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“Imagine”

Refugee Week Wales 2020

“We are asking the public to do two things. Firstly, **imagine** what it would feel like to leave your home, friends and family to seek safety in a foreign land. Now **imagine** what a better welcome would look like and how you can help to create that better welcome.”
- Andrea Cleaver, WRC CEO

“We can start with our families, our friends, our communities. Yes, we can. We can change the world”- Mostafa, an asylum seeker



Stakeholder engagement

 **103**
e-mails sent

35 

TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS

4 
PLANNING MEETINGS

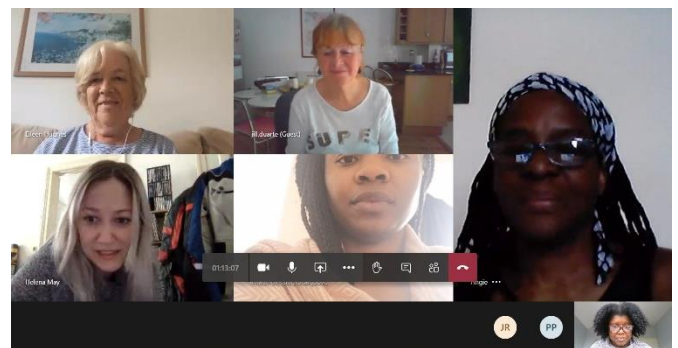
15 
Events held

Events

Planning

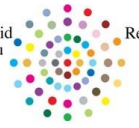
We organised and planned regular Refugee Week Planning meetings bringing together organisations who were planning to host Refugee Week events. The aim was to co-ordinate work across Wales, to share information on events and to advertise them in the Celebrating Home website:

<https://celebratinghome.wales/>



Q&A session

We hosted a Q&A session with an animation on the asylum journey and a walk through the experiences of a caseworker supporting refugees. This included a presentation from Laura Shobiye on her findings from studies into the experiences of women in the asylum system across Wales.



Poetry Reading

Mostafa, an asylum seeker from Syria, shared a poem he wrote on the theme "Imagine"

live performance
**HELENA
MAY**
Today
11:30 - 11:45
@welshrefcouncil



Social Media

Twitter



25,995
Impressions
58
New followers

Facebook



4,227
Post reach
748
Post engagements

We were able to share 5 welcome videos including from John Griffiths MS, the Chair of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee, and Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip.

Media Work

10 Media Enquiries

- BBC Wales - News
- S4C - Heno Programme Magazine
- ITV News
- South Wales Argus - Newspaper and Online
- Wales Online - Online article
- Welsh Government Media Work
- BBC Welsh Language Programme
- BBC Welsh Affairs - Documentary

Home About Contact Cymraeg

Refugee Week Wales June 15th – 21st, 2020
Refugee Week Day: June 20th, 2020

Refugee Week is a world wide event which happens each year on the third week of June.

S4C - HENO Programme Magazine

We organised for Joseph Gnagbo to be interviewed for a special Refugee Week Wales edition on the Welsh-medium Heno Programme Magazine about the importance of welcoming people in Wales. We submitted facts and figures to inform the programme.

[The programme](#) was aired on June 18th, 2020

South Wales Argus

We sourced two refugees from the Newport area to do a newspaper and online article about the experiences of asylum seekers and refugees in the Newport area. We included the quote from Andrea Cleaver in the report.

[South Wales Argus](#) published the article on June 20th, 2020 on

BBC Welsh Language News

We organised for our volunteer and asylum seeker Mostafa Alahmad to be interviewed by S4C for a special Refugee Week Wales news items on S4C news.

Welsh Government Positive Stories

We put together a list of case studies for the Welsh Government to develop positive news stories as part of their contribution to Refugee Week Wales and promote the Nation of Sanctuary initiatives.

