

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Glasgow Presbytery Conference

SATURDAY 29 FEBRUARY 2020

ST ROLLOX CHURCH, SIGHTHILL, GLASGOW

- 9.30 Doors open
- 10.00 Welcome and worship led by Jane Howitt, minister at St Rollox Church.
- 10.30 Speaker followed by Q&A: Linda Pollock
Walking with the wounded
- Accompanying God's Beloved as they plough through the mud and mire of seeking asylum.
 - Navigating the new language required to do the job.
 - The costs to all concerned.
- 11.15 Workshop session
- ❖ Project development and securing funding.
Allan Ramsay, Faith in Community Scotland
 - ❖ Refugee integration principles and practice
Sabine Chalmers, Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees
 - ❖ St Aloysius ESOL Classes – Our story
Kevin Wyber, St Aloysius Garnethill Catholic Church
- 12.00 Lunch
- 12.45 Workshop session
- ❖ 'Flourishing Together' with the Weekend Club: an interfaith response to welcoming refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants to Glasgow
Lynnda Wardle, Interfaith Glasgow
 - ❖ Homelessness and asylum seekers
Annika Joy, Glasgow Night Shelter for Destitute Asylum Seekers
 - ❖ St Rollox Community Outreach Project
Christine Murray
- 13.30 Speaker followed by Q&A: Reginald Oko-Flex Inya
- Migrant Help Support Services for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the UK – AIRE!
- A presentation about Migrant Help UK and the relevant support services that we provide across the entire UK for Asylum seekers and refugee and; briefly on our other support services for Victims of Trafficking/modern day slavery.
- In addition, it will also explore different methods relevant stakeholders can reach Migrant Help to exploit the services we provide on behalf of the UK Home Office - not excluding a mention of our social enterprise arm "Clear Voice – Interpreters and Translation".
- 14.15 Expert Panel and discussion (Mohamed Omar, Shari Brown, Olivia Ndoti, Grace Buckley)
- 14.45 Close

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



The Rev **Jane Howitt** is the Transition Minister at St Rollox, the most ethnically diverse congregation in the Church of Scotland. She has had a varied ministry both overseas and in Scotland, is passionate about helping folk see where God is at work in their lives and has a range of hobbies that occupy her free time.



Linda Pollock says: "I am privileged to have had very diverse experiences in the Kingdom and currently, I serve as a Church of Scotland Parish Minister with the congregation of Possilpark."



Reginald Oko-Flex Inya is a beyond profit expert and currently MIGRANT HELP'S Regional Manager Scotland and Northern Ireland. Before his current engagement, Reginald established several innovative projects and services that support vulnerable and people in transition, including BAME empowerment! He also worked as part of the European Cultural Foundation and EUROCITIES projects for integration and participation of people in transition to name a few. Reginald holds honours degree in Human Resources Management Degree from Dublin Institute of Technology, Masters of Arts in Management of Voluntary organisations from Dublin City University and Masters in Public Administration (MPA) from London Metropolitan University.

In the afternoon, our panel of experts will include:

Mohamed Omar, who leads Scotland's Refugee Programme at the Mental Health Foundation. Mohamed's background is in Law and International Relations, his interests include policy implementation and impact on individuals and communities.

Shari Brown is the Executive Secretary of the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe. Based in Brussels, CCME represents churches in Europe on issues of migration, asylum and integration in advocacy re European institutions. From 2001-18 Shari was Co-ordinator of Restore, Birmingham Churches Together supporting refugees and asylum seekers. She was a trustee of Hope Projects (dealing with destitution), Celebrating Sanctuary (promoting refugee arts) and NACCOM (No Accommodation network).

Olivia Ndoti is a Zambian national, studying at the University of Glasgow (BA Community Development). Olivia is a community representative and campaigner against barriers affecting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees (Home Office fees, destitution, employment, housing, education etc). She has been featured on the BBC News for raising awareness of destitution of many asylum seekers, and has given evidence to the Scottish Parliament on the financial, emotional and physiological impact of the hostile environment 'no recourse to public funds' on asylum seekers with insecure immigration status. More information is available on the Scottish Parliament website or this link: <https://youtu.be/b1aGGTyuBC8>

Grace Buckley is a member of the National Justice and Peace Commission for Scotland, which is a commission of the Scottish Catholic Bishops' Conference. The Justice and Peace Commission is a member of the Conference of European Justice & Peace Commissions, and works with them and the Pontifical Council *Justitia et Pax*. She is the Catholic representative on the Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees Co-ordination Group.

