



## Birmingham Refugee Week Programme

Detailed programme content - Information on groups and organisations - Links to events & campaigns

### Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham

Our first ever online Refugee Week festival is nearly here, and we are excited to share with you a great programme of content. We are committed to celebrating the contribution of refugees to our city and to supporting and promoting the work of refugee and migrant artists. We have commissioned artists and musicians to create new work around this year's theme of "Imagine". "To imagine' means to picture something you can't currently see. To perceive something different." (Refugee Week UK)

Refugee Week Featured Artists - Profiles, links and Commissioned Works around the theme of "Imagine".

#### Music:

Didier Kisala (DR Congo) -  
Stay Together (Live recording)

Millicent Chapanda (Zimbabwe) -  
Rudekaro (Live recording)

Nifeco Costa (Guinea Bissau) -  
Alleluia - (Live recording)

Zirak Hamad - (Kurdistan)  
Kas Nia (No One) - (Live recording)

Germa Adan - (Haiti)  
An Nou Leve (Let's Get Up) (Live recording)

Ben Pathy (Angola) with Afro Mio -  
Nkondolo - (pre recorded music)

Hassan Salih Nour - (Sudan) with Ibrahim Disko  
Al godear - (Live recording)

**Poetry / Spoken Word:**

Ben Pathy (Angola) -  
Tudo Mudou - by PMamona (Live performance)

Laura Nyahuye (Zimbabwe) -  
Skin - (Live recording & written poem)

Ahmed Magare (Somalia) -  
Quarantine - (Live recording & written poem)  
Sun Dust, Not Now - (written poem)

**Artwork & Photography:**

Kia Aria (Iran) -  
Room (Photography exhibition)

Ahmed Magare (Somalia) -  
Quarantine (Artwork)

**CSB Workshops**

Millicent Chapanda (Zimbabwe) - Mbira and song  
Fahim Zazai (Afghanistan) - Kitemaking  
Zirak Hamad (Kurdistan) - Daf - Kurdish drumming

World Music Party - Saturday 20th June 7-9pm (details to follow)

**Playlists & Links**

YouTube playlist  
Spotify playlist  
Film links via Refugee Week UK

**Selfie Project:**

"To imagine' means to picture something you can't currently see. To step beyond the current moment, and perceive something different." (Refugee Week UK)

We will be promoting a selfie project to encourage people to show support for Refugee Week by taking a selfie and holding up a sign saying "Refugee Week 2020 and what they imagine". and post with the hashtags: #RefugeeWeek2020 #BhamRefugeeWeek #Imagine

**Birmingham Refugee Week**

Please join the group and invite others so that we can share content and engage with as many people as possible through Refugee Week.

**Please follow link below:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1415746128609919/>

**Keep up to date with the latest news and events:**

<https://www.celebrating-sanctuary.org.uk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/celsancfest>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CelebratingSanctuary>  
<https://www.instagram.com/celebratingsanctuarybirmingham>

## **ARTconnects in Partnership with MAC**

**Live online workshop**

**Sat 20 June - 2 - 4pm**

Create your own artwork at home and engage in discussion in a special online workshop for girls and women to mark Refugee Week. A free workshop, taking place on Zoom, will be delivered by international award-winning artist and activist Salma Zulfiqar. Art and conversation will be the recipe to connect people in lockdown from diverse backgrounds, to celebrate migration through creative expression. This ARTconnects workshop brings together refugees, migrants and people in host communities to build solidarity and promote peace and tolerance.

**For More information and to book a place please visit:**

<https://macbirmingham.co.uk/event/artconnects-for-refugees-1>

## **Ikon Gallery**

**Screening - door open – (2014–2019)**

A film by ZouZou Group, comprising two anonymous artists, one Syrian from Damascus, the other British, living in England. Their ongoing dialogue, made possible (and frequently impossible) through online messaging and file sharing mobile phone video footage, exposes the constraints and imbalances of working together across the boundary of a war zone and long-standing military dictatorship.

