

Jotter of a New Life

Luma

Hi, my name is **Luma**. I am from Iraq.

When I first arrived in Scotland, I was with my husband and everything was going well. But after that, I went through a divorce, and that is when I started the journey of relying on myself.

Life in this country is beautiful and enjoyable, and women here live with total ease and freedom. In Scotland, I have felt a sense of comfort and self-confidence, unlike the many restrictions I used to face in my home country, where a woman could not go out on her own.

I won't deny that I faced some challenges at the beginning, like the language barrier and adjusting to a new culture and a completely different life. But now, I see myself as a strong woman who loves life in all its colors. I've started going out on my own, and I've taken responsibility for my home, my children, and myself with a lot of pride.

Since the very beginning I was very curious and in my bag I carried a jotter with me. Whenever I would hear a new word I would write it down. It was a jotter of my New Life.

I started studying English and got involved in the community, where I joined some women's groups and made new friends, and we do different life activities together.

My true joy is discovering new places, especially old historical spots like castles, rivers, and gardens. On the weekends, I take my kids out and teach them to explore, telling them, "Museums are beautiful and amazing places."

My life has changed for the better in every way and today, I am living a new era and a life full of hope. I feel very proud of myself and my children, and I feel like I've achieved something big. I reached where I am today thanks to this country, my beloved Scotland, which I feel a part of, just as I feel it is a part of me.