

January 2016

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Everything in this newsletter represents in some way CfED's strategic priorities, aims and mission. Find out more about our work on our website www.cfed.org.uk

Our Aims: Our aim is to provide leadership and promote good practice in the field of equality & diversity, through being responsive to the needs of communities of interest and geographical communities across the Borough of Dudley.

Our Mission: CfED is committed to eliminating discrimination and creating opportunities to build capacity and enterprise within local communities.

Our Values: CfED is an organisation that is:

- Professional, delivering high quality services
- Efficient, giving value for money
- Responsive
- A good model of equality and diversity principles and practice

Holocaust Memorial Day 2016



On 27th January, we mark Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) by remembering the millions killed in the Holocaust under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. We honour the survivors and reflect upon the lessons of their experiences and challenge hatred and persecution and prevent future atrocities.



The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. While some actively supported state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently – at best, afraid to speak out; at worst indifferent. By standers enabled the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides.

Be **INSPIRED** by the people who didn't stand by, the people who don't stand by, and the people who take action.

Join CfED and other organisations as we campaign against racism, fascism, hate crime and genocide throughout the month of January.

CfED has sent out 100 metal HMD badges' inviting someone within the organisation to wear the badge everyday until the end of January 2016. The Campaign is calling on every organisation within the borough to take action and stand against racism, prejudice, hate crime, discrimination etc. If you would like some ideas on how your organisation could take action, please give Kenneth Rodney a call on 01384 456166.

What action can you take?



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY



Introduction

Four highly successful events were held in December as part of the 'On the Move' series coinciding with International Migrants Day on Friday 18th December. With funding support from the Near Neighbours programme through On the Move we were able to bring communities from different faiths and social background together to listen, learn and share.

The Launch Event

Over 100 people attended the event planned in partnership with the welcome Group in Halesowen. Speakers were the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt. Rev'd Graham Usher, the Mayor of Dudley, Cllr Steve Waltho and Ernest Crutchley the chair of the Welcome Group.



Mayor, **"We are proud of our history in providing sanctuary to asylum seekers and refugees and has" extended a warm welcome to economic migrants from Eastern Europe."**

"International Migrants Day represents an opportunity to raise awareness about the state of migrants' human rights and fundamental freedom and to make known the positive contributions of migrants in the context of unprecedented human mobility".



The Bishop said, **"How we relate to refugees is a major challenge for us all, particularly when stories of their frequent rich contribution to our common life are too often drowned out by voices of those who say that refugees are a security threat, bring economic problems, or are a burden".**

In words of encouragement to the Welcome Group the Bishop said that :

"I know that one of the key things that the Welcome Group want is for those who come here to be, and to feel, and to know that they are SAFE. We want all who find themselves to be refugees to be uninjured in heart and mind and soul and strength, and, where they have been, to find healing and peace".



Ernest Crutchley (Chairperson) of the Welcome Group spoke passionately about the work of the group and how over the past 8 years 100s of asylum seekers and refugees have been supported by the volunteers who often go out of their way to offer the level and depth of support many require.

Why migrants are welcome here?



“A truly wonderful event” an “an eye opener” and “Thanks CfED for raising the issues of migrants in a public setting” were comments made following this event on Wednesday 16th December.

65 people from different communities attended this event, which was chaired by Martin Lynch. Members of the panel who answered question were Cllr. Gaye Partridge and Tony Barnsley Audience participation was excellent and again the event enabled different communities to come together to learn and share.

All I want for Christmas is?



About 70 students from Dudley College attended this event organised by the Student Union. Students from migrant communities shared their stories on their journey's so far. The centre piece of this event was the launching of the campaign to save ESOL provision for students receiving job seekers allowance.

‘A Time to Reflect’



This was the final event held on 18th December, itself being International Migrants Day. Canon Andrew Wickens who facilitated the event reminded the audience of 45 people that International Migrants Day is a time to celebrate the achievements and contributions migrants have made to the UK and the local economy. Brendan Hawthorne, a Black Country poet performed two poems, one specifically written for the occasion, while Janet Hilken read a poem ‘Camp of broken dreams’ – written by The Silent One, a migrant within the camp at Calais. We are grateful to Anna Turner, Spiwe and Jerry Langford and others who made this final event a “truly inspiring experience”.

We acknowledge the support given by all the following organisations

- Dudley College
- Dudley College Student Union
- Wellington Road Community Centre
- The Welcome Group
- Dudley Interfaith Network
- Near Neighbours



Holocaust Memorial Day service

Dudley College

Friday 29th January, 2016

The Great Hall, Broadway Campus

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Susan Pollack MBE

Susan was born Zsuzsanna Blau on 9th September 1930 in Felsogod Hungary. She became aware of antisemitism in her hometown when her uncle was murdered by fascists in 1938.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, antisemitism in Susan's home town became more visible with anti-Jewish graffiti appearing on the street. Physical attacks on Jews also become more common. In May 1944 Susan and her family were sent by cattle truck to Auschwitz—Birkenau.



Guest speaker Susan Pollack MBE

Come along and hear more of Susan's story. We will also hear from local students who visited Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust Lessons from Auschwitz' Programme and have contributions from local faith and civic leaders including the Mayor of Dudley.



Don't Stand By

Charity fundraising

Gurcharan Bedi has once again raised over £1,400 to support charity in the Dudley Borough. Funds raised were equally divided by Cancer Support and Action Heart.

Mr Bedi Said "I would like to thank everyone that helped in the various fundraising activities. A big thank you to all involved".



'I swore never to be silent whenever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.'

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor

We welcome any articles, news, events, views and opinions that you would like to share with the wider community and see included in our newsletter.

Please send them to: Centre for Equality & Diversity, 16a Stone Street, Dudley, DY1 1NS.



TEL: 01384 456166 WEBSITE: www.cfed.org.uk
E-MAIL: admin@cfed.org.uk

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