<https://www.ikon-gallery.org/event/zouzou-group/>

**Soapboxes – To imagine**

**Saturday 20 June, time tbc**

As part of World Refugee Day and Midsummer Festival, Ikon and Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham have compiled 20 quick-fire, home-produced, soapbox videos on the theme of Refugee Week 2020: "To 'imagine' means to picture something you can't currently see. To step beyond the current moment, and perceive something different." #RefugeeWeek2020 #BhamRefugeeWeek #Imagine

## **Muzikstan**

**Thursday 18th June - 7-9pm**

Live world music performances and DJ sets - streamed online from their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Muzikstan>

## **Polish Expats Association & Centrala Gallery**

**16 June - Malgosha Dawidek- Re screening of Conversio**

In September 2015, Malgosha Dawidek presented her project Conversio, at Centrala Gallery.

The audio-visual project tells the story of women migrating and settling down in Birmingham. The heroines are women of different ages, from varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds and social classes, all forced to live in new conditions. Through her project, the artist examines adaptation processes of women restarting and re-evaluating their lives. Conversio documents how they function despite barriers that may crop up such as culture, language and their own body.

For Refugee Week 2020 we plan a re-screening of Malgosha's 3 videos that comprised the exhibition's

AV project. We plan on first presenting them through our YouTube Channel with the online premiere being advertised on our social media and on our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/polish.expats/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/centralaspace/>

### **18th June, 6pm - Iryna (Muha) Interactive Live Performance with support band**

Iryna is an Ukrainian musician and performer. Her original compositions, as well as traditional folk songs tell timeless stories of love, of belonging, of living – as well as of the darker side of Eastern European Folklore with tales of abandonment, plots, fighting battles, or preparing for death. Iryna is going to perform a few songs inspired by her experiences as a migrant in UK and also interact with her audience and respond to questions.

We will live-stream this concert on YouTube and Facebook live. Please visit our YouTube channel or Facebook @ 6pm on 18th June.

<https://www.facebook.com/polish.expats/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/centralaspace/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgzjXvfVv3We8jAPLH397fg>

### **20th June - Central and Eastern European Movie Exchange Event.**

This is an event about Central and Eastern European Movie exchanges with a Refugee theme. It focuses around CEE movies that tell stories of refugees and of the conflicts in Eastern Europe that resulted in victims, refugees and asylum seekers. We plan on discussing some of the following films:

- 1.Cirkus Columbia (2010) directed by Danis Tanovi
- 2.The Earth is as blue as an orange,( 2020), directed by Iryna Tsilyk's
- 3.No Man's Land,( 2001) directed by Danis Tanovi
- 4.Serbian Epics- (1992) directed by Paweł Pawlikowski

### **Birmingham City Council - Refugee & Migration Team**

To celebrate RW the Migration Team has made a short film that highlights the contributions that refugees/asylum seekers bring to Brum especially around work and employment. The film features inspiring people who have sought refuge in Brum. The film will be available to view on the BCC website from Monday 15th June accompanied with a short article raising awareness about Refugee week, and Birmingham's involvement as a City of Sanctuary. We encourage all to view and share the film on social media.

### **Friday 19th June - Birmingham Migration Forum**

The BCC Refugee & Migration team will host a Birmingham Migration Forum, chaired by Bethany Finch, with Cllr Cotton giving a speech. Participatory organisations will be sharing how they, or people they work with have responded positively to the Covid-19 crisis.

### **Refugee Action - Lift The Ban**

Refugee Action is an independent national charity that provides advice and support to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, and campaigns for a fairer asylum system.'

### **Lift The Ban campaign**

Right now, right here in the UK, people seeking refugee status are banned from working whilst they wait months, and often years, for a decision on their asylum claim. Instead, they are left to live on just £5.39 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, whilst the Government wastes the

talents of thousands of people.

We think that's wrong. We believe that people who have risked everything to find safety should have the best chance of contributing to our society and integrating into our communities. This means giving people seeking asylum the right to work so that they can use their skills and live in dignity. The Lift the Ban coalition is working to change this. Together, we believe we can #LiftTheBan and ensure that people seeking safety in the UK have the right to work.

