

Enjoy, celebrate, commemorate, participate, and reflect on the contributions of refugees to York during

Refugee Week 2011 June 18th to 26th

Saturday

June 18th

From Burma and Bangladesh to Yorkshire: Photographs of the Rohingya People

York Minster, From Saturday June 18th until Sunday June 26th

York Minster will hold a display of photos of Rohingya refugees in Burma, Bangladesh and Yorkshire, taken by Yorkshire-based photographer, Tim Smith. The exhibition will include information highlighting York's past in providing refuge and the Minster's tradition of sanctuary and hospitality. The official opening of the exhibition will be held on World Refugee Day, Monday 20 June (see below).

Community Café and Muses and Minstrels Music & Poetry Night (with open mic)

Space 109, Walmgate, YO1 9UA, Café open from 11.00am - 8.30pm; Muses and Minstrels begins 5.30pm (www.space109.org)

Artists, musicians, actors and poets come together to celebrate Refugee Week with good food and creative expression. Join us for Turkish, Kurdish and Yorkshire food during lunch and dinner, as well as cakes, pies, sweets, teas, coffees and juices from around the world. Proceeds will go to Refugee Action York, a charity to raise awareness on the plight of refugees and to help them feel welcome in York. There will be arts and craft activities for children (and adults!) throughout the day. Featuring a relaxed line-up of local and international talent, Muses and Minstrels will set the tone for a festive celebration of inclusion and community cohesion in York. Expect spoken word, rock 'n' folk music, alternative-country, indie, some electro, vaudevillian tunes, operatic vocals and more. If on a whim, you fancy joining the revelry by playing a song or reading a poem, there'll be plenty of opportunity for open mic performances too. Sitars, ukes and autoharps welcome!

Sunday

June 19th

Making All Visible: York as a City of Sanctuary

St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, St. Saviourgate, YO1 8NQ, 11.00am - 12.00pm (www.ukunitarians.org.uk/york/index.htm)

Myrna Michell, Minister of the York Unitarians, will conduct this service, with music by David Hammond.

Monday

June 20th

Celebration of World Refugee Day and Official Opening Ceremony of the display in the Minster

York Minster, 3.00pm

The official opening of the Refugee Week display in the Minster and an opportunity to meet and hear from some of the Rohingya refugees pictured in the photographs and to learn about seeking asylum in Yorkshire.

Refugee Week Book Display and Exhibition on Untold Stories: The Work of the York Refugee Committee

York Explore City Centre, YO1 7DS, From Monday June 20th until Sunday June 26th (01904 552828)

Display of adult and children's books about refugee issues and an exhibition of archival material about York's Refugee Committee (1938 to 1945). Organised by York Explore and the York Archives.

Tuesday

June 21st

Sleep Out for Refugee Rights

James Beach, Heslington Campus, University of York, Starting at 7.00pm through the night

Come down and support those who are sleeping out to highlight the scandal of the destitution of asylum seekers! Learn about how government policies affect the daily lives of asylum seekers. To keep up spirits through the night, we welcome music, song and poetry reading. To join the sleep out, contact amnesty@yusu.org. Organised by the University of York Amnesty International (UYAI).

Wednesday

June 22nd

Students Advocating for Refugee Support

Langwith L/036, University of York, Heslington Campus, 12.15pm - 2.15pm

Students from the University of York, York St. John University and York College of Law bring together speakers with refugee backgrounds and from refugee support organisations to talk about asylum in the UK and what students can do to support refugees.

Thursday June 23 rd	<p>Give Refuge to the Stranger: The Past, Present and Future of Sanctuary Kings Manor, Exhibition Square (next to the City Art Gallery), 6.15pm – 8.15pm (please RSVP to cahr@york.ac.uk)</p> <p>Dr. Linda Rabben, an anthropologist, will talk about the concept of sanctuary. Giving refuge to the threatened, vulnerable stranger is a universal act and older than human society. From its origins in primate populations, to its elaborations in ancient religious traditions, to the modern legal institution of asylum, Dr. Rabben tells the story of sanctuary as it evolved over thousands of years. She then examines asylum today, analysing policy in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia, linking them to the experiences of courageous individuals to show how immigration and asylum are under attack around the world. Dr Rabben's presentation will be followed by a panel of speakers involved in the City of Sanctuary movement in the UK and in York. Organised by the Centre for Applied Human Rights, University of York.</p>
Saturday June 24 th	<p>Celebrating Refugee Week Parliament Square, 11.00am – 4.00pm</p> <p>A street celebration of Refugee Week, featuring arts and crafts in York City Centre. Drop by to learn about and support refugees in York.</p> <p>Children's Friendship Football Match Halifax Playing Fields, University of York, Off Heslington Lane, 2.00pm – 4.00pm</p> <p>Come and support a friendly game of football involving local, international and refugee children organised by the Korean community in York. Snacks will be provided afterwards.</p> <p>'Encounters' by The Real People Theatre Company Unitarian Chapel, St. Saviourgate, YO1 8NQ, 2.00pm-4.00pm (www.realpeopletheatre.org.uk)</p> <p><i>'Homelessness'</i>: A homeless older woman pauses to rest on a step in front of a souvenir shop. How do the passers by and the shop owner react? <i>'Welcome to Peckham'</i>: A well-educated refugee from Nigeria and her children find themselves housed on a Peckham council estate next door to a BNP supporter and a Jamaican woman who has worked all her life in the NHS. How can they survive prejudice from both sides? Entry by donation with proceeds shared between two charities: the Brunswick Nursery and the Real People Theatre.</p>
Sunday June 26 th	<p>Refugee Week Picnic Museum Gardens, Midday onwards</p> <p>Bring some food and drink and a blanket and come spend some time in the sun meeting new people and talking about life in York.</p> <p>Film Screening: "Welcome" City Screen Picturehouse York, 13 – 17 Coney Street, YO1 9QL, (0871 902 5726), 8pm</p> <p>Only for those over 15 years; 110 minutes. Free admission by reservation through the City Screens website: www.picturehouses.co.uk The multi award-winning new film from writer/director Philippe Lioret, <i>Welcome</i> is a compassionate and inspiring drama about the hope of new beginnings and the power of true love, centred on two couples contending with issues of separation and dislocation. 17-year-old Bilal, a Kurdish refugee from Iraq, has spent the last three months traveling illegally across Europe, in an attempt to reunite with his girlfriend Mina who has moved with her family to England. The long journey is almost over when he finally reaches Calais, on the far northern coast of France; he can literally see his destination from across the Channel. But with all legal options exhausted, Bilal resolves that his only option is to learn to swim, and make the dangerous crossing himself. Bilal seeks the help of middle-aged swimming instructor Simon, who is privately reeling from impending divorce from his socially conscious wife Marion. In an effort to win her back, Simon impulsively - and uncharacteristically - risks everything by taking Bilal under his wing. A huge critical and box office success in its native France, this profoundly moving masterwork was awarded the Ecumenical Jury Prize at the Berlin International Film Festival, named Best Film at the 2010 Lumière Awards, and received an astonishing ten César nominations including</p>

For more information on York Refugee Week 2011 Events see refugeeweekinyork.wordpress.com or email cahr@york.ac.uk The events of York Refugee Week are made possible by the generous support of the York Committee of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, our partners in York, the students of the Centre for Applied Human Rights, and the volunteers of Refugee Action York.