

Bristol Refugee Rights

Safety · Solidarity · Action for Change



Supporters Newsletter

June 2018

Spices Without Borders - There are just 19 tickets left for our amazing and delicious meal, part of Bristol Food Connections, so get your ticket soon!

"We welcome asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol. Together we create a place of solidarity and trust. We challenge the injustices that we experience and witness in the UK. Learning together we develop partnerships and links with the wider community to promote equality of opportunity for Asylum seekers and Refugees."

Dear

Welcome to Bristol Refugee Rights Newsletter for June 2018. It's great to still have you with us after we asked you to sign up again as a result of GDPR.

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Refugee Festival June 2018

The 2018 Refugee Festival is set to be bigger and better than ever! There are events scheduled almost every day of June which testifies to the growing support and awareness in Bristol for welcoming migrants to the city.

We hope to see you at some of the events BRR is involved with:

Sunday 10th June - Moving - Refugee Lives and Animated Stories at the Watershed. Also showing at the M Shed throughout June

Tuesday 12th June - Spices without Borders meal - Just 19 tickets left, get yours soon and tell your friends!

Sunday 24th June - Celebrating Sanctuary at Queens Square



Friday 29th June - Honoring Kamil: Exploring disability and migration.

You can find out more about BRR's events during the festival [here](#). Or visit the [Bristol Refugee F website](#) to find out more about other events.

What Impact We're Making



In 2017/2018 we had:

411 new members

9772 visits to the Main Hall

1080 different people visited us

93% of members said that coming to the Welcome Centre made them feel better

60% of our members did not have immigration status in the UK

“Thank you for all the services for my depression and anxiety. Also for looking after my daughter. I have none else but BRR i everything.” A BRR member

Bristol Diversity Awards 2018

Just to let you know, Pride Without Borders recently was shortlisted for the Bristol Diversity Awards 2018 **Organisation Award for LGBT+**, and guess what.... we won! Find out more about the work of Pride Without Borders [here](#).



Bristol Pride without Borders
A SPACE FOR LGBT+ REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

Bigger Picture

In the year ending March 2018, the number of asylum applications in the UK from main applicants decreased by 8% to 26,547. The fall in asylum applications reflects a return to levels seen before the



European migration crisis in 2015. The falls are consistent with what has been seen more broadly across Europe, with a decrease of around 41% in applications to EU countries in the last year.



There were 14,166 grants of asylum, alternative forms of protection and resettlement in the year ending March 2018. This was down by 11% compared with 15,973 in the previous year.

A total of 5,874 Family reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those granted asylum or humanitarian protection in the UK, a 2% increase since last year. Of these, 2,883 (49%) were issued to children.

A total of 5,760 people were resettled in the UK in the year ending March 2018 under various schemes. This included 4,342 Syrian nationals who were provided protection under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), bringing the total number of Syrians provided protection to 11,649 since the scheme began in 2014.

Source: gov.uk

Local Picture



A community meeting was hosted by Bristol City Council last month to discuss the Government's Green Paper on Inclusivity. The biggest concern continues to be about the narrative – the way in which the government continues to talk about refugees and asylum seekers, which intentionally creates friction between white British, established BA communities and new communities.

The Mayor, Marvin Rees, is organising a Global Parliament of Mayors event in Bristol in October. The event will look at the ways cities influence government policy. We understand that refugees and migration will be a topic for discussion.

Bristol City Council is on track to resettle 150 Syrian refugees by the end of July and 200 by the end of September. Their target is to settle 400 by the end of 2019.

Updates on Law

Data-sharing suspended between NHS Digital and Home Office

A tentative celebration after the High Court granted a legal challenge against a NHS-Home Office deal to hand over patient data to immigration officials. The challenge was put forward by Migrants Rights Net (MRN), a UK charity advocating for the rights of migrants and will go to a full hearing.

In the meantime, the Government have accepted an amendment put forward by two MPs to suspend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Home Office and NHS Digital (NHS' statutory arm). The policy U-turn was announced during a parliamentary debate on the data protection bill.



The Commons health and social care select committee had also expressed concerns about the negative impacts of this data-sharing agreement as well as other organisations like Doctors of the World and the British Medical Association. Read more [here](#)



MPs vote to reunite refugee families torn apart conflict

In March, over 100 MPs from across the political spectrum voted in favour of changing the law to help families divided by conflict to be reunited here in Britain.

If passed, the proposed new law will enable refugees who have already sought safety in the UK to be joined here by their close relatives, including children who have turned 18 and elderly parents.

What's been in the news

- [Sajid Javid appointed as Home Secretary](#)
- [Independent inspectors find room for improvement in Home Office practice with unaccompanied children](#)
- [Charities criticise ruling on asylum seekers forced to share rooms](#)



Ways you can support



As a small local charity we rely on the generosity of donors to support our work. Regular donations are particularly helpful as they allow us to plan for the future and ensure our members receive consistent, sustainable support.

Thank you to all of you who already support us in this way. If you don't and would like to, please visit our [Local Giving page](#) to see how you can make your donation.

If you can't afford to make a donation yourself or you already donate, why not tell a friend about us!

Thanks

As always, we want to say a huge thank you to those who support us. Without your support we wouldn't be able to keep doing the work that we do so Thank You.

Kind regards

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www.bristolrefugeerights.org

We appreciate you signing up to our newsletter post GDPR. If you need to read our privacy policy again, you can view it [here](#)

Please visit our website at www.bristolrefugeerights.org

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Donate to our cause at [Local Giving](#)

Registered Charity no: 1126646
