

**Jacqueline Sofia**  
**IWPA Submission**  
**10 December 2018**

**Work Statement/Photo introduction:**

This ongoing project is the story of Iman AlShehab and the reality of what it means to fight for the American dream in a time when the system is built and bolstered to keep a refugee's dreams at bay. In 2016, Iman was accepted for resettlement as a Syrian refugee in the US, but the rest of her family was not. After arriving in Baltimore MD, she was contacted by a local volunteer with the International Rescue Committee who invited her to become a member of the MERA Kitchen Collective- a community-driven, food-based cooperative. Through the collective, Iman has found part-time employment and a group of people she considers family. However, even with the collective's support, living as a resettled refugee in Baltimore City has serious structural barriers that Iman must struggle against everyday.