

Islington Refugee Voice

IRF Newsletter No 8/ October 2015

“Dignity in Mental Health” Awareness Raising Day **08 October 2015**

Islington Refugee Forum, in partnership with Hillside Club Community Wellbeing Service, Manor Gardens Centre- Health Advocacy Project, and IMECE Women’s Centre organised a successful 2015 Mental Health event.

“Dignity in Mental Health” was the theme for this year’s World Mental Health Day which took place on the 10th October 2015. Research identifies three areas as threats to dignity in mental health care: stigma and discrimination, acute inpatient care and human rights violations. Adults with mental health problems are considered as one of the most socially excluded groups in society. The acts that violate dignity and fail to respect an individual and their story can lead to further damage, whereas respecting an individual’s identity and protecting their dignity will help to promote recovery.

For more information about the Meeting please visit IRF website:
<http://islingtonrefugeeforum.org/dignity-mental-health-awareness-raising-day-report/>



Islington Syrian Refugee Resettlement VCS Response Meeting **14 October 2015**

Islington Refugee Forum in partnership with Islington Council organised Syrian Refugee Meeting to discuss and agree an offer of support from the voluntary and community sector that is co-ordinated between ourselves and with the council.

During the successful meeting Councillor Asima Shaikh presented an outline of the work that Islington Councillors have been undertaking at a national and local level. Then officials informed about the Government Refugee Resettlement Programme and what it will mean for Islington and gave an overview on the work being undertaken by different Council departments and Islington’s Task Team. It was discussed the needs that people arriving may have and prepared skills and capacity mapping of VCS organisations against needs identified. Each organisation proposed which kind of help can offer Syrian refugees. It was suggested that they should prepare a welcome pack and create a contact map.

For more information about the Meeting please visit IRF website:
<http://islingtonrefugeeforum.org/islington-syrian-refugee-resettlement-vcs-response-meeting-14th-october-2015/>



Future events

**Breakfast Event a Living Wage for Refugees in Islington
5th November 2015**

Venue: Committee Room 4- Islington Town Hall- Upper Street, London N1 2UD
Time: 9.30 – 11.30 am

Islington Refugee Forum and the Living Wage Foundation invite you to a Breakfast event to hear about the London Living Wage, organised as part of the UK Living Wage Week. The event will raise awareness about the new London Living Wage rate which will be announced by the Mayor of London on 2nd November 2015. It is also provide an important platform for refugee communities' organisations to voice their service users concerns about the impact of the low pay within their own communities.

This event is organised for the RCOs' service users, trustees, employees and volunteers. Statutory services and businesses are also warmly invited to listen to the experience of the refugee communities in Islington. The morning will include presentations from refugees' community organisations, a brief review of how the London Living Wage has been won for many workers, changing lives in the process.

To register please visit our website:
<http://islingtonrefugeeforum.org/invitation-breakfast-event-living-wage-refugees-islington-5th-november-2015/>

For more information please contact: Janan Aljabiri-IRF info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org. Telephone: 020 7832 5847

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**Women making a difference: Social Action in Islington
3rd November 2015**

Venue: Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, London N1 1TA
Time: 9:30 – 1:00

The conference will celebrate achievements of women in the voluntary sector, connect people with each other, and inspire young women to

see what is possible to achieve by activism and involvement. A keynote speaker will be Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty and there will be several other local speakers and young people's involvement.

For booking please visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-making-a-difference-social-action-in-islington-tickets-18069381005>

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**Safeguarding Children, Young People, Families, and Equalities Training
4th November 2015**

Venue: Kurdish Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, Caxton House, 129 St. John's Way, London N19 3RQ
Time: 10.00 – 13.30

This is a free half day workshop for staff and volunteers in voluntary and community sector organisations working with children, young people and families.

This training will increase awareness of effective safeguarding practices that meet the needs of children and young people from all communities.

To book your place, please visit:
<http://subscribercrm.childrenengland.org.uk/Event-Booking/EventId/3188>

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**Free training for BME organisations
3th & 9th November 2015**

Time: 9.30 – 4.30

Are you a BME organisation or community group? Race on the Agenda (ROTA) is inviting all BME organisations to attend a TWO- DAY EQUALITY ACT TRAINING IN NOVEMBER.

Training Day one: Complying with the Equality Act 2010. Training Day two: Using the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The workshops are FREE and designed to help BME & Refugee

organisations to understand and effectively use the Equality Act.

To book your place, please complete the online booking form, available at: <http://www.rota.org.uk/civicrm/event/register?id=53&reset=1>

For more information on this course, please email POORNIMA@ROTA.ORG.UK or call 020 7697 4092.

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LfA Annual Conference – Keeping it Human in a Digital Age?
25th November 2015

Venue: Ort House Conference Centre, London NW1 7NE
Time: 10.00 – 4:30

London Voluntary Service Council, HEAR Network, Race on the Agenda, Lasa and Women’s Resource Centre are delighted to invite you to 3rd annual conference and the HEAR Networks accessibility awards.

This conference will consider what the challenges and opportunities are for VCSE organisations arising from the rapid growth of the use of digital technology.

