



Ethnically Diverse Communities

Directory of Services

For Devon, Plymouth and Torbay

December 2023 Edition

Introduction

This updated directory contains details of the many organisations and agencies, from all sectors, that offer support services for people from Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse communities in Devon.

We hope that the information helps people from different cultural backgrounds living and/or working in Devon – including migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees and students – to find the local support that they need.

The directory is also intended to reach professionals, service providers and other partners looking to improve their engagement with different cultural communities or seeking specialist advice and guidance.

We recognise that this directory is not exhaustive and that it will need to be updated on a regular basis. If you have any suggestions for additions and/or changes then please get in touch with our Engagement and ESOL team: ESOL@devon.gov.uk

Migration and Resettlement Team
Devon County Council

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Section 1: Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

Afghan Community Devon

ACD has been established to strengthen contact with friends and family members both locally and around the UK, in order to establish a sense of stability and belonging. One of our aims is to exchange ideas and experience, to further enhance the lives of Afghan people and the wider community.

The charitable company's activities will provide benefit to the local Afghan community by helping to maintain a sense of original, cultural identity. The wider community will benefit from a greater cultural understanding and acceptance of their Afghan neighbours.

By establishing an Afghan community hub, it is hoped this will promote a sense of home and security in Devon for people who have only known their country in conflict and their lives in upheaval.

The current political situation in Afghanistan is a major factor affecting the mental health of individuals, and by bringing local Afghan people together and re-establishing a sense of community, we will help to strengthen them. We would welcome your involvement in our newly-established community group.

Email: nsaifi@btinternet.com

Beyond Borders Totnes & District



Beyond Borders Totnes & District is a network, co-ordinated by a small volunteer core group, that facilitates local people lending support to local asylum seekers and refugees at this daunting time.

Established in 2015 during the Syrian crisis, most volunteers are in Totnes and the surrounding areas. We carefully collaborate with official refugee support organisations. We organise or help coordinate a number of activities including:

- outings to local farms, retreat centres and other places
- events involving local artists and musicians
- English language sessions.

We also provide the following support:

- signposting to volunteering opportunities such as tree planting or assisting at local libraries
- collaborating in local cinema and theatre initiatives to raise awareness
- fundraising for refugee family reunions
- publishing a monthly email newsletter
- channelling donations to meet practical needs
- coordinating small supplies of fresh food bags, food boxes and Welcome boxes.

Most refugees and asylum seekers we link with are in Plymouth and the Torbay area.

Email: info@beyondborderstotnes.org.uk

Website: <https://beyondborderstotnes.org.uk/>

Black South West Network (BSWN)



A black-led racial justice organisation based in Bristol that supports the development of dynamic, independent, and strong black and minoritised communities, businesses, and organisations to flourish whilst challenging systemic barriers. We drive racial equity in the UK society's dimensions of research, policy, innovation, socio-economics, and health through a collective and meaningful community-led approach.

Website: <https://www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/>

Address: The Coach House, 2 Upper York Street, St Paul's Bristol BS2 8QN

Phone: 07495 329990

Email: admin@bswn.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackSWNet/>

Bulgarian Society of Devon



The Bulgarian Society was started in March 2012 to provide Bulgarians living in Devon with opportunities to support each other, to share experiences, to celebrate Bulgarian culture and to share information about upcoming events in the community.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bulgarians.devon/>

bthechange CIC



bthechange CIC is an award-winning Community Interest Company that operates across the Southwest of England and South Wales, providing a range of life changing initiatives to directly support racially minoritized people, women, and first-time entrants who are either at risk of entering or who are in the criminal justice system, helping them move forward with their lives.

Phone: 0800 0016521
Mobile: 07841 402521
Email: hello@bthechange.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bthechangeCIC>
Website: www.bthechange.org.uk
Address: The Generator, Quay House, The Quay, Exeter, EX2 4AN

Chinese Community Wellbeing Society



Founded in 1989: Chinese Community Wellbeing Society (formerly Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group. Name changed in 2021)

Mission: Support the health and wellbeing of the Chinese-speaking community across the Southwest of England.

Chinese Lantern Helpline Service: provides information and support in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin to community service users. Service providers can also contact the helpline if they are supporting members of the Chinese-speaking community.

Partnerships with service providers: We work closely with service providers to provide information and support to our community. We collaborate to deliver information workshops, enabling service providers to gain access into the Chinese-speaking community in the Southwest.

Helpline: 0808 802 0012
Website: <https://chinesecws.org.uk/>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/chinesecws/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/chinesecws/

CISCO (Credton International Social and Cultural Organisation)



Advice, advocacy, and free English classes for migrant workers and refugees living in the Credton area.

We provide advice and support for clients in their dealings with banks, Mid-Devon District Council, the DWP, estate agents, rental agencies, and utility suppliers etc.

Free English lessons are available at Ashtons Café, Market Square, Credton on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30pm. New students are always welcome!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ciscodevon/>
Contact: Natalia Letch
Phone: 07455824053
Email: natalia.letch@gmail.com

Devon Bengali Association (DBA)



We are the Devon Bengali Association (DBA), a group of Bengalis committed to celebrating and sharing our culture, heritage, and traditions as well as supporting all Bengalis resident in Devon.

The work we do includes:

- managing and promoting a local Bangla School for children of Bangladeshi origin.
- organising and promoting the Bengali New Year
- bringing together the Bengali community and welcoming Devon residents and businesses to be a part of our celebrations.
- holding an annual community gathering and awards ceremony to highlight the achievements of the Bengali community.

One important initiative we have undertaken has been to actively relieve the shortage of catering staff in restaurants across Devon by acting as an umbrella in bringing together much needed workers and local and regional establishments. The catering trade is a big part of all Bengali communities across the whole of the UK and has been for many decades now. This endeavour has been particularly effective, as we help to promote positions available in local businesses to individuals who might otherwise not be aware of possible job opportunities.

We hope to give a lot more back to the community in the future and hope that the local community will support us in our endeavours to bring our community together in celebration of our culture, traditions, history, and cuisine. The Bengali tradition is one filled with beautiful colours, aromas, and tastes that will take you on an amazing journey of discovery and mesmerize your senses. We offer everyone a warm welcome to join us on our journey that has swept us from 'Dhaka to Devon'. We say স্বাগতম 'Shagothom' (welcome)!

Phone: 07971 885789

Email: devonbengaliassociation.dba@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DevonBengaliAssociation/>

Devon and Cornwall Chinese Association (DCCA)



Established in 1975, DCCA was the first Chinese organisation in the Southwest of England.

We are a non-political, non-religious organisation formed to serve and represent the interests of those members of the Chinese community who recognise a common set of needs and wish to take positive action to achieve these aspirations. We aim to:

- encourage integration of community members into the wider society
- provide a wide range of services to meet the needs of the Chinese community living in the Southwest
- support the welfare of members in Devon and Cornwall
- promote and preserve Chinese customs, culture, and heritage.

Website: <https://www.dcca.center/>

Address: Abbey House, North Road West, Plymouth. Devon. PL1 5DH

Phone: 01752 297936

Email: info@dcca.center

Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS)



Providing advocacy, advice, support, education, and a welcoming communal space for asylum seekers in the region.

Triage Services

Triage Services provide OISC immigration advice at Level 1, asylum casework support, social casework support, signposting to important services, and advocacy. You can access these services via drop-in, phone, or email:

- Drop-in:** 7 Whimble Street, Plymouth (Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 to 13:00; Fridays 10:00 to 15:00). Covers Plymouth.
- Telephone:** 07823 495931 or 0800 456 1210 (Tuesdays 10:00 to 15:00; Wednesdays 10:00 to 13:00). Covers Devon and Cornwall.
- Email:** caseworker@dcrs-plymouth.org (Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:00 to 16:00). Covers Devon and Cornwall.

Health Point

A drop-in service providing health advocacy, education, and signposting for all aspects of Health. Available in Plymouth every Tuesday from 10:00 to 14:00. Also available outside of Plymouth through DCRS outreach work – contact DCRS to arrange a date.

Call 01752 265 952 or email gp@dcrs-plymouth.org to find out more.

Devon and Cornwall wide services and projects

The following services and projects are available across Devon and Cornwall.

- Destitution Support:** Providing food vouchers for destitute asylum seekers and refugees, working closely with the British Red Cross
- Service User Relief:** Covering clothing, transport costs in certain circumstances, and providing items to facilitate education or training.
- Fresh Claims Project:** Working for Appeal Rights Exhausted (A.R.E) clients to find a viable chance to claim asylum.

- A.R.E Home:** Providing housing for homeless Appeal Rights Exhausted clients for a specified period.
- Training:** Bespoke training for organisations who need to find out more about this sector.
- Activities:** Various physical and mental health orientated activities.
- Call 01752 265 952 or email hub@dcrs-plymouth.org to find out more.

Plymouth based services and projects

The following services and projects are located in Plymouth.

- English Classes:** Classes at Beginner and Intermediate levels to start the learning journey before qualified ESOL courses.
Monday: 13:00 to 15:00
Wednesday: 10:00 to 12:00
Thursday: 13:00 to 15:00
Friday: 10:30 to 12:00
- Music Tutoring:** Learn an instrument or come to share your musical talent. Every Tuesday 14:00 to 16:00.
- Creative Club:** Exploring the Arts over the course of the year with different topics weekly. Every Friday 13:00 to 15:00.
- IT Group:** Learn how to use a computer and gain qualifications in IT literacy. Every Tuesday 14:00 to 16:00
- Walking Group:** Guided tours of Plymouth and the surrounding areas on specified dates.
- Cycling Trips:** Guided cycling tours of the surrounding areas on specified dates.
- Music Group:** A safe space to explore music with a group of like-minded people. Every Monday 14:30 to 16:30.

