



We are working towards making Nottingham a recognised City of Sanctuary. In the city and county, we already have flourishing but hard-pressed groups who help people seeking sanctuary to become part of the wider community. We want to help local groups and individuals to welcome and appreciate people seeking refuge and asylum more actively.

March 2012 Newsletter

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*Welcome Project,
Mentoring, NNRF, Forestry
Commission, Oxfam
and us*

New premises!

We have changed our office address again. The new premises are at the Philadelphia Centre, 50 Gauntley St, New Basford, NG7 5HF. The move will be done before the end of this week, and should be more welcoming once we have settled in.

Asylum seekers and refugees - be part of Refugee Week 2012

Call for stories of refugee contributions to the Olympics

In preparation for Refugee Week 2012 we are looking for refugees who are/will be contributing to making this year's Olympics in London a success. Their stories

will form the backbone of this year's media and promotional campaign for Refugee Week. Every year the contributions made by refugees to the UK are celebrated and for this year we want to highlight the contributions made in the context of the Olympics.

Who we are looking for:

The Refugee Week team would like to hear from you if you are or know someone who is a refugee who will make the Olympics possible through their contribution, however big or small. This could be anything from: working in transport, hospitality, catering or supplying food/drink, cleaning, volunteering, stage building, being part of a medical team onsite., working on Olympic building sites, performing in the opening ceremony, umpiring a volleyball match ...or any other role that will help make the Olympics a

success. We are also looking for athletics coaches and athletes from a refugee background working with and competing for Team GB.

It could be anyone across the UK – from the north of Scotland, to the southern tip of Cornwall – as long as they are a refugee who is involved in the Olympics somehow.

What this will involve:

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We will be promoting these stories in the media during Refugee Week to show how refugees are a vital part of making the Olympics happen. So this may involve interviews and photos for national and regional media. A limited number of individuals who come forward may also have professional photographic portraits taken that will be part of the Refugee Week poster and flyer campaign for 2012. The Refugee Week team will be on hand to support you throughout this process.

Please contact Taku on 0207 346 1215 or send an email to info@refugeeweek.org.uk if you have an Olympic story to tell and you want to be involved in Refugee Week.

Community Cohesion - Creating the conditions for integration

The Government has called on people to come together and play their full part in local communities. A new 'localist' approach to achieving a more integrated society focusing on creating the conditions for everyone to live and work successfully alongside each other was unveiled by Secretary of State Eric Pickles and Communities Minister Andrew Stunell. See <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/integration>

Children's Society new report on destitution

The Children's Society published a report last week on destitution among refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant children and young people. "I Don't Feel Human" found that a rising number of children have nowhere to live and no source of financial support. Between April and September 2011, more than a third (34 per cent) of young refugees supported by The Children's Society New Londoners project were destitute - compared with 14 per cent in the previous year (2009-10). The full report is available on the [Children's Society website](#).

COULD YOU DISPLAY THIS AT THE ENTRANCE TO YOUR SHOP OR OFFICE?



They are available from coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org



The Rainbow project supports seekers of sanctuary (asylum) and refugees, some of whom have faced extremely harsh situations and are living in poverty here in Nottingham. Food is also sometimes given to others in need or homeless.

Rainbow Basket

The Rainbow Basket is an ongoing project which supports many people, including children, from countries in and outside of the UK and whose diet may differ from your own. Please could you collect and deliver to us:

Tinned food, or jars such as: kidney beans; tomatoes; chick peas; tomato paste; fruit; vegetables; fish; meat; soup (packets or tins), jam, sauce mixes.

Dried food such as: Rice; pasta; chick peas, beans; lentils; wheat flour; maize flour; chick pea, manioc, yam or cassava flour; cornmeal; sugar; teabags; coffee; dried milk; sugar; packets of spice; breakfast cereal. **Plus:** Spices and Oil for cooking; fruit juice; treats like biscuits, sweets and chocolate.

Toiletries for women and men such as: soap; toothpaste and toothbrush; shampoo; creams; razors and blades for men.



Contributions are collected and distributed by the Rainbow Project c/o the Vine/Stephen's Church, Bobbers Mill Road, Hyson Green, NG7 5GZ

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Letters

Hi everyone,

I'd just like to bring your attention to an author event which might be of interest to you or the people you support...

