

Summer 2023
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donegal intercultural platform clg

Intercultural Platform

DIP – making a difference for migrant communities across county Donegal

This edition of the Intercultural News sees our Platform in the midst of a busy summer schedule of community work, events and project activities in many parts of the county. We are very engaged in making links with newly arrived people from various countries now living in Donegal and just as importantly we are working to build links between migrants and members of the majority communities.

Just a few weeks ago we held a World Refugee Day solidarity event in Saint Mary's Hall in Stranorlar where over 50 people from International Protect centres joined with locals for speeches, poems, songs and stories. Many people commented on the warmth and positivity in the room and friendships were rekindled or made afresh.

Just a few days later we welcomed over 100 people to the Radisson Hotel in Letterkenny to participate in a really valuable workshop and seminar showcasing all the pathways that are open to people to progress their skills, knowledge and employment prospects. We were really thankful to all the speakers and advisors from a range of organisations including ATU, Citizen's Information, the Educational Guidance Service of the ETB, DLDC, ETB vocational education and from the Further Education and Training department of ETB as well as a variety of course providers.

Two days later, the Platform through its Women of the World project (WoW) welcomed over 80 women to the Trinity Hall to enjoy a really creative cake baking competition that also promoted and informed women about the domestic violence services of the African women's organisation called AkiDWA.

The event also marked the beginning of the WoW meetings that will now run every two weeks (July 13th and 27th in Trinity Hall, near Letterkenny Cathedral). The Women of the World Group will take a holiday break in August.

English Conversation classes take a summer holiday

The English Conversation classes that we support all over Donegal are taking a short break and will be back in September - dates and times vary depending on location. **We need volunteer conversation tutors** - no experience needed we will provide materials and some training. Just email donegalip@gmail.com or phone 086 084 1433

Reporting Racist Incidents

The Intercultural Platform can support people to report incidents they have experienced or witnessed to the iReport online system so we can gather data on such occurrences and hopefully influence policy and policing practices accordingly. Whilst we encourage people to report incidents to the Gardaí, the iReport system enables anti-racism organisations and agencies to show the levels of such events. Drop in or make an appointment, call 086 084 1433

Somali community plan to organise in Donegal

The Somali community in Donegal have decided to get together and establish a representative group to advocate on behalf of the local residents. (See page 2 for more) The group will meet in the Intercultural hub premises of the DIP on Saturday 29th July at 11:00 F92 D684(Eircode). The meeting will run until 1pm and the organisers are hoping to attract a good representation of the Somali

people living across the county. Mohamed Farah who is helping organise the event says that the Somali population has really started to grow over the past few years and it is really important that the community can come together and support each other as they are adjusting to living in county Donegal. The Donegal Intercultural Platform has offered the Intercultural hub as the venue for this important meeting.

Against this backdrop of events the Intercultural Platform continues to visit migrants in Castlefinn, Buncrana, Donegal Town and Convooy and other centres and provide the regular drop-in advocacy support in the Intercultural Hub on Oliver Plunkett Road. We have also been supporting migrant communities to establish their own advocacy organisations to better represent their interests.

If you would like to get involved, help or volunteer just drop us an email or send us a text or a call.

Family Fun Day August 1st @ ATU

The Think Equality Donegal (TED) and the Intercultural Platform, Donegal Travellers Project and DLDC are collaborating on this summer fun event. Places are limited so please contact David on 086 128 7704 or email: dfriel@dldc.org

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Donegal Intercultural Platform is an autonomous non-governmental organisation focusing on human rights & anti-racism. DIP is an active member of Irish Network Against Racism & Community Work Ireland



The Think Equality Donegal (TED) project

TED is excited to present an Intercultural Family Fun Day at the ATU Donegal on the 1st of August 2023 from 11am-2pm.

This Family Fun Day aims to promote positive relationships, with the opportunity of providing information, practical support and opportunities for socialising with other communities. So get ready for a day of fun, games, music, sports and much more!

This event is perfect for families with children of all ages.