The day will include:
*Panel discussions with leaders from the funding, VCS and public sector worlds.
*Workshops and IT surgeries to support organisations make the best use of digital technology to improve their impact and reach.

The Access Awards will showcase examples of good practice in accessibility and inclusion by HEAR network members in service delivery, and how small changes can have a big impact!

If your organisation has made a change, big or small, in order to make services more accessible and inclusive, and you would like the chance to be commissioned to write up a case study, make a presentation of your work or have the chance to win some bespoke training for your organisation, please get in touch with the HEAR Network Coordinator, hear@reap.org.uk to find out how to get

involved

To register for a place please visit <http://civi.lvsc.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=859>

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Safeguarding Children for Charities Conference 2016

Forum Training is delighted to provide details for the 2nd annual Safeguarding Children for Charities Conference. This one-day conference will enable you to stay up-to-date with the latest in child protection guidance and legislation so you can effectively implement safeguarding procedures within your organisation.

Forum Training has therefore put together an agenda that addresses these key issues. By the end of the day you will be able to:

- Stay up-to-date on safeguarding legislation and guidance
- Recognise common symptoms and signs of abuse
- Put in place an effective e-safety policy
- Implement effective staff management and recruitment procedures
- Understand what to do when a safeguarding incident

EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNTS - book before 30th October 2015 and secure your place for just £174.99 + VAT (THAT'S A £25.00 DISCOUNT!). DISCOUNTS FOR TWO OR MORE DELEGATES - we offer discounts for group bookings
email rebecca.hiley@forumbusinessmedia.co.uk or call on 020 8941 9026 for a quote.

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Training Workshops on Commissioning/ Procurement Process

The council's Procurement Department recognises the need to support small and medium sized VCS organisations and has provided a series of workshops designed to give an overview of what is required when applying for statutory contracts.

To support developing an understanding of different partnership working arrangements there is an opportunity for organisations to attend workshops on consortium building. These extremely informative workshops will provide an overview of every aspect required when building or being part of a consortium.

To book a place visit: <http://www.islington.gov.uk/Contact/visitingoffices/222upperst.asp>

Others

Careers in: hospitality and catering

Refugee Council is currently working with employers offering a range of opportunities to refugees keen to work in Hospitality & Catering sectors. Available roles range of prestigious hotels to high street restaurant chains mainly in Central London. These employers have job opportunities and are keen support and employ the clients who are looking to get paid work.

*Kitchen assistant/porter: Basic English, no experience required, full time, 50 hours per week, shift work. Rota is given one month in advance, permanent contract with one month probation period, starts from minimum wage and rising if people want to become, supervisors and managers.

*Waiter/Waitress: same as kitchen assistant but good English is required.

*Chef: good English, Experience required

*Cleaner/Room attendant: Basic English, the shifts typically run from 6am to 2pm or 8am to 4/5pm, 4 or 5pm to midnight, 11pm to 7am. They all offer permanent contract with holiday pay and provide training. REQUIREMENT: Hard working, positive attitude and ability to follow instruction.

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If you have any questions or comments on the content of this newsletter, please contact us at info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org or call 0207 832 5847

Islington Refugee Forum members:

Algerian Welfare Trust (UK), Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit, Arab Advice Bureau, Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group, Banadiri British Youth League (BBYL), Community Language Support Services (CLSS), Czech school without borders, Eritrean Community in UK, Halabja Kurdish Children's Centre, Hillside Clubhouse- Mental Health Community Development Work Service, Iftiin Learning Centre, IMECE Women's Centre, Indo-Pakistan Cultural Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKRWO), Iranian Community Centre, Iraqi Refugee Federation, Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, Islington Chinese Association (ICA), Islington Somali Community, Jannaty Women's Social Society, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO), Kurdish Children and Youth Centre, Kurdish Information & Advocacy Centre, Light Project International, London Training & Employment Network, Manor Gardens Health Advocacy, Mosaada Centre for Single Women, Muslim Welfare House, Nafsiyat: Intercultural Therapy Centre, Octopus Community Network, Oromo Community in the UK, Refugee Therapy Centre, Somali Banadir Association in the UK, Somali Human Hope, St Pancras Refugee Centre (Part of Holy Cross Centre Trust), Victim Support, Women's Therapy Centre

Islington Refugee Forum Membership

The Islington Refugee Forum (IRF) is a refugee led organisation that works with all refugee community organisations (RCOs) in Islington. IRF is run and led by its members who elect representatives to the board of trustees at the Annual General Meetings.

The Benefits of Membership:

- Benefit from capacity building support and free training,
- Be part of refugee voices,
- Be part of Refugee Week organisation committee,
- Receive free newsletters,
- Have access to information related to new changes in policy and legalisations that may impact the refugees or RCOs work.

Who can be a member?

- Individual representatives from refugee communities living in Islington,
- Representatives of refugee community organisations, which are based in Islington,
- Representatives of refugee agencies, which are based in Islington,
- Representatives of mainstream voluntary organisations providing services for refugees as full members with voting rights,
- Individual professionals working with refugees in Islington,
- Representatives of public and statutory organisations,
- Organisations (rather than individuals) seeking membership must be properly constituted and must provide a copy of their governing document.

To become a member:

Please visit the IRF website and fill the membership form. Or write to: info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org.