Jasvinder Sanghera was born and brought up in Derby. A survivor of a forced marriage, she is the co-founder of Karma Nirvana, a national project that supports both men and women affected by honour-based crimes and forced marriages. Jasvinder is also an international speaker and a Leading Expert Advisor to the Courts in child and criminal proceedings. Her memoir SHAME was a Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller. Jasvinder has brought the issue of forced marriage into the public eye and helped the Forced Marriage bill go through Nottingham City of Sanctuary, Philadelphia Centre, 50 Gauntley Street, New Basford NG7 5HF

Parliament. She has won numerous awards for her work including a Metropolitan Police GG2 Diversity Award in 2005. In 2007 she received one of the prestigious Women of the Year awards. Jasvinder was made an Honorary Doctor of the University of Derby in 2008. She was awarded a Pride of Britain Award in 2009 and was named a Cosmopolitan Ultimate Woman of the Year in 2010. In 2011 the Guardian listed Jasvinder amongst the top 100 inspirational women in the world.

Jasvinder will be speaking about her latest book "Shame Travels"

When she was a little girl, Jasvinder Sanghera's father told her about the village he came from, Kang Sabhu in rural Punjab. One day, he promised to take her there so she could meet her half-sister, Bachanu, who had stayed behind. But at the age of sixteen - as she so vividly related in her bestseller Shame - Jasvinder ran away from home to escape a forced marriage. Her parents disowned her.

'Shame travels...' her father told her. Although her mother took all her other daughters to meet the extended family in the Punjab, Jasvinder was never allowed to go.

With her own daughter about to marry, Jasvinder decides to challenge thirty years of rejection by going to India herself. She wants to explore her roots and to see for herself the place her parents called home until the day they died.

What Jasvinder finds in India and what she learns changes the way she sees the world, and has important lessons for all of us. SHAME TRAVELS is not only a gripping and revealing quest, but also an inspirational journey of the heart.

This event will take place at two Libraries on Friday 2nd March

2 pm Nottingham Central Library, 0115 915 2825 - enquiryline@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

and 7.30pm Wollaton Library 0115 915 5715 Wollaton.library@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Tickets cost £2.50 or £1.50 for concessions. **A small number of tickets are available for free to people who might not be able to afford to pay.** If you know anyone in this situation who would like to attend, please contact jane.brierley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or phone 9151171

Thanks, Jason

Jason McCormack (Communities Team Development Worker for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and New Arrivals) - (Normal working days Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 9.30 am - 2.30 pm).



Beyond Borders newspaper

Writers and contributions wanted!

Beyond Borders is a newspaper publication, circulated around the East Midlands during June 2012 as part of Refugee Week.

We aim to promote the issues of those seeking sanctuary in the UK.

- Are you a refugee or asylum seeker with a story to tell?
- Are you keen to celebrate the strengths of vibrant and resilient international communities?
- Would you like to research or write about these topics?

You don't have to be an established writer.

An interest in these issues is more important. Potential articles must be submitted before the end of March 2012.

For further information on how you can help, please call Stuart Brown on 07891 701133 or e-mail: stuartb10@ntlworld.com

News from our partner organisations:

Headline performance from our supporter group, begin:

Between 1 August 2011 to 31 January 2012 begin has:

- Supported 2,562 clients for Literacy/Numeracy, ESOL or signposting
- Prepared 2,418 Literacy/Numeracy/ESOL Appointments or Referrals for Providers
- Made 13,304 interventions or signposting actions with clients or people acting for them (this includes phone calls, emails, enquiry forms, face-to-face contact & letters)
- 585 people are currently waiting for ESOL

New website

We are currently working on a new begin website and will update you all when it is completed. In the meantime you can still visit www.begin.org.uk for information about begin and to refer clients.

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MARCH DIARY OF EVENTS

REGULAR EVENTS

Wednesdays, 1 -2 pm FREE Beginners Computer Classes

The Vine Community Centre, Hyson Green

FEMALE only classes with CRECHE, Wednesdays 1 - 2 and MIXED classes Mondays 1 - 2

Nottingham City of Sanctuary, Philadelphia Centre, 50 Gauntley Street, New Basford NG7 5HF

Phone 07557 443454 to book or drop in to The Vine.

Every Thursday, 6-7pm

International Singing Club -, The Square Centre, Alfred St North, NG3 1AA. (thanks to Nottingham Beyond Borders) Learn and teach songs from around the world! Everyone welcome.

MARCH EVENTS

Sunday 11th March: MHDVG Training session running at the Refugee Forum.