Call or email to find out more:

Craig Walker: craig.walker@dcrs-plymouth.org
Suvi Rehell: suvi.rehell@dcrs-plymouth.org
Telephone: 01752 265 952

General Information

- Website:** <https://dcrs-plymouth.org/>
- Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100023075250911>
- Address:** Masiande Centre, 7 Whimple Street, Plymouth PL1 2DH
- Email:** hub@dcrs-plymouth.org
- Phone:** Triage - 07823 495 931; Plymouth Hub Freephone - 0800 456 12310

Devon Development Education (DDE)



DDE is an education charity, working with pupils, teachers and community groups in Devon. We aim to enable people of all ages to explore the major issues in our world and our connections to them. We reflect on the actions we can take, locally and globally, to make the world a better, fairer, and more sustainable place.

We:

- support and train teachers to bring global learning into their classrooms
- run projects with schools to celebrate diversity and combat racism
- promote fair trade
- link with schools in a rural region of Uganda – this is a long-standing relationship.

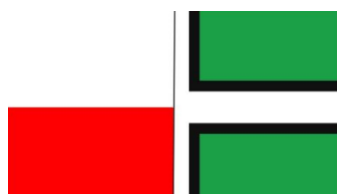
Our work in the community includes the Windrush group and Resilient Roots, which provide safe spaces for people of colour living in Devon. We also offer community driven guidance on diversity and inclusion.

Website: <https://www.globalcentredevon.org.uk/>

Phone: 01392 438811

Email: dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk

Devon Polish Association



Who We Are:

The Devon Polish Association is a vibrant, community organisation dedicated to bringing together Polish individuals and families residing in the beautiful county of

Devon, England. We are a close-knit group of individuals who share a common heritage and a passion for promoting Polish culture, traditions, and values within the local community.

Our Aims:

At the Devon Polish Association, our primary aim is to create a warm and inclusive environment where Polish residents can connect, engage, and celebrate their shared heritage. We strive to preserve our rich Polish traditions, language, and customs while fostering a sense of belonging and unity among our members.

Our association is committed to:

Cultural Exchange: We organise various cultural events, exhibitions, and performances to showcase the vibrant Polish culture and its influence on the global stage. Through these activities, we aim to foster cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Language and Education: We promote the Polish language by offering language courses and conversation groups, enabling our members to maintain their linguistic roots. Additionally, we organise educational workshops and seminars to enhance knowledge and understanding of Polish history, art, and literature.

Community Support: We provide a supportive network for Polish individuals and families living in Devon. Our association offers practical advice on matters such as immigration, employment, and integration into the local community. We also organize social gatherings, picnics, and trips to foster a sense of camaraderie and friendship.

Charity and Social Responsibility: We actively participate in charitable initiatives and collaborate with local organisations to support causes that benefit both the Polish and wider community. Through volunteering and fundraising events, we aim to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

Website: <https://thedpa.org.uk/>

Email: info@thedpa.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/929812454659236>

Chair: Maksymilian Allweil

Devon Ukrainian Association



Our mission is to build a thriving Ukrainian community in Devon by creating platforms where people meet, exchange ideas, and help each other.

Our Conversation Café is held at 6 Paris Street, Exeter, and is a welcome hub for Ukrainian new arrivals in Devon. It is operated by the Devon Ukrainian Association in partnership with Exeter City Council. This welcome hub provides the following services and activities in the three languages of Ukrainian, Russian, and English:

- signposting to essential services (English language classes, job services, GP registration, college admission).
- drop-in consultations to address various concerns such as setting up bank accounts and obtaining BRP.
- informal help with form filling, setting up online accounts, and document applications such as passports, driving licences, and bus passes.
- translation and interpreting services.
- one-on-one consultations with Citizens Advice on benefits (Tuesdays 2-4pm) including advice on universal credit and personal independence payment (PIP).
- provision of Vodafone SIM cards for mobile phones and onboarding to digital platforms for the Ukrainian community in Devon via WhatsApp.

We organise English language classes for children, young people, and adults and we provide educational support in numerous subjects including cultural awareness, dealing with trauma, positive parenting, art therapy, benefits, and more.

We also organise events that focus on the preservation and celebration of Ukrainian culture along with cultural adaptation and assimilation into British culture.

Email: welcome@dua.org.uk
Telephone: 01392 580044
Website: <https://www.dua.org.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ConvoCafeExeter>
Address: 6 Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1GA.

Diversity Business Incubator CIC



Diversity Business Incubator



Diversity Business Incubator (DBI) is a CIC which is passionate about elevating business success in minority communities and helping newly settled BAMEs start-up businesses.

In response to finding only a small number of businesses with ethnically diverse leadership in Plymouth, our co-founders Jabo Butera and David Feindouno merged their passion and entrepreneurship ideas to create a business incubation hub where anyone and everyone could get help with starting and growing a business. Following many months in their own incubation centre, they formally set up the Diversity Business Incubator on January 10th 2018 to support both established and aspiring entrepreneurs, with a focus on those in the BAME community.

We work with local businesses, including self-employed people and non-profit organisations, helping them to find the right guidance and support to work smarter, develop, and grow. We are anchored by our faith and willpower to help local communities and individuals grow and gain knowledge in the business sector.

Website: www.dbi.org.uk/

Phone: 07376790747 OR 01752 651010

Email: info@dbi.org.uk

Diverse Devon Together CIC



The objects of the Company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and, in particular (without limitation), to further the interests of the partner organisations within Diverse Devon Together, including to:

- Reduce isolation
- Share skills, knowledge, experience and expertise
- Facilitate understanding and integration across different cultures
- Empower individuals and groups to express and to achieve their needs and ambitions
- Encourage a sense of community beyond that of the obvious and immediate community; to extend to and include those who may have appeared foreign or different
- Improve health and well-being of all communities in Exeter and Devon

Welcome all ethnic minority communities to join our partnership.

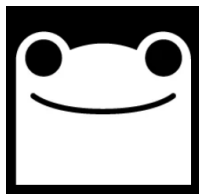
Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG.

Phone: 01392 848741 or 01392 201572

Website: <https://exetercommunitiestogether.org.uk/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/exetercommunitiestogether/?locale=en_GB

Eat That Frog



Since being founded in 2011, we have steadily become the Southwest's no. 1 alternative education centre, solely based around people, values, and quality. Eat That Frog is a community interest company, offering community services, education, and training at several locations in Exeter, Torbay, and Teignbridge, as well as online.

We enable people to identify and overcome their barriers to live a more fulfilled life.

Whether you're a teenager or an adult, it's never too late to learn. We provide safe and fun learning environments, tailored around you!

We provide a huge range of adult courses, which change to suit the needs of the community. We work closely with the Job Centre Plus and can easily help you to fulfil your needs. Search for available courses and apply today.

Phone: 01803 551551

Email: info@eatthatfrog.ac.uk

Website: <http://eatthatfrog.ac.uk/>

Address: 89 Torquay Road, Paignton, United Kingdom

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eatthatfrogcic/>

Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre's Trust



In the present day, the Southwest peninsula has a vibrant, multicultural society, with people from all around the world attracted to a region with one of the fastest growing economies in the UK.

The Hindu population has grown rapidly as new residents move to Devon and other parts of the region, attracted by commercial and employment opportunities or by the chance to study at the highly regarded Exeter university or one of the region's medical / dental schools.

We believe that it is now time to build a cultural centre and place of worship for the growing Hindu community. But this core ambition is not the only purpose of our organisation, we are also here to:

- welcome Hindus arriving in the area
- provide social and cultural support to resident Hindus by organising events and activities to bring people together
- offer guidance, and signpost new arrivals to local services
- increase understanding and awareness of Hindu culture
- provide support and help to those facing hardship, irrespective of where they are from; for example, we regularly distribute food to the homeless.

Phone: 07907373216

Email: exeterhcc@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.exeterhcc.com>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/exetertemple/>

Exeter International English Café



The Exeter International English café meets at different locations during term time at 4.45pm-6.00pm each Sunday.

Come and practise your English with native speakers and other internationals. Learn about British culture, traditions, and life in Exeter. We offer tea, coffee, cake, and a warm welcome to all internationals, from beginner English level to advanced.

To get a flavour of what happens at international café, watch our end of summer term video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8m9OdvaLGL4>

For more information and to find our venue, check out our website or email us:

Website: <https://www.stleonards.church/international-english-cafe/>
Email: office@stleonards.church

If you are an international, you are welcome to email wbradridge@gmail.com to join the WhatsApp group.

Exeter Malayalee Association



Exeter Malayalee Association is a non-political, non-profit making, social and cultural organisation for people from Kerala, the southern state of India, living in Exeter.

Email: emaexeter@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/groups/312560703877218/about/>

Exeter Mosque and Cultural Centre



In the 1970s, Muslims in Exeter offered their daily prayers in their homes. The majority of Muslims who first moved to Exeter were involved in the restaurant trade. On special occasions such as Eid, they would invite the Muslim community to celebrate together at their restaurants. There are now over 3000 Muslims in the city of all ages, races, professions, and personalities.

Address: 12-15 York Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6PG
Phone: 01392250597
Email: office@exetermosque.org.uk
Website: <https://exetermosque.org.uk/>

University of Exeter Pakistani Society



The University of Exeter Pakistani Society provides a forum for promoting and preserving Pakistan's rich history, culture, music, food, and art. We hope to represent all of Pakistan, from the snowy peaks of Kashmir; the lush valleys of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; the fertile plains of Punjab; the majestic deserts of Baluchistan; to the shores of Sindh.

Contact: <https://my.exeterguild.com/groups/794F9/pakistani-society>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ExeterPakSoc/>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/exeterpaksoc/>

Exeter Respect CIC



Exeter Respect CIC was established to promote diversity, equality, and human rights in Exeter and across Devon. It is best known for organising the Exeter Respect Festival, the biggest diversity festival in the Southwest. In 2024, we will celebrate our 27th birthday. The Exeter Respect Festival brings together a huge range of people, groups, and organisations from diverse backgrounds.

