

Intercultural Understanding Guide: Iraqi Culture

Geographic context:

- Iraq, officially known as the Republic of Iraq, is a country located in West Asia.

Religion:

- The majority of Iraqis are Muslim regardless of ethnicity.

Language:

- The most widely spoken language in Iraq is Iraqi Arabic (also called Mesopotamian Arabic). Kurdish is also an official language of the country.

Values:

- Hospitality is deeply ingrained in the culture.
- Family and honour is greatly valued in Iraq.

Social norms/structure/hierarchy:

- It is important to respect the age hierarchy in Iraq.
- Stand up when someone older than you enters the room and offer them your seat if there are none available.

Communication style:

- Iraqis tend to have an indirect communication style and hence saying things in a straightforward manner may be considered rude to some.
- When refusing something or politely declining an offer, the right hand placed on the chest can indicate sincerity.
- Raised voices could be interpreted as a sign of anger.

Demographics in Australia:

- According to the 2021 Australian Census, there are 92,922 Iraqis currently living in Australia. There are also 57,859 Australians who have Iraqi ancestry.



References:

- [Cultural Atlas](#)