

DEVON AND CORNWALL REFUGEE SUPPORT

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As Refugee Week 2024 draws to a close, our hearts have been filled with gratitude and joy. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all our staff, volunteers, service users, partners, and funders who made our DCRS 25th Anniversary event a resounding success. Special thanks goes to our founder Isatta Kallon for leading us on this incredible journey, embodying her words: "Let us help each other. We are each other's keepers." Hundreds of people attended over the entire day with many previous trustees and staff visiting to catch up on their time with our organisation.

We are also immensely grateful to Merrydith Russell, The Apricot Centre, Radical Ecology, University of Plymouth, and the Leadworks staff for their invaluable contributions. A musical shout out to DJ Hannah Drayson, The Cabarats, Patrice Naiambana, and Young Man Wod Luo for the amazing music at our event.

During the celebration, we were privileged to premiere the DCRS 25th Anniversary Documentary, "Celebrating 25 Years Serving the Community," directed by Megan Roberts. This film beautifully showcased Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support's journey since its founding by Sam and Isatta Kallon in 1999. Together, we celebrated diversity, belonging, and home. Here's to many more years of making a difference together. ❤️

To watch the full documentary and experience our inspiring story, scan the QR code provided.



BEFRIENDING

DCRS's response to social isolation among asylum seekers and refugees has been the Befriending Project, which connects newcomers to Plymouth with local volunteers. Recognising the power of human connection, Suvi Rehell, project manager says, "We wanted to find a safe way to nurture new friendships." The project has seen success stories over many moments of tea and coffee: parents forming a support group and clients receiving help with job applications. With over 20 friendships formed in it's first year, DCRS now seeks funding to expand this vital program.



To become a volunteer befriender please contact Suvi Rehell at suvi.rehell@dcrs-plymouth.org



WELCOME TO DCRS

We welcome Henry Kong and Yeshi Adhanom! We are thrilled to introduce our new casework team members and are glad to have the wealth of experience both Yeshi and Henry bring to our organisation we continue to support our service users.



We express our deepest gratitude for welcoming us to your fantastic team. From day one, we have felt incredibly supported and valued, and we are truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of Devon & Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS).

The warm welcome and genuine comradery we have experienced here have made a significant impact on us and felt like we have been in this exceptional organisation for years. We are inspired by the dedication and passion that each team member brings to work, and we feel privileged to collaborate with such talented individuals. Your collective achievements, which we are proud to be part of, are truly commendable and a testament to the team's hard work and dedication.

Thank you for creating a positive and inclusive environment where we can thrive personally and professionally. Yeshi and I are both excited to contribute our legal and caseworkers' skills and expertise to our team's and organisation's continued success.

With our sincere appreciation

Henry & Yeshi

WELLBEING DEPARTMENT

Our activities program over the summer has been very full and happy for our service users, who reported improved moods, new social connections, and familiarity with Plymouth's walking and cycling routes. Skills sessions like swimming and cycling have been especially appreciated for boosting confidence.

Our diverse program included monthly arts tours with The Box, music, IT Class, bowling, cinema visits, and food workshops. We have also been able to have seasonal activities like coastal walks, Dartmoor trips, city cycling, canoeing on the River Dart alongside access to the University of Plymouth Students Union gym.

Our approach focuses on exploring Plymouth, social connections, skill development and mental health support. Notably some of our service users who attended Diversity in Gardens (DIG) project went on to complete a construction course with City College Plymouth.



A NOTE OF THANKS

Georgia Edwards, one of our caseworkers has moved on from DCRS. Her unwavering support for our staff and service users has been invaluable.



We will miss her and wish her the very best in her future endeavors travelling across South America!

"Three years have passed so quickly at DCRS and I will miss working with the dedicated and caring volunteers and staff.

I have met incredible service users that I would not have had the privilege to have met otherwise.

I hope to take all I have learnt forward and to continue to stand up for the importance of having a safe and fair asylum journey that can be navigated with ease and dignity."

