



Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum

Supporting Local Refugee Community Organisations

Charity Reg: 1099619
Company Reg: 04570246

HFRF Diary

- August 13th - 20th
10am - 1pm
Palingswick House
Hammersmith

Journalism Training for Beginners

- Sept 11th & 12th
10am - 4pm
Palingswick House
Hammersmith

Open Forum Meeting 'Mayor of London Refugee Integration Strategy Consultation'

HFRF will hold an open forum meeting over 2 days to invite Refugee Community groups to engage with the mayor of London's Refugee Integration Strategy Consultation.

For more info contact
Abi 0207 386 9060
or email: abi@hfrf.org

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Refugee Week soccer scores a success

Hammersmith and Fulham celebrated Refugee Week last month with another successful five-a-side football tournament.



QPR's Football In The Community five-a-side squad were outright winners in the competition held in Lillie Road Park, Fulham, on June 20th which is recognised as World Refugee Day.

Joining sides from Fulham FC's Community Sports Trust and the BBC, the local organisations played squads drawn from three local RCOs – **Team Kurdistan from the Western Kurdistan Association**; Dauntless FC from Fulham African Youth Forum; and White City Stars. The latter was representing the Somali Women Support Group although the team was entirely made up of male players. Both the BBC and the Fulham FC sides, however, were mixed.

The five-a-side football achieved excellent coverage in the *Hammersmith & Fulham Gazette* which devoted two pages of colour pictures to the story. The newspaper also reported on a 'sleepout' organised by the local branch of Amnesty International with support from HFRF when people camped out on the pavement in King Street, Hammersmith, to draw attention to the plight of asylum seekers forced into destitution by government immigration policy.

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Journalism Training for Beginners

August 13, 14, 15 and 20th 2007

10am to 1pm each day at Palingswick House, King St. W6 9LP



Short practical training course for young people aged 16-20 in the refugee community



This FREE course is aimed at young people who would like to learn about how to be either a print journalist (newspapers) or a broadcast journalist (radio and TV).

This Training is in partnership with:
Iraqi Community Association & Western Kurdistan Association

If you would like to take part or for more information please email: mediatraining@hfrf.org



Editor's column

I must start with a big thank you to everyone who helped organise and took part in our 2007 Refugee Week event. In particular, Jamie Reive at Fulham FC Community Sports Trust for bringing all the equipment, offering Premiership tickets as prizes and not least captaining an impressive mixed team. It was a fun event which brought together local people, local RCOs and our local football teams. As always it would not have been possible without the help of volunteers, especially Tami and David; thank you all.

On a more 'bread and butter' note, the Forum's Management Committee and staff had a facilitated away day to reflect on the latest developments in the sector and reflect on how to best support RCOs to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers. On the whole we re-affirmed the need for an umbrella body committed to brokering partnerships and getting local refugees and asylum seekers heard. It was a productive day for all who attended, including Richard Stanton who presented the thinking behind the Mayor of London's Refugee Integration Strategy which will be launched for consultation in July.

HFRF will be working with the GLA and West London partners to ensure that RCOs and others in the sector working with refugees have a real say in the consultation. We will be holding a series of workshops on the 11th and 12th September at Palingswick House on King Street so come along and share your knowledge and experience.

Last but not least, it is with sadness that we say good bye to two management committee members. Simon Lawson of the CAB and Nancy Fancott of the Law Centre are leaving London for greener pastures. On behalf of all the staff and management committee we thank them for their hard work and wish them the best of luck in the future.

Roudy Shafie, Coordinator

Refugee Week soccer scores a success

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It is the second year that Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum has organised the five-a-side tournament as the borough's contribution to Refugee Week.

"This borough has a very good record on integration and different communities coming together and we are delighted that the BBC, Fulham FC and QPR joined in with the spirit of the celebra-

tion," said Refugee Forum Co-ordinator Roudy Shafie.

Runners up in this year's competition were Fulham FC Community Sports Trust and the highest placed refugee team was White City Stars, who came third.

The football was followed by a celebration event at Fulham Town Hall where the winner's cup and certificates were awarded. After speeches of welcome there was Congolese musical entertainment and an Iranian meal was served. The event was attended by Shepherd's Bush MP Andrew Slaughter.

For more info about HFRF's Refugee Week events, email: abi@hfrf.org also visit: www.refugeeweek.org.uk

RCO funding threat challenged

Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum has asked for a meeting with the author of a national report on community cohesion that is calling on the government to stop funding voluntary organisations that work for a single ethnic group.

The report, from the Commission on Integration and Cohesion was written by Ealing Council chief executive Darra Singh. It argues that so-called 'single groups' are not aiding integration and should not receive grants from central or local government unless they can prove otherwise.