Exeter Respect CIC also offers a range of services throughout the year:

- support for BAME families
- equality and diversity training
- family conferencing, in particular for BAME.
- events organising,
- mentoring for women and young people from minority ethnic communities
- homework clubs for schools
- football tournaments
- anti-racism projects
- consultation and training services: cultural competence, tackling racism
- equality and diversity policies; human rights
- parenting courses

Website: <https://www.exeter-respect.org/>

Address: Exeter Respect CIC, LBD House, 39 George Street, Exeter, EX1 1D

Email: info@exeter-respect.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ExeRespect/>

Grow Ukraine



Grow Ukraine is a Community Interest Company with a mission to support the rebuilding of Ukraine and to help families get back on their feet. In recent months, we have come to realise that this is a larger task than originally anticipated, due to the scale of damage to buildings and infrastructure.

Our main fundraising goal is to support Ukrainian individuals and families who have been directly affected by war and are unable to help themselves. We are focussing our energy on supporting vulnerable people such as individuals with disabilities, single parents, orphans, and the elderly.

Grow Ukraine aims to restore everyone's hope and faith in Ukraine's brighter future and provide a safe place where everybody can live and grow.

Telephone: 07707817813

Email:

daryna.yaremenko@growukraine.co.uk

tetiana.venhel@growukraine.co.uk

jaroslav.liptak@growukraine.co.uk

info@growukraine.co.uk

Hikmat Devon CIC



Hikmat Devon CIC is a member-led community interest company providing services to BAME people living in Devon and Torbay.

Our purpose is:

- to empower individuals, families, and communities to access the skills, employment, housing, education, leisure pursuits, and well-being to which they are entitled, free from discrimination and disadvantage
- to provide statutory and other mainstream services with good quality local information through the provision of bespoke consultation events and other forms of data capture
- to promote good relations between Devon's minority ethnic and mainstream white British residents

Since 2005, Hikmat has been developing several strands of service provision and currently delivers around 2,000 in-person sessions annually through:

- Hikmat Hub Family Sessions (monthly on Thursdays, includes sports)
- Hikmat Chinese Group (Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking, weekly on Tuesdays)
- Hikmat Family Zoom Club (multicultural, children up to 16, school holidays and lockdown)
- video editing courses (beginners and advanced, all ages)
- Sweetie Ladies (East and Southeast Asian women, North Devon, Sundays)
- Hikmat Honeysuckles Allotment
- Hikmat Line Dancing (multi-cultural, alternate Wednesdays)
- Hikmat Fit and Fun (multicultural, indoor sports, alternate Saturdays)
- Community Covid Champions (multi-lingual information and support)
- Zenofilya Training (multi-cultural skills training and confidence building)
- Counselling (6 session solution-focused counselling)
- refugee and asylum seeker Resettlement Schemes
- consultation and community engagement (through the Devon Engagement Service)

We also offer individual support to people needing assistance with navigating health and social care pathways, accessing school admissions, managing carers' issues, completing forms, victim support, resettlement, and other challenges of daily life.

Our staff team combines a considerable wealth of spoken and written languages, clinical skills, and other professional training, as well as lived experience of migration and translocation.

Our operating model comprises good service user to staff ratios, supplemented by outsourced professional trainers, teachers, and volunteers.

Contact: Kharun Shah (Senior Administrator)

Address: St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN

Telephone: 01392 757220

Email: hikmatdevon@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.hikmatdevon.co.uk/>

Hongkongers In Exeter



Hongkongers in Exeter is a voluntary group set up in the latter half of 2020, based in Exeter, Devon.

Our aims are:

- to provide support for Hongkongers in Exeter and other parts of Devon. Hongkongers from Cornwall are also welcome to join.
- to organise monthly meet-and-mix events for Hongkongers in Devon
- to facilitate Hongkongers' integration into the local community
- to provide access to English language classes and "Life in the UK" classes
- to promote Hongkong culture in Exeter through organizing activities to celebrate traditional Chinese festivals and other cultural events
- to support Hongkong parents and their children to preserve their ethnic identity
- to help children learn to read and write in Cantonese and gain knowledge of the Hong Kong language, traditions and culture

- to organise and participate in charitable events.

Email: hkersinexe@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063579969117>

Imagine – Torbay Multicultural Group



Imagine is a multi-cultural group whose activities aim to provide benefit to people living in Torbay, both from ethnic groups and the wider community. We do this by championing cultural diversity through social events, workshops, training, and professional/personal development. Embedded within each activity, workshop or therapeutic engagement is the aim of encouraging social cohesion and integration, increasing participants' confidence and encouraging sustainable contribution to the wider community through supported volunteering, training, and employability.

Contact Lorrie Layne on 07771806870 or Nev Connor on 07908 819765 for more information and dates of events

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064739886627>

Mobile: 07939 326751

Email: Lorrie.layne@yahoo.com

Website: <https://imagnetorbay1.wixsite.com/imagine-torbay-cic>

Address: 4 Cecil Avenue, Paignton TQ3 1LW

Inclusive Exeter



Inclusive Exeter delivers a range of activities to help put people from Black and minoritised communities on an equal footing in terms of having fair and equal access to the same opportunities as mainstream communities.

Our projects include a drop-in support service providing informal help with form-filling where language, limited familiarity with mainstream services, No Recourse to Public Funds and limited IT skills are barriers, thus providing an essential safety net for people from ethnically diverse backgrounds who might otherwise find it challenging to access mainstream services effectively.

We run an English conversation group giving people whose first language is not English an opportunity to converse with native speakers.

We also run a programme of physical activities to encourage inactive people to be more active. This programme includes walking groups, football, volleyball, yoga, martial arts, and Zumba, and we have plans to develop and expand this programme.

Inclusive Exeter hosts a community connector who supports socially isolated people to identify what matters to them and to consider how they could enrich their lives within their communities and beyond to improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing.

We are always ready to undertake new, community-relevant projects and activities as agreed by our board, to improve relationships between communities and achieve greater integration.

Email: admin@inclusiveexeter.org.uk

Website: <https://www.inclusiveexeter.org/>

Telephone: 07888 129 694

The Kurdish Community Devon



The Kurdish Community Devon began with a small group of Kurdish students at the University of Exeter in 2010 and later extended its works to embrace other Kurdish people living across Devon, including small business owners and their workers, families and friends. Kurdish people have spread around the world over the last three decades, mainly due to political situations in their home countries.

The Kurdish Community Devon functions as a hub for the cultural, social, and political activities of Kurds living in Devon. We aim:

- to be a bridge between the Kurds and all the other ethnic groups living in Devon via our activities which are open not only to the Kurds but to everyone in the region and beyond.
- to encourage the Kurdish community to integrate within wider society
- to assist our community members to access services and education
- to preserve and promote the richness of the Kurdish culture to wider society and to future generations following the migration of first generations from our homelands.

Our activities include helping to coordinate:

- the Kurdish Spring/ New Year Newroz, celebration in March
- monthly Kurdish film screenings at the Phoenix
- Kurdish Traditional Dance teaching sessions
- Kurdish Language and Tembur (a traditional music instrument) classes for children aged between 7 and 14.

We can also arrange academic and non-academic seminars and talks regarding Kurdish issues in the Middle East and Europe.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/kurdish.devon>

Mobile: 07846817274

Email: kurdishc.devon@gmail.com

Mixed Families Together Group



We connect mixed heritage and global majority families across Devon.

We organise regular family meetups which uplift and celebrate diverse heritages across the group and help families feel part of a vibrant, supportive community.

For more information, please email mixedfamielstogethel@gmail.com or follow us on Instagram @mixedfamilies_together.

Multilingua Devon CIC



We deliver interpretation and translation services for public service providers, groups, and individuals. We provide services in over 100 languages with a database of over 300 local freelance interpreters and translators.

The county's only locally based professional translation and interpretation service, Multilingua Devon was founded in 2007 in order to meet the language needs of local BAME communities and support equality of access to public services. Initially supported by Devon County Council, we are now financially self-sufficient, but we remain a not-for-profit business. We support other charitable organisations and have a close relationship with our interpreters; we meet them, interview them in-person, offer training, and hold regular social get-togethers. The biggest difference between us and many larger, national companies is that we are local; we know the area and understand the needs of the communities well.

Our interpreters are trained and have DBS checks. 99% are native speakers with a BA or higher university degree from their own country. We try to match the right interpreter to each job.

Multilingua provides:

- trained local interpreters in over 85 languages
- prompt responses to all enquiries and a speedy service
- specialist interpreting e.g. mental health, medical, child protection, counselling, domestic violence, housing, education, legal topics
- written translation on request in any language (email the document to get a quote)
- in-house training and workshops
- training for organisations on 'Working with Interpreters' and 'Cultural Advocacy'.

Address: Civic Centre, Room 1.1, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN (above CAB)

Phone: 01392 276660 (office M-F 9am-5pm)

Mobile: 07951 948038 (Anil Lee- 24 hours)

Email: info@multilinguadevon.co.uk

Website: <https://www.multilinguadevon.co.uk/>

Odils (Open Doors International Language School)



Free English language education, skills development mentorships, employment, and community integration support for ethnic minority groups.

Hello! We are here to help you. No matter where you come from, how well you speak English or what your beliefs are, you have a home at Odils Learning Foundation.

We teach English Language classes to people who are refugees, seeking asylum or part of ethnic minority groups here in the UK. Our centre is located in Plymouth,

Devon. We help provide skills development so that people can find employment and integrate successfully. Many of our services and classes are free. Find out how it works or get in touch with us to see how we can help you.

We are Odils and we are here for you because you belong here.

Email: info@odils.com
Phone: 01752 258770 OR 01752 258771
Website: <https://odils.com/>

The Olive Project



Our core aims:

To work with black and minoritized women and girls who are subjected to abuse and violence, and to support them to live free from harm.

