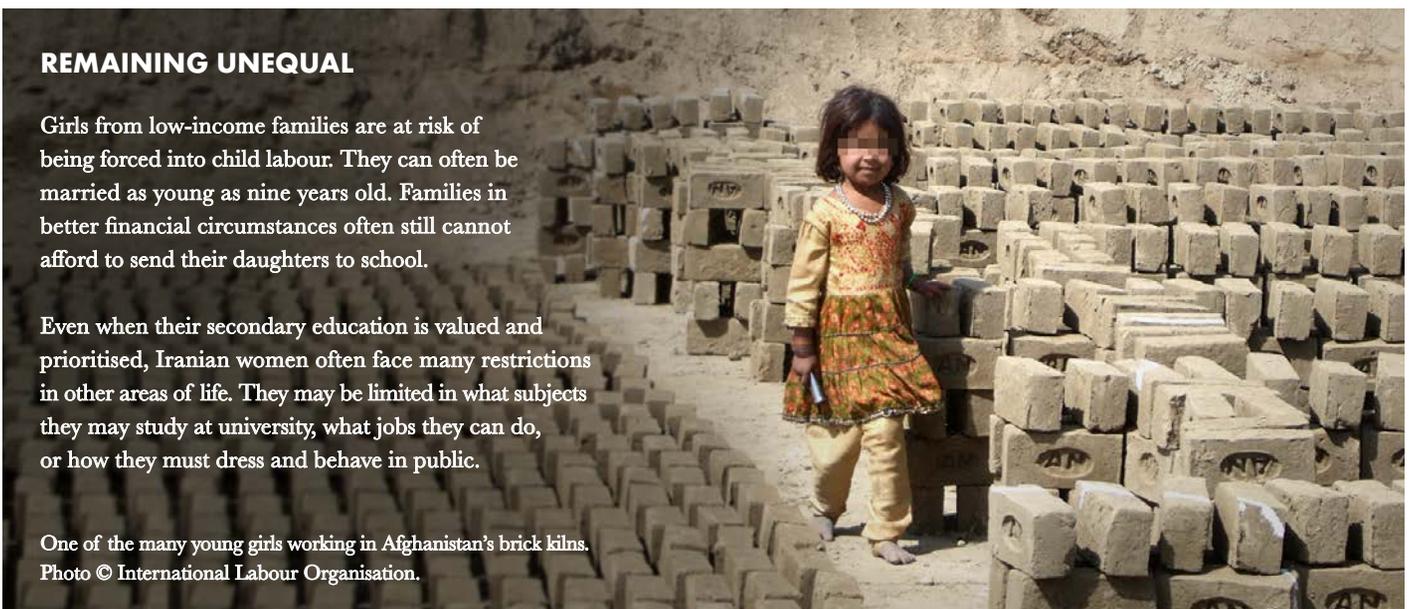
**5.8%**

## REMAINING UNEQUAL

Girls from low-income families are at risk of being forced into child labour. They can often be married as young as nine years old. Families in better financial circumstances often still cannot afford to send their daughters to school.

Even when their secondary education is valued and prioritised, Iranian women often face many restrictions in other areas of life. They may be limited in what subjects they may study at university, what jobs they can do, or how they must dress and behave in public.

One of the many young girls working in Afghanistan’s brick kilns. Photo © International Labour Organisation.





Left to right: Presenters Hangameh Borji and Nasrin Afshar filming on the set of *Insiders*.

# I AM SAT-7

## REMON ADEL

### SAT-7 Arabic Channels Video Editor

#### What does your role with SAT-7 involve?

I work as a video editor for SAT-7's Arabic channels. I edit various programs, including children's shows, and video clips.

#### Why do you like working with SAT-7?

Working for SAT-7 is a dream come true, because I always wanted to join the team behind the first Christian satellite network to broadcast in Egypt. I heard about SAT-7 when I was studying media and dreamt of working here someday. I also love that SAT-7 is non-denominational and treats all denominations equally in all broadcast material. SAT-7 presents God to everyone and we, as a SAT-7 team, are one family.

#### Tell us a little about your spiritual journey so far.

SAT-7 has helped me spiritually. Before joining SAT-7, I aimed to use my skills commercially. But my teachers, who were Christian, were an inspiration to me. I felt called by God and chose to commit my service to Him. Although I received many offers to work in the secular field, I chose to continue to serve God. During my studies in media school, I adopted my teachers' vision, which is inspired by Habakkuk 2:14: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

#### If you could sit down with Jesus today, what would you like to ask Him?

I would ask Jesus to show me the direction and the path that He wants me to tread, to unravel His plans and His will for my life and my family's future. I have dreams, but I lay them all at His feet so He will fulfil His promises and plans for me.



## NETWORK 2017

SAT-7 looks forward to welcoming its Partners and supporters to its annual NETWORK conference. The event will take place on 29–31 March 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon. "The theme of this year's NETWORK is 'Equipping the Next Generation'. We will share with our guests how SAT-7 helps to equip viewers through different programs. We will also provide an update on how God is using SAT-7 ministries to bring hope and love into the homes of millions across the Middle East and North Africa," says Mette Swartz, Communications Director.



