

## Our Plane

Historically speaking, Kuwait was built upon travel with her people earning a living through voyages over sea and land. It seems like this is still rooted in the genes of the Kuwaiti people. Travel for any reason, or for no reason at all, has become a main part in Kuwaiti life. Kuwait Airways, with our distinguished “Blue Bird,” was one of the first airlines in the region after all. But lately it seems like someone hates us; mishandling our plane and troubling our travels. Traveling from Kuwait to anywhere in the world should be easy, but we’re often forced to endure long lay-overs while back-tracking through other Gulf cities. Is our airline owned by the State, or is it suffering at the hands of partners and squabbling heirs?! When our planes first departed from Kuwait Airport to the world, it fulfilled a dream of every Kuwaiti. And every time I ride a plane that is not ours, I feel like an orphan sitting at a table belonging to mean people. God be with us. I remember the winter of 1995 when I was in Geneva and I went to Kuwait Airways office to change my flight. There I met the reservation officer and I noticed that her shirt was torn. I asked her about it because I believe that the overall image of this institute reflects the reputation of Kuwait, and I didn’t think anyone would appreciate this kind of look. I’m certain that my question embarrassed her, but I was equally embarrassed by her answer. She said the employees were required to wear the uniforms provided by the airline, and the uniforms they got were often used because the airline rarely bought new ones. I swear, at first I didn’t understand what she was talking about. With a little more explanation, I learned that the airline takes back the used clothes and bags from staff who resign and then it provides them to new staff in order to save money. I think about this every time I board a Kuwait Airways plane. I look at