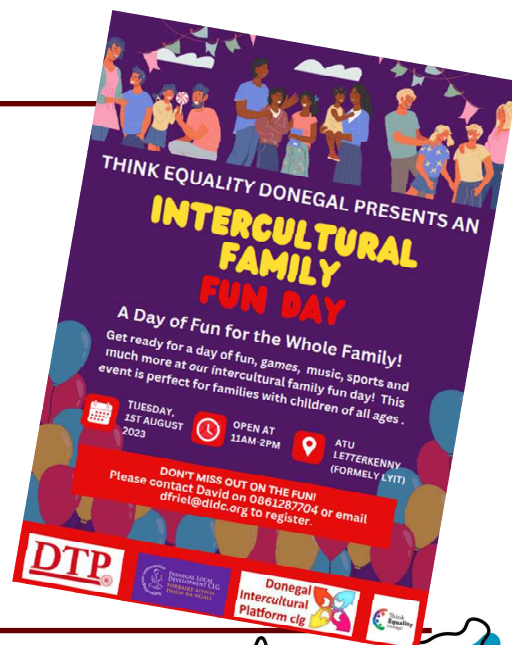
Book your spot by contacting David on 0861287704 or emailing dfriel@dldc.org



Think
Equality
Donegal

Think Equality Donegal (TED) was established in 2021 as a unique collaboration between the Donegal Travellers Project, Donegal Intercultural Platform and Donegal Local Development Company. The project seeks to promote the inclusion of Black Minority Ethnic (BME) communities, including Traveller and Roma, in all aspects of the county's economic and social life

by building a culture of respect for human rights, equality and intercultural understanding.



Calling all Somali residents in Donegal

We are pleased to promote the proposed formation of Somali Community in Donegal. Our key objective will be to extend crucial support and assistance to Somali people, focusing on areas such as housing, healthcare, social welfare, education, and naturalisation applications. Our community will collaborate with Donegal Intercultural Platform, with Mohamed Farah serving as the focal point.

Our dedicated team is committed to helping asylum seekers and refugees find safe and suitable housing, ensuring they have a stable groundwork to rebuild their lives. We understand the importance of accessible healthcare services, and we will actively work to facilitate their overall well-being.

Moreover, we will engage with social welfare agencies to ensure that individuals receive the vital support they need to meet their basic needs. Education is a main focus area for us, and we will assist both children and adults in accessing educational opportunities.

In addition, we will provide guidance and assistance to those seeking naturalisation, supporting their journey towards becoming

Irish citizens and fully integrating into Irish society. We are excited to collaborate with the DIP, which shares our vision of promotion a harmonious and inclusive community. Together, we will work tirelessly to create an environment where diversity is celebrated, cultural exchange succeeds. We invite all members of the Somali community in Donegal to join us in this trip of compassion and integration. Together, we can build a successful community where everyone can succeed. Let us work hand in hand towards a brighter future for all.

Meeting: Saturday 29th July 11:00 in Intercultural Hub, Letterkenny

Isagoo baaq u diray dhamaan shacabka Soomaaliyeed ee ku nool Donegal

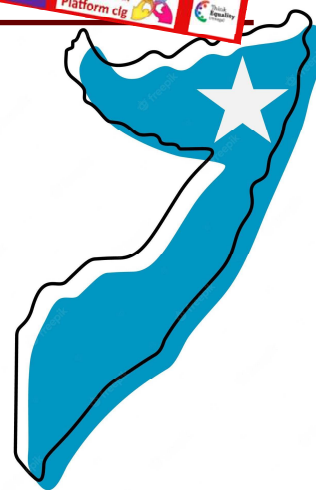
Waxan idin kugu bishaareyneynaa inaan furnay xafis cusub oo ka sahqeyn doono arimaha Jaalliyada, ujeedadeenu waa in aan balaarino caawinaada dadka Soomaalida ah, gaar ahaan arimaha guryaha, daryeelka bulshada, caafimaadka, waxbarashada iyo ka caawinta qaadashada dhalashada Ireland. Xafiiskan waxuu si hoose ula shaqeyn doona xarunta Donegal Intercultural Plateform waxan jooga Mohamed Farah

Xafiskeenu waxaa ka go'an inay caawiyaan magangalyo-doonka iyo qaxootiga inay helaan guri ammaan ah oo ku habboon, hubinta inay haystaan aasaas xasilloon oo ay dib ugu dhistaan noloshooda. Waxaan fahamsanahay muhiimada ay leedahay adeegyada daryeelka caafimaadka ee la heli karo, waxaan si firfircoon uga shaqeyn doonaa si aan u fududayno guud ahaan fay-dhowrka.

