

>>>>>BINXET=UNDERLINE<<<<<

Western Kurdistan Association

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New Project

Daily exhibition and a monthly workshop

Western Kurdistan Association is running daily exhibition and a monthly workshop on Kurdish Music, Kurdish History, Kurdish Literature, Kurdish traditions, Kurdish Film evening at 3pm on the first Tuesday each month for refugees and asylum seekers. To attend and to get more information please contact the WKA.

FREE COURSE FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Western Kurdistan Association is running computer course from June to November 2009, for refugees and asylum seekers in Hammersmith and Fulham. For refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking employment or higher education.

For more information please contact the WKA

STATEMENT ON THE ON-GOING PHYSICAL CULTURAL GENOCIDE

The occupiers of Kurdistan namely Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the former Soviet Union and their rulers are unaware of what century and what kind of world they live in as once again the latest developments have showed. As if they are behind times for a hundred years or even more. As if they are unaware of international law and the development of goodwill between different languages, cultures that became common value of humanity within the past century. Germany apologised to the Jews and the world public opinion about the genocide of the Jews. To make sure that it is not forgotten, genocide monuments erected in Germany and the concrete evidence of this tragedy, ensures that concentration camps are protected and open to the public. Putting it another way, Germany has confronted its history. Australia has apologised for what was done to its indigenous population, Aborigines, they too confronted their history.

It may not be on the same scale but in our world, no civilised country's intellectuals, rulers are trying to cover-up, deny or defend the genocides against other people which are shameful events in their history. But in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the former Soviet Union everything is the opposite of this. **For example**, Turkey has not confronted its history and is adamant and stubborn in its behaviour. It is less than a century since the Armenian Genocide happened in front of the eyes of the world. This shameful act for humanity was condemned by the parliaments of many countries. Each time the Turkish government and its parliament has responded to these condemnations with anger. Excluding few conscientious intellectuals, the so called intellectuals and artists of Turkey have followed the footsteps of their politicians and tried to hide, deny, even falsify history and are using every trick in the book to blame the Armenians.

Of course, in Turkey, the example of a shameful act is not just the Armenian Genocide, but what was done to the Assyrians, Greeks and Kurds are crimes against humanity too. During the genocide of the Armenians, the Assyrians got their share in this slaughter. In the following years, that means before the Greek and Turkish governments exchanged populations, the Greeks who were oppressed and threatened were deported from Anatolia in their hundreds of thousands ... One of the leading figures carrying out such activities was CELAL BAYAR who was nicknamed 'GALIP HOCA' and was from the CUP (Committee for Union and Progress Party).¹ After the war and the exchange of the populations, some Greeks were allowed to stay in Istanbul because some Turks stayed in Western Thrace. [But] most of these Greeks left Istanbul as a result of oppression and the events of 6/7 September which were organised by the state.

The genocide against the Kurds has been ongoing since the time of the Ottoman Empire. Marshal Moltke's memoirs are full of such stories. During the First World War, alongside the genocide of the Armenians, 700,000 Kurds from Kurdistan were exiled, and deported to central and western Anatolia. This was an ethnic cleansing and many of these people died as a result of hunger and cold.

After the war, in order to Turkify Anatolia and to establish a unitary state, the second biggest population group, the Kurds, were declared as non-existent. The state was established according to only Turkish elements. Kurdish history, language and culture was banned. The Kurdish peoples just reaction to all this was brutally and bloodily suppressed. After each uprising was put down, the civilian population of the region, without any discrimination – [including] women, children, young and old - were subjected to genocide. For example, after the Sheikh Said revolution, they killed 20,000 civilians. After the Agri uprising, in Zilan Stream region, a population of more than 30 villages was exterminated. After the 1938 Dersim uprising, 60,000 people, disregarding [the fact that many were] women and children, were bayoneted, shot, herded en masse into the mills and burnt or were killed in caves.

