

Islington Refugee Voice

IRF Newsletter No 10/ December 2015



We wish you all the best for the festive season and a joyous New Year. All of us at the Islington Refugee Forum are thankful for your support and contributions to our activities. We look forward to continuing the conversation in the prosperous New Year.

Past activities

Refugees Crisis - Speaking the Unspeakable & IRF's Annual General Meeting 3 December 2015

On 3rd December 2015, Islington Refugee Forum organised a meeting on refugees "Refugee Crises - Speaking and unspeakable" and their Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the financial year 2014/15. The meeting was attended by 22 people and was hosted by experts from organisations which are active in the borough of Islington. The meeting was hosted by: Cllr. Richard Watt, The Borough of Islington Leader; Dr Lisa Doyle, the Head of Advocacy in Refugee Council; Anuska Casas Pinto, the London Outreach Manager from Refugee Action; Jacqueline Broadhead, the Corporate Policy and Equality Manager, Ratip Alsulaimen, the Coordinator of British Syrian Education Centre; and Dulchat Abbas, the coordinator from the Federation of Iraqi Refugees. The aim of the meeting was to raise

awareness on challenges that refugees face on a global and local level, and to also inform, in particular, the participants about the new development in regard to the arrival of new refugees following IRF last meeting on 14th October.

The speakers put their message across that refugees should be treated fairly. Particularly following the Paris attack, more work needs to be done to show that refugees are not terrorists. Given the scale of the refugee crises, the speakers confirmed the necessity to advocate and lobby the government to bring in refugees next year, and to stand by the principle of protection. The speakers highlighted the importance of a proper integration system, instead of segregation. They also raised their voice that more places are needed, legal aid, housing, and ensure appropriate asylum support as important elements for supporting refugees and building strong society.



Future activities

**Disability Equality Training for BME Organisations in Islington in collaboration with Disability Action in Islington
18 January 2016**

Venue: Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP
Time: 10:00am – 1:00 pm
Training for BME organisations in Islington to:

- Develop an understanding of the Social and Medical Models of Disability and how these can be applied in service delivery
- Develop an understanding of inclusive disability related language
- Develop an understanding of equality framework
- Develop an understanding of disability equality legislation

Booking essential: despina@everyvoice.org.uk
This training is free for voluntary sector organisations operating in Islington supporting Black and Ethnic Minority residents.

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Safeguarding Children for Charities Conference
20 January 2016

Venue: Holiday Inn Camden Lock, 30 Jamestown Rd, London, NW1 7BY
Time: 9:30am – 4:00pm

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.

The Forum surveyed over 150 charities, who told them they wanted more information on updated legislation, DBS checks, staff training, online safety, reporting information and how to recognise symptoms of abuse.

Who should attend?

- Designated person for child protection
- Charity managers
- Trustees
- Anyone who works with children and their families

Discounts for two or more delegates. The Forum offers discounts for group bookings. For more information please email: rebecca.hiley@forumbusinessmedia.co.uk or call on 020 8941 9026 for a quote.

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Refugee Week Conference
15 February 2016

Venue: Amnesty International UK Human Rights Action Centre – 25 New Inn Yard London, EC2A 3EA GB
Time: 10:15am – 16:30pm

Whether you're a seasoned Refugee Week event organiser or have never been involved in Refugee Week before, this annual conference is a chance to network with people from across the UK, share ideas and get inspiration in preparation for Refugee Week 2016.

The conference is FREE (lunch provided) and open to all – newcomers are especially welcome.

Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refugee-week-conference-2016-tickets-19638176314> to reserve your free place – and do invite your friends and networks via Facebook, Twitter or email.

For enquiries contact Refugee Week UK Coordinator Emily Churchill Zarea on emily@counterpointsarts.org.uk or 0207 012 1761.

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Space to think: Tomorrow's London
20 February 2016

Venue: St Luke's Community Centre
90 Central St, London EC1V 8AJ
Time: 9:30 am – 16:00pm

LVSC are holding a daylong conference to kick start the New Year. They've seen the comprehensive spending review, while 2016 brings the London mayoral elections and further progression of the devolution programme. The conference will provide the VCSE sector with a space to think about what

these and other challenges mean for their organisations and the people they work with. Exploring the political, economic, social and technological challenges and opportunities facing our sector, we will explore strategies to not just survive but thrive, to ensure the best outcomes for Londoners.

