

IRF Newsletter No 11/ January 2016

**Future activities**

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**Islington's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020** has launched its programme which has been divided into five strands:

- Delivery Partners (Grants of up to £20,000)
- Strategic Borough-wide Partners (Grants of up to £40,000)
- Strategic Neighbourhood Partners (grants of up to £60,000)
- Strategic Volunteering Partners (Grants of up to £20,000)
- Strategic Advice Partners (for specialist advice organisations, offering grants of up to £550,000 per strand)

Details about the programme, including information, guidance documents and application forms can be found on [http://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/voluntary-community-organisations/funding/council\\_funding/vcs-partnership-grants-programme/Pages/default.aspx?extra=10](http://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/voluntary-community-organisations/funding/council_funding/vcs-partnership-grants-programme/Pages/default.aspx?extra=10)

The deadline for all applications is Friday 4th March 2016 at midday.

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**Free Training on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) & Harmful Practices from a BAMER Perspective**

**2nd February 2016 9:30 am-1pm**

**Venue:** Central Library - 2 Fieldway Crescent- N5 1PF (1st Floor- The Gallery).

There are spaces available on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Harmful Practices from a BAMER Perspective (capacity building training).

The course will discuss the following: What is violence against women and girls? Understanding Black, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) experience of VAWG, What are the Harmful Practices – HBV, FM, FGM & FBA and Effective Responses and working together.

Please kindly note that priority will be given to staff and volunteers from BAMER Women's Services based in Islington.

For bookings please email: [referral@samiraproject.co.uk](mailto:referral@samiraproject.co.uk) or contact 0207 354 1359

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**First Refugee Week planning meeting  
4th February 2016 2.30pm-5.30pm**

**Venue:** Voluntary Action Islington, 200a Pentonville Road, London, N1 9JP

IRF is pleased to invite you to attend our first planning meeting which will take place on 4th February 2016. Inspired by the incredible response of ordinary people and communities to the 'refugee crisis', the UK Refugee Week 2016 theme will be 'Welcome'. Islington Refugee Forum (IRF) as an umbrella refugee community organisation in Islington is delighted to begin its preparation work for the coming Refugee Week, 20th-26th June. 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 for Refugee Week activities.

For more information please contact Janan on: Tel: 0207 832 5847 or e-mail: [info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org](mailto:info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org).

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**Refugee Week Conference**

**15th February 2016 10.15am-16.30pm**

**Venue:** Amnesty International UK Human Rights Action Centre, 25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA

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 opens to all – newcomers especially welcome.

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

For enquiries contact Refugee Week UK Coordinator Emily Churchill Zaraq on [emily@counterpointsarts.org.uk](mailto:emily@counterpointsarts.org.uk) or call: 0207 012 1761.

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**Conference:**

**Space to think: Tomorrow's London**  
**20th February 2016 9.30am-16.00pm.**  
**Venue:** St Luke's Community Centre  
90 Central St, London EC1V 8AJ

LVSC are holding a day-long conference to kick start the New Year. They have 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/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=865>

**LGBT and Mental Health - Addressing Public Attitudes: Promoting Acceptance, Dignity and Social Inclusion**  
**29th February 2016 9.30am-2pm**

**Venue:** Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

Islington Community Wellbeing Development Service would like to invite you to the third of the quarterly Community Well-being Conversations in Islington.

The focus of the day will be LGBT and Mental Health: Addressing Public Attitudes: Promoting Acceptance, Dignity and Social Inclusion. There will be opportunities for you to share your views in workshop discussions and a question and answer session with panel speakers.

Please RSVP by 29th January 2016.  
To reserve your place please contact:  
[sfthomas@hillsideclubhouse.org.uk](mailto:sfthomas@hillsideclubhouse.org.uk), 07932 585313 or [croggers@hillsideclubhouse.org.uk](mailto:croggers@hillsideclubhouse.org.uk), 07539352337.

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**Race on the Agenda (ROTA) AGM and Conference 2014/15: Race Equality without Human Rights?**  
**20th April 2016 4.30pm-8pm**  
**Venue:** Resource for London, 356 Holloway Rd, London N7 6PA

Race on the Agenda hereby gives notice to its members that its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the financial year 2014/15 is scheduled to take place on 20th April 2016.