## How to find SAT-7

### SAT-7 ARABIC

**SATELLITE:** Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;  
Covering Middle East & North Africa.

**ONLINE:** [www.sat7.com](http://www.sat7.com) / [www.facebook.com/sat7ar](https://www.facebook.com/sat7ar)  
[www.youtube.com/user/SAT7ARABIC](https://www.youtube.com/user/SAT7ARABIC)  
Smartphone App: SAT-7

### SAT-7 KIDS (ARABIC)

**SATELLITE:** Nilesat (E7WA) at 7° West, 11.353 GHz Vertical;  
Covering Middle East & North Africa.

**ONLINE:** [www.sat7kids.com](http://www.sat7kids.com) / [www.facebook.com/sat7kids](https://www.facebook.com/sat7kids)  
[www.youtube.com/user/SAT7KIDS](https://www.youtube.com/user/SAT7KIDS)  
Smartphone App: SAT-7 KIDS

### SAT-7 PARS (FARSI)

**SATELLITE:** Eutelsat Hot Bird 13B at 13° East, 10.949 GHz  
Vertical; Covering Middle East, North Africa & Europe.

**ONLINE:** [www.sat7pars.com](http://www.sat7pars.com) / [www.facebook.com/sat7pars](https://www.facebook.com/sat7pars)  
[www.youtube.com/user/SAT7PARS](https://www.youtube.com/user/SAT7PARS)  
Smartphone App: SAT-7 PARS

### SAT-7 TÜRK (TURKISH)

**SATELLITE:** Türksat 4A at 42° East, 11.824 GHz Vertical;  
Covering Turkey, Europe & Central Asia.

**ONLINE:** [www.sat7turk.com](http://www.sat7turk.com) / [www.facebook.com/sat7turk](https://www.facebook.com/sat7turk)  
[www.youtube.com/user/SAT7TURK](https://www.youtube.com/user/SAT7TURK)  
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# NEW LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT SAT-7

In November 2016, the Executive Board of SAT-7's International Council took the unanimous decision to appoint Rita Elmounayer as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SAT-7 International, beginning 1 January 2017. Rita has served with SAT-7 from its very beginnings 20 years ago and most recently as Chief Channels and Communications Officer. Pray for Rita Elmounayer in the transition to her new role.

Please also pray for our newly appointed Chief Development Officer (CDO), David Middleton. David has worked with SAT-7 TÜRK since the channel's inception and has also served with SAT-7 UK. He will also become a full member of the Middle East Leadership Team (MELT) and will relocate from Northern Ireland to Nicosia, Cyprus later this year. ■



## NEW CYPRUS STUDIO

For many years, a move to a larger, more suitable production space has been prayed for by the SAT-7 PARS team in Cyprus. The new studio in Limassol, Cyprus, with 600 square metres of space, built-in office areas, and some brand new equipment, is a testament to God's blessing. On 23 December 2016, the first production was broadcast live from the new facility, marking the beginning of a new era for SAT-7 PARS.

"We are so grateful for this new facility. We pray that the new studio will enable us to make lots of programs that will touch the hearts of many in the Farsi-speaking region and beyond. We thank God for His provision and blessings," says Reza Jafari, Editing Manager. ■

## SAT-7 TÜRK SHARES GOD'S LOVE IN BULGARIA

The satellite coverage of SAT-7 TÜRK reaches far beyond the borders of Turkey, to Turkish-speaking viewers abroad whose satellite dish points at the Türksat satellite and through live streaming on SAT-7 TÜRK's website. Four staff members of SAT-7 TÜRK recently visited Pastor Dahil and other Turkish-speaking Christians in Bulgaria to record their services and testimonies. "We want to build relationships with Turkish Christians abroad; we don't want them to feel alone," one SAT-7 TÜRK staff member says. "For us, it is important to be the voice of minorities, not only in Turkey but also abroad."

"I like SAT-7 TÜRK so much that I tell everyone how they can watch the channel," Pastor Dahil says. "It is important because, as the New Testament says, 'What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?' (Mark 8:36)" ■



# “I GAVE MY LIFE TO JESUS, SO I AM NOT AFRAID”

An Iraqi Christian and former employee of SAT-7 talks to us about returning to his home country. He speaks about his renewed faith, which, during these uncertain times, is enabling him to strengthen others.

Firas was born and brought up in Baghdad. In 2006, he and his family left Iraq in search of a better life away from war and turmoil. Firas worked for SAT-7 for several years until November 2016, when he decided to return to Iraq. He currently lives and works in Erbil.

He was apprehensive about returning. The ongoing violence has destroyed towns and displaced families. “I was afraid of coming back and what I would find here, but I also felt excited to see my country,” he says.

## Starting from nothing

Life in Erbil is a challenge for many displaced Christians from Mosul, even as the Church tries to help them. “These families are living one day at a time,” Firas says. “They left everything behind starting again with nothing.” Churches and non-governmental organizations have set up camps to help families with their needs. Some churches are supporting them by paying their rent so that they can live in homes with better conditions.

Most of these families cannot see a future in Iraq, Firas explains. “They don’t feel safe and most want to leave Iraq.” When part of the Mosul area was secured by the Iraqi military in the past, fighters from the so-called Islamic State still managed to get through. Homes were attacked, and many people were kidnapped or killed.

Church leaders in Erbil try to offer hope to the many struggling families, not wanting them to leave the country, but cannot guarantee them security if they return to their homes. “They fear that in three to five years, Iraq will be empty of Christians,” says Firas.

## Encouraging the youth

Firas describes troubling conditions in Iraq’s schools, which have lost many teachers. Teachers remaining in Iraq are struggling, and many children are not motivated to learn.

Firas has seen an opportunity to give back to his country by reaching out to young people and guiding them from his own experience. He encourages them not to feel limited by their educational system and to look for other ways to develop themselves. Firas tells them, “Never say there is no hope. There is always hope.” He says: “Because of my experience at SAT-7, my faith has matured. When I came back, I noticed that most people’s faith is limited. They pray, but they have less hope.”

Asked if he feels safe, Firas replies, “I keep reminding myself of the Bible verse, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’ (Hebrews 13:5). It always gives me strength. I gave my life to Jesus, so I am not afraid.” ■

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I say to the young people “Never say there is no hope. There is always hope.”



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