See below [Volunteering](#)

Monday 12th March 2012



Support for Voluntary and Community Groups

Time: 2pm – 4pm (appointment only, 30 min slots)

Venue: Clifton Library, Southchurch Drive, Clifton. NG11 8AR

Nottingham CVS Group Development Officers can give information and advice on all issues relating to setting up and the day to day running of a group.

They can help with:

- **funding information and advice**
- **information on training**
- **requests for sample policies**
- **advice on constitutions, legal structures and governance**
- **other issues relating to the running of your community organisation**

To book an appointment contact the Nottingham CVS Helpdesk: 0115 934 9548 (weekdays 10 – 1pm is best) or e-mail: helpdesk@nottinghamcvs.co.uk.

Tuesday 13 March



**City of Sanctuary group meeting 5.15 for refreshments, 5.30 for the meeting.
We finish by 7 pm. Expenses can be paid.**

All welcome!

Wednesday 14th March: British Red Cross Men's Group Pool tournament

The next British Red Cross Men's Activity Group pool tournament is on Wednesday 14th March at Riley's Pool Hall, 17A St. James's Street Nottingham NG1 6FH. The activity is free of charge to Refugee and Asylum seeker Men. To book your place or for further info contact Bill Walton 07834525008.

16 March 2012, 10:30am-4.30pm

BME Women's Health and Well-being Conference

Venue: East Midlands Conference Centre, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RJ

For details, go to www.eastmidlands.nhs.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?alld..

Thursday, 22 March

Mental Health, Self Harm and Suicide Prevention training course

This day is designed to give a basic understanding and introduction to the identification and management of these complex issues.

The training is from 9.30am - 4.30pm at the YMCA ICC, 61B Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3FN. The cost per delegate is £70. The day will include refreshments, handouts and a certificate of attendance. For further information contact Jez Spencer on 07769 332421 or jez@obtac.com

EVENTS IN APRIL

Tuesday 10 April



City of Sanctuary group meeting at The Vine

5.15 for refreshments, 5.30 for the meeting. We finish by 7 pm. Expenses can be paid. All welcome!

from Monday April 23rd April

Heroes: Creative Writing Project for 12 - 19 year olds

Nottingham City of Sanctuary, Philadelphia Centre, 50 Gauntley Street, New Basford NG7 5HF

Heroes is a creative writing project aimed at young people from refugee and migrant families in Nottingham, running from April through to July in Sneinton and Nottingham City Centre, and funded by Clore Poetry & Literature Awards.

Heroes don't just exist in the world of comic books and mythology; there are also heroes in our local communities and families, in popular culture and in political struggles. In these workshops, young people will be able to explore different aspects of the culture they inhabit, and the values, identities, and aspirations that go with them, and ask questions like 'what does it mean to be a hero (or an anti-hero, for that matter)?' and 'are they real or just fantasy?'.

Writing poetry and stories is a way of expressing yourself, learning to use your imagination and communicate complex feelings and experiences. We hope the workshops will help develop young people's confidence and give them an opportunity to work together with others from different backgrounds, as well as the satisfaction of seeing their work in print.

There will be two sets of workshop for different ages running for six weeks on Mondays after school/college from 23 April, and the young people will put together a book containing their work to be launched at the Sneinton Festival in July.

The 12–15 group will be based in Sneinton, and the 16–19 group will be based in the Writers' Studio in the City Centre. Both groups are open to people from across the city, and bus fares can be reimbursed. The workshops are free to attend. The exact times will depend on the availability of participants.

If you'd like to book a place on Heroes, contact Robin at Nottingham Writers' Studio on 0115 959 7947 or admin@nottinghamwritersstudio.co.uk.

Opportunities



Job Vacancy: Asylum Support Worker

16 Hours per week (1 Year contract)

Salary £7500

The Rainbow Project based at St Stephens's church in Hyson Green is looking to recruit a Part time Asylum Support Worker for 16 hours per week. The hours to be worked are to be agreed between the successful candidate and the Project coordinator, although some evening and weekend work may be required so the need to be flexible is essential.

Duties to include:

Deal with enquiries to the Rainbow Project.

Accompanying clients through appeal and legal processes.

Liaising with other agencies if required.

Keeping client records up to date

Keep up to date with current legislation

Assist Project coordinator in the organisation of Racial Justice Sunday events.

Attend meeting on behalf of the Rainbow Project as and when required.