A special conference on Race Equality without Human Rights, will follow the AGM with guest speakers. A raffle will also be held in order to raise funds for the organisation, with a top prize courtesy of Arsenal Football Club.

This conference will explore the impact on race equality in Britain of the Government's plans to repeal the Human Rights Act and replace it with a "British Bill of Rights". What would we lose in terms of race equality if we lose the Human Rights Act?

Guest speakers: Afua Hirsch (Sky News), Sanchita Hosali (British Institute for Human Rights) and a keynote speech from Imran Khan.

Admission is free but places for the conference are limited so please book your place early: <http://www.rota.org.uk/civCRM/event/register?id=55&reset=1>

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**Make It Work**

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

Make It Work 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 as 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, promotes adoption of good employment practices, improves access to rights at work, increases 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 five or fewer 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. If you wish to refer a person to Make it Work you can do so by sending an email to: [makeitwork@islingtoncab.org](mailto:makeitwork@islingtoncab.org) . Please provide client contact information and a brief outline of the enquiry.

**IRF Free training on Health and Safety Essentials.**  
**23th March 2016 10am-1.00pm**  
**Venue:** Committee Room 5, Islington Town Hall- Upper Street, London- N1 2UD.

Islington Refugee Forum is organising free training on Health and Safety Essentials. Learning about health and safety and how workers in the UK fought over many decades for the right to work in safe conditions also helps migrant workers integrate in the workplace. It also assists social cohesion and can improve well-being. Being able to work in a safe environment is a basic human right. Knowing about your rights when it comes to health and safety and how to enforce those rights is important, particularly if you have recently arrived in the UK.

Migrant workers often face extra difficulties because of their limited knowledge of the UK's health & safety systems, limited access to health & safety training and potential problems communicating in English.

The three hour session covers:

- Main health and safety legislation – learners will be able to identify the main H&S laws.
- Who is responsible for health and safety? –learners will gain knowledge about employer and employee responsibilities.
- Enforcing health & safety – learners will be able to identify the principle organisations that enforce H&S.
- Basic risk assessment – learners will be able to recognise risks and carry out a risk assessment.
- Sources of advice, information & support – learners will know where to get advice and which organisations can offer support.

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**Calling all Islington women – free DIY tasters!**

Get involved and register for our free DIY taster sessions to learn new skills in home improvement. You'll get a chance to meet other female experts

in the industry who will share their knowledge and expertise.

Multiple sessions on offer in:

- Taps and valves - try your hand at changing a tap washer or fixing a broken toilet.
- Electrical - safety comes first and in this session you'll learn how to fix a simple electrical problem safely.
- Drills - practice drilling into different surfaces and discover what all the different drill bits mean.

Sessions will be held from 10am-1pm on 2nd, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23rd February 2016 at Andover Community Centre N7 7RY. Further sessions will take place from 10am-1pm on: 8th 15<sup>th</sup> and 22nd March 2016 at 3 Corners LearningCentre-EC1R 0HU. If you are unemployed / on low income, living in Islington and not qualified to a Level 4 NVQ or degree level, contact us to book your place. For more information please contact: Charmaine Brouard, Tel: 0207 527 4352 or 07834172223, Email: [Charmaine.brouard@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Charmaine.brouard@islington.gov.uk)

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### Jobs opportunities

Octopus Community Network (Octopus) is starting a brilliant new project which focuses on community outreach to set up activities which reduce health inequalities. They are currently recruiting Community Development Worker to help take this work forward. The salary is £26,000 per annum plus 3% pension contribution. The job is full-time (37.5 hour per week) Job reference 16/01Octopus

It is essential that you have excelled at working within diverse inner-city communities and can demonstrate how you have previously

implemented and delivered projects that focus on health and wellbeing. Your ability to foster good community partnerships is also key in relation to achieving community participation and raising the profile of the project

Closing date for applications: 6:00pm on Thursday 25th February 2016 Interviews will be held on: Friday 4th March 2016. To seek an application pack by email, please contact: [Julie@octopuscommunities.org.uk](mailto:Julie@octopuscommunities.org.uk) quoting the relevant reference number

### Islington Refugee Forum members:

#### 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](mailto:info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org).

**If you have any questions or comments on the content of this newsletter, please contact us at [info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org](mailto:info@islingtonrefugeeforum.org) or call 0207 832 5847**