The journalist AYSE HUR recently reported on an interview that had taken place in 1986 with the ex-Foreign Minister of Turkey, IHSAN SABRI CAGLAYANGIL. [He said]: "The Dersimis [i.e. Kurds in the region] had taken refuge in the caves. The (Turkish) army used poison gas. Through the caves entrance ... they were poisoned like rats. Aged

from 7 to 70 ... the Kurds in Dersim were slaughtered ... The [military] operation was bloody. The Dersim case was finished. The government's authority was established in the villages and in Dersim ... Today, anyone can go to Dersim. Gendarma can go, so can you. But lately, especially in the borders region, the Kurds influenced by the external powers started an independence movement. Some Kurds live in Turkey, some in Iran...." (AYSE HUR, 16/11/2008 TARAF GAZETESI).

After these uprisings and many smaller ones, the masses were exiled. By doing so, they wanted to clear out the Kurds from the region. The appearance of the PKK and its armed struggle was used as a pretext to evacuate and demolish more than 4,000 villages and towns. 3-4 million [Kurdish] people were exiled from their homeland as thousands of 'unsolved murders' of Kurdish intellectuals and patriots occurred that took the form of full massacre. These are the end result of policies that have been implemented over the past 30 years.

The oppression and bans continued along with forced assimilation and Turkification policies. They wanted to wipe out the language, culture – in short, the very existence of the people who lived on their land for thousands of years, who had deep roots and contributed to the civilisation of Anatolia, Iran and Mesopotamia, who had their own distinct and rich history and language.

In conclusion, we can say that, all the things done to the Kurds, and at different times and places, were beyond ethnic cleansing and they are physical and cultural genocide. The system that started this policy towards the end of Ottoman Empire and that spread all through [the Turkish] Republican period wanted to exterminate tens of millions of Kurds through genocide, deportation and assimilation. Even if this has not been fully achieved [to date], such policies had a huge destructive impact on the lives of the Kurdish people.

Has the situation changed today? No. Today, Turkish statesmen are neither brave enough to confront their history nor to make real changes in their policies that are suitable for our times. They are disregarding world public opinion and international law and carrying on with their policies without fear. Today the system is using the terror that it had created, carrying on with its militarist and racist activities. It is resisting [initiatives aimed at] opening a peaceful path for a solution.

They are not allowing [Kurdish] exiles to return to their land. The ban on language and culture is ongoing. Even today, there is no freedom of expression and organisation for the Kurds. The intellectuals who support them are punished according to the laws such as Turkish Penal Code article 301 and by similar articles.

The Turkish Prime Minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, recently visited the Kurdish region and had this to say to the people who asked for cultural and political rights:

The ones who don't accept the idea of one state, one nation, one flag, should leave the country...

In fact, this is an infamous slogan of fascism: love it or leave it...

On 10/11/2008 (The anniversary of Ataturk's death on 10/11/1938), the Defence Minister, Mr. VECDI GONUL, who was in Brussels for a meeting, openly claimed that without the genocide of the Armenians and the deportation of the Greeks, there would have been no national state. These are Vecdi Gonul's exact words:

...The most important step during the establishment of the nation was exchange of the populations. Just think, would it have been possible for us to become a nation state, if the Greeks had continued to live in Aegean region and the Armenians in many parts of Anatolia?

The Defence Minister, Mr. V.Gonul went on with an example from Ankara: "... Just one district of Ankara were Muslims in those days ..." and added that another one [was] Greek and another one Armenian. He also stated that, at the time, Izmir Trade Organisation was made up of non-Muslims. Mr. Gonul is admitting that with genocide and deportations, Turkey was ethnically cleansed, the finances were gained by Muslim Turks, and by doing so, the nation state was set up and what is more, he defended such action.

Honestly, there are no Greek or Armenian districts, Greeks or Armenians left in Ankara. Such Greek or Armenian districts don't exist in Istanbul either. Despite all that the ones who stayed behind and how they feel is not a secret. The events that took place in Malatya and the murder of HRANT DINK with the knowledge and support of the police and gendarme authorities are still fresh in our minds.

Today, the extermination of the Kurds, and the physical and cultural genocidal policies that are implemented against the Kurds, are a continuation of that "NATION BUILDING" mentality. It is obvious that the Turkish statesmen believe that they have not completed the task yet....

