

Directory Of Organisations and Description

“Transforming Divided Societies into Welcoming Communities” Timofey Agarin, Drew Mikhael, Patrizia John (*Queen’s University Belfast*). Project Funded by Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

Rock of Fire Centre

Location: Antrim

Services: Promoting economic activity, cross-community contact, integration support, minority promotion, training and education.

Contact: greetings@rockore.com

Overview: Faith-based organisation established in Ghana that helps support migrants, in NI integrate by providing holistic family support.

Empowering Refugees and Newcomers Organisation (ERANO)

Location: Omagh

Services: Cross-community relations, integration support, community dialogue, promoting culture, contact between majorities and minorities

Contact: mary.lafferty@eran.org.uk

Overview: ERANO works with all newly arrived people and is a support group to try and ensure they feel well integrated in the communities they reside. The following approach is taken:

- Offers support, advice, guidance to people in need. Through the organisation of social programmes, youth activities, workshops, training and ESOL classes.

Omagh Ethnic Communities Support Group

Location: Omagh

Services: Integration support; Community dialogue; Promoting (minority) culture; Promoting contact between majorities and minority; Human rights advocacy; Re- and Upskilling/ training

Contact: oe CSG2@yahoo.co.uk

Overview: Advice and advocacy service to enable ethnic minorities access all services on an equal footing with other members of the community; organize and deliver training and capacitation courses to enable better employment and communication skills.

Migrant Support Service (MSS)

Location: Portadown

Services: Integration support, promoting culture, education support, skills training

Contact: migrantprocur@gmail.com

Overview: MSS provides advisory services, with linguistic support so that newly arrived persons can access citizen entitlements to better enable integration.

- Offers training and education, particularly in the English language.
- Provides information to support asylum processes.
- Promoting intercultural contact activities.

Flowers of Belfast CIC

Location: Newtownabbey

Services Integration support; Promoting (minority) culture; Human rights advocacy

Contact: Flowersofbelfast@gmail.com

Overview: A non-profit company helping Sudanese community integrate in Northern Ireland by providing the support, advice & guidance to new arriving families, such as assistance to find housing, solving housing relocation issues, communicating with official bodies, providing educational support.

Building Communities Resource Centre

Location: Ballymoney

Services: Developing cross community relations; Integration support; Community dialogue; Promoting (minority) culture; Promoting contact between majorities and minority; Human rights advocacy; Support in Education, cultural awareness, English language classes, initiatives breaking social isolation, wellbeing activities

Contact: theresourcecentre.org

Overview: BCRC is a charity supporting community and civil society organisations with diverse projects and programmes including social, cultural, health and economic development to benefit communities belonging to the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough and its environs. BCRC is providing activities, programmes, emergency financial help, food bank, listening ear services, safe space for hate crime victims.

Horn of Africa People's Aid Northern Ireland (HAPANI)

Location: Belfast

Services: Advocacy, education support, counselling, community dialogue, integration and promoting economic activity.

Contact: info@hapani.org

Overview: A refugee and asylum organisation established in 2011, HAPANI usually works with a number of different partners and collaborating organisations and while mostly focuses on people from Horn of Africa, it is not exclusive. It primarily works through:

- Education, providing access and providing space for meetings, computers and runs well-being sessions on site.
- Supports housing, access to public services and advocacy serving on public boards and the police.

- Social activities like homework club and sporting activities.

AFRICAN CARIBBEAN SUPPORT ORGANISATION NI (ACSONI)

Location: Belfast

Services: Advocacy, education support, counselling, community dialogue, integration and promoting economic activity.

Contact: <https://www.acsoni.org>

Overview: Established in 2003 ACSONI works with individuals from Africa, the Caribbean (West Indies) to address socio-economic disadvantages faced by members of these communities. ACSONI works in collaboration with other organisations.

- Operates a drop-in system to provide immediate support and assessment.
- Runs educational programmes.
- Supports social integration and inter-community contact.
- Supports heritage programmes.