To work with black and minoritized women and girls to support them to advocate for their own rights.

To deliver effective and meaningful training to public, private, and voluntary organisations to eradicate the experience of institutional oppression faced by black and minoritized women.

To develop and lead local campaigns to bring real and lasting change for black and minoritized women and girls living in Devon and Cornwall and the surrounding areas.

Phone: 07990 858510
Email: alexis@theoliveproject.uk
Website: <https://www.theoliveproject.uk/>

PDREC (Plymouth and Devon Race Equality Council)



Plymouth & Devon
Racial Equality Council



Purposes & Aims

We work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity, and good relations, between persons of different racial groups.

The aims of our charity are to reduce the levels of racial discrimination and harassment within the county of Devon (including Plymouth, Exeter, and Torbay) and to educate the wider population on issues relating to racism and prejudice.

PDREC understand that working in collaboration improves the potential of our organisation to make a difference. We welcome opportunities to share practice and develop joint partnerships, and we believe this commitment makes us better placed to meet the diverse range of needs of our community members.

We work with our communities in the following ways:

- victim care
- benefit and debt advice
- tailored support for women
- first contact support for domestic violence
- hate crime reporting centre
- support and advice for parents on education issues
- tutoring and support for school-age children and young people

We also work strategically with a range of partners across Devon on partnership projects and forums with a view to reaching our targets on race equality and community cohesion.

Address: Unit 24, HQ Building, 237 Union Street, Plymouth, PL1 3HQ

Website: <https://www.plymouthanddevonrec.org.uk/>

Contact: <https://www.plymouthanddevonrec.org.uk/contact.html>

Pickwell Foundation



Since 2016, we have welcomed 7 refugee families from the MENA (Middle East/North Africa) region through the Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme, and are looking forward to welcoming 3 more families in the coming year. We recruit, train, and mentor groups to work alongside families and support them to independence.

We have also:

- welcomed 300+ Ukrainian guests into the North Devon and Torridge districts, assigning caseworkers to support every guest and host, who can help with problem solving and signposting to additional support.
- started to welcome families under the ARAP Scheme – supporting up to 18 Afghan families to our area with a full package of integration support needed. We are basing our framework around the Community Sponsorship model as it works so well.
- responded to the needs of other Afghan families needing resettlement to the UK from Pakistan.
- provided host and guest support for anyone offering a home to someone in the asylum process.
- worked with the local authorities to design services to support any future arrivals of displaced people to the area.

Website: <https://www.thepickwellfoundation.org.uk/>

Phone (Barnstaple office): 01271 649108

Email: info@thepickwellfoundation.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thepickwellfoundation/>

Plymouth Hope



Plymouth Hope is a charitable organisation run by inspiring and dedicated volunteers from all walks of life who all believe in social equality. We recognise the social and health benefits of football, and we work hard to make sure that children and young people in the UK and around the world have access to play the beautiful game. We thrive for a just and inclusive society in the UK and for peace and development in the most troubled and poorest countries.

Our first project is a community club made up of members from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds and from a host of countries from across the world. The diverse mix of teams means that we play with a unique style and flair, like no other! We come from places such as Afghanistan, Guinea, Iran, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Romania, Sudan, Iraq, Uzbekistan and of course England...to name but a few. Some of us have come to Plymouth through difficult circumstances, and some of us have grown up and lived here all our life. To us, your background simply doesn't matter. We all have a right to be in Plymouth and we all have the opportunity to play for a great football club.

The majority of players have limited access to funds or earning opportunities due to their status in the UK; therefore the aim of the project is to provide most activities free of charge or at low cost. For those who can and/or are earning a wage, we ask them to contribute to the on-going and extensive costs of running the football projects.

We thrive to implement our aims, objectives, and values in all our projects in the UK and around the world.

Website: <https://plymouthhope.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/plymouthhopeInternational/>
Phone: +44 (0) 1752 289 071 OR +44 (0) 7715 673 572
Email: info@plymouthhope.org.uk
Address: c/o The Plot, 80-84, Union Street, Stonehouse, Plymouth, PL1 3EZ

Polish British Community Group Exeter



This Facebook page is a celebration of the vital links between Poland and the UK. It is linked to a book on this topic entitled 'Poles in the UK: A Story of Friendship and Cooperation'.

Contact: polesintheuk@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/polishbritishgroup/>

Refugee Support Devon (RSD)



Refugee Support Devon



RSD is an independent local charity based at the Exeter Community Centre. We offer a range of services to the local refugee and asylum seeker community including:

- **twice-weekly drop-in:** offering information, support, and signposting for accessing legal services and for navigating life in the UK in general
- **weekly immigration clinic:** accredited by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner to offer level-2 advice
- **outreach support:** tailored packages of support to individuals who have complex cases and/or live outside of Exeter
- **destitution relief:** coordinating referrals to crisis services and providing immediate financial support via the RSD emergency fund
- **education and employability:** providing English language and employment training via a network of qualified volunteer tutors
- **women's group:** monthly activities for female clients and their children
- **refugee resettlement:** since 2016, we have been working in partnership with Devon County Council (DCC) to deliver support to over 30 families resettled in

Devon as a result of the war in Syria under the government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). In 2019, DCC awarded us the contract for the provision of integration casework in wider Devon, effectively making us their chosen provider for Syrian family relocation and integration activities in Devon until 2023.

- **Community allotment:** providing a safe space for refugees to grow their own fruit and vegetables, and to donate excess produce to others in need
- **RAMP (refugees as medical professionals) Devon:** assisting forced migrants who are qualified and registered health practitioners in their own country to follow an appropriate training pathway to enable them to work professionally in this country. We support doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons, nurses, dental nurses, dieticians, occupational therapists, podiatrists, pharmacists, speech therapists, optometrists, and radiographers.

Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon EX4 3RG
Phone: 01392 682185
Website: <https://refugeesupportdevon.org.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RefugeeSupportGroupDevon/>
Twitter: @RefSupDevon

Shumba Arts



Shumba Arts brings people from all walks of life together through music, dance, and song to create, empower, and celebrate embodied connections, healthy communities, and vibrant culture.

Our work supports community cohesion, personal resilience, and physical and mental well-being. We are passionate about creating inclusive and empowering participative experiences which enrich people's lives and pay respect to the pan-African traditions which inspire and inform us.

Our vision is for a world where people care for, respect, and do good for themselves, each other, and the planet.

Email: shumbaarts@gmail.com
Phone: 07955304747
Website: www.shumba.org.uk
Facebook: facebook.com/Shumba.Arts

South Asian Society - Devon and Cornwall



The South Asian Society (SAS) was founded in the year 2003. The main aim of this society is to create a cultural, social, and mutual support network for Devon and Cornwall's increasingly large South Asian community. SAS has a wide membership base of people who are drawn from countries surrounding the Indian sub-continent or are part of the Asian Diaspora.

Contact: <https://www.southasiansociety.org.uk/contact-us/> (contact form)
Website: <https://www.southasiansociety.org.uk/>
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/SAaS-South-Asian-Society-Devon-and-Cornwall/100057501465744/?locale=ms_MY&paipv=0&eav=AfbWxCU-9FS_3vjDqS5056vNg_-eDQl7j5BPkR2bJUZH_Cwj6WjSt27xuOpacKlxy4&_rdr

St. Sidwell's Centre



St. Sidwell's Community Centre



We are an independent community centre in the heart of Exeter, giving a warm welcome to all. We offer a wide programme of activities, events, and services for the local community, including:

- community café
- community bakery – the Sidwell Street Bakehouse
- the Sidwell Street Cookery School
- gardening projects - we grow vegetables and look after one of the few large green spaces in Exeter city centre
- affordable meeting room and venue hire
- local heritage hub for the Eastern quarter of Exeter city-centre.

The Olive Tree Project, which started running free English classes in Exeter nearly 20 years ago, merged with St Sidwell's in 2013. Free classes taught by experienced volunteer teachers still run nearly every day of the week (see <https://stsidwells.org.uk/what-we-do/olive-tree>) and are open to everyone – including refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers, and students.

We also offer a drop-in club for speakers of other languages every Thursday 2-4pm. Drop in for a chat about how to find a job, how to write a CV, you can get help to find other organisations such as Citizens Advice, chat about money, benefits, wellbeing and mental health support. We have laptops you can use and we will be on hand to give you help when you need.

Our Volunteering and Work-Experience Programme is at the heart of St Sidwell's work, and volunteers get involved in everything we do. We have a range of roles available in our café, our bakery, our garden, teaching English, etc. Contact us if you want to learn new skills, share your expertise, meet new people, gain work experience, or improve your English.

Address: St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6NN

Website: <https://stsidwells.org.uk/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/StSidscc/?locale=en_GB

Emails: Volunteering volunteer@stsidwells.org.uk ;
ESOL christine.olivetree@stsidwells.org.uk
Drop-in dropin@stsidwells.org.uk
Room Bookings bookings@stsidwells.org.uk
Phone: 01392 666222

START- Students and Refugees Together



START offers practical, social, and emotional support in the form of information, advocacy and advice.

Supporting refugees to settle in Plymouth and the far Southwest. Providing innovative placement opportunities for students

Phone: 07841 985252
Email: info@startsw.co.uk
Website: <https://www.studentsandrefugeesttogether.com/wp/>

Sunrise Diversity



Sunrise Diversity is a grassroots charity promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion in rural communities in North Devon. We work with the community to eliminate discrimination and promote strong, positive community relations through our range of services and activities, which challenge discrimination, help change attitudes, and celebrate diversity.

Sunrise provides a range of free services, activities, and training in North Devon for individuals with diverse identities including migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, people of colour, individuals with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and the LGBTQ+ community.