A full driving licence is essential.

The Project though based on Christian principles works with a multi faith/multicultural client base. Applicants will be required to be empathetic to these principles.

For job description, person specification, and application form please email Sharon Bravo at ststephenshysongreen@gmail.com or telephone 0115 9701855 (Tuesday to Friday 9.30am – 1pm only).

Closing date for applications 12noon Friday March 16th.

Interviews to take place Tuesday March 27th.

Fagee Fashions: Training Workshops

Are you looking to learn something new? Are you interested in learning the art of African fashion?

If the answer is yes! look no further. Fagee Fashions is offering you the opportunity to join our fashion workshops.

Fagee Fashions provides a wide range of training for people in the community to learn the art of designing and sewing.

You will be trained in the arts of pattern drafting, designing, measuring, cut to measure and the final sewing of the garment. Styles will include a blend of western fashion styles fused with African fashion styles. It will be innovative and creative and you will enjoy designing and sewing your own clothes and a career within the fashion industry.

We give you a taste of the real fashion industry providing high quality tuition from experienced tutors. You will learn skills to build yourself a career.

Training workshops are FREE

Call and enrol now on: 07733 742316



working for the safety and empowerment of BAMER
women, children and young people

If you or someone you know....

- Is from a **Black, Asian, minority ethnic or refugee community**
 - Is between **16-25 years of age**
 - Is or has been a **survivor** of domestic violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, sexual assault, trafficking, honour based violence, gang-related violence or **any other form physical, sexual or emotional abuse**
 - Women who have been affected by witnessing violence or abuse are also welcome.
 - Would like to **talk to a qualified counsellor** in a safe environment
- CONTACT ROSHNI ON 0115-9881414 OR**
- Email: counsellingservices@roshninotts.org.uk**

We offer

- A counselling service that is **free of charge**
- An **initial assessment** to ensure you get the right support
- 12 sessions of individual, face-to-face counselling.
- A safe, confidential, non-judgmental space to enable young women to stay safe, talk about and understand their experiences, move on from the past, value themselves and remain free from violence
- A multilingual service: counselling is available in **English, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil and Spanish**
- Sessions are held at the **Nottingham Women's Centre**: a safe, **women-only** environment, easily accessible by bus or tram

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Belong are running ESOL sessions, Mondays 10am - 12 noon, at Belong, 32 Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green (opposite the Library). These are **free for asylum seekers** though there will be a small charge for anyone else (£1 for jobseekers or those on benefits and £2 for all others - this is for a 2 hour session). Initially it will be for those at Entry 1 and Entry 2 standard though we hope to expand this soon. *Please note these are not accredited courses.*

For more information contact: Rosie Fisher, Project Development Worker, Belong, T: 0115 979 0015, E: rosie@belongnottingham.co.uk

Conversation groups

Did you know that Nottingham City Library Service runs English Conversation groups for people who want to improve their confidence in speaking English? The groups are a great way for people to get to know their community and find out about services.

More information on the conversation groups and other services of interest to people from the new arrival, refugee and asylum seeking communities can be found [here](#) and on Nottingham City Libraries [Facebook page](#).

Meadows Library: Tuesdays 11 am - 1245 pm

Aspley Library: Wednesdays 1 pm - 3 pm

Central Library: Thursdays, 3 - 5 pm

Hyson Green Library: Fridays, 10.30 am - 12

Language Café project

A fun and informal way to learn new languages, practice your teaching skills and meet people from all over the world. Come along and get involved!

Nottingham City Libraries and Culturebox have teamed up with the Refugee Forum to bring back the Language Cafe project! At the Square Centre, Alfred St North, NG3 1AA. Every Saturday 2:30-4:30pm.

Libraries are at the heart of your community For more information contact Juliet Line on 01159151180 or Diane at culturebox@hotmail.co.uk

***InTraining* jobseeker sessions**

Nottingham City Libraries are hosting *InTraining* sessions, offering work & training to jobseekers. They are based on floor 2 of Central Library, Angel Row, on Wednesday afternoons between 12.30 and 4.30.

InTraining provide free training and job help to all jobseekers who are aged 19 or over (anyone under this age will be able to access the same help from Connexions).

InTraining are happy for staff to signpost anyone to them who needs work & training help. They perform an initial assessment of the jobseeker, which takes up to an hour, and from this they work out how best to help them. This might be C.V. writing, interview techniques, job searching or training.