Syria:
Sentence against human rights activist exposes Arab nationalism

SOCIETY FOR THREATENED PEOPLES
PRESS RELEASE Göttingen, 12th May 2009

Syria: Kurdish correspondent of the GfbV sentenced to a prison term of three and a half years Punishment for engagement for human rights "exposes Arab nationalism in Syria"

The sentencing of the Kurdish correspondent of the Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV), Mashal Tamo, to three and a half years in prison is exposing in the opinion of the human rights organisation "Arab racial nationalism" of the Syrian government. "It is not only that Syria is a state governed by a dictator, but President Bashar al-Assad allows the people of the second largest nationality of his country, the two million Kurds, to be

marginalized and at best treated as second-class citizens”, criticised the GfbV chairperson, Tilman Zülch, on Tuesday in Göttingen.

Tamo, who regularly reported on the situation of the Kurds in Syria, was originally sentenced by the first penal court in Damascus chaired by Judge Muhyaldin Halaq to six years imprisonment for his engagement for human rights. The sentence, which according to § 285 und § 286 of the Syrian penal code on the charge of impugning national sentiment and the dissemination of falsified information to weaken the spirit of the nation, was however reduced to three and a half years imprisonment. The lawyers of the father of six announced that they would appeal against the sentence.

Mashal Tamo is the spokesperson of the Kurdish liberation movement. He was abducted during the night of 14th to 15th August 2008 in the town of Ain al-Arab in the north of Syria by a patrol of the secret service. His relatives were for several weeks refused any information as to his whereabouts. It was only when the GfbV wrote to the embassies of the democratic states in Damascus with the plea for help that the Syrian authorities stated where Mashal Tamo was being held. Shortly afterwards he was brought to court.

The total number of political prisoners in Syria is estimated at about 3000, among them at least 150 Kurds. The GfbV knows the names of 118 of these Kurdish prisoners. The Syrian Kurds, numbering some two million, who in three regions on the Syrian-Turkish border make up the majority of the population, are still today being discriminated or suppressed. They are denied rights of language and culture. In 1962 Syrian citizenship was withdrawn from 300,000 Kurds in the course of a large-scale Arabicization campaign. Since this time international human rights organisations, among them the GfbV, have been demanding the restoration of their citizenship.

News of Syria

On 13-11-2008 the Syrian security forces killed the Kurdish artist Mr. Lewend Hajo.

On 20-1-2009 Syrian security forces killed the Kurdish writer Mr. Jalal Mella Isa.

Recently the Syrian security forces searching to arrest many others Kurdish activists especially who run away from Syria as Mr. Khelil Bekr, Mr. Ahmed Mustafa, Mr. Awni Murad and Mrs. Hevi Mahmoud.

Councillor Antony Lillis at Palingswick House- Open Day on 27-11-2008 Between members of our Kurdish community and at the Kurdish Museum



The WKA and the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive attended many workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences, regarding the community and the refugees in general and regarding the cultures and heritage in London one of the was Historical Royal Palaces Employment Ambassador Event final instructions on 30th March 2009 at Hampton Court Palace.

Thank you very much for attending our lunch event Hampton Court Palace on Monday 30 March, which we hope you found interesting and useful.

We are delighted that you have agreed to become an Employment Ambassador for Historic Royal Palaces and hope that the literature you received at the event will assist you in this role. You will remember that the role involved:

1. Communicating our employment opportunities to your communities (general awareness and specific vacancies);
2. Promoting and putting forward candidates for our Volunteer Programme;
3. Keeping in touch with us, to help us further develop as an employer of choice for people from all backgrounds and cultures.

In relation to the 'promoting job opportunities' part of your role, please find attached details of our current vacancies which I hope you will display within your local community or pass on to other groups as appropriate. You can also find details of all vacancies on www.hrp.org.uk/recruitment

If you have any specific enquiries about recruitment opportunities, permanent or seasonal, please contact:

David Cooper, HR Manager - for opportunities at the Tower and our Working for Life programme on: 020 3166 6170 or david.cooper@hrp.org.uk

Kate Morris, HR Manager - for specialist opportunities at all Palaces on: 020 3166 6169 or kate.morris@hrp.org.uk

Caroline Kemp, HR Manager - for opportunities at Hampton Court, Kensington and Kew Palaces on: 020 3166 6174 or caroline.kemp@hrp.org.uk

If you have enquiries about volunteer opportunities please contact Sarah Levine Volunteer Manager on 020 3166 6175 or sarah.levine@hrp.org.uk

If you have any general feedback or other suggestions on how we can reach a more diverse range of potential staff please contact Graham Josephs, HR Director on 020 3166 6173 or graham.josephs@hrp.org.uk
We look forward to developing our relationship and working in partnership with you in the future. We will of course keep sending you details of our vacancies as and when they arise.