Sidoo kale waxaan la shaqeyn doonaa hay'adaha daryeelka bulshada si aan u hubinno in dadka ay helaan taageerada muhiimka ah oo ay u baahan yihiin si ay u daboolaan baahiyahooda aasaasiga ah. Waxbarashadu waa aag muhiim ah oo diirada lagu saarayo, waxaan ka caawin doonaa carruurta iyo dadka waaweyn labadaba helitaanka fursadaha waxbarasho.

Intaa waxa dheer, waxaanu siin doonaa caawinaad kuwa doonaya noqoshada muwaadin Irish marka ay qaadayaan Passport ka dalka Ireland.

Waxaan ku casumaynaa dhamaan jaaliyadda Soomaaliyeed ee Donegal inay nagu soo biiraan safarkan naxariista iyo is dhexgalka ah anaga oo la shaqeyneyna DIP. Si wadajir ah, waxan ku guuleysan karnaa inaan gacmaha is qabsano si aan u wada shaqayno mustaqbal ifaya.





Bringing women together to share, listen and learn. 29th June Cakes event

Over 90 women were in attendance for the 'Domestic Violence Information Campaign' that was held at Trinity Hall, Letterkenny. The highly anticipated event consisted of a cake competition with 11 bakers participating. The gathering was filled with women of diverse talents and baking skills, which led to a 40-minute tough deliberation for the judges to select the best cake.

Also in attendance were representatives from AkiDwA organisation, Community Gardaí and domestic violence 'overcomers', who made speeches underlining the need for women's voices to be heard.

Summer English workshops for absolute beginners.

In advance of the September conversations classes in the Library we wanted to offer some special help for recently arrived people who have very little or no English - to try and get them ready for the full class. If you have some experience in this area of work and have a few hours to spare, please contact us. We aim to have several very small groups, maybe 2 tutors and 4 to 6 learners to give them the best chances to make a good start. Call / text 0860841433



Why not join the Women of the World

The Women of the World group (WoW!) meets every second Thursday at 12 noon in the Holy Trinity hall across the road from Letterkenny Cathedral - all women welcome. Summer meetings days are July 13th and 27th, we stop for the august holidays and resume 14th September.

The WoW group explores issues facing women, especially for those from Minority Ethnic communities, shares ideas and experiences and helps plan inclusive events. They also hold lunch gatherings in some members homes as a particularly relaxing setting from which to organise for greater human rights and equality! Get in touch with Nolunga on 086 455 7475 to find out more or to get involved.

Twin Towns together host a wonderful inclusion event for everyone on World refugee Day 2023

Over 50 people gathered in St. Mary's Parish Centre, Stranorlar on Thursday 22nd June to mark World Refugee Day (20th June) and UK Refugee week 2023 (19 – 23rd June). Breege Doherty welcomed people on behalf of *Twin Towns Together* Group, a local group set up to welcome and offer support to asylum seekers and refugees within the area. Nolunga Sholugu, Community Links Worker with Donegal Intercultural Platform, emphasised the importance of World Refugee Day, applauded the courage and perseverance of refugees and asylum seekers and highlighted the need for the local community to "help us fulfil our destiny...and create the future". Local community activist and organiser Patsy McGonagle welcomed the newcomers to the Twin Towns on behalf of the Twin Towns community and emphasised the importance of getting involved in the local community, which many are already doing. He highlighted the power of sport in bringing people together and urged people to get their children involved. "you are our community...your story is our story". Several people - from Ukraine, Algeria, Botswana and Bolivia then shared their experience of what it is like to suddenly become a refugee or asylum seeker. Following refreshments, the tempo changed to poetry and song – from a host of different countries. Billy Patton, who provided background music for the event sent us all on our way with a rendition of a Scottish song "Will you go lassie go". The first line of the chorus was particularly apt for the theme of refugee day "...and we'll all go together...". **See page 4 for the group picture**



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Human Rights



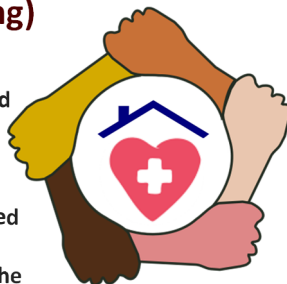
Some of the crowd at the World Refugee Day in Stranorlar organised by Twin Towns Together (TTT) and supported by Donegal intercultural Platform. If you would like to get involved in the Twin Towns Together group drop and email to donegalip@gmail.com or text / call 086 084 1433

The Housing, Homelessness & Migrant Health Project (HSE funding)

The Housing Homelessness and Health Migrant Project has slightly shifted focus - or widened focus and is now addressing how the social determinants of health impact the lives of all migrants living in counties Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim.

