

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; British Red Cross; St Sidwells Community Centre; Devon Global Centre; Devon County Council; Think Tank Productions. (And apologies to those who helped but didn't make it to print – we thank you too!)



DESTITUTION

Asylum seekers are not entitled to work. 'Failed' asylum seekers are no longer entitled to benefits or housing unless they are prepared to return home, which for many is not possible. The British Red Cross estimates that at least 26,000 destitute asylum seekers are living off Red Cross food parcels in the UK; however, the actual number of destitute asylum seekers is much higher as the Red Cross does not distribute food parcels in all cities, including Exeter. Devon has its own share of asylum seekers who find themselves no longer entitled to Government help and rely on charities such as Refugee Support Group Devon to help.

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
 (For every £1 we can claim 22p from the government – if this applies to you, sign below)

Signature
 *I would like to receive further information *delete where appropriate
 www.rsgdevon.org.uk
 info@rsgdevon.org.uk

Refugee Support Group Devon
 Wat Tyler House
 King William Street
 Exeter EX4 6PD

Refugee Week

15 - 21 June 2009

Different Pasts, Shared Future

Refugee Week is a UK wide programme of events which celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK. We look forward to seeing you at the variety of events and exhibitions throughout Exeter and Devon this week.

Who is a refugee?

The 1951 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." When a refugee arrives in the UK they are called an asylum seeker until they are granted refugee status which gives them permission to live in the UK. An asylum seeker is a legal term relating to someone who has formally made an application to the government.

Where are refugees from?

In the UK in 2008 the 10 most common countries people fled from were (highest numbers first) Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka, China, Somalia, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Why do they come to the UK?

The UK hosts just a small fraction of the world's refugees, the majority seeking shelter in their neighbouring (and often poor) countries. Of those that are able to seek help in western or developed countries, the UK hosts less than 8% (2008, UNHCR). People may not necessarily choose to come to the UK – safety being their priority. People may seek to come to the UK because they believe we have a fair process of asylum.

What can an asylum seeker expect from the UK?

The immigration legislation in the UK has undergone many changes over the past 8 years resulting in increasing restrictions on asylum seekers. The Government has passed legislation that has prohibited asylum seekers from working; limited their access to the NHS; reduced the amount of support they can claim; and restricted them to five hours of legal aid per case. Asylum cases may take several years to be processed and individuals are 'liable to detention' at any time.

Look out for displays from Refugee Support Group Devon, including photographs by an Exeter refugee, around Devon libraries, colleges and other public places (Exeter, Tiverton, Torrington, Barnstaple, Okehampton)

Sunday 14th June 9.30am – 4.00pm

'Kick-it-out' Tournament

Refugee Week kicks off this year with football teams participating in the Kick Racism out of Football Tournament. Over the past 5 years refugee teams have been participating in this grand tournament of up to 100 players from a wide range of international backgrounds. Come along and cheer us along!
Rubber crumb and sand-based pitch above the sports centre at Exeter University.

Monday 15th June 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Still Human, Still Here

Come and find out more about the difficulties destitute asylum seekers face when they cannot return home. Mike Kaye, Advocacy Manager of the Still Human Still Here Campaign will bring news and information, films and discussion, and ideas on how we can support the campaign.
Music Room, Exeter Library, Castle Street, Exeter.

Tuesday 16th June 6.20pm – 8.15pm

Film – The Visitor

A simmering drama about a pair of illegal aliens (Tarek, a Syrian, and his Senegalese girl-friend Zainab) in New York, and the college professor who tries to help them. The Visitor is a superbly written, beautifully acted and thoroughly engaging human drama that is ultimately both deeply moving and unexpectedly romantic.
The Picture House, Bartholomew Street West, Exeter (ticket price applies).

Wednesday 17th June 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Sounds of Freedom

World Music Night – An evening of music, songs and poetry celebrating love, freedom and diversity. Come along to support the artists, or if you would like to perform, please get in touch – info@rsgdevon.org.uk
Music Room, Exeter Library, Castle Street, Exeter.

Thursday 18th June 12 noon – 2.00pm

Cultural Kitchen Lunch Cafe

A feast of traditional foods from the Middle East cooked by members of RSG's Women's Outreach Project. Prices will range from £2.50 – £6.00 for lunch.
St Sidwells Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter.

Thursday 18th June 1.00pm - 2.00pm

World at Lunch

Bring your lunch and share a discussion on local refugee and asylum issues.
Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre, St Davids Hill, Exeter.

Friday 19th June 10.00am - 12.30pm

Coffee morning

Come and meet key organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers in Exeter and Devon and find out what is happening locally and nationally. A selection of Middle Eastern cakes, cards and embroidered work will be on sale by the Women's Outreach Project.
St Stephens Church, High Street, Exeter.

Friday 19th June 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Asylum Monologues

Scripted by award-winning playwright and founder of Ice & Fire theatre company, Sonja Linden, the Asylum Monologues tells the first-hand stories of people who have been involved in the system. Read by students from the University of Exeter, this is a powerfully moving piece of theatre not to be missed. Followed by an informal discussion.
The Black Box, Exeter Phoenix, Gandy Street, Exeter.

Saturday 20th June 12 noon - 2.30pm

Multi-faith celebration

Organised by Exeter Amnesty International Group, the celebration will consist of readings and prayers by representatives from various faith groups in Exeter plus world music and a candle-lighting session. Bring some food (that can be eaten cold) to share afterwards.
Quaker Meeting House, Magdalen Road, 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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