The Refugee Forum fears that this approach could hit RCOs most of which support a specific ethnic community. "We believe that the work undertaken by RCOs makes a significant contribution to community cohesion but that this is largely unrecognised," wrote Co-ordinator Roudy Shafie in a letter to Mr Singh.

There was a real danger that councils and other bodies short of cash would use the report as an excuse to slash funding without a proper investigation into the roles that RCOs carry out.

For a copy of the full report visit:

http://www.integrationandcohesion.org.uk/Our_final_report.aspx

Download documents at the bottom of the web page

HFRF Media Monitoring Update



HFRF continues to monitor the local newspapers to see if and how they are reporting refugee stories. The most recent coverage includes details of the IraqChild project, launched by the Iraqi Association; a profile on Nancy Fancott, Hammersmith and Fulham Community Law Centre's representative on the HFRF management committee; and two items about local Refugee Week celebrations including the five-a-side football match and the campaign organised by the Hammersmith branch of Amnesty International to raise public awareness about asylum destitution.

Coverage continues to be overwhelmingly positive. We were able to get a letter published in the *Hammersmith Gazette* pointing out that a number of RCOs had been turned down for funding by the council. We also had a letter published in the national *Guardian* arguing that cutting the funds available for translating official documents into other languages was not sensible unless extra money went into providing ESOL classes.

If you are an RCO with a story or would like to comment on articles contact Phil Cooper on 02073869060 or email: phil@hfrf.org Mobile: 07889 949173

Safeguarding Children Training



Local Refugee Community Organisations who provide services and activities to refugee children and young people in Hammersmith & Fulham participated in a 'Safeguarding Children' training in April, to update their existing staff and volunteers on new child protection and safeguarding children procedures and legislation. Organisations can now implement procedures to ensure their services are in line with the 'Competence Matters' standards launched by the London Child Protection Committee.

The training was organised by HFRF and facilitated by Bernadette Boland, Principal Officer, LBHF Multidisciplinary CP Training as part of HFRF's 'Improving Reach' project funded by Capacity Builders to help develop and build the capacity of Refugee frontline organisations staff and volunteers.

For info and resources for RCO with children & young people project, Contact Abi on 0208 386 9060 or email: abi@hfrf.org



Local Safeguarding Children Board

Every borough now has a local safeguarding children board which brings together local authority, PCT, Voluntary and other services engaged with children and young people.

H&F Refugee Forum has been invited onto the board's equalities sub group to raise the voice of young refugees and asylum seekers and RCOs that work with them.

**If you would like a particular issue addressed or are interested in representing refugees and asylum seekers on the board, please contact Roudy on:
0208 386 9060 or email: roudy@hfrf.org**

Zimbabwe Women 'Let them fly'



Children singing & dancing.

Zimbabwe Women's Network UK has celebrated the end of its first *Let Them Fly* youth project that aims to give young people from BME backgrounds a range of activities to keep them out of harm's way at the weekends.

Run since February on alternate Saturdays, the project received a start up grant from the Local Network Fund. It enabled volunteers to organise activity sessions for up to 28 young people aged between 6 and 16.

The sessions, most of which took place at the River House Trust in Hammersmith, included traditional singing and dancing. The young people also had the opportunity to experiment with their own contemporary dance styles as well.

During the course of the project a group of youngsters travelled to Leicester to perform for a newly formed branch of the Zimbabwe Women's Network. And on the last Saturday in June a celebration was held in Hammersmith when the project broke up for the summer. Let Them Fly will start again in the autumn.

For more information on H & F Refugee Forum's diverse Refugee Community members, contact Abi on 0207 386 9060 or abi@hfrf.org

Funder of the month

Comic Relief

Funding Available:

- Small grants up to £5,000 & main grants over £5,000.
- Small and medium-sized projects will be considered as well as some large projects.

Who can apply:

- Small grants are available to organisations with a yearly turnover of less than £150,000 with priority to core cost & equipment costs, for further information on who can apply contact 0207 820 5555.

Projects must be in line with the following priorities & aims:

Priorities

- Young People
- Older People
- Refugee and Asylum Seeker
- Domestic Violence
- Disadvantaged Communities

Aims

- Reach people in great need
- Meet people's needs and ambitions, and promote their rights
- Tackling some of the root causes of poverty etc.

Closing dates: round 2 - 12th October 07, round 3 - 28th Feb 08, round 4 - 15th Aug 08

**For application forms & guidance notes tel: 0207 820 5555
email: ukgrants@comicrelief.org.uk or visit: www.comicrelief.org.uk**