Services include:

- confidential support and advocacy
- English language classes and activities (for speakers of other languages)
- social opportunities
- skills and knowledge sessions.

For further information contact Sunrise:

Phone: 01271 328915

Email: admin@sunrisediversity.org.uk

Website: <https://sunrisediversity.org.uk/>

Sunrise Diversity Registered Charity No: 1192280 Company Limited by Guarantee 08462590

Tiny Travels



Tiny Travels offers children in Devon fully immersive sessions to promote an understanding of cultures around the world and in the UK through an anti-racist lens. We run sessions in nurseries, schools, libraries, playgroups, community events, and festivals.

During the sessions, children can explore crafts from different countries, smell different spices and teas from sensory pots, role-play with our custom-made food items, press musical buttons to hear different languages, and play with our vast collection of instruments from around the globe. We use age-appropriate diversity

learning tools and cover all ages from pre-school to KS3. We often do full school bookings, staggering the conversation as we move through the year groups.

Our ethos is rooted in anti-racism and helping to combat white dominant, euro-centric narratives of how children learn about the world. Our sessions are spaces where differences are wholeheartedly celebrated and where we challenge racist stereotypes, help children learn to be safely in community with all people, open young minds, and broaden perspectives.

We understand that Devon can be a difficult place for ethnically diverse children to thrive due to systemic racism, and our aim is to help children across Devon learn about cultures to respect, appreciate, and know about the huge contributions of ethnically diverse people in shaping British society.

The Tiny Travels sessions are a powerful learning opportunity for promoting inclusivity, empathy, cultural understanding, and critical thinking. Through cultural education and anti-racism learning, we aim to help shape a future generation that appreciates, embraces, and celebrates diversity, who will grow up contributing a more equitable, safer, harmonious society.

Email: hello@tinytravels.co.uk
Website: <https://www.tinytravels.co.uk/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/tinytravelsuk/>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tinytravels_uk/

Torbay Ukraine Host & Visitor Support Group



The purpose of this group is to offer support for people arriving in Torbay and the surrounding area from Ukraine. We provide advice and signpost to relevant services, supporting with filling in forms, practical support, but above all, offering the hand of friendship.

The group meets every Thursday evening at St Paul's Church, Preston between 7.30pm and 9.30pm

Email: support@torbayukraine.co.uk

Website: <https://torbayukraine.co.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1068664093994013/>

Ubuntu Counselling Services Ltd



A Multicultural Counselling Service Social Enterprise based in Devon



Aims of the Social Enterprise:

To provide an evidence-based, Holistic Counselling Service for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities across Devon.

Objectives:

- to provide psychotherapeutic services (mainly short-term, approx. 8 sessions), suited to BME communities
- to work alongside community networks so as to ensure cultural sensitivity and accessibility
- to link seamlessly with statutory services, including NHS and GPs so as to facilitate easy referral both ways
- to sign-post to other support agencies so as to ensure continuation of care
- to continue to develop the service so as to meet BME community needs and facilitate access to other services and resources where these are available
- to research and collect evidence of the mental health needs of various BME communities in Devon
- to monitor and evaluate the service so that it remains relevant and responsive to need and operates effectively and efficiently

We normally see clients within one week of referral, depending on availability. The service is free to clients and we are working hard to maintain a level of funding to continue to deliver the service free to clients.

We are organisational members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and abide by its code of ethics. Therapists are either accredited, on the BACP register of therapists, or working towards registration and accreditation.

Ubuntu has been managing the Exeter Communities Together project since 2019. This is a partnership of grass roots community organisations, offering a wide range of cultural activities, including a Growing Group on Tuesdays, 10am to 1pm.

Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG.

Phone: 01392 201572.

Email: info@ubuntu counselling services.org.uk.

Website: <http://ubuntu counselling services.org.uk/>

Facebook: @exetercommunitiestogether

Section 2: Public Services

Devon County Council

Migration and Resettlement Team

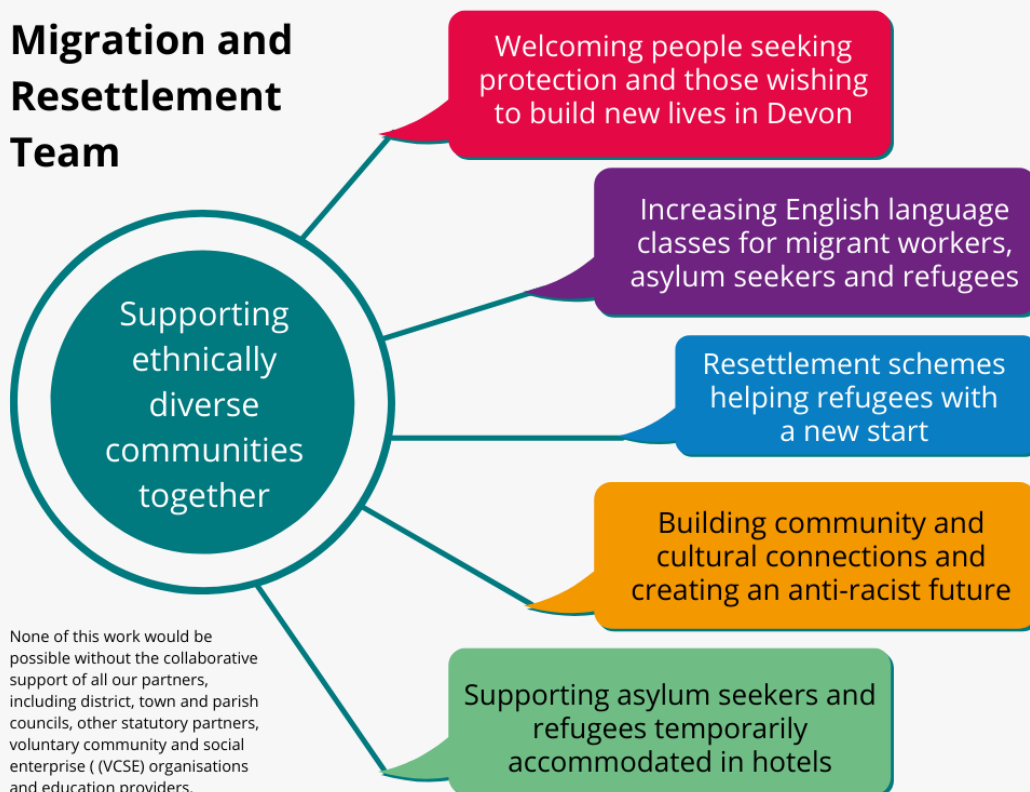
The Migration and Resettlement Team was launched in September 2022 in response to changing migration patterns and the need to rebuild and strengthen networking and collaboration after the impacts of Covid. The team brings together a wide range of skills, experience, and expertise within the council, enabling us to develop a more integrated, long-term approach to supporting the asylum seekers, refugees, and other migrants who are the focus of our work.

The Migration and Resettlement Team is made up of four smaller teams that work together closely.

Migration and Resettlement Team



Migration and Resettlement Team



Supporting People Seeking Asylum

Our Migration and Resettlement Team is working as part of a wider collaboration to support adults and children living in Devon who are seeking asylum. The Home Office has opened several hotels in Devon to accommodate asylum seekers who are destitute, and we have helped to pull together a partnership around each hotel community to try to meet everyone's needs starting with the basics such as clothing, language, and health support, through to finding school places and offering meaningful things for people to do (as adult asylum seekers generally are not allowed to work). We are also working with our regional partners and local District Councils to find more suitable accommodation for people while their claims for asylum progress.

Further information: angela.welch@devon.gov.uk

Resettlement

DCC's Resettlement Team oversees the local implementation of a range of UK Government Resettlement programmes from countries such as Syria and Afghanistan. Further information about each programme supported can be found at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/resettlement/>. We also provide support and assistance to Community Sponsorship Groups who are seeking to welcome and support a resettled family in their local community.



Contact: refugeeresettlement@devon.gov.uk

ESOL and Community Engagement

Our team works to improve the quantity and quality of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes available to refugees, asylum seekers, and migrant workers across Devon. We work closely with English language learning providers from all sectors: Learn Devon, FE colleges, voluntary sector organisations, and private language schools. We can help with finding suitable classes, advice and support for volunteer teachers, and access to teaching and learning resources.



The other strand of our work, linked to our efforts to support collaboration and networking among ESOL providers, is focused on improving cross-cultural and cross-sector engagement and understanding.

Contact: ESOL@devon.gov.uk.

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/support-in-devon/learning-english-in-devon/>

Community Bridging

'The Community Bridging Team supports families and individuals who are resettling in Devon having left their home country because their lives are at risk. We offer assistance with health and wellbeing, understanding cultural differences, finding community resources, finances and benefits, education, employment, parenting and supporting people without recourse to public funds.'

Contact: communitybridgingteam@devon.gov.uk

Homes for Ukraine

We work together with our District partners to ensure government guidelines are followed to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for those leaving Ukraine and moving to the UK. This includes maintaining and updating the Government's database for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, completing DBS interviews and checks, and assisting guests, sponsors and districts with any queries.

Contact: ukraineresettlement@devon.gov.uk.]

EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service)



The Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS) provides advice and guidance to support schools to remove barriers and inequalities in attainment and achievement for children and young people from all ethnic minorities, as well as those learning English as an additional language (EAL), including providing anti-racism and bilingual resources.

Contact: educationethnicminorityachievement@devon.gov.uk

Website: <https://devoneducationservices.co.uk/our-services/send-inclusion-and-safeguarding/ethnic-minority-and-traveller-achievement/>

EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) Team



The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Team support Devon County Council to be an inclusive employer and service provider and meet its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010. We like to hear from voluntary and community organisations about events and networks so that we can strengthen the Council's connection with Devon's diverse communities. Voluntary and community organisations can also apply for small grants from the EDI fund for activities which celebrate diversity and/or challenge inequalities. You can also let us know if you are unhappy about a service you receive from the Council and think this is because of discrimination.

