



# Bradford Ecumenical Asylum CONCern

Registered Charity Number: 1119463

Refugee Week provides an opportunity for us to celebrate the contributions that asylum seekers and refugees have made, and are making, to our communities. There are lots of exciting events in Bradford throughout Refugee Week, see below for more information.

## BEACON's annual sponsored Walk for Justice

will be taking place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. We would like to invite you all to walk in solidarity with us to highlight the plight of those seeking sanctuary in the Bradford District. We will be meeting in Centenary Square, Bradford at 10am and will make our way to Waterside Court, Leeds. We will stop at Thornbury for a comfort break and refreshments, provided by our CHAT volunteers and for a picnic lunch by the canal. For information about the scenic route we will take, sponsorship forms and other questions you may have, please see our website or contact Kezia Rooke, BEACON Co-ordinator (Contact details overleaf).

If you are unable to join us on the day and would still like to show your support, we have set up a fundraising page at Charity Giving. If you are able to, please sponsor us:

[www.charitygiving.co.uk/beaconexec](http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/beaconexec)

All support is greatly appreciated.

Charity Giving



## Bradford Refugee Week: 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013

### Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June:

**Launch Event**  
*at Kala Sangam*  
10am – 2pm

**Refugee Shorts**  
*Bradford University*  
6pm – 9pm  
Short films exploring Refugee issues.



### Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June:

**BEACON's Walk for Justice**  
*Centenary Sq. – Waterside Ct.*  
10am start



### Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June:

**BIASAN Party**  
*Bradford Resource Centre*  
6pm – 9pm



### Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June:

**Refugee Week Finale**  
*at City Park, Bradford*  
12pm onwards  
Speakers and musicians celebrate the contribution of Refugees to the host community.

**Time for Questions**  
*at Bradford University*  
5pm-9.30pm  
Panelists and audience debate issues of asylum and immigration.



### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:

**Refugee Communities Football Tournament**  
*Youths at Manningham Sports Centre and Adults at Hanson School*  
11am-3pm

## BEACON Briefing Refugee Week 2013: Project Updates

### Hosting



We are always on the lookout for new volunteer households; if you, or anyone you know, has a spare room and would be interested in providing a safe space for a person seeking asylum in Bradford, please get in touch.

**Will Sutcliffe, Hosting Co-ordinator: [host.beacon@yahoo.com](mailto:host.beacon@yahoo.com)**

Destitution is a growing issue among refused asylum seekers and BEACON will be attending the **National Day of Action on Asylum Destitution** on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June** at **4pm**. Plans are coming together to arrange the event which will be a peaceful demonstration in Bradford city centre, as part of a national day of action to raise awareness of the extent and impact of destitution amongst asylum seekers whose cases have been refused, but who are unable to return to their home countries. Please add your support. For more details, please contact **Harry Femi: [harrybradford76@yahoo.com](mailto:harrybradford76@yahoo.com) or 07965 936663**.



### McKenzie Friends

Firstly the good news; one of our volunteers has been working with a client and his family for some time now. After finding a solicitor to represent him and continuing to support them throughout, the client has now been granted 3 years leave to remain! We have had fewer new clients recently, but have been working hard training new volunteers, consolidating our relations with the courts and making a submission to the Home Affairs Select Committee on Asylum. We are very concerned about cuts to Legal Aid and the pressure that puts on us and on the solicitors and other agencies who work with us. We are, however, looking forward to a training session with immigration solicitor, Mark Taylor, next month. On *International Day Against Homophobia* we were joined by Jess McIntyre of *ReachOUT*, to discuss issues affecting those fleeing persecution for reasons of gender identity and sexual orientation. Thank-you to all our volunteers and to all the organisations we have been working closely with over the past few months.

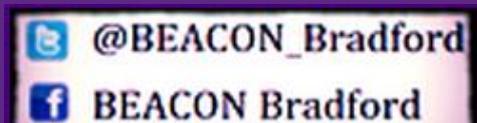
**Eithne Dodwell, Chair of McKenzie Friends: [Eithne.dodwell@gmail.com](mailto:Eithne.dodwell@gmail.com)**



### CHAT (Care & Hospitality At Thornbury)

CHAT volunteers continue to make their irrepressibly heartening presence felt at the immigration and asylum hearings court. The value of the project has been recognised not only by those waiting for their court hearings, but also by the court management, who have instigated regular meetings with CHAT. The aim of these meetings is to work on developing the service we provide, and to agree ways in which they are able support us in achieving this. The first meeting went very successfully, with appreciation being expressed on each side, so the future looks positive for our collaboration. There is also great anticipation for the upcoming CHAT volunteer meeting – watch this space for bright ideas to spring forth. Spotlight English Conversation Club has welcomed several new members in the last months, and continues to be thoroughly enjoyed by both participants and volunteers.

**Eleanor Wood, Chat Worker: [CHAT@beaconbradford.org](mailto:CHAT@beaconbradford.org)**



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