

Dear Colleague,

Here is our latest round-up of news and opportunities of relevance to BME/ Refugee community organisations in Greater Manchester.

If you have any upcoming events or opportunities you would like to share with BME and Refugee community organisations, please get in touch with the GM BME Network team on 0161 227 0675 or email: gmbmen@mccr.org.uk.

News

Credit Union accounts for Community Groups, Charities and Social Enterprises

Credit unions are now open to wider membership including community groups, charities and social enterprises. The Credit Unions Act has changed to allow credit unions to provide services to new groups and to develop new services and partnerships. Previously everyone eligible to join a credit union had to have something in common, but this requirement has now been removed, leaving credit unions free to extend their operations by offering financial services to organisations such as housing providers, social enterprises and businesses, community groups and charities.

For more information see the Association of British Credit Unions Limited's website: www.abcul.coop/media-and-research/news/view/208

New Report – 'The Legacy of Legacy'

This project used community researchers to interview twenty women who had received leave to remain under the 'legacy' casework scheme, about their experiences accessing the labour market and relevant public services. The aim of the project was to gather evidence of the particular challenges faced by these women, reflecting their gender and ethnicity, that could then be used to hold public service providers to account under the Equality Act. The project was based within Rainbow Haven, a local community project which provides advice and support to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers in Manchester and Salford. The project was funded by Oxfam GB, as part of its Law into Practice project, funded by the European Union.

For further information and to access the full report, visit:

<http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk/%e2%80%98the-legacy-of-legacy%e2%80%99-research-report/>

Events

Event for RCOs: Basis Project National Conference – Tuesday 24th January 2012, Birmingham

Date/Time: Tuesday 24th January, 2012, 11:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Venue: Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4JQ

Refugee Community Organisations: Looking to the Future - The Basis Project invites you to a conference that will bring together refugee community organisations, refugee support and

infrastructure support organisations and funders to explore ways forward from the current challenges for RCO development.

For further information, see: <http://www.thebasisproject.org.uk/events/basis-project-national-conference-2011>. To reserve your place, complete the booking form on the website. To find out more, contact basis@refugeecouncil.org.uk or call 020 7346 1297. This event is free. Travel and childcare expenses will be covered for refugee community organisations.

Get Connected - Go to Market - Tuesday 24th January 2012, Manchester

Date/Time:

Tuesday 24th Jan 2012, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Venue: GMCVO, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ

Event about contracting in the voluntary sector. If voluntary sector organisations are to have a role in the expanding contracting environment, it will be vital for us to build supply chains with each other and work in partnership.

This event will help your organisation get ready for the oncoming contracting culture and 'go to market' with all our purchasers in Greater Manchester. It is aimed at voluntary organisations in Greater Manchester providing wellbeing services in areas such as health, social care, children and young people, complex families, learning and skills, advice, access, transport, the environment, and offender management.

To register for the event, visit: <http://www.gmcvo.org.uk/get-connected-%E2%80%93-go-market>

One North West & Voice4Change Big Society Event –

Thursday 9th February, Manchester

Date/Time: Thursday 9th Feb 2012, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Venue: GMCVO, St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ

Voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) are at the forefront of transforming the Big Society vision into a reality locally. But how can organisations focused on equality take part and how can we make sure all communities benefit?

- Hear from national voluntary sector speakers about what the Big Society is and what it means for equality.
- Learn about the North West approach to making Big Society equal and the innovative work in Tameside.
- Learn more about three Big Society programmes: Community Organisers, Community First and Local Integrated Services, and how you can get involved.

Now is your chance to share your ideas and solutions to bust Big Society barriers with representatives from Central Government.

Join us for a dynamic day of discussion, learning and networking as we strive to make Big Society policies work for a fairer and more equal society.

To book a place, visit: <http://www.voice4change-england.co.uk/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=6>

Big Writing for a Small World – beginning Monday 13th February, Manchester

English PEN in partnership with Community Arts North West are providing a programme of free creative writing and reading out loud events aimed at refugee community members (and including migrants and asylum seekers).

Have a go at writing a story or a poem, a rap or a song, a sonnet or a haiku. Find out more about the best of European and worldwide literature. Enjoy and develop your creative self-expression with our writing and reading workshops and events. Meet great writers and read great books. Submit your words to a new book of stories, poems and reflections that will be published in spring 2012.