The project has so far carried out a scoping exercise of local, national organisations and agencies identifying what supports are out there and also pinpointing the gaps and issues experienced by the various migrant communities. The project is documenting what supports and services are being accessed and also what challenges there are to accessing those supports. The Migrant Health project is also talking to migrants about their own lived experiences of accessing services and health information that how life, housing and other factors are affecting their health. As part of this project and Donegal Intercultural Platform's on-going commitment to social inclusion and support for all the communities who have made Ireland their home, the project has been holding relationship and capacity building events to bring migrants together, to provide a safe space for migrants to share their experiences and for everyone to voice what challenges and barriers they experience and together come up with ways to reduce or eliminate those barriers. The project will complete and report findings and recommendations to the HSE and participating organisations before the end of 2023. If you would like to link with the projects workers call Eve on 083 458 6924 and Nolunga on 086 455 7475. This project is being undertaken on behalf of the HSE.

The staff for the Migrant Health Project are Nolunga Shologu and Eve Li.



InStep project - exploring the strategies for migrant inclusion for youth and young adults in Donegal

The InStep project is supported by the Children and Young People's Services Committee, Donegal with the aim of exploring the challenges and barriers to the fullest inclusion of migrant youth in sporting, faith, social and recreational clubs and organisations. We recognise that it is not enough for youth organisations to just open their doors and hope young migrants will flock in... young people themselves explain that there are a host of issues and challenges that can affect their capacity to engage and this project is identifying what these are and what organisations can do to overcome and transcend these to become inclusive, welcoming and truly intercultural.

The Intercultural Platform recruited Balume Dube, a former teacher, sports enthusiast and youth worker to lead this project. He has recruited a youth leader volunteer team to help drive the project, an InStep research team of migrant young people to undertake the research and also a parents reference group to help track the impacts of the processes on the young people and to gather the parents suggestions too.

The project takes a fully youth-led approach, building a sound working relationship between all the young people involved, through joint recreational activities, discussion and debate and also the learning and recommendations from the Refugee Council youth initiative that produced the report called 'Tight Spaces' that the group have found very influential.

The Instep project went on an intensive drive of recruiting and identifying young people living in direct provision in Letterkenny to ask and answer the pertinent question: "What are the actions and processes that young people find to be effective in breaking down barriers to inclusion?" A youth volunteer team of 6 youth volunteers was assembled and they worked hard to recruit more than 50 young people living in direct provision who were willing to take part in the research project. This group of 50 young people was named the YIPPIE group. From the YIPPIE group 15 enthusiastic young people were identified to be the heart of the research project and they were aptly named the Instep Research team.

The Instep research team held weekly meetings and engaged in fervent and sometimes heated debates and discussions on inclusion and exclusion. Concepts such as Inclusion, youth, racism, diversity, community and recreational initiatives are probed and prodded. Young people have been engaged in dialogue and conversations about the true meaning of inclusion and have used the platform to share their experience of trying to get included in the community. Questions about the organisations that are responsible for promoting and encouraging inclusion in the community are raised. The group identified the many organisations that offer youth, community and recreational activities in Letterkenny.

The Instep research team has explored impediments and challenges to inclusion as experienced by the group of members and by other young people living in the IPAS and Temporary Protection accommodation. A survey was created to identify the problems, challenges and impediments faced by young people in asylum seeker settings. The young people identified possible solutions to reduce the impediments faced by young people living in direct provision. It was not all debates and serious talk. The young people had an opportunity to visit interesting places such as wild Ireland and Gartán Outdoor education and training centre. Email for more info donegalip@gmail.com



Kayak crew & some of the Wild Ireland team!