To register for a place visit:
<http://civi.lvsc.org.uk/civcrm/event/info?reset=1&id=865>

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**Conference on UK immigration policy -
keynotes from Home Office and EU
Commission - Westminster Legal Policy Forum
3 March 2016**

Venue: Central London

Time: 8:30am – 13:00

The future for UK immigration policy - regulation, enforcement and the Immigration Bill with Glyn Williams, Director, Immigration and Border Policy, Home Office, Dana Spinant, Head of Unit, Irregular Migration and Return Policy, DG HOME, EU Commission and Bobby Duffy, Ipsos MORI Social Research Institute; Saira Grant, Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants; Richard Lambert, National Landlords Association; Alp Mehmet, Migration Watch UK; Tony Smith, Fortinus Global; Henry St Clair Miller, Islington Council and Madeleine Sumption, Migration Observatory

Chaired by: Daniel Kawczynski MP, Member, Foreign Affairs Committee and Stuart McDonald, Shadow SNP Spokesperson, Immigration, Asylum and Border Control and Member, Home Affairs Committee

This event is CPD certified.

To book your place please visit:
http://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/forums/book_event.php?eid=1146.

Funding Opportunity

Make It Work

Make It Work is funded by the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. Their aim is to improve the lives of workers, self-employed

and small businesses who work, operate or reside in the London Borough of Islington.

They can advise on any matter so long as their advice has the potential to help low paid workers or people who have recently moved into self-employment to maintain that employment. They will deliver an advice service that helps to build and maintain better working relationships, promote adoption of good employment practices, increase access to rights at work and increase confidence in budgeting and claiming benefits or tax credits to achieve a stable income. They will also help small businesses to retain and develop staff.

Make It Work can help the following people:

- An owner of a small business employing 5 or less staff.
- A newly self-employed person.
- A self-employed person who has been working for 12 months or less.
- A low paid worker.

For eligible clients with an employment enquiry, Make It Work can help only those individuals whose enquiry relates to their current employment or an employment relationship that ended in the calendar month prior to seeking advice.

Their primary objective is to help people who have recently moved into work or self-employment to maintain that employment.

If you wish to refer a person to Make it Work you can do so by sending an email to makeitwork@islingtoncab.org. Please provide client contact information and a brief outline of the enquiry.

Others

IRF Appeal to support Syrian Refugees

Islington Refugee Forum appeals for a storeroom to collect clothes, toys, shoes, blankets, TV sets etc., donated by Islington residents to Syrian refugees in the borough.

We have already received a number of calls from people willing to support. However, we do not have a storeroom where we could keep donations.

We appeal to anyone in Islington who is aware of any storeroom to let us know by contacting us as follows:

Islington Refugee Forum
VAI 200A Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP
Tel: 0207 832 5847; E-mail:
info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org

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Invitation to Islington Refugee Forum first Refugee Week's planning meeting

Refugee Week is coming fast!

Islington Refugee Forum (IRF) is delighted to invite you to attend our first planning meeting for Refugee Week 2016 which will take place on 4th February 2016 from 2.30-5.30pm. The location of the meeting will be confirmed nearer the time.

Refugee Week in Islington is part of a nation-wide celebration that will take place next year from 20th-26th June. The notion that refugees advocate is that despite our Different Pasts, we all have a Shared Future.

As you are no doubt aware, the years 2015-2016 are witnessing the arrival of a new group of Syrian refugees to the UK and Islington. This has encouraged a number of organisations to come together and show their support and readiness to help newly-arrived refugees from different parts of the world.

IRF is taking this opportunity to make the voice of Syrian and non-Syrian refugees in Islington heard; we will celebrate our achievements, show our strength, and push forward for our rights to be met.

The planning meetings will provide a great opportunity for our organisations and community members to come together and

participate in designing and setting up the agenda of the day. IRF would be grateful if you would let them know as quickly as possible whether you will be able to attend this first planning meeting on 4th February.

Email: info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org.

Or call us on: 0207 832 5847

Islington Refugee Forum members:

Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit, Arab Advice Bureau, Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group, British Syrian Education Centre, Community Language Support Services (CLSS), Council of Somali Organisations, Czech school without borders, Eritrean Community in UK, Hillside Clubhouse- Mental Health Community Development Work Service, Hospital & Prison Action Network (HPAN), 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, LAWRS, Light Project International, London Training & Employment Network, Manor Gardens Health Advocacy, Muslim Welfare House, Nafsiyat: Intercultural Therapy Centre, NCS, Octopus Community Network, One True Voice Women Organisation, Oromo Community in the UK, Pan Intercultural Arts, Psychotherapists (Dahlia Project), Refugee Therapy Centre, Somali Banadir Association UK, St Pancras Refugee Centre (Part of Holy Cross Centre Trust), Traumatic Stress Clinic, Union Chapel, Victim Support, Women's Therapy Centre

The Benefits of Membership:

- Benefit from capacity building support and free training,
- Be part of refugee voices,
- 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,
- 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.

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