

SPRING 2024

DEVON AND CORNWALL REFUGEE SUPPORT



SOUTHWEST IMMIGRATION ALLIANCE

The Southwest Immigration Alliance, funded by the Justice Together Initiative (JTI), addresses the scarcity of immigration advice in the SouthWest of England.

A report by Bristol Refugee Rights and Bristol Law Centre, also backed by JTI, highlights the region's insufficient legal support due to high demand and limited capacity.

This initiative seeks to establish a coordinated and sustainable legal advice network, ensuring equitable access to justice for migrants. It operates in two sub-regions: 'North' (Bristol, Gloucester, Swindon) focusing on improved referrals and complex casework capacity, and Devon & Cornwall focusing on ecosystem development. Partner organizations include Bristol Law Centre, Bristol Refugee Rights, and others, aiming to enhance legal access and collaboration in the region..

To find out more scan the QR code.



ACTIVITIES

This spring we delved into the theme of Play, Connect and Grow in Green and Blue Spaces. We explored connecting to land and ethical growing practices with the organisation SnapDragons, in Victoria Park. Led by Tess, our workshops covered seed exploration, plant identification and growing.

Our activity of the 'Microbiome Garden' at Apricot Centre has provided a new connection to those arriving and the community. We have partnered with the Apricot Centre and Radical Ecology under D.I.G (Diversity in Gardens), we focus on cultural exchange, community support and connection to nature.

Diversity in Gardens and Kitchen Sessions happen every other Friday (and some Mondays) from February to June 10 am to 1 pm. These sessions cater to asylum seekers and refugees, offering food sharing, wellbeing garden activities for children, farm volunteering opportunities with potential future employment.

On the other hand, Creative Club have been reflecting on the impactful journey through 'The Making of Home' exhibition, led by Merrydith Russell, a PhD researcher at the University of Plymouth. The group have been crafting responses to the themes and memories associated with the concept of 'Home'. The Artwork is on display at The Box, Plymouth, from 1st of March to the 7th of April.

In the next few months, we will explore storytelling, illustration, and drama through engaging workshops.

Look out for the next edition for further information!

 **JUSTICE
TOGETHER**



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Abimbola, our remarkable Finance and Business Administrator, proudly graduated from Plymouth University with a master's degree in Business Management. Here are her reflections on this significant achievement.



"I am proud to announce a momentous achievement in my career.

With my role as Finance and Business Administrator, I have obtained a distinction from the University of Plymouth for my master's degree in Business Management.

With my dedication and commitment to excellence, I aim to be an inspiration to the entire team, volunteers, and community.

My relentless pursuit of knowledge and continuous growth exemplify the values we hold dear within our organization.

DCRS staff have extended their heartfelt congratulations and appreciation for my continued contributions to the team."



DCRS (Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support) proudly announces its 25th anniversary event, "Our Home, Our Heart: Celebrating Diversity and Belonging," to be held on Saturday, June 22nd 2024, from 13:00 pm to 21:00 pm at Leadworks in Plymouth.

Inspired by the theme of Refugee Week 2024, which emphasizes the significance of home as a place of refuge and cherished memories, the event invites everyone to celebrate the essence of "Our Home." From a shared feast and space, you will explore what home means to our community through food, music, art, and cultural exchange.

Founded in 1999 by Sam and Isatta Kallon, DCRS supported the first asylum seekers dispersed to Plymouth by the Home Office. Their vision led to the creation of the Masiande Centre which has supported tens of thousands of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in the region. Despite challenges, Isatta's perseverance guided DCRS to charity status in 2009.

Today, DCRS continues to fight for its vision of a fair, humane and safe asylum experience for all. The anniversary event embodies the spirit of resilience that defines DCRS's legacy.

Join us for an unforgettable celebration and register via QR Code.



A NOTE OF THANKS

As the month comes to a close, we're sad to see our social work students, Evie and Jan, leave us. They've been a wonderful part of our team, helping our caseworkers and bringing joy to everyone. We wish them all the best in their 3rd year at University and their bright future!

"Thank you all for the support and care you all have constantly shown us from the beginning of our placement to the end. We will never forget the skills and knowledge we have gained from you all or forget the amazing laughs and trips we have been on together. "



dcrs-plymouth.org
@dcrsplymouth

Thank you for all your support!

TO DONATE

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