Northern Ireland Council for Racial Equality (NICRE)

Location: Belfast

Services: Community dialogue, minority culture promotion, promoting contact between majorities and minorities integration and promoting economic activity.

Contact: www.nicre.org

Overview: NICRE is a black and minority ethnic (BME) led membership based organisation established in 2017. It works across the island of Ireland in advocacy campaigns, chairing a variety of different ethnic minority persons and organisations to outline strategy for creating human rights norms for minority communities.

- Signposts referrals to key centres of legal advice like the Migrant Centre of Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Various campaigns such as BREXIT Irish Citizenship Campaign to lobby policymakers to allow BME members living in Northern Ireland for 5 years to obtain Irish citizenship.
- Supports individuals who have suffered discrimination, harassment or racist violence.
- Consults and advises public bodies on a range of policies areas that impact BME members and takes part in a number of working groups.

Rainbow Refugees NI

Location: Belfast

Services: Minority culture promotion, advocacy.

Contact: rainbowrefugeesni@gmail.com

Overview: Established in 2022 Rainbow Refugees has been since inception providing safe space for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex and others (LGBTQI+) who are

refugees and asylum seekers to have monthly meetings. It is a totally volunteer organisation and does not provide direct services, what it does do at this moment:

- Provides peer support to LGBTQI+ members going through asylum processes.

Start360

Location: Belfast

Services: Health, employment and access to justice

Contact: www.Start360.org

Overview: Start360 seeks to offer a range of services, including crisis response, to non-English speakers that will assist them in health, justice and employability.

- Works with service users through casework and action planning.
- Provides well-being interventions, counselling, mentoring, family therapy and support.
- Provides services in homes, communities and other locations (school, youth clubs etc).

Starling Collective

Location: Belfast

Services: Trauma counselling, education support, skills training

Contact: info@starlingcollective.org.uk

Overview: Recently established in 2021 Starling seeks to support those seeking asylum or have been granted refugee status and programmes are informed by those who have been previous service users. Direct services provided include:

- Support service for people, helping them find their key needs.
- Assistance with accessing volunteering, education, training and employment and welfare support.
- A Trauma Informed support to those who are destitute or homeless.

Storehouse

Location: Belfast

Services: Cross-community relations, integration support

Contact: info@storehousebelfast.com

Overview: Established in 2008 Storehouse is an organisation that brings together a collection of churches in Belfast to create an effective and further reaching food bank services. The organisation's theory of change is to work in the following ways:

- Delivers food to identified needy people.
- Helps support communities to provide for needy people.
- Provide encouragement to those receiving services to improve well-being.

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

Location: Belfast

Services: Cross-community relations, integration support, community dialogue, promoting culture, contact between majorities and minorities, advocacy

Contact: info@equalityni.org

Overview: The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland ('the Commission') is an independent public body established under the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The Commission is responsible for implementing the legislation on fair employment, sex discrimination and equal pay, race relations, sexual orientation, disability and age. It provides the following:

- Engages public officials to promote the end of all forms discrimination.
- Promotes good relations between people of different racial and religious groups.
- Oversees the implementation and effectiveness of the statutory laws.
- Keeps legislation under review.

Grow

Location: Belfast

Services: Health and wellbeing, environment and justice

Contact: claire.peacocke@grow-ni.org

Overview: Grow uses a community garden and green spaces across Belfast to the families of those seeking asylum. Grow works to support wellbeing and through activities at their green spaces, promoting inclusion:

- Weekly community gardening groups, promoting outdoors activities in safe spaces for marginalised communities.
- Reaching out to local community groups to partner and encourage collaboration.
- Training volunteers to build capacity and encourage the growth of more spaces.