Regards

The WKA and the Kurdish Museum participated with the following events:

Refugee Week 2009



Mrs Louise Nolan, Mr Kawa and Dr Jawad Mella WKA volunteers Mr Jihad Baker and Hameed Mustafa receives certificates of achievement



The WKA volunteers with Mrs Sidiqa, leader of the Bosnian Association, Mr Imad Alhamdani Director of Hammersmith & Fulham Refugee Forum and Mr Fazil Kawani from Refugee Council

Seminar to remember Sheikh Mashouq Khaznawi



Mr Fazil Kawani from Refugee Council, Mr Adnan Shaswar from KANGA, Dr Farhan Ahmed director of British-Kurdish Friendship, Dr. director of Kurdish Federation in the UK, Mr Kawa Yousef director of KNC Youth, Mr Wijdan Derky from Declaration of Damascus, Mr Kawa Behishti the UK representative of Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran, Mr Ibrahim Kalil the UK representative of Kurdish Yekiti Party of Syria, Mrs Layla Barzani, Mr Shirwan Rashid from KNC and Dr. Jawad Mella and many other Kurdish and from other communities participated the seminar.

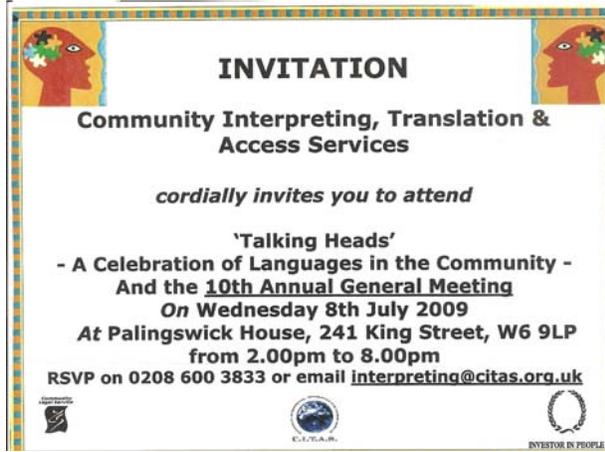


Mr Musadiq Ashour Syrians opposition's leader Mrs Shila Mosley British activists for the Kurds



Mrs Rose representative of the Kurdish Human Rights Project

Event of CITAS



Mrs Malika Hamidou Director of CITAS and Dr Jawad Mella



CITAS meeting,



Dr Jawad Mella, Mrs Mina Swara and Miss Layla Barzani

Citizens



Dr Jawad Mella, Chairman of WKA with a group from the Kurdish community participated in the demonstration of Strangers into Citizens

Activities of the WKA: serving the community, Radio Broadcasting, different kind of courses as English, computer and Kurdish heritage and Football Club



Free English and computer courses for refugees at Western Kurdistan Association



Kurdistan Football Club established by Western Kurdistan Association since 2004

Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive

The first Museum for the Kurdish heritage in the world is one of the main culture resources for the school-age children of Hammersmith and Fulham Borough and to the academics and researchers in the UK.

Let's make Hammersmith and Fulham Borough more colourful and tourist area for all nations and for the 3 million Kurds living in Europe for the coming London Olympics on 2012.

Visitors of the Kurdish Museum



Dr Jaza Changiani, from Russia



Mr and Mrs Ibrahim from Germany



Mr Hawar Haji the UK representative of the PUK, Mrs Razan Jalal, Mrs and Mr David Adamson and Dr Jawad Mella, in the second picture with Mr Azad and Mr Sipan from KNC



Dr Kawa Khorasani from North London



Mr Adnan Shaswar, director of KANGA and others from the Kurdish community

Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive Business Plan

Mission Statement

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive will provide Kurdish refugees living in London with a vital link to their culture, history and traditions, by the collection, conservation, exhibition and interpretation of relevant materials. It will do this for the benefit, educational and economic well being of the Kurdish and non-Kurdish community alike, in order to help build bridges between cultural communities in London.