[English](#)

[Welsh](#)

Welsh Government Written Statement

We contributed to the [following article](#) with details about Refugee Week Wales 2020

Institute of Welsh Affairs

We wrote a think piece for the IWA about the challenges of providing services and support to asylum seekers and refugees in Wales during Covid19

Read the article [here](#)

Bevan Foundation

Holly organised an online [Q&A with the Bevan Foundation](#) to discuss how Covid19 has been impacting asylum seekers and refugees in Wales, how our services have adapted and what a trauma informed asylum system might look like.

Wales Online

We shared two case studies from Newport about information about Refugee Week, and refugees in Wales with [Wales online](#) to develop a positive news article to be published in future.

Event Details

Refugee Week Wales 2020 was held during the pandemic, and most of the event took place online, below are the recorded activities and events held in Wales, that were curated by and known to the Welsh Refugee Council. Any other activities or events were implemented by groups who did not participate in the Wales wide planning of Refugee Week 2020.

The Trinity Centre

The Trinity Tree Project - Forest of Welcome



The Trinity Centre, in collaboration with the Welsh Refugee Council's Parent and Toddler Group, Aurora Trinity Art Group and Space4U hosted the Trinity Tree project. Families in Cardiff and beyond decorate a tree with leaves and share it in their windows to create a forest of welcome for asylum seekers and refugees in Cardiff.

58 trees collected
28 asylum seeker and refugee family participation
1 primary school to include the project in their school activities

African Community Centre

Good New Stories

Throughout Refugee Weeks Wales, [African Community Centre](#) shared six good news stories of overcoming challenges and the resilience of asylum seekers and refugees to inspire the it audience.

The group shared a video on the theme "[Imagine](#)" spreading a message of hope and tolerance to all communities.

Sharing Cultures

[Blessing](#), an asylum seeker in Swansea cooked meals from her home country and distributed to community members, nurses working in the NHS, refugees, asylum seekers and a charity shop manager.

Girl Talk

On Monday 22nd, they held Girl Talk where 2 females gave a very moving and emotional talk to a small audience about their asylum journey and what it means to be a refugee. The conversation was well received and brought the audience to tears

Zim Voices/Welsh Refugee Council

Facilitated by Zim Voices, we held an online sing along to John Lennon's "Imagine" with community members, sector organisations representatives, and asylum seekers and refugees in Wales. The group tested their vocals, share smiles of support and sang to their hearts content. The video recording of the session was shared via social media. The event brought everyone together and help reduced isolation.

- 15 people attended
- 1 video shared
- 7 asylum seekers and refugees



WRC and South Wales University

Online Quiz



University of South Wales Prifysgol De Cymru

A series of virtual events from USW highlighting the experience and contribution of refugees in Wales

- 1. Cath Camps and Mike Chick University of Sanctuary Award**
Date: Monday June 15th 13:00-14:00pm
Title for the talk: USW: A place of Sanctuary
https://usw_refugeeweek_sanctuary.eventbrite.co.uk
In a talk aimed at staff and students at the University of South Wales, researchers, lecturers and administrative staff will discuss how USW became a University of Sanctuary. They will describe how the University's impressive Sanctuary Scheme works and how various other ventures and initiatives are helping people displaced by war or persecution. Finally, the talk will illustrate how being able to study at USW has directly affected refugees' lives.
- 2. Welsh Refugee Council - Quiz**
Date: Tuesday June 16th 14:00-15:00pm
Title: Take the Refugee challenge...
https://usw_refugeeweek_quiz.eventbrite.co.uk
How much do you really know about refugees and their rights as they look to begin new lives in the UK? Our Quiz will put your knowledge to the test and stretch your mind. This fun filled event will get you questioning everything you know about human rights in the UK. Don't know much? Not to worry, the answers will be multiple choice.... to ensure everyone can have a go!

Welsh Refugee Council and South Wales University held an online quiz about the rights of asylum seekers refugees to help to continue to educate the general public about human rights and dispel myths about migration

Migrant Help

All dreams are created equal

Produced by Migrant Help, they collected and shared stories of people dreams and what matters to them to stories of dreams.