There will be 4 free workshops which will take place on Monday afternoons from 12.30-2.30pm at: Meeting Rooms A and B, Greenfish Resource Centre, 46-50 Oldham Street, Manchester, M4 1LE. Dates: Monday 23 January, Monday 30 January, Monday 6 February, Monday 13 February. Book Launch: April 2012. Tea, coffee, juice and biscuits will be provided.

Expenses – There is a small budget of £3.70 per participant per session to pay for travel expenses. This project is therefore aimed at Manchester residents. Participants from Greater Manchester are welcome to attend but the project can only provide £3.70 per session. Receipts must be provided. We are sorry but there is not a budget for childcare costs.

For further information or to book a place – There are 15 places for participants. Places will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. To find out more about the project or to book a place please email segun@can.uk.com

Trafford Rape Crisis Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Service Launch and Conference - Friday 9th March 2012, Manchester

Date: Friday 9th March 2012

Venue: Longford Park Stadium, Manchester

Trafford Rape Crisis presents the launch of their Black and Minority Ethnic Women's Service and proudly hosts 'Declaring the Activism of Black Feminist Theory Convention'

Key note speakers include: Sara Ahmed, Gargi Bhattacharyya, Kum Kum Bhavnani, Kimberle Crenshaw, Carole Boyce Davies, FORWARD, Southall Black Sisters, Ann Phoenix, Sunera Thobani

This is followed by a Master Class on Saturday 10th March.

The conference is open to members of the community, students, activists, academics and non-academics. For further information, visit:

<http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk/events/event/declaring-the-activism-of-black-feminist-theory-convention-friday-9th-march-2012/>, or email: bme.services@traffordrapecrisis.com

Training

FREE GMBMEN TRAINING: Preparing for Commissioning - Thursday 19th January 2012, Rochdale

Date/Time: Thursday 19th January 2012, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Venue: CVS Rochdale, Partnership House, Sparrow Hill, Rochdale, OL16 1QT

FREE Training for BME and Refugee organisations. A practical one day course designed to help you compete successfully in the contracting arena. You will develop a sound understanding of the commissioning process and an understanding of the work needed to prepare successful bids. For further information and to access the booking form, visit:

<http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk/events/event/preparing-for-commissioning/>

Active/Participatory Citizenship – Thursday 19th January 2012, Manchester

Date/ Time: Thursday 19th January 2012, 10.30am-3.00pm at

Venue: Manchester Refugee Support Network (MRSN), Phoenix Mill, 20 Piercy Street, M4 7HY.

This workshop is organised by MRSN and is part of the Communities ARC project, funded by the Skills Funding Agency. The aim of workshop is to develop awareness of the importance of active participatory citizenship.

By the end of the session the participant's will understand the meaning of active participatory citizenship; learn with each other the importance of participatory citizenship; identify the existing obstacles and power struggles preventing change.

Some learners will be challenged more and may be able to link citizenship to new strategies that can influence change in particular RCO situations.

Lunch and travel expenses will be provided. For further information and to access the booking form, visit:

<http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk/events/event/activeparticipatory-citizenship-%e2%80%93-thursday-19th-january-2012/>. Please return your bookings no later than Tuesday 17th January 2012.

FREE GMBMEN TRAINING: Health & Safety Made Simple - Tuesday 31st January 2012, Manchester

Date/Time: Tuesday 31st January 2012, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Venue: London Scottish House, 24 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 3NN

FREE TRAINING FOR BME AND REFUGEE ORGANISATIONS. A one day introduction to health and safety for your organisation covering what you must do, what you should do and what you can't do.

For further information and to access the booking form, visit:

<http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk/events/event/health-safety-made-simple/>

FREE GMBMEN TRAINING: Making Social Media Work For You - Thursday 2nd February 2012, Salford

Date/Time: Thursday 2nd February 2012, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Venue: Social Media Centre, Salford Innovation Forum, Frederick Road, Salford, M6 6FP

FREE TRAINING FOR BME AND REFUGEE ORGANISATIONS. There are a wide range of social media tools that offer organisations huge opportunities in how they communicate messages, promote their work or build profile – but which ones are suitable to help your organisation grow and which are time-consuming diversions? This one day course will help you to begin to develop a social media strategy that works for you and offers some practical insights into using some of these tools.

For further information and to access the booking form, visit:

<http://www.greatermanchesterbmenetwork.org.uk/events/event/making-social-media-work-for-you/>

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