If they have a group of people all needing the same help, they will organise a group session e.g. a group session on C.V. writing.



The Welcome Project

REFUGEES !

- Feeling lonely, anxious or depressed?
- Want to practise your English?
- Need help finding paid or volunteer work, training or education?

A mentor can help you with by providing one – on – one support meetings once a fortnight or once a month.

You choose your mentor from our group of trained volunteers and you decide what you want help with. The programme will be starting in November 2011.

Ten places are available.

Interested? Please text/call Welcome Project co-ordinator Joanna Petersen 07557 443454
joannap@thewelcomeproject.org.uk

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Resources

Help the Homeless this Winter



The Nottingham Winter Shelter is a collaboration of Faith Communities and the Voluntary Sector. They run a temporary Night Shelter **until 12th March**. It will run for a few weeks each in St Peter's Church Hall Radford, Thomas Helwys Baptist Church Lenton, and St Saviours in the Meadows.

We need to recruit volunteers to make this project a reality. Duties include setting up and clearing down, serving drinks and snacks, and lending a sympathetic ear. Further details from nottinghamwintershelter@yahoo.co.uk or find out more and sign up during our Coffee Morning

Do you know where your local community cafe is? (thanks to NCVS)

The Nottingham Community Cafe Network has mapped the city's community cafes, find details of the network [here](#).

FREE ESOL resource: Nottingham Contemporary

Nottingham Contemporary have now developed a free ESOL resource that can be used by any group or individual. The resource aims to make gallery visits more accessible and engaging. Further information can be found on <http://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org/communities-and-groups>

We currently also offering a limited number of FREE artist led workshops for any ESOL group within the city.

Special free gallery training days are also on offer for tutors or anyone who works with groups who have English as a second language.

To find out more, please contact Saima Kaur at Saima@nottinghamcontemporary.org

DROP-IN FOR ST. ANN'S AND DALES COMMUNITY GROUPS -

at Renewal Trust Building, 27-31 Carlton Road

No appointment necessary! Thursday evenings, 4 - 7 pm

We work in partnership with NCVS group development worker Kate Hemsley to offer tailored one-to-one advice and support to community groups. No appointments necessary! This could include support with governance issues, identifying and filling in funding applications, helping with planning, policies, constitutions and so forth.

We are also offering FREE use of a b&w photocopier to community groups

FREE colour printing (limited to 20 copies per group per session)

Introduction to the National Health Service

This fact sheet has been written to explain the role of UK health services, the National Health Service (NHS), to newly-arrived individuals seeking asylum. It covers issues such as

- ▶ the role of GPs,
- ▶ how they give you to the health services,
- ▶ how to register
- ▶ and how to access emergency services.

[Click here](#) to access the information in 40 languages.

Learn about the situation of sanctuary seekers in this country

As part of their Social Sciences course, the Open University has produced two podcasts about City of Sanctuary. The “[Seeking Sanctuary](#)” podcast has a video and “Taking Sanctuary” has no visuals but goes into more detail. Both are available on the Open University site and free to [download on iTunes](#).

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NOTTINGHAM CITY OF SANCTUARY

We invite you and your organisation – your school, faith group, business, charity – to sign our pledge form and get involved in whatever way suits you. Whether you want to display a sign, join a befriending scheme, or just smile at people you don't know, there's something everyone can do to help make Nottingham more **open and fair**.

Please support us by becoming a City of Sanctuary supporter group

We are continually seeking statements of support from all **organisations** across Nottingham. We are working towards building a network of organisations that recognise the contribution of asylum seekers and refugees and are committed to welcoming and including them in their activities.

We also ask our supporting organisations to decide on a practical action that they can implement to help make their activities or services more inclusive of those seeking sanctuary.

If this sounds like something that your organisation could do go to the [website](#) for more details. Please sign and return our pledge form to either coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org, or to Nottingham City of Sanctuary, Unit 5, First Enterprise, 88 - 90 Radford Road, Hyson Green, NG5 7FU.

The form will also give you useful ideas for how to make your activities more inclusive of those seeking sanctuary.

You can also register your support as an **individual** by signing up to receive our newsletter and information on City of Sanctuary events. Email coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org

Our 61 Supporting Organisations - Is yours listed?