Background

Founded in 2007 and opening its doors to the public for the first time in 2008, the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive is the first of its kind in the world. It functions through the kind generosity of supporters and is an important preserver of Kurdish culture and tradition.

Situation Review

i) Governance

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive is headed by a Management Committee which meets once every three months. This Committee works with the Director to help advertise the Museum throughout the local community and beyond. It effectively budgets, monitors and guides the Museum in its development.

ii) Staffing

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive is staffed by a Director, whose daily activities include answering e-mail and telephone enquiries, creating partnership opportunities and leading tours of the Museum. There are a number of volunteers available (approximately ten volunteers), which effectively carry out the Director's work in his absence.

iii) Building and Facilities

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive is situated in Palingswick House, a central resource base for voluntary and community organisations in Hammersmith and Fulham since the 1900's. In 2009, Palingswick House still stands as a valuable resource for the diverse communities of Hammersmith and Fulham, providing meeting space and resource facilities for groups and organisations. The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive occupies three small rooms on the second floor of Palingswick House, and has access to communal toilet and meeting room facilities on all floors.

iv) Budget

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive had outgoings of £3000 for general bills (i.e. material and utility bills), £4700 for rent and £2500 for volunteer expenses in the financial year 2007-2008. It has projected the same budget for 2009-2010, with the possible addition of VAT.

Activities

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive has run the following activities since its establishment in 2007:

- Daily exhibitions of Kurdish heritage items
- Monthly Kurdish film showings
- Christmas celebrations
- Kurdish New Year celebrations

The Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive sustains the above activities through:

- *Governance*: The Museum has a management committee of five members. This committee meets every 2-3 months. It is effective in sustaining close knit relationships within the Kurdish community and in suggesting positive new improvements to services.
- *Finance*: The Museum relies on small grants and the donations of Kurdish community members to keep its important work running.
- *Staff Base*: The Museum does not have any paid staff and therefore relies on the input of dedicated volunteers. Dr. Jawad Mella acts as the co-ordinator of Museum activities.
- *User Services and Facilities*: the Museum has a log book of visitors, which includes a comments sheet column. The comments column is particular important in gaining feedback on Museum performance.

The Core Strengths and Weaknesses of the Kurdish Museum Library and Archive are:

Strengths:

- Its “uniqueness” as a project: the Museum is the first of its kind in the world.
- It has an already impressive profile. The Kurdish community recognises it as an important tool in preserving Kurdish culture, and the non Kurdish community recognises it as a fascinating means of learning about Kurdish culture as a whole. Many MPs and the Cabinet Member for Community and Children’s Services in H&F all recognise the Museum as important in bridging the gap between social communities in London.
- It acts as a centre for the preservation of Kurdish culture, identity and empowerment.
- It is a source of Kurdish cultural education to the non-Kurdish community and schools.
- It is fostering fruitful partnerships with other museums in the area.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of funding.
- Poor promotion.

Opportunities:

- Secure funding from grants and sponsorships: for future projects and larger premises. The Museum has access to skilled fundraisers. It has short listed several grant opportunities for The Kurdish Writers in Britain Project and The Kurdish Genocide Project: ‘Their Past, your Future’. The Museum has

recently been successful in gaining funding from Awards For All for daily exhibitions until 2010.

- Engage in further partnership work with museums, libraries and cultural centres at home and abroad. The Museum works in partnership with The H&F Education Business Partnership and The H&F Archives and Local History Centre. It offers opportunities for partnership engagement through The Community Archives and Identities Council: <http://archivesandidentities.com> and through The Council's Website: <http://www.hammersmith.co.uk>
- Building on existing links, target educational centres in the borough as a means to educating the public about Kurdish culture. Educational Centres include: British Library, SOAS Library, Hammersmith and West London College, Cambridge School, William Morris 6th Form, Hurlingham and Chelsea School, Phoenix High School, the Bridge Academy, Burlington Danes, Sacred Heart High School, Henry Compton School, William Morris 6th Form, Lady Margaret School.

Threats:

- Loss of tenure of building.
- Lack of knowledge of current funding streams.
- Withdrawal of current funding streams.