● **To hear why this is important please visit:**

<https://twitter.com/RefugeeAction/status/1234872868506423297?s=20>

● **To find out more about the campaign please visit:**

<http://lifttheban.co.uk/>

● **Refugee Action - Lift The Ban - Real Stories**

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban-lauras-story/>

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban-zelies-story/>

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/lift-the-ban-bailas-story/>

## Rees Foundation

The Rees Foundation is a national charity that supports care experienced people to thrive. This can take many forms including financial assistance, educational grants, advocacy, housing, mental health support and the Arts. Rees does not have an upper age limit on who they can support; as the experiences of being foster, residential or kinship care can last a life time. For more information or to make a referral, please visit the Rees Foundation website :<http://www.reesfoundation.org/> Contact us:<http://www.reesfoundation.org/contact/> Freephone: 0330 094 5645.

## Rees Foundation Refugee Week Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSwIx3yNexs&t=31s>

## Restore

Restore's vision is for a society into which all refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed, valued and integrated.

Restore works towards that vision by:

- Building relationships and equipping for integration – through befriending, group social activities and employability training
- Motivating for action – through raising awareness of refugee issues and opportunities to make a difference.
- Working for change – through partnering and campaigning with others to improve systems and services that affect refugees and asylum seekers.

During social distancing, due to Covid-19, Restore's staff and 115 volunteers have focused on remote befriending via WhatsApp video calls to refugees and asylum seekers offering extra relational support during this time of social isolation, increased anxiety and uncertainty. We are supporting the campaign to increase asylum support payments.

## Find out more about the work of Restore:

<https://www.facebook.com/Restore.BirminghamChurchesTogether>  
[www.restore-uk.org](http://www.restore-uk.org)

## The Bike Project

The Bike Project collects abandoned bikes and fixes them up at its workshop in Balsall Heath to donate to refugees and asylum seekers across the West Midlands. For refugees surviving on limited funds and often restricted from working, a bike is a vital lifeline to access essential services, support and education. The charity is also a social enterprise which teaches mechanics to refugees who help fix up bikes for donation or that go on to be sold the public to fund the charitable activities. It cannot operate without the support of the local community who donate bikes, time or purchase bikes and accessories from its online shop.

**Please visit the website for more info:**

[www.thebikeproject.co.uk/](http://www.thebikeproject.co.uk/)

@the\_bikeproject (twitter) / TheBikeProjectUK (facebook)

## MiFriendly Cities

MiFriendly Cities will be running a social media campaign that reflects on the idea of 'home' during Refugee Week. The campaign will focus on '#SYMBOLSOFHOME'.

Home should be a sanctuary and a safe, supportive place. It's what MiFriendly Cities is helping to create in the West Midlands. But right now, during lockdown, it might also be places of solitude, or even sadness. To mark Refugee Week, we are sharing images and ideas that symbolise home. For example, this may be an object, photograph or meal that reminds you of home!

To bring this to life, we need partners to take part, repost MIFC content about the campaign, and encourage their participants to take part also. Please see examples below.

### Example Posts

To mark #RefugeeWeek2020 I am joining @MiFriendlyWM\*/@Mifriendlycities\*\* in sharing #SYMBOLSOFHOME. Here is a photo of my mum's samosas. They always remind me of home and our heritage What reminds you of home?

To mark #RefugeeWeek2020 I am joining @MiFriendlyWM\*/@Mifriendlycities\*\* in sharing #SYMBOLSOFHOME. Growing up in France I lived near this beach. Me and my family would spend afternoons playing in the sand! That to me represents home.

To mark #RefugeeWeek2020 I am joining @MiFriendlyWM\*/@Mifriendlycities\*\* in sharing #SYMBOLSOFHOME. These were my Grandad's bagpipes. They remind me of where it started for me - Scotland. Share your #SYMBOLSOFHOME with us!

\*Twitter and Facebook /\*\*Instagram

You may post your response on either Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, but please make sure to tag us appropriately as above.

During Refugee Week, MiFriendly Cities will also be working with Coventry University to host an online webinar called 'MiFriendly Cities: Connect to CU – Accessing Higher Education', which aims to support people from migrant backgrounds to get back into education. Details to be shared shortly.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina UK Network

The BH UK Network is a registered charity organisation set up in 1996 to provide practical and psychological support to Bosnian and other ethnic minority communities. The Committee consists of service users and service providers, including young, unemployed, elderly and disabled members of our community.