WORKSHOPS

MORNING	Project development and securing funding	Refugee integration principles and practice	St Aloysius ESOL Classes – Our story
	Allan Ramsay	Sabine Chalmers	Kevin Wyber and Anne Burns
	Faith in Community Scotland	Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees	St Aloysius Garnethill
			
An informal conversation exploring ways participants can develop their project ideas and identify and work towards securing funding for them.	Would you like to learn more about key areas of refugee integration that you or your church can be involved in? Are you thinking of reaching out to refugees or asylum seekers for the first time? In this interactive workshop delegates will explore what integration is, its key principles, aspects of refugees' integration experience, and the role churches can play in supporting asylum seekers and refugees.	Hear about the experiences in setting up and developing the classes over a 4-year period. Brainstorm the ways, means and resources required to set up ESOL classes. Establish a useful network of mutual help and support with other churches / organisations who intend to start ESOL classes and travel on the journey together.	
AFTERNOON	'Flourishing Together' with the Weekend Club: an interfaith response to welcoming refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants to Glasgow	Homelessness and asylum seekers	St Rollox Community Outreach Project
	Lynnda Wardle	Annika Joy	Christine Murray
	Interfaith Glasgow	Glasgow Night Shelter for Destitute Asylum Seekers	St Rollox
			
Participants will learn how the Weekend Club model promotes interfaith understanding, builds bridges and nurtures friendship for newcomers to Glasgow. Participants will have an opportunity to share their own experiences of working with those from refugee backgrounds and to explore ways of collaborating with the Weekend Club and others to support the work they are doing in their own faith communities.	In this interactive workshop, delegates will explore the ways in which destitution is built into the UK asylum system, forcing vulnerable people into rough sleeping and survival decisions. We will also explore ways in which partnerships in the city are trying to mitigate the harm caused by homelessness and destitution and make personal action plans about what each of us can do to make a difference.	We will look at what St Rollox is doing to provide services and support to Refugees and Asylum Seekers. We will think about outreach into the new regenerated Sighthill area and how we hope to expand our services. Participants will be challenged to think imaginatively about how they can develop their own outreach in consultation with their service users and community.	

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Today's event has been put on by the Church of Scotland Glasgow Presbytery in partnership with Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, Faith in Community Scotland and St Rollox Church.



communities.

The **Presbytery of Glasgow** (presbyteryofglasgow.org.uk) is part of the Church of Scotland whose vision is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing and serving

Presbytery is the gathered life of over 120 congregations within the Greater Glasgow area. Presbytery meetings involve representatives from local churches across the bounds who gather for fellowship, worship and to discuss church business. Today's event has been supported by the Community Responsibility Committee.



Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (sfar.org.uk) is a multi-faith partnership project hosted by the Church of Scotland.

They seek to co-ordinate and promote action by faith communities in Scotland to support asylum seekers and refugees.

They are working with Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Interfaith groups. Through our commitment to each other and a sharing of common values of human dignity and protection, we have our own story to tell of hospitality and welcome. Today's event is a deliverable of the New Scots Integration Programme, part-funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.



Faith in Community Scotland's (faithincommunity.scot) vision is that Scotland's poorest communities should flourish. Their work is rooted in the shared commitment across diverse faith communities for a fairer and more just society.

We believe strongly in the immense strength and gifts of local people. They are the experts who have the vision, determination and desire to make a real difference in the places where they live. Our staff and volunteers give them a helping hand in many different ways.

Faith in Community Scotland is a Scottish charity (SC036787) with strong core values guiding all that we do. We've been working with faith groups since our establishment in 2005, and have developed a strong track record in asset-based community development.



Our hosts for the day are the folk at **St Rollox Church of Scotland** (strollox.co.uk). 85% of the people who attend were born outside of the UK and see themselves as New Scots. The new church building has recently been opened, with a space which is full of light and offers a flexible and versatile, multi-purpose space that symbolises the "rebirth" of Sighthill in Glasgow.

STALLS

Take time to pick up some information and chat to folk at the stalls. If you don't have time you might want to visit them online to find out more.



Asylum Seeker Housing Project

We help asylum seekers report housing issues to the housing provider, conduct research into the issues they are facing and also raise awareness about their situation.

infosource.org.uk/ash.html



Interfaith Glasgow's Weekend Club

The Weekend Club is an innovative interfaith programme providing a warm Glasgow welcome to refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants on the weekends when they are often most lonely and isolated. Working together with faith communities (and other projects) and a team of volunteers, we deliver fun, free, educational events once a month on a Saturday. These events provide the opportunity for people from all backgrounds and faith traditions to come together and make new friends, practice English, share a delicious meal and learn more about Scottish culture and civic life while sharing aspects of their own home traditions.

interfaithglasgow.org
facebook.com/interfaithglasgow
twitter.com/InterfaithGlasg



Govan Community Project, formerly Govan & Craigton

Integration network is a community based organisation working in the south of Glasgow. Originally a response of community and church members to the needs of newly arrived asylum seekers, we have developed over the years to become a local charity working with and for all the diverse communities of the

Greater Govan area and beyond.

We provide direct services such as weekly drop-ins, advice, information and advocacy, cultural events, a community flat, English classes, destitution food project, hate-crime reporting and an interpreting service. In addition the network facilitates forums bringing together public, voluntary and community organisations with local people to help plan public services, promote equal rights and opportunities and cross-cultural understanding, and to build bonds and links within and between communities.

govancommunityproject.org.uk