Strategic Aims of the Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive

i) Management

- To develop and enhance the status and profile of the Museum both locally and nationally.
- To ensure the Museum's sustainability through improved funding.

ii) User Services

- To raise awareness of Museum activities
- Increase visitor numbers
- Increase visitor number
- Increase display areas

iii) Collections Management

- Increase the number of exhibits

Aims and Objectives

Aim: To Develop and Enhance the Status and Profile of the Museum both Locally and Nationally

Objective 1: Gain press coverage in local and national media. Possible national coverage will come from using the Guardian Newspaper, and local coverage, from the Gazette, ARC and refugee organisations' newsletters (especially BME umbrella organisations such as the H&F Refugee Forum, H&F BME and CAVSA). This will serve as a means to facilitating knowledge not only of Museum activities, but the cultural significance of the Museum.

Objective 2: Develop policies and procedures to ensure proper management of the Museum, its collections and resources

Aim: To Raise Awareness of Museum activities:

Objective 1: Gain press coverage in local and national media. This will serve as a means to facilitating knowledge and accessibility of Museum activities

Objective 2: Mail information of activities to local schools

Objective 3: Advertise activities and events on website

Aim: To Increase Visitor Numbers:

Objective 1: Secure promotion of services through media, mail, e-mail, web and word of mouth.

Objective 2: Consult with local Kurdish community to understand the needs of users and potential users (through, for example, means of a questionnaire).

Objective 3: Secure better funding so more activities can take place and attract visitors.

Aim: To Ensure the Museum's Sustainability through Improved Funding:

Objective 1: To communicate the Museum's purpose and mission clearly to potential funders.

Objective 2: Research what funders are looking for and linking this information with possible ideas of daily exhibitions and monthly Museum workshops.

Objective 3: Seek the help of an experienced fundraiser and secure funds through applications.

Aim: Increase the Number of Exhibits:

Objective 1: Develop a clear acquisitions and disposal policy.

Objective 2: Develop a collection management plan.

Objective 3: Secure better funding for larger premises in the long term and in the short term, to create more room for current exhibitions through removing computer and table areas.

Action Plan: Kurdish Museum, Library and Archive

AIM 1: To Raise the Awareness of Museum Activities				
Objectives	Resources	Responsibility	By When	Progress
Gain press coverage	Radio Rojava, newspapers, newsletters, leaflets, word of mouth, WKA and Council websites and Library Notice Boards.	Volunteers and Management Committee Members	To review at 6 months intervals	
Mail information of activities to schools	Newsletters	Management Committee Members	To review at 6 month intervals	

AIM 2: To Increase Visitor Numbers				
Objectives	Resources	Responsibility	By When	Progress
Secure better promotion of services	Radio Rojava, newspapers, newsletters, leaflets, word of mouth, WKA and Council websites and Library notice boards.	Volunteers and Management Committee Members	To review at 6 month intervals	
Gain a better understanding of potential audiences	A Visitors' Book and a Needs Assessment	H&F BME	In 6 month	
Secure better funding so more activities can take place and attract visitors	Grant applications	H&F BME, CaVSA Development Workers and Management Committee Members	To review at 6 month intervals	

AIM 3: To Increase Funding				
Objectives	Resources	Responsibility	By When	Progress
Research what funders are looking for	Information of grants available online	H&F BME, CaVSA Development Workers and Management Committee Members	To review at 6 month intervals	
Seek help from an experienced fundraiser and secure funds through applications	H&F BME & CaVSA	H&F BME, CaVSA Development Workers and Management Committee Members	To review at 6 month intervals	

AIM 4: To Increase the Number of Exhibits				
Objectives	Resources	Responsibility	By When	Progress
Develop a clear acquisitions and disposals policy	Reviewing session every year	Dr. Jawad Mella	To review at 6 month intervals	
Develop a collection management plan	Volunteers for cataloguing	Dr. Jawad Mella and selected volunteers	To review at 6 month intervals	
Secure better funding for a larger premises	H&F BME & CaVSA	H&F BME, CaVSA Development Workers and Management Committee Members	To review at 6 month intervals	

H&F BME: Hammersmith and Fulham Black and Minority Ethnic Network
CaVSA: Community and Voluntary Sector Association