



Hackney Refugee Forum

Autumn Newsletter 2010



Ibrahim Avcil and colleague at HCVS Hackney Futures Fair

HRF SUCCESS: ACCOUNTANCY COURSE

12 HRF volunteers have successfully completed an OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations) level 2 accountancy course.

Names of those completing the course are:

- Gulten Guro
- Celal Avcil
- Mehmet Ali Akgul
- Bedriye Guro
- Sevgi Ovayolu
- Ozge Ovayolu
- Yusuf Kul
- Ibrahim Avcil
- Nilufer Civi
- Zihniye Erguner
- Nimet Sayar
- Huseyin Dogan

HRF SIGN UP TO THE COMPACT

This year, HRF signed up to the Compact.

What is the Compact? The Compact is a written agreement between the sectors that sets out the way they work together to benefit local people. The Compact covers key issues such as funding, partnership working and volunteers. Sign up today! Ring Katy on 020 7923 1962

Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) exists to strengthen refugee communities and represent their joint interests in the borough of Hackney. As a network of organisations, HRF seeks to influence statutory and voluntary organisations providing service and advocating for refugees in the borough. In this newsletter, find out how Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) have been keeping busy this year as they celebrate their ten year anniversary in 2010.



Photography: info@katherinegreen.co.uk

Hackney Migrant Centre

HRF CAMPAIGNING:

Hackney Refugee Forum have been lobbying for a Migrant and Refugee strategy in Hackney since 2006. Hackney Council has recently decided to start working on a strategy for refugees and migrants living and working in the London Borough of Hackney. Together with Team Hackney, HCVS and HRF, they have secured a grant from the Migrant Impact Fund.

Every refugee and migrant organisation in Hackney has the opportunity to join the focus groups and raise the concerns of their communities in Hackney. HRF aims to reach out to over 100 individuals during this process. Together with HCVS, Praxis and Migration work, HRF will meet with members of the community and community networks to make sure that everyone's views and ideas are reflected in the strategy.

How can I get involved in the Hackney Migrant Strategy?

Invite us to one of your network or organisation's meetings, to discuss what should go into the strategy. Or why not suggest refugees or other migrants in your organisation who might like to join a range of focus groups.

Let us have your views and suggestions - for the Hackney Migrant Strategy and anything else included in this newsletter,

Please contact:

Ali or Ibrahim on 020 7923 1962 or email ali@hcv.org.uk

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, 18 November: 1 – 3pm
Hackney Refugee Forum AGM
featuring information stalls, food and drink, entertainment and opera singing.

Venue: Hackney Carers Centre, Springfield House, London E8 2LY
Please contact: Ali Aksoy on ali@hcv.org.uk, or 020 7923 1962



Hackney Refugee Forum (HRF) is the voice for over 50 local voluntary and community groups serving refugees and asylum seekers in Hackney. As a network of organisations, we aim to influence local service providers and advocate on behalf of the needs of our communities. Call HRF on 020 7923 1962 or email ali@hcv.org.uk. We are based at Hackney Council for Voluntary Service (HCVS), Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector support agency and a member of Hackney's Community Empowerment Network, which supports community representatives and networks to influence local policy and services. Hackney Refugee Forum is a limited company No: 6435144 registered in the UK.





HRF ACHIEVEMENTS: ADIAHA ANTIGHA COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

As right pictured, HRF recently won a joint special recognition with Hackney Migrant Centre for services for new communities, in addition to the six other award winners.

As well as plaques, award winners were presented with Aloe Vera plants as Adiaha loved the plant, known for its healing properties, chosen by HCVS to represent growth for the Hackney's voluntary and community sector.

In memory of the inspirational late director of HCVS, the Adiaha Antigha Community Achievement awards included a new award for 2010; 'the voluntary and community sector organisation which has been the most enterprising in adapting to current challenges.'

These awards were presented at Your Future, Our Focus: Hackney Futures Fair on Tuesday, 7 September at HCVS, 84 Springfield House. (see pictured HRF stallholders on back page)



HRF in centre with Aloe Vera plant, winners of the 'special recognition for services to new communities' award.

HRF SUCCESS: TEAM HACKNEY COMMUNITY GRANT:

HRF were recently awarded £22,500 to provide a wide variety of training activities and one to one support to refugee and migrant members of the community to increase their employability skills. Boosting your skills can increase your job prospects and confidence, see Felize overleaf.

These training courses and guidance for job search and career advice support services will include: An employment advisor for 3.5 days a week to provide both one to one and group support on:

- **securing employment**
- **Job Search skills training**
- **CV writing sessions**
- **and workshops on interview techniques.**

Here's more about the programme:

Are you or your members in need of additional support for Sustainable Employment? Do you or your members need additional guidance or training to improve your skills to succeed in the employment market? Or do you want to receive nationally recognised qualifications to support you in your employment journey or career advice? If you have answered yes to any of the questions HRF invite you receive support

Please contact: Ibrahim or Sermin on 020 7923 1962 or email us at ibrahimavcil@hotmail.com

FILIZ CATALEPE: BENEFITTING FROM HRF'S SIGNPOSTING SERVICE

Filiz Catalepe graduated from Marketing and Advertisement from Istanbul University in Turkey. She has been involved in the MATES project after receiving advice and starting as a volunteer for HRF. Filiz says that she was an unskilled volunteer but now she is a skilled adviser who is ready to give service to the clients in the voluntary and community sector.

"The first thing I learnt on this programme was clear information on general advice. I also learnt how to question my clients by using specific skills in order to elicit information from them. I experienced giving information on different services we provided and how to refer a client to my other colleague in the same organisation, or how to refer clients to another organisation when we can not support them on different issues'.

I was informed by HRF about MATES training. This is training to be a qualified Information, Advice and Guidance worker with an NVQ Level 3 Qualification. Before this programme, I didn't know what an NVQ qualification was. During this programme, I did my work placement in Day-Mer which is a community organisation in TKC community.

I spent nearly 10 months by attending this course once a week on Thursdays. It was very informative and effective training that we gained new skills and qualification to serve better our communities. I observed wonderful partnership among different community organisations namely, HRF, Social Action for Health, Hackney Advice Forum and Day-Mer. I would like to thank on behalf of my colleagues and for myself to all of these organisations who took part in this project and assisted us."



Filiz Cataltepe: Skilled advisor

"Now, I feel more confident about having detailed information on welfare benefits. I am able to give information to my clients after all. I owe thanks to Hackney Refugee Forum because I received advice from this organisation last year. Then, I intended to be an adviser in order to encourage refugees and migrants to learn and use their rights in UK."

HRF OFFERING ESOL ADVICE:

HRF provide ESOL advice to members of refugee communities, in partnership with The Learning Trust. ESOL advice sessions are held at the Trust. We can also hold these sessions at your premises if requested. Call Ali or Ibrahiim on 0207 923 1962