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/>

Email: equality@devon.gov.uk

Report issue (discrimination): <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/reportincidents>

EDI grants : <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/our-commitment/equality-grants>

Twitter: @dccequality

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dccequality/>

Other Public Bodies

Devon and Cornwall Police Diverse Communities Team



The Devon and Cornwall Police Diverse Communities Team (DCT) is a small team of specialist officers and staff who focus on maintaining and developing confidence in the police, working to ensure community cohesion. It supports local officers in understanding the needs of people with protected characteristics and ensuring that we work with our diverse communities to protect the vulnerable and reduce the risk of harm.

We work to achieve the following aims:

- engagement with people with protected characteristics and from diverse backgrounds to create and maintain trust
- reduce risk to vulnerable people and promote community cohesion through our work with partner agencies
- increase awareness and reporting of hate crime
- reduce the re-victimisation of hate crime victims
- champion the Devon and Cornwall Police Equality Objectives (including reducing violence against women and girls)

We cover all of Devon and Cornwall and can be contacted for non-urgent enquiries Monday to Friday by email using the addresses below. **Please note that in an emergency, people should telephone 999/101 or contact via the Devon & Cornwall Police website instead.**

Website: devon-cornwall.police.uk

Contact (for non-urgent enquiries):

Diversity Cornwall CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Devon DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Plymouth DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Section 3: Forums and Networks

There are a range of well-established networks and forums in Devon, and across the Southwest, that meet regularly and support information sharing, networking, and collaboration among the many organisations from all sectors that support ethnically diverse communities in Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay. Some of these networks and forums are open to new members; others are set up by invitation only, but welcome community input.

Devon ESOL Network

The Devon County Council ESOL and Engagement Team have been developing a network of volunteer ESOL teachers around Devon. Members receive regular newsletters and information about the latest initiatives to help refugees and asylum seekers, such as employability support. We also organise training workshops and networking events to allow local ESOL teachers to connect and share ideas.

If you would like to be a part of our network and receive newsletters and invites to events, please email ESOL@devon.gov.uk.

Devon Faith and Belief Forum



Working together to promote better understanding and good relations between our communities.

Devon Faith and Belief Forum brings together people from different faith and belief traditions to build a better society through promoting good relations, encouraging better understanding, and developing stronger bonds between our communities.

Website: <https://devonfaiths.org.uk/>

Complete our Contact Form to get in touch: <https://devonfaiths.org.uk/contact-dfbf/>

Equality Reference Group



Our Equality Reference Group supports the County Council's work on equality and diversity by providing advice, feedback, ideas, and scrutiny. It symbolises the partnership of Devon County Council with the local community in its commitment to equality and includes members from various local organisations pressing for change. Equality Reference Group members from the voluntary and community sector are independent of the County Council, and Service Level Agreements are in place.

Community organisations can request agenda items or raise questions by discussing this with one of the members; for example, if you are a disability organisation then contact the disability representative which is Living Options Devon. If you are not sure who to contact, please email the Lead Officer for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. Please note, the group focuses on strategic policy and planning matters and does not represent individual complainants. If you have a complaint, please use the Council's feedback process.

Contact: equality@devon.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/our-commitment/equality-reference-group>

Migrant Champions Network



The Migrant Champions Network is a network of local councillors from across the UK, and across different political parties, working together to fight for the rights of all migrants.

We do this because we know that there's never been a more important time to stand up for the rights of people who make the UK their home.

The network aims to ensure that local communities have the resources they need to build strong connections and make the case for change. Our communities are stronger when we work in solidarity to build better lives for all of our neighbours, regardless of where we were born.

We exist to support the brilliant work being done by local councillors, Migrant Champions and others, to support migrant constituents and fight for the rights of all people who have moved to the UK, whether they moved by choice or by force. The network organises quarterly meetings, provides resources and trainings, and supports members to work with migrant constituents.

The network was founded in 2022 by local councillors who had been appointed as Migrant Champions in Islington and Oxford. The development of the network is supported by the [Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants](#), a legal charity based in London that campaigns for an immigration system that treats everyone with dignity and respect.

The network is non-party political, and is funded by the [OAK Foundation](#).

To find out more about the network, please don't hesitate to [get in touch!](#)

Website: <https://migrantchampionsnetwork.org/home>

Police Community Reference Group

The Police Community Reference Group is a forum chaired by the Commander for each of the three geographical areas across Devon. The Commander and their Senior Management Team meet with members of the diverse communities they serve, to seek feedback and views on a range of policing matters, and to understand the impact which changes in policing practices may have across different sections of the community. This forum is supported by the Diverse Communities Team and the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Team.

Email contacts:

Diversity Cornwall: CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Devon: DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Diversity Plymouth: DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Refugee & Asylum Seekers Network (RAN)



A local network, bringing together organisations working to support asylum seekers and refugees in the Plymouth area.

Email: Jabo Butera jabo@dbi.org.uk

South Devon Refugee Support Network



Dartington Trust has shared the huge concern over the refugee crisis that has faced Europe in recent years, and knows that our community, acting together, can make a real difference.

We have been working closely with local community organisations, under the joint name of South Devon Refugee Support Network (SDRSN), to offer practical support and welcome for refugees and asylum seekers in South Devon.

Our programme aims to:

- work with others to provide community welcome and support for asylum seekers and refugees in and around South Devon
- develop the White House building at Foxhole on our estate as a place of retreat, inclusion and cultural connection

Contact: 01803 847000.

Website: <https://www.dartington.org/about/refugees/>

South West ESOL Forum (SW Councils)

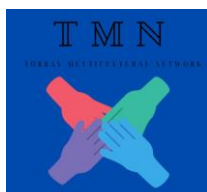


The well-established South West ESOL Forum meets online several times a year and brings together ESOL teachers and practitioners from across the region from all sectors. The Forum provides great opportunities to network, to share information, resources, and examples of good practice. The Forum is coordinated by the South West Strategic Migration Partnership (SWSMP) in Taunton and is just one of a

number of regional networks that they run, including the Migrant Workers Forum, the UASC Forum, and the Ukraine Network.

For more information, or to join the forum, contact info@swcouncils.gov.uk

Torbay Multi-Cultural Network



The Torbay Multicultural Network is a group based in Torbay, bringing together and celebrating different cultures as well as tackling important topics such as discrimination.

We currently have 14 members from a diverse range of backgrounds who meet via zoom every 3 months. This is a safe space to spark discussion around important topics and ideas for future work.

The group also connects with organisations (for example Torbay Council, the Fire Service, the Police Service etc.) throughout Torbay and the surrounding area to raise awareness about diversity and promote inclusion.

We send a monthly newsletter with useful educational resources such as anti-racism books, cultural celebration, and news of local events as well as arranging meetings to give advice about how to be as inclusive as possible.

Email: torbaymulticulturalnetwork@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2914822185486872/about>

Section 4: Services by Theme

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

*Devon County Council's **ESOL and Engagement Team** works with English language learning providers from all sectors to help improve access to English language learning opportunities across the county.*

You can find details of all English language classes on offer in Devon at [Learning English in Devon - Migration and resettlement](#) Use the contact details listed on the webpage to sign up for a class.

If you need information or advice about ESOL, including help with finding the right English language class, please contact ESOL@devon.gov.uk

Accredited English Language Courses

If you would like to gain a recognised qualification in ESOL, you can sign up for courses at a local further education colleges, or with our own Adult Education provider, Learn Devon.

- **Exeter College:**

Contact adultESOL@exe-coll.ac.uk or lauragrix@exe-coll.ac.uk

Website: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/course/esol-skills-for-life/>



- **PETROC (Barnstaple and Tiverton):**

Contact adultsuccesscoaches@petroc.ac.uk

Website: [https://www.petroc.ac.uk/course-search/? sf s=esol](https://www.petroc.ac.uk/course-search/?sf_s=esol)



- **City College Plymouth:**
Contact info@cityplym.ac.uk
Website: <https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/courses/?swpquery=esol>
- **South Devon College (Torbay):**
Contact Enquiries@southdevon.ac.uk
Website: <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/>
- **Learn Devon:**
Contact learndevon@devon.gov.uk
Website: <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/subjects/english-esol/>



Community English classes

Devon is lucky to have many voluntary and community organisations and groups that support refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers by offering free English classes and conversation groups. Most of these classes do not lead to a qualification but they will help you to improve your English and give you the opportunity to meet other people from the local community.

The main voluntary sector providers of English language support in Devon are:

- St Sidwell's Centre – see page 40
 - Odils Academy – see page 32
 - Sunrise Diversity – see page 41
 - Refugee Support Devon – see page 37
 - CISCO – see page 10
-

Online Classes and an App

For any learners who can't access a class in their local area, there are a number of online learning opportunities available, including online courses at different levels, with a focus on living in Devon, coordinated by our Migration and Resettlement Team

- Contact us at ESOL@devon.gov.uk to find out if you are eligible to join one of our own online classes
 - Learn Devon – [English for speakers of other languages - Learn Devon](#)
 - STEP UKRAINE – a free intensive 12 week online programme for Ukrainians in the UK [STEP Ukraine | World Jewish Relief](#)
 - AILEM – a free English language learning App, created by refugees to support refugees and asylum seekers [Home | AILEM](#)
-

Employment and Careers

Finding a job in Devon when your first language is not English and the qualifications and experience that you gained overseas are not always recognised by UK employers, can be extremely challenging.

