

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE

THE OSCARS COME TO NOTTINGHAM – IT'S HOLLYWOOD RAZMATAZZ IN ST. ANN'S!

The fun and glamour of the Oscars will come to St. Ann's on Friday, June 5th (6pm start), when the Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum holds the VOSCARS Ceremony (Volunteer Oscars) for the volunteers who contribute so much to the work the Forum does.

The Forum was set up as a charity fifteen years ago to support and advise asylum-seekers and refugees sent to the Nottingham area while their applications for refugee status are being considered. Asylum-seekers are escaping from violence and discrimination in their own country and most are severely traumatised. They are not allowed to work until their application is successful.

Trained volunteers, from students to pensioners to asylum-seekers themselves, play a key role in the work of the Forum and the VOSCARS are one way to recognise this.

Barbara Spreiz (Forum Volunteer Co-Ordinator) said:

“The VOSCARS are part of National Volunteer Week and everyone involved will be able to vote: staff, volunteers, Management Committee members, local Forum supporters and our service users.

Our Centre will be transformed for the evening and there will be food, drink and entertainment. We are asking everyone attending to look as glamorous as possible!”

Contact: Barbara Spreiz (07964-371309) or email

Barbara@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk

Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum, 33a Hungerhill Road, St. Ann's, Nottingham NG3 4NB

NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTS REFUGEE FORUM

PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE

NEW CENTRE FOR NOTTINGHAM REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

The Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum (NNRF), the local charity set up fifteen years ago to support people escaping persecution, war and violence, is celebrating its birthday in a new home.

The Forum provides advice and support to hundreds of people every month and the increased numbers now being sent here by the government mean we have outgrown our old centre, off Huntingdon St. Our new base at the Sycamore Centre in St. Anns has more space and better facilities for our clients, our staff and the local volunteers we rely on.

Come and see our new home and find out what we do!

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH (3.30-6.30PM) – Guest Speaker:
Barbara Harrell-Bond, founder of the Refugee Studies Centre
at Oxford University.**

Fiona Cameron (Centre Manager) said: “Our new Centre will provide a much better environment for the work we do with individuals and families who are often traumatised and unable to cope in an unfamiliar country. We get lots of support from local people and organisations and this is an opportunity for us to thank them and show them round.”

CONTACT:

Fiona Cameron 07984-630898

**THE SYCAMORE CENTRE, 31 HUNGERHILL ROAD
NOTTINGHAM NG3 4NB**

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE

GOVERNMENT TO STARVE OUT ASYLUM-SEEKERS

The Government has announced new regulations just before the Summer recess which will have the effect of reducing asylum-seeking families in Nottingham and elsewhere to starvation level.

The new rates will cut support for a woman with two children to less than half of the benefit rate paid to UK residents (£224.64/£110.85).



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Web: www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1121560

Rebecca Wilson, Advice Services Manager at the Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum said:

“This is a cruel and vicious attack on people who have come here to escape persecution and are not allowed to work while their claim for asylum is being processed.

It costs exactly the same to feed the child of an asylum-seeker as one in any other family, so this can only be seen as an attempt to starve traumatised people out of the country. The people of Nottingham have always been very generous to those seeking help here and many of those have stayed on once they have refugee status to build a new life and become Nottingham people in their turn.

We are sure that every decent person will share our horror and disgust at this appalling attack on defenceless people.”

Contact: Rebecca Wilson (07920 474494)

(**Note:** Nottingham is one of the main areas of the country for the “dispersal” of asylum-seekers awaiting a decision on refugee status, but the Forum receives no money from the Government for the work it does.)



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REFUGEE FORUM HOLDS FUNDRAISER AS GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS CUT

The Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum is holding a Summer Fair to raise desperately needed funds to support local asylum-seekers, following the recent Government announcement of massive cuts to their already inadequate support. For many people and families, the Forum is the difference between survival and going under, so every penny raised is crucial.

Yvonne Colebourne (Forum Fundraiser) said:

“This will be a fun day out for Nottingham people to come and see what we do and mix with some of the refugees and asylum-seekers we support. The more contact there is, the quicker people realise they’re just the same as us. After all they’ve been through, they just want to settle down here and become part of our community.”

Further info about the Summer Fair is attached.

NB: The NNRF is the recognised support service for refugees and asylum-seekers in the area, but receives no funding from the Government.



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