

With thanks for all those involved in arranging, hosting and making financially possible the events and publicity, including:

Refugee Support Group Devon; Amnesty International, Exeter Group; St Sidwells Community Centre; Exeter Phoenix; Exeter Picture House; Devon Global Centre; Devon County Council; Exeter Arts Council; Think Tank Productions. (And apologies to those who helped but didn't make it to print – we thank you too!)



DESTITUTION

Devon has its own share of asylum seekers who find themselves no longer entitled to Government support. They rely on charities such as Refugee Support Group Devon to purchase food, medicines, travel and other essential items.

PLEASE HELP BY COMPLETING AND RETURNING THE DONATION SLIP BELOW or download a standing order form from our website to set up a regular payment <http://www.rsgdevon.org.uk/donations>

Refugee Support Group Devon is a small local charity (no 1092410) that provides information and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Devon. We have limited funds and rely on your support to provide vital assistance to individuals, particularly in emergencies.

Name Address

I would like to make a donation of (please make cheques payable to 'Refugee Support Group Devon')

*I am a UK Tax payer and would like my donation to be treated as GIFT AID

To qualify for Gift Aid, you must pay an amount of UK Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 given). If this applies please sign below and ensure you have given us your address.

Signature

*I would like to receive further information

*delete where appropriate

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Refugee Week

14 - 20 June 2010

Different Pasts, Shared Future

Refugee Week is a UK wide programme of events to celebrate the positive contributions that refugees and asylum seekers make to the UK and to promote understanding about why people seek sanctuary.

See inside for events in Exeter and Devon...

Who is a refugee?

The 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as somebody who has left his or her own country, or who is not able to return to it "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion."

In the UK, a person is officially a refugee when they have their claim for asylum accepted by the government.

The UK is home to less than 2% of the world's refugees – out of 16 million worldwide.

(UNHCR 2008 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons, 2009)

Who is an asylum seeker?

A person who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum in another country but whose application has not yet been concluded.

There is no such thing as an 'illegal' or 'bogus' asylum seeker. Under international law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in any country that has signed the 1951 Convention and to remain there until the authorities have assessed their claim.

Almost all asylum seekers are not allowed to work and are forced to rely on state support – this can be as little as £5 a day to live on.

Look out for other displays at St Sidwells Community Centre, Tiverton Library, The Plough in Torrington, St Stephens Church and County Hall in Exeter.

ART EXHIBIT
throughout the week

Invisible People

An exhibition that explores the issues faced by refugees in the UK. Designed by local refugee artist Ali Mousavi, supported by Exeter Arts Council.

14 - 20th June Exeter Phoenix alongside the Auditorium
15th - 28th June Exeter Picture House (see details of launch event on Tuesday 15th)

Sunday 13th June 10.30 – 15.30

Football Tournament "Refugee Week World Cup"

We start the week with our regular five-a-side tournament, featuring teams from a wide range of international backgrounds and local folk too. Bring a picnic and your sun hat!
King George V Playing Fields, Topsham Road, Exeter

Monday 14th June 11.00 – 16.00

International Craft Stall

Refugee Support Group Devon's highly acclaimed Women's Outreach Project will be showcasing their handicrafts. An opportunity to buy, chat and perhaps learn a few techniques!

The foyer area, Exeter Phoenix, Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter

Monday 14th June 18.30 – 20.30

Write to Life

Members of the 'write to life' project run by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture use creative writing to process the past, and take control of the present. Two torture survivors will present some of their work, which includes memoirs, poems and stories. A moving, but also entertaining, view of lives most of us would never see.

Music Room, Exeter Library, Castle Street, Exeter

Tuesday 15th June 12.00 – 14.00

Cultural Kitchen Café

Once again St Sidwells Community Centre loan out their café for this popular and eagerly awaited event! Make sure you take a proper lunch time break to enjoy a feast from around the world prepared by RSG Women's Outreach Project.

St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter

Tuesday 15th June 19.00 – 20.30

Exhibition Launch

This evening we shall unveil an art installation of photographs, paintings, text and sound, designed by local refugee artist Ali Mousavi. The event will be a great opportunity to meet members of Refugee Support Group Devon, Amnesty International and Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. The exhibition will remain until 28th June.
Exeter Picture House, Bartholomew Street West, Exeter

Wednesday 16th June 19.00 – 21.00

Sounds of Freedom

The hugely popular music night returns, with contributions from local musicians and artists. Come along for some music, songs and poetry celebrating love, freedom and diversity. Get in touch if you want to perform - info@rsgdevon.org.uk or just come along to enjoy the mix of musical styles from around the world.
Music Room, Exeter Library, Castle Street, Exeter

Thursday 17th June 13.00 – 14.00

Send them all home!

The Global Centre will be hosting again their 'world at lunch' discussion with a representative from Refugee Support Group Devon on issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers. A must for those wishing to air their views, learn some facts and possibly share their sandwiches!

The Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre, St Davids Hill, Exeter

Thursday 17th June 18.30 (check start time with venue)

WELCOME – film

The tale of a young Kurdish immigrant's all-or-nothing bid to enter Britain. Assisted by an older Frenchman (a swimming instructor) he walks into the foaming, freezing, grey waters and starts swimming the channel. Director Philippe Lloret portrays with brutal honesty the lives of refugees trying to reach the UK from France - the cold, hunger, casual violence from police and the risks run by some to help them.

The Picture House, Bartholomew Street West, Exeter (ticket prices apply)

- And while you're there, another chance to view our exhibition!

Friday 18th June 10.00 – 12.30

Coffee Morning

Friday brings our events to a close with the respected Coffee Morning at St Stephens Church in the High Street. Come and meet key organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers in Exeter and Devon, and sample some home made cakes from RSG Women's Outreach Project. A selection of the group's crafts will also be on sale.

St Stephens Church, High Street, Exeter

All events are free with no booking required unless otherwise stated. For more information contact Refugee Support Group Devon on 01392 682185 or by email info@rsgdevon.org.uk

Refugee
Week

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