



Experiencing  
the richness  
of new  
cultures

“Compassion is  
the wish to see  
others free from  
suffering”  
Dalai Lama



Fun art  
activities  
suitable for  
all ages



## REFUGEE WEEK 2023 REPORT

Refugee Week is an annual event organised by the Southwark Refugee Communities Forum (SRCF), an umbrella organisation supporting refugee organisations and groups in Southwark. This event is an opportunity for Southwark refugee communities to come together hand in hand to showcase their culture, work and activities.



Eritrean Community



Ardhmeria (Albanian) dance group

The 2003 event was vibrant, rich in colour and performances.

Bolivian dancers



The West African, Latin American, Eritrean, Somalian, Ukrainian, Albanian, Caribbean and Ahwazi communities were all beautifully represented through their food, artifacts, music and/or fabulous dances and outfits.



West-African drummers



Ahwazi (Iranian) performance

Health Check and Legal Advice:  
Members of the Refugee  
community took advantage of  
these services in large numbers.



Health Check



Asylum Seekers and  
Refugees receiving advice



SRCF Cancer Prevention  
programme





Traditional food was prepared by the Syrian, Ukrainian and Ethiopian communities

A plethora of organisations in Southwark joined us on the day to provide services to members of the Refugee community:

- Southwark Law Centre,
- Citizens Advice Southwark
- Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers
- Southwark Council - Children's Services
- Family Council
- Public Health

We were grateful for the presence of Southwark Refugee & Migrant Project.



Advice & Information



Welcoming speech from  
Cllr Jasmine

Visitors were entertained with family friendly activities: henna tattoo artists, face painting artists, pinatas, Bolivian dancers, Ahwazi traditional dance, West-African drummers, Albanian dance, Caribbean ballet, and a fantastic Ukrainian bandurist (player of bandura, a Ukrainian traditional instrument – cf. photo on cover page).



Henna tattoo artist from the Al Bushra (Bengali) Community)



A family event



Face painting artists

We received lots of positive feedback from both members of the public and Refugee Organisations.

We are particularly grateful that new groups we are supporting to be registered took part in this event, such as the Sudanese Ukrainian, Yemeni and Syrian groups.



Caribbean ballet

*“This event was fantastic. I was so ecstatic to see Albanian dancers in London...what a treat!”*

*“I had a great day! So many performances and nice food. I managed to check my health and got some legal advice. That was a great time!”*

*“Thank you for organizing this wonderful event. It was great to have a day dedicated to Refugees, out of life at the hostel.”*



Bolivian dancer



Ardhmeria (Albanian) group

The theme of this year's Refugee Week was 'Compassion'. We believe that we managed to raise awareness of a great presence of refugees in Southwark, a positive presence as they could showcase some of their talents, beauty, culture and most importantly a tribute to resilience when compassion is demonstrated through sanctuary.



The SRCF, the Southwark Day Centre and the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) are working closely with Southwark Council to become a borough of sanctuary for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and vulnerable migrants.





# THANKS

We want to extend our appreciation to all the RCOs, VCS, volunteers, and individuals who contributed to the success of this event.



A special thank you to Fr Nicholas George (Vicar) for the St Giles Parish he put at our disposal and for all his support.

An immense thank you to Jonathan Clarke for his tremendous support and expertise.



Sally Causer, Director of Southwark Law Centre

SRCF Board of Trustees for their relentless support to refugee communities in Southwark.



Thank you to all our sponsors for making this event possible:



Southwark Council



United St Saviour's



Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers





SOUTHWARK REFUGEE  
COMMUNITIES FORUM

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