Fortunately, there are plenty of organisations in Devon offering support for speakers of other languages with:

- *job searches*
- *help with writing a CV and/or a letter of application*
- *advice on interview techniques in UK*
- *signposting to work-experience and volunteering opportunities (a great way to improve your English and add to your CV)*
- *help with English for Specific Purposes – the extra English that you might need in order to work in a particular trade or profession*

Library Work Clubs and other employment support: district by district

Modern libraries are not just places to borrow books, these days they are community hubs that offer a huge range of services. Devon County Council has been working in partnership with Libraries Unlimited to create a network of Work Clubs in libraries across the county. These library work clubs are open to all and can offer specialised support for Speakers of Other Languages – including one-to-one mentoring and support with finding the right job.

In addition to the library work clubs, in each area of Devon, District Councils are working with local partners to provide employment support for Ukrainian residents.

Teignbridge

Newton Abbot Library Work Club

Thursdays 10am – 1pm. Book an appointment using the email below or go to Reception and ask for “Matt”.

- **Address:** Newton Abbot Library, Passmore Edwards Centre, TQ12 2RJ
- **Email:** newtonabbot.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk.
- **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/groups/1022429822119537/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permalinks=1034599920902527

Teignbridge CVS (Council for Voluntary Services)

Works with Teignbridge District Council to provide support for Ukrainians living in the area, including advice and guidance on employment

- **Website:** <https://www.teigncvs.org.uk/projects/homes-for-ukraine-programme>
- **Email:** Ali@teigncvs.org.uk

West Devon and South Hams

Ivybridge Library Work Club

Fridays, 9.30am – 1.00pm

- **Address:** Ivybridge Library, Erme Ct, Leonards Rd, Ivybridge PL21 0SZ
- **Email:** Liz James – ivybridge.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/767074468517125/>

Tavistock Library (for West Devon)

Wednesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm

- **Address:** Tavistock Library, The Quay, Plymouth Rd, Tavistock PL19 8AB
- **Email:** Sarah Hinton – sarah.hinton@librariesunlimited.org.uk
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1545105562692374>

ODILS Academy

ODILS is working with South Hams and West Devon District councils to provide employment mentoring and support for Ukrainian residents.

- **Website:** <https://odils.com/>
- **Email:** employmentandcitizenship@odils.com.

North Devon and Torridge

Barnstaple Library Work Club

Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.00am – 12.00pm.

- **Address:** IT Suite, First Floor, Barnstaple Library, Tuly Street, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1EL. Ask for the “Iain and the work club” at Reception.
- **Email:** Iain Harris – iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/355753868474474/>

Bideford Library Work Club

Wednesdays, 9.30am – 2.00pm

- **Address:** Bideford Library, Bideford Arts Centre, The Quay, Bideford, EX39 2EY. Ask for the “Iain and the work club” at Reception.
- **Email:** Iain Harris – iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/304803953502600>

Pickwell Foundation

Pickwell works with both North Devon and Torridge District Councils to provide support for Ukrainians living in the area, including advice and guidance on finding employment. See page 35 for more information about Pickwell

- **Website:** <https://www.thepickwellfoundation.org.uk/>
- **Email:** james@thepickwellfoundation.org.uk

Mid-Devon

Tiverton Library Work Club

Tuesday 12.00pm – 3.00pm.

- **Address:** Tiverton Library, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SA. Ask for “Iain and the work club” at Reception.
- **Email:** Iain Harris – iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk
- **Facebook:** Tiverton Work Club | Facebook

East Devon

Library Work Club

Libraries Unlimited, working in partnership with DCC's Migration and Resettlement Team, are aiming to open a library work club in East Devon in 2024. Contact ESOL@devon.gov.uk for more information

East Devon District Council Homes for Ukraine Team

East Devon council has a dedicated team to support Ukrainians resident in the area who can offer advice and guidance on finding employment

- **Website:** <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/resettlement-projects/what-is-homes-for-ukraine-scheme/>
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/172264982141272/>
- **Email:** homesforukrainesupport@eastdevon.gov.uk

Exeter

St Sidwell's Drop-In (formerly known as St Sid's Work Club)

Every Thursday 2-4pm at the community centre cafe. Drop in for a chat about how to find a job, how to write a CV, chat about money, benefits, wellbeing, and mental health support. We have laptops you can use, and we will be on hand to give you help when you need.

Depending on how busy it is, we may be able to help you on the day or we may ask you to book a 1:1 appointment for a longer chat.

Website: <https://stsidwells.org.uk/>

Email: dropin@stsidwells.org.uk

Housing

Refugees at Home



Refugees at Home is a UK charity which connects those with a spare room in their home to refugees and asylum seekers in need of somewhere to stay.

Refugees at Home was set up by a group of friends in 2016 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis. Since then, it has grown to become the UK's largest independent hosting charity, finding rooms for more than 5000 guests from 75 different countries.

Refugees and people seeking asylum are fleeing war or persecution in their own countries. But many who come to the UK in search of safety find themselves facing homelessness and destitution. They may be without statutory support for long periods, or need some additional help to build new lives.

We recruit and support volunteer hosts who are willing to offer a temporary home and a helping hand. Our role is to carefully match each guest and host, to assess and prepare them ready for hosting, to advise on hosting arrangements and accommodation, and to provide ongoing support to hosts throughout each stay.

Website: <https://refugeesathome.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/refugeesathome/>

Email: info@refugeesathome.org

Care Services

Devon Carers



Devon Carers is a **FREE** service by Westbank providing support to unpaid carers. This service is commissioned by Devon County Council and NHS Devon. If you provide unpaid support for an adult living in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) who needs help because they are ill, frail, disabled or have a mental health or addiction problem, then you can access free support in your caring role. We treat each carer as an individual, taking time to find out what's important to them, and work out together how we can support them in their caring role.

Our services include:

- our website
- a helpline and webchat facility
- carer skills workshops,
- peer support groups,
- hospital services,
- carer assessments,
- “Our Time for You” sitting service.
- carers passport.
- quarterly magazine.

and much more.

We can provide versions of any of our information in other languages if required. If you would like to access any of our services, or if you are struggling with your caring role and would like to discuss more support, please contact us.

Helpline: 03456 434 435.

Online webchat: <https://devoncarers.org.uk/>

Email: info@devoncarers.org.uk

Our helpline and webchat are available Monday – Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am-1pm.

Health and Wellbeing

Eddystone Trust



The Eddystone Trust are a Southwest based sexual health and HIV charity, working within the community, assisting Devon residents in overcoming barriers to maintaining good sexual health and accessing sexual health services. Our aim is to empower them with knowledge and information and support them to make choices around their sexual health and sexual well-being, that are right for them.

Services we offer include free, rapid HIV testing that can provide a result within 20 minutes and is available both online and in person. We also offer rapid in-person syphilis testing and support to access and complete a sexual health screen. We provide support to access free condoms, lube, and other forms of HIV Prevention such as PrEP and PEP.

Recognising that the reasons people struggle to maintain good sexual health and engage with services can be complex and personal. We offer a non-judgmental and person-centred service providing individuals with the space they need to overcome barriers. This can take the form of a 'one-off' brief intervention or ongoing behaviour change work for those engaging in activities likely to have a negative impact on sexual health, including chemsex.

We also support and advocate for those living with HIV, providing a range of services including peer support groups, support around diagnosis, and assistance to access specialist HIV clinics.

Website: [Eddystone.org.uk](https://www.eddystone.org.uk)

Phone: 08003283508.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheEddystoneTrust/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eddystonesouthwest/>

Mental Health

If you are experiencing mental ill-health and are looking for support, please start by talking to your doctor. Your doctor may refer you to specialist support.

There are a number of organisations and projects that specialise in offering mental health support to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers.

National Organisations

- **Boloh** work with asylum seekers across the UK, supporting their mental health and wellbeing. Call Boloh for free on **0800 151 2605** Staff speak different languages and have access to interpreters. Monday to Friday 10am – 8pm, Saturday 10am – 3pm or talk to Boloh on webchat by visiting <https://helpline.barnardos.org.uk/>



- **Migrant Right's Network** is a national network offering advice and guidance on Mental Health, on what support is available and how to access it.

Website: <https://migrantsrights.org.uk/resources/know-your-rights/mental-health/>



In Devon

- **Devon Partnership NHS Trust** offers guidance and a range of different links for anyone experiencing mental ill-health.

Website: <https://www.dpt.nhs.uk/about/corporate-information/citizens-in-waiting>



- **Talkworks**, part of the Devon partnership trust, has a small number of therapists trained to deliver a trauma focused therapy called Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) which is an evidence based treatment for refugees or asylum seekers

Website: <https://www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk/>



- **Livewell SW** offers a specialist service for anyone living in the Plymouth area, dedicated to supporting the health and mental health needs of asylum seekers and those who have sought refuge in the UK. Visit



Website: <https://www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk/project/asylum-seekers-refugees-mental-health-team>

- **Ubuntu Counselling** (see page 44) offer a holistic counselling service for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Devon

Community Environmental Educational Therapy CIC (CEETCIC)



We support the health of young people and adults in Devon through community, art, activity, environmental, and wellbeing projects, to help our people and our planet.

We believe that immersing ourselves in nature, learning how to help our planet, being part of our communities, and being active are valuable ways of supporting skills, friendships, confidence, happiness, and self-esteem.

We work with schools, refugees, and over 55s.

Email: sarah@ceetcic.com

Website: www.ceetcic.co.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CEETCIC/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ceet_uk/?img_index=1

LGBTQ+

Intercom Trust



Supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans+ people across the South West
Registered Charity Number 1171878



Intercom Trust is a community-led charity that aims to build a Southwest region where people are treated with respect, celebrated, and where vibrant LGBT+ communities live with real equality. We offer help, support, and advocacy services to all our communities, alongside additional services including our low-cost counselling service, our LGBT+ domestic abuse service, and our LGBT+ training and consultancy service. We work to help and support LGBT+ people and others affected by homophobic and transphobic discrimination or prejudice across Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay.