Welsh Refugee Council



Bethan Nia

Refugee Week Wales would not be the same without a musical performance or two. Welsh Harpist and Singer Bethan Nia did a 15-minute live Facebook performance of her most recent work. The performance reached **2739 people and 239 people engaged with it**. The video was shared 20 times and one of the comments read "Love your songs, and the Harp was divine"



Helena May

Local Cardiff singer songwriter, Helena May shared some of her soulful and funky numbers from her new album 'Part of Me' in support for refugees in Wales. **526 people watch the performance and 21 comments of support were left.**

Poetry - Mostafa Alahmad



War, hunger, racism and genderism is everywhere in this world. I want you to release your mind and think about a new world, not controlled by powerful people but by children's minds as pure as their faces.

I want you to imagine a world without war, where people can live in peace. Where you can smell roses not gun powder, where people don't need to wait in a queue to get food or go to sleep hungry or where they died because of hunger.

Imagine a world where people don't need to be afraid of being killed or being treated in a different way because of their skin or eye colour or religion. I want you to imagine a world where people don't need use deaf boats to come to dreamland or be killed in a container when they are looking for safety.

All these thoughts are just thoughts, but we can make it come true. We can believe in ourselves, because YES we can make a difference in this world, by starting with ourselves, our families, our country or communities.

Yes we can, we can change the world.



Mostafa Alahmad - For Refugee Week Wales 2020

Asylum seeker Mostafa shared his heart in the form of a poem on Facebook on the theme "Imagine". He asked everyone to imagine a better world without discrimination, fear or hunger. **The post reach 592 people and had 49 engagements**

Cardiff Library

Online Quiz

Cardiff Hubs and Libraries developed an informative quiz that promoted some refugee sector organisations such as the Welsh Refugee Council and Oasis Cardiff. Participants had to search on the organisation's website to find the answers to the quiz.

Learning Resources

A [learning resource](#) was develop and shared to help families access reading materials from their home.

A Refugee Week eBook and eAudioBook was shared at <https://cardiff.rbdigitalglobal.com/> and bolindadigital.com all free to register and borrow.

Oasis Cardiff

Oasis Cardiff Home Supper Clubs were launched for Refugee Week; providing an opportunity for some of their most experienced volunteers to return to their kitchen and create an opportunity for customers to engage with the work of the Centre

48 meals were delivered on Saturday 20th. The weekly Supper Club will be on every Saturday for the foreseeable future due to lockdown.

Syrian Dinner Project

Celebrating Refugee Week Wales, the Syrian Dinner Project, held their first takeaway food event at in Cletwr cafe', in Machynlleth. **40 people were safely hosted with vegetarian and non-vegetarian food.**

They shared their food with those in their local community and in isolation. Their event was featured on [BBC Wales online](#)

Achievements

Achievements

- We shared information on the numbers of asylum seekers and refugees supported by Welsh Refugee Council, general issues on housing, education and health and held 7 telephone conversations about hate crime, race relations and Covid19 impacts.
- We widened our audience through Media work with HENO and Welsh Language Programming.
- We worked with Welsh Government to promote the contribution of refugees by sharing potential casework contacts for their Refugee Week Wales stories. This is not evident in the link provided above but we will follow up and hope this will be used in future.
- We increased our social media engagement and support and saw over 26,000 people participating.
- Key influencers and decision makers targeted through pieces with Bevan Foundation and Institute of Welsh Affairs
- We developed our branding using our promotional graphics on social media
- For the first time, we used videos to help share and promote the events
- For the first time in 3 years, we developed a planning group which met weekly

Challenges

Last minute staff absence meant a need to urgently find a replacement. We are very grateful to the staff member who was able to step up at short notice. We were also impacted by a presenter being delayed.

Much of our time was spent going back and forth with the media to develop the stories for review by media editors.

Conversations were held with beforehand to determine whether the media with go with the story or decline.

We spent a lot of time with the BBC and ITV, sharing a brief about WRC, Refugee Week and facts and figures to help develop the story. BBC Wales declined in the end because families did not want to participate in media work.

We conducted Refugee Week Wales online and remotely, so we were not able to fully influence our clients to engage with the media.

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