Main aims of the BH UK Network include improving the quality of life for the 10,000 Bosnian refugees living in the United Kingdom, who moved over amidst the Balkan Wars. This includes a population who are physically and psychologically scarred as a result of the war and many of whom are in need of long-term on-going and consistent care. Their biggest barrier to accessing this care is their lack of knowledge of the English language, which is where our organisation plays a vital role.

- **BBC video about Bosnia House and Bosnian community in the UK**

<https://youtu.be/wSUoBtptsII>

Bosnia House in Birmingham is the main centre for BH UK Network and the place where all centralised activities are organised. It is headquarter and sanctuary for the 10,000 Bosnian refugees living in the United Kingdom. Bosnia House was officially opened on the 25th of November 2018 by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, the government's minister for religion. Soon it became a place where everyone can feel welcome, a place where the local Bosnian community gets the support it needs and a place where Bosnian culture is truly celebrated.

- **Traditional dance - Performance of the folklore group *The youth of Bosnia* in Cannon Hill Park**

<https://www.facebook.com/bosniauknetwork//381896246012052/?v=381896246012052>

The Bosnian-Herzegovinian folklore group "The youth of Bosnia" under the close eye of their instructor Fahire Hasedžić had the honor to represent Bosnian community in Birmingham with its folklore performance in front of an audience at Cannon Hill Park as part of World Refugee Day. Dear young people, Bosnians and Herzegovinians, introducing us with pride and a smile. Our wonderful folk dance instructor Fahira Hasedžić has been teaching young people for years to perform folk dance which is an important part of the Bosnia culture and traditions.

- **Mural in Bosnia House – A celebration of Bosnian identity**

<http://bosniauknetwork.org/5390-2/>

It is intended to enrich the space with its richness of colour and match the sounds of dance, song and laughter, which can be easily experienced at Bosnia House. This Mural is a result of cooperation between the Bosnia UK Network and the Celebrating Sanctuary organisation. It was officially unveiled by: the Mayor of Birmingham Mohammed Azim, Dr. Azmi Waqar OBE, His Excellency Vanja Filipović and the President of the BH UK Network, Zaim Pašić. The mural was painted by the outstanding artist David Thomas Barry with the help of Birmingham artist Shaheen Ahmed, who after the workshop with the young people of the Bosnian supplementary school Birmingham got the idea and inspiration for the mural. Together, they made a draft, and David managed to revive it with his talent. The width of the mural is 6 m, and the height is 3 m.

- **Unity – The artwork created in Bosnia House**

<http://bosniauknetwork.org/kreativna-radionica-sa-salmom-zulfiqar/>

This artwork was created in Bosnia House, Birmingham, with contributions from over 40 women - female students at South and City Birmingham College (Golden Hillock campus), Bosnian women in the local community - together with award-winning artist and human rights activist, Salma Zulfiqar. Through an ARTconnects workshop led by the artist, the women were asked to create images reflecting unity and solidarity and discussed ways of promoting community peace and tolerance. The artist curated the images into this artwork.

**To find out more please visit:**

<http://bosniauknetwork.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/bosniauknetwork/?ref=bookmarks>

### **Bearwood Action for Refugees**

Bearwood Action for Refugees is a community group, founded in 2015 and committed to supporting newly arrived people in our local community and in transit through fundraising, awareness raising and befriending activities. We host monthly Community Lunches for newly arrived families to come together with our volunteers to cook, eat and play together, and we are currently operating monthly deliveries of food and essentials during lockdown. Much of our fundraising is currently on hold owing to the current restrictions, but do check out our social media platforms for information on how you can get involved in our online fundraising projects. This Refugee Week we launch the online platform for 36000 Humans, a project launched last Refugee Week to honour and remember all those who have died seeking sanctuary in Europe.

**To find out more please visit:**

<https://www.facebook.com/BearwoodAction/> [36000humans.co.uk](https://36000humans.co.uk)

[www.actionforrefugees.org](http://www.actionforrefugees.org)