Email: office@intercomtrust.org.uk
Phone: 01392 201015
Website: www.intercomtrust.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheIntercomTrust

University of Exeter



University
of Exeter

The University of Exeter is renowned for its vibrant and inclusive multicultural environment, which fosters a sense of global community among its students and staff. With a diverse student population hailing from over 140 countries, the university celebrates multiculturalism as a core value. This rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and perspectives creates a stimulating and enriching academic experience.

The university actively promotes intercultural exchange through various initiatives, such as cultural festivals, international student societies, and language exchange programs. These opportunities allow students to immerse themselves in different cultures, broaden their horizons, and develop a global mindset.

Furthermore, the University of Exeter takes pride in its commitment to creating a fair, socially just and inclusive society. It provides a supportive environment for students of all backgrounds, fostering a strong sense of belonging. The institution values diversity as a catalyst for innovation and creativity, recognising that a multicultural community promotes a deeper understanding of global issues and prepares students to become global citizens.

Arts and Culture

We are passionate about understanding and promoting the creative process. Collaborating with staff, students, artists, and cultural organisations, we aim to strengthen creative networks and foster interdisciplinary collaborations. Our services include leading creative projects, bridging the university cultural and creative communities, offering guidance, delivering workshops, and caring for the Fine Art Collection. We also provide support for collaborations and promote works through various channels.



Website: <https://www.artsandcultureexeter.co.uk/>

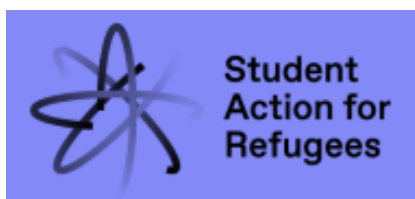
Exeter Decolonising Network



Provides a collective space for writing, thinking, and sharing matters related to decolonial and antiracist praxis.

Website: <http://exeterdecol.org/>

Exeter STAR



STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is a national network of student groups working to improve the lives of refugees in UK. Exeter STAR helps to support local charities working with refugees through fundraising and volunteering.

Website: <https://my.exeterguild.com/groups/H673T/student-action-for-refugees-star-society>

Multicultural Students Society



The Multicultural Students Society at the University of Exeter embraces the unique experiences of students with diverse cultural backgrounds. From blending our parents' cultures to embracing the cultures of our international community, we are global citizens with a global mindset. Join us to connect with like-minded individuals who understand the complexities of multiple cultural identities.

Website: <https://my.exeterguild.com/groups/WG6R7/third-culture-kid-society>

The Universities of Sanctuary team at Exeter



As part of the [University of Sanctuary network](#), a UK-wide initiative, University of Exeter Sanctuary team work to foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees – including offering [sanctuary scholarships](#) and partial fee waivers to undergraduate students who are seeking asylum.

Website: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/inclusion/support/uos/>

ROUTES: Migration, Mobility, Displacement



An inter-disciplinary platform for discussion of migration issues that brings together academic research and the direct voice of people who have moved.

Website: <https://geography.exeter.ac.uk/routes/>

Section 5: Cultural Calendar

2024

This calendar identifies some of the international, national and local religious and cultural events and activities that will be taking place in 2024; opportunities for people to come together; to learn more about different cultures; to join in with cultural celebrations and/or to focus on particular culturally related issues.

January		
7th	Christmas Day	For Orthodox Christians
16th	Martin Luther King Day	Martin Luther King Teaching Resources (tes.com)
21st	World Religion Day	WORLD RELIGION DAY - January 21, 2024 - National Today
25th	Burns Night	Scotland. Burns Night - Teaching Resources - BBC Teach
27th	Holocaust Memorial Day – 2024 Theme: Fragility of Freedom	Holocaust Memorial Day Trust HMD 2024 Theme
27th Jan – 4th Feb	National Storytelling Week	National Storytelling Week The Society for Storytelling (sfs.org.uk)

February		
Whole Month	LGBT+ History Month	Home LGbthistorymonth.com
5th to 11th	Race Equality Week - ListenActChange	Race Equality Week - Race Equality Matters
10th	Lunar New Year	New Year celebration in many Chinese and Buddhist communities. The Hongkongers in Exeter (page 27) will be organising celebrations in Exeter
13th	Shrove Tuesday (“Pancake Day” aka “Mardi Gras”).	The History of Pancake Day (historic-uk.com)
14th	St Valentine’s Day	International celebration of love. Valentine's Day 2023: Origins, Background & Traditions HISTORY.
24th	Magha Puja (aka “Fourfold Assembly Day”)	Magha Puja Day Celebration of the presentation of teachings by the Buddha to a spontaneous gathering of 1250 arahants (holy men). Also known as ‘Great Assembly Day’ or ‘Sangha Day’.

March		
1st	St David's Day	National day for Wales St David's Day celebration traditions Visit Wales
1st	World Book Day	World Book Day . Schools often ask children to prepare a report on their favourite book.
8th	International Women's Day - #InspireInclusion	International Women's Day 2024 (internationalwomensday.com)
10th	Mothering Sunday ("Mother's Day")	The History of Mother's Day (arenaflowers.com)
10th or 11th	Ramadan – probable start date for 2024	Fasting month. Observance of Ramadan is one of the 5 pillars of Islam
17th	St Patrick's Day	A celebration of Irish culture
20th	Kurdish Newroz	New Year – celebration of Spring for Kurdish communities, The Kurdish Community (see page 30) will be organising a celebration in Exeter
24th & 25th	Holi	Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love and Spring
31st	Easter Sunday	Easter, a Christian festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead

April		
1st	Easter Monday	Start of the Easter holidays
1st	April Fool's Day	April Fool's Day LearnEnglish (britishcouncil.org)
9th to 11th	Eid-ul Fitr	Islamic festival to mark the end of Ramadan
13th	Vaisakhi	Festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community, the Khalsa , in 1699. It was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab until it became Sikhism's most important festival.
22nd	Stephen Lawrence Day	National Stephen Lawrence Day was inaugurated in 2019 to celebrate the short life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack at just 18 years old.
22nd to 30th	Passover	A major Jewish festival that celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt.
23rd	St George's Day	National day for England. A truly multicultural saint, St George is the patron saint of England, Georgia, Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia

May		
Whole month	Local and Community History month	Trips, library exhibitions and local lectures Local and Community History Month / Historical Association
1st	Beltane -	The Gaelic May Day festival, marking the start of Summer
13th to 19th	Mental Health Awareness Day	A week during which events are held to highlight issues around mental health.
22nd	Wesak Buddha's birthday	Wesak Buddhist Celebration, Vesak Day, Buddha's Birth Britannica

June		
8th and 9th	Exeter Respect Festival	The largest celebration of diversity in the South West. Takes place in Belmont Park, Exeter. This year is 27 th Respect festival
16th	Eid al-Adha	One of the holiest days in Islam, Eid al-Adha commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son for God, marked by prayers, charity, and community gatherings
20th	Summer Solstice	Midsummer, the longest day of the year and a pagan festival
22nd	Windrush Day	A day to honour the contributions of migrants to life in the UK.. Specifically, it celebrates Afro-Caribbeans who began arriving on the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948

July		
7th or 8th	Islamic New Year	The start of the New Year 1446 in the Islamic calendar
18th	South Asian Heritage Month	The start of a month-long celebration of South Asian heritage and culture South Asian Heritage Month
23rd	Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie	Rastafarian celebration of the birthday of Hailie Selassie

August		
13th to 15th	Obon	Obon (also known as Bon festival) is an important Zen Buddhist festival in Japan – a commemoration of ancestors
23rd	International day for the remembrance of the slave trade	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition UNESCO

September		
31st Aug to 7th Sept	Paryushan	The most important holy festival for Jains – an 8 day festival focusing on new beginnings
23rd to 29th	National Inclusion Week (Inclusive Employers)	National Inclusion Week 2024 Inclusive Employers dedicated to celebrating inclusion and taking action to create inclusive workplaces
26th	European Day of Languages	Council of Europe initiative to celebrate language and cultural diversity. Click here for ideas to celebrate the day: European Day of Languages > Home (ecml.at)

October		
Whole month	Black History Month	Annual awareness campaign to highlight African and Caribbean history and heritage, and the UK's diverse cultural heritage. A range of events to entertain and educate.
3rd	National Poetry Day	About National Poetry Day - National Poetry Day – schools often ask children to prepare poems for lessons.
10th	World Mental Health Day	Aims to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.
16th	International Pronouns Day	International Pronouns Day — Pronouns.org Resources on Personal Pronouns
31st	Halloween	A festival with diverse origins (including Pagan and Christian traditions) that has become an important cultural festival in UK and USA
11th to 17th	Anti-bullying Week	A nationwide initiative that highlights the issue of bullying and encourages individuals to take action against it. It emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of respect and support, where bullying is not tolerated, and every person is valued.
30th	St Andrews Day	A day of celebration in Scotland. The thistle flower is associated with this day.

November		
Whole month	Islamophobia Awareness Month	Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) is a campaign founded in 2012 by a group of Muslim organisations. It aims to showcase the positive contributions of Muslims as well as raise awareness of Islamophobia in society.
1st	Diwali	The Hindu festival of lights
5th	Guy Fawkes Night (aka "Bonfire Night")	Guy Fawkes Day History, Rhyme, & Facts Britannica

10th	Remembrance Sunday	A day to remember people killed or wounded in war. People often observe 2 minutes' silence starting at 11am.
10th to 17th	UK Interfaith Week	Inter Faith Week Aims to strengthen relations between people of different religious and non-religious beliefs.

December		
18th	International Migrants' Day	International Migrants Day United Nations An annual opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of migrants to societies around the world.
25th	Christmas Day	Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus and a secular family holiday celebrated by both Christians and non-Christians
25th Dec – 2nd Jan	Hanukkah	When Is Hanukkah in 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027? My Jewish Learning
31st	New Year's Eve/Hogmanay	A worldwide festival to mark the arrival of a New Year