Faith groups:

[All Saints, St Mary and St Peter, Nottingham](#)
[All Souls Church and Community Centre](#)
Beeston Quakers
[Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham](#)
[Nottingham and Derby Methodist District](#)
[RC Diocese Justice and Peace Commission](#)
[Nottingham Interfaith Council](#)
[Nottingham Quaker Meeting](#)
St John the Evangelist Church, Carrington
[St Stephen's Church, Hyson Green](#)

Education:

Aegis, Nottingham Trent University

[Begin](#)
[Castle College](#)

[STAR \(Student Action for Refugees\)](#)

Refugee Community groups

[Belong \(formerly Kweri-Hetu\)](#)
[Birchover Community Centre](#)

Public sector

[Area 4 Forum, Nottingham City Council](#)
[Forestry Commission, Sherwood District](#)

CEFET

Voluntary groups

[African Women's Empowerment Forum](#)
[Citizens for Sanctuary](#)

[Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service](#)

[Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum](#)

[Nottingham Arimathea Trust](#)

[Nottingham British Red Cross Refugee Services](#)

[Nottingham Beyond Borders](#)

[Nottingham Clarion Choir](#)

[Partnership Council](#)

Peace Supper Group

[The Rainbow Project, Hyson Green](#)

[Stop Hate UK](#)

[Vine Community Centre, Hyson Green](#)

[The Welcome Project](#)

[Trade Unions](#)

[Unison, Nottingham City branch](#)

[Others](#)

[Beulah Rescue Centre](#)

CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament)

[City Arts](#)

[HLG \(Housing Liaison Group\)](#)

[NCBI \(National Coalition Building Institute\)](#)

[Refugee Action](#)

[Roshni](#)

[Streetwise Opera](#)

Shops - Please support these shops who are supporting us:

Crocus Cafe

[Crocus Gallery](#)

[Iguazu \(Fairly Trading\), Beeston](#)

[Oxfam Shops, Beeston](#)

ACM, African/Caribbean Food Shop, 390 Radford Road, Hyson Green

Fix It All Ltd., DIY & Hardware Suppliers, 386/388 Radford Road, Hyson Green NG7 5GR

AKWAABA Ltd, New Bakery opening shortly, 362 Radford Road

Hafiz Supermarket, Supermarket, 342-346 Radford Road, Hyson Green NG7 5GQ

Fast Dial, Internet Cafe, 388 Radford Road, Hyson Green

Yomade -African Favourite Foods, 334 Radford Road, Hyson Green, NG7 5GP

Costcutter, Supermarket, 322 Radford Road, Hyson Green NG7 5GP

Madni Sweet Mart & Pan, Homemade sweets & Indian cuisine, 316 Radford Road, NG7 5GP

Hyson Green Mini Market, 310-314 Radford Road Hyson Green NG7 5FT

Monopolowi, Eastern European foods, 296 Radford Road Hyson Green NG7 5GN

Haven Housing Trust, Charity shop, 247 Radford Road Hyson Green

Tramwiches, Café & Sandwich bar, Caterers, 211 Radford Rd Hyson Green NG7 5GT

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Volunteer with Morton Hall Detainee Visitor Group (MHDVG)

We are a group of volunteers who visit people detained at Morton Hall Immigration Removal (detention) Centre and we are looking for people to join us in supporting detainees.

Morton Hall IRC is in Swinderby, Lincolnshire. It is one of the larger detention centres in the UK and its location is quite remote. The purpose of the visitors group is to support the people detained there by providing a link to the outside world. We visit those detained at Morton Hall and stay in contact by phone to reduce the isolation that is all too common in detention centres.

Detention invariably affects people mentally and emotionally. Visits from people who care, people that aren't part of the system that keeps them looked up, are invaluable for detainees' emotional wellbeing.

New visitors will be supported by being paired with someone who has already started visiting. We also meet regularly to share experiences and ideas and to support each other with any difficulties. No-one is expected to take on anything that they aren't comfortable with.

There will also be a training session running on **Sunday 11th March at the Refugee Forum**. If you are interested in getting involved, please reply to this email
mhvg_volunteer@riseup.net

Look forward to hearing from you,

Morton Hall Detainee Visitors Group (MHDVG)

Joining in / Volunteering Opportunities

Do you need volunteers? (We do! -see last page) We will feature you here each month, especially if you would welcome volunteers who happen to be refugees.

There are many projects across Nottingham that support refugees and asylum seekers, and most would welcome new volunteers. Many of our supporter organisations also require volunteers.

Please feel free to contact these organisations but if you do secure a position, please contact us and let us know about it so we can share the success stories of volunteers with others (and gain brownie points with our funders!)

