



Amnesty International Regional Conference: Refugees

WORKSHOPS

Saturday 8th October, Cambridge

Workshop	Led by
Schools: supporting refugee children in Calais and teaching UK children about refugees	Gill Ragsdale and Sue Woodsford
Singing for our Lives - Songs of Protest	Rowena Whitehead
Unaccompanied minors and child refugees	Adrian Matthews
Community Sponsorship Scheme: enabling charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to take on the role of supporting resettled refugees	Rosy Moore & Leonie Anna Mueck
Campaign to End Detention	Lisa Matthews
The power of personal stories and storytelling and how we can use that in lobbying and campaigning by Glenys Newton	Glenys Newton

Schools: supporting refugee children in Calais and teaching UK children about refugees led by Gill Ragsdale and Sue Woodsford
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This workshop demonstrates how to use and share the experiences of refugee children in Calais as activities to teach children in the UK about refugees. The questions which will be explored will include: why do refugees leave their own country; what would you take with you; how could you make yourself understood in an unknown language; what is life like for children in the Calais camp?

Gillian Ragsdale has been visiting schools initiatives in the Calais refugee camp over the last year and visits local schools as part of the new Cambridgeshire Schools of Sanctuary program. A School of Sanctuary is a school demonstrating a commitment to being a safe and welcoming place for those seeking sanctuary. Gillian teaches psychology and English as a foreign language and has previously worked on education projects for the Middle East and Africa.

Sue Woodsford taught in local Cambridge schools and has been an Amnesty school speaker. Now Chair of Cambridge Amnesty Group, she leads its

Stop Torture group and takes part in local action against the death penalty and to defend the Human Rights Act.

Community Sponsorship Scheme: enabling charities, faith groups, churches and businesses to take on the role of supporting resettled refugees led by Leonie Mueck and Rosy Moore

Leonie Mueck is a founding member of the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign and of the Cambridge City of Sanctuary steering committee. In those organisations, she has taken on a variety of tasks, from general management to community engagement to communications and press. For her day job, she works at a scientific publishing company.

Since July 2016 the UK government is giving community groups the possibility to directly sponsor refugees for resettlement. The workshop will look at how community groups can take part in the sponsorship scheme. We will also talk about the challenges that are connected with supporting the resettlement of refugees, on an organisational level and in terms of advocacy. Finally, there are several international initiatives that could change how sponsorship of refugees works and that could represent significant campaigning opportunities

Rosy Moore is the City Council councillor of Coleridge Ward in Cambridge. She is a member of the Community Services Scrutiny committee and the Housing Scrutiny Committee. After studying International Relations and Development Studies at University, she was a full-time Mum of four for a few of years and now works for an ethical mail-order company on top of her councillor duties.

Singing for our Lives - Songs of Protest, led by Rowena Whitehead

“The freedom songs are playing a strong and vital role in our struggle,” said Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Albany Movement. “They give the people new courage and a sense of unity. I think they keep alive a faith, a radiant hope, in the future, particularly in our most trying hours.”

Throughout the world, singing has played an important part in inspiring social change and empowering and binding communities in their struggles against injustice. We will sing songs that have inspired people the world over who work for social change and we will also co-create our own song, which we will share at the end of the day with other delegates. The workshop is open to all who like to sing with others, whatever your previous singing experience. We will learn everything by ear - just bring your vocal cords - and your passion for change!

Rowena Whitehead has worked as a voice teacher and choir leader throughout the UK and beyond since 1991 and is Musical Director of Talking in Tune Community Music project. For several years she led singing events at Oakington Reception Centre with asylum seekers and this autumn is involved in a community singing

project in a refugee camp in Heidelberg. She is a founder member of the Natural Voice Practitioners' Network (www.rowenawhitehead.co.uk).

"I believe that singing is our birth right as human beings. For thousands of years all over the world people have sung together— to express joy, celebration and grief, to accompany work and ritual, to aid healing. Song has been a part of life, a way of binding the community together. In my work, I aim to recreate the sense that vocalising and singing together is natural and open to all."

Unaccompanied minors and child refugees led by Adrian Matthews

The workshop will start by outlining the asylum process and care arrangements for unaccompanied children. We will then consider recent changes to the arrangements for the care of unaccompanied children, in particular the 'National Transfer Protocol', which has begun to see the transfer of unaccompanied children from areas of the country with large concentrations such as Kent to regions with fewer such children – potentially including the Eastern Region. We will focus on the current situation of unaccompanied children in the Eastern region, exploring some of the key issues they face with particular reference to the Local Authorities in which the workshop participants live. We would like to test with workshop participants whether there is scope to co-ordinate capacity building across Eastern Region local authorities, campaigning work on 'Dubs' children and other ways in which activists can support and encourage resettlement of child refugees across our region.

Adrian Matthews currently volunteers for the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign's and leads on its 'Unaccompanied Children's Initiative'. He is the former Principal Policy Advisor to the Children's Commissioner for England on children subject to immigration control and has a professional background as a legal caseworker representing asylum seekers in the Immigration Tribunal. He has published or commissioned a number of influential reports on the situation of unaccompanied children including 'Landing in Dover', 'The Fact of Age' and 'What's Going to Happen Tomorrow? – Unaccompanied Children refused asylum'.

The power of personal stories and storytelling and how we can use that in lobbying and campaigning by Glenys Newton

Amnesty International is an absolute master at the power of personal storytelling, highlighting the plight of individuals to raise awareness of wider issues going on around the world. We are being fed a narrative of fear and statistics and, within that narrative; people's stories are getting lost. It is through people's stories that we are able to make a human connection, to really try and put ourselves in the shoes of another and also to be able to influence change. In this workshop we will look at the power of personal stories and storytelling and how we can use that in lobbying and campaigning.

Glenys Newton used to work as a social worker but gave it all up when her son left home and she packed her job in and studied storytelling at the International School of Storytelling in Sussex. Since then she has won the Moth true life stories competition run by The Guardian, spoken on Radio 4 to talk about the power of personal stories, published two books and told stories to whoever will listen. For the past year Glenys has been volunteering with refugees in France and Greece and has toured with a performance of refugee stories in an attempt to be an antidote to the media.

Campaign to End Detention led by Lisa Matthews from Right to Remain

Unlocking Immigration Detention. People are being taken from our communities. It's time to stand up and say no. Detention is one of the most harmful aspects of the UK's asylum and immigration system. Over 30,000 people are detained without time limit every year, in conditions tantamount to high-security prison settings. Tens of thousands more people live with the threat of detention constantly hanging over them. Find out how detention happens, and to whom and how you can be part of the movement to end this injustice.

Lisa Matthews is a coordinator at Right to Remain, a national organisation that works with groups across the UK supporting people to establish their right to remain with dignity and humanity, and challenges injustice in the asylum and immigration system. Lisa has worked at Right to Remain (previously called the National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns) since 2011. Her previous experience is in providing psychosocial support to refugees in Cairo, mental health community outreach with London's Somali and Bangladeshi communities, asylum and immigration legal casework, integration case management with refugees, and asylum advice.