Family Comfort NI

Location: Belfast

Services: Cross-community relations, integration support, minority culture, contact between majorities and minorities, education support

Contact: adminfamilycomfortni.org or familycomfortni@gmail.com

Overview: Family Comfort NI started as a support group for those ethnic minorities who experienced racial discrimination. Becoming a charity 2020 they primarily work with children and young people and women from BAM communities, supporting them particularly if they have faced domestic violence, racial discrimination, poverty and ill-health through the following way:

- Through organising a series of events to engage communities in which participants live to encourage positive interactions.
- Activities using arts to help children and young people.

- Provide support to those who have suffered domestic violence.

SOS Bus NI

Location: Belfast

Services: Mental health and welfare

Contact: caitlin@sosbusni.com

Overview: SOS NI works with the emergency services, voluntary organisations, and other statutory organisations every weekend in Belfast trying to make the city safer. It has worked on the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) scheme.

- For those who need emotional and/or physical help, the SOS team provides professional mental health and medical support.

The Rainbow Project NI

Location: Belfast & London/Derry

Services: Trauma counselling, contact between majorities and minorities,

Contact: info@rainbow-project.org

Overview: The Rainbow Project is a health organisation that works to improve the physical, mental & emotional health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ people and their families in Northern Ireland. It is currently working with a range of asylum seeker and refugee support networks to provide:

- Cultural co-counselling
- Social support for LGBTQIA+ asylum and refugees.
- Referral to other organisations.
- Asylum process support.

Diverse Youth NI

Location: Belfast

Services: Trauma counselling, contact between majorities and minorities,

Contact: diverseyouthsni@gmail.com

Overview: The organisation works with young people from BAM communities and develops intercultural connections.

- Through shared skills development, young people develop relationships.

Together CIC

Location: Belfast

Services: Cross community, integration, contact majorities and minorities

Contact: s.mitchell@together-cic.org

Overview: Supports diversity, inclusion and integration for newly arrived persons across NI.

- Hosts workshops to raise awareness of culture of newly arrived persons
- Carry out consultative workshops in public spaces to inform policy makers.

Association of Talking Newspapers Northern Ireland (ATNNI)

Location: Belfast

Services: Work with visually impaired.

Contact: phil.graham3@live.co.uk

Overview: Supports all visually impaired and print disabilities people across NI and is part of a larger UK wide organisation.

- Makes audio versions of local newspapers for those with sight loss and print disabilities.
- Advocates for equality of access for those with sight loss and print disabilities.

JoinHer Network

Location: Belfast

Services: Cross-cultural network that offers diversity training and organises events promoting inclusion.

Contact: Info@joinher.co.uk

Overview: An open network that seeks to make NO more inclusive for different groups. Works collaboratively with groups and individuals to champion Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

- Provides DEI training.
- Organises cultural events celebrating diversity and contribution of other groups.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) - UN Migration

Location: Belfast

Services: Integration support; Re- and Upskilling/ training

Contact: Andrew Chisholm achisholm@iom.int

Overview: Refugee resettlement, human trafficking, immigration advice, crisis response, diaspora engagement, migrant & climate change with commitment to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

Belfast Islamic Centre

Location: Belfast

Services: Developing cross community relations; Integration support; Trauma counselling/ Reconciliation; Community dialogue

Contact: belfastislamiccentre.org.uk

Overview: Promoting (minority) culture; Promoting contact between majorities and minority; Human rights advocacy; Support in Education; Re- and Upskilling/ training; Promoting Islam, different.

Conway Education Centre

Location: Belfast

Services: Learning opportunities to adults, young people and children and offers people a range of volunteering opportunities to gain valuable work experience, to be active in the community and to make new friends. In an encouraging environment, learners improve their knowledge, develop their confidence and skills, fulfil their potential and enhance their employment and career prospects.

Contact www.conwayeducation.org

Overview: Established in 1982, Conway Education Centre is a unique community-based education centre offering English language classes; a Homework club for refugee children and a Learner-centred support service providing advice to refugees on access to key local services. We deliver integration activities including a Summer School where both local people and newcomers work together, learn together and get to know each other while being active in their community.