The Welcome Project is seeking to recruit volunteers for all aspects of the project including:

- Interpreting
- English conversation practice
- Mentoring
- Computer training
- Form-filling
- Help with accessing benefits, housing, health services and education
- Fundraising
- Writing grant applications
- Event management
- Media relations

All volunteers will receive training in working with vulnerable people and undergo CRB checks. Further training in the relevant areas, e.g. housing etc, will also be given.

Contact us:

Co-ordinator: Joanna Petersen joannap@thewelcomeproject.org.uk, 07557 443454

Administrator: Sharon Bravo admin@thewelcomeproject.org.uk or 0115 9701855

The Rainbow Project co-ordinator: Dianne Skerritt dskerritt@southwell.anglican.org or 07917 67468

Nottingham Arimathea Trust (NAT)

is looking for mentors and befrienders for residents in our asylum houses. Your role will primarily be to offer a supportive relationship and practical assistance where appropriate, and can take the form of a variety of activities such as helping residents with English, accompanying them to various events around Nottingham, helping them get to a doctor's appointment, or simply chatting to reduce loneliness and isolation. Mentoring and Befriending training will be provided!

No specific qualifications are required although an understanding of the issues facing asylum seekers is desirable and a positive and respectful attitude is essential!

For further details please visit the Do-it website: <http://www.do-it.org.uk/oppdetails.do?id=1626060> or contact NAT's Support Facilitator, Wesal on 07771803752 or wesal@nottinghamarimathe.org.uk

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum

Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum (NNRF) is an independent, voluntary organisation set up to work with and for asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Volunteer positions include a vacancy for Honorary Treasurer and General Advisors.

Website: <http://www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk/>

Email: volunteer@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk

Telephone: 0115 941 5599

Forestry Commission, Sherwood District

The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible for trees, woods and forests in the East Midlands Region. They manage the forest estate in the region and create sustainable and attractive woodlands that are rich in biodiversity and accessible to as many people as possible.

They offer volunteer opportunities in Practical Conservation, Trail Building or Shadow Ranger Voluntary Work Placement. For more information on volunteer opportunities please visit www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering.

Website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/> Email: enquiries.sherwood@forestry.gov.uk

Telephone: 01623 822 447

Oxfam

The Oxfam 'Books and Music Shop' in Beeston and the Oxfam 'General Shop' in Beeston have both signed up as supporters of the City of Sanctuary and are willing to offer volunteer placements for suitable refugees and asylum seekers If you want to apply, or need support, contact: communications@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org



CITY OF SANCTUARY Volunteers wanted!

Can you offer some time, skills, or knowledge to us? Please contact Jo Thorpe (j.thrope@ntlworld.com) to discuss what you are interested in. We particularly need a new Administrator/Secretary.

Secretary/Administrator

Mail outs to potential members and follow up calls, publicity, keeping a record of members, agendas for meetings and minutes, booking speakers. Organising meetings.

Skills needed: good organisation skills. Access to a computer and phone (cost of calls need to be reimbursed).

Publicity / PR / Media volunteer

Writing press releases; writing positive stories for local press on people seeking sanctuary locally. Work with Website Manager (or be Website Manager too)

Skills needed: some experience of working with media and writing press releases, or willing to learn, good English writing skills.

Promoters

There are many groups (and shops) in Nottingham we are sure would want to support us, if they knew about us. We know the names of many groups, but haven't had the resources to contact them and explain who we are. Could you help?

Recently we contacted shops for the first time. It took Claudette just one morning to sign up 12 shops in Hyson Green. Small shops in areas where sanctuary seekers live are our targets, **especially St Ann's, The Meadows, Lenton.**

Community Networkers

Volunteers to attend community events – designing and setting up a stall, speaking to other organisations at events, networking etc.

Skills needed: good communication skills, willing to travel locally, organise own time, and able to find out about events to attend.

Newsletter

To produce a monthly newsletter

Skills: Ability to write in a way that engages existing supporter groups and new readers. Ability to cut and paste from certain websites. Keep a look out for local events. Ability to make it look attractive on screen and on paper (on screen is more important).

Speaker / trainer

To give presentations to other organisations in Nottingham encouraging them to sign up in support and to decide how to action their support.

Skills: Would suit someone with experience of asylum system and good presentation / facilitation skills. Speaker's materials are available.

Expenses are available for those who need them.