



Migration & Resettlement



# Ethnically Diverse Communities Directory of Services For Devon, Plymouth and Torbay

December 2024 edition

# Introduction

This updated directory contains details of the many organisations and agencies, from all sectors, that offer support services for people from Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse communities in Devon.

We hope that the information helps people from different cultural backgrounds living and/or working in Devon – including migrant workers, asylum seekers, refugees and students – to find the local support that they need.

The directory is also intended to reach professionals, service providers and other partners looking to improve their engagement with different cultural communities or seeking specialist advice and guidance.

We recognise that this directory is not exhaustive and that it will need to be updated on a regular basis. If you have any suggestions for additions and/or changes then please get in touch with our Engagement and ESOL team: [ESOL@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ESOL@devon.gov.uk)

**Migration and Resettlement Team**  
**Devon County Council**



Migration &  
Resettlement

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# Section 1: Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

## Afghan Community Devon (ACD)

ACD has been established to strengthen contact with friends and family members both locally and around the UK, in order to establish a sense of stability and belonging. Our activities will provide benefit to the local Afghan community by helping to maintain a sense of original, cultural identity. The wider community will benefit from a greater cultural understanding and acceptance of their Afghan neighbours.

The current political situation in Afghanistan is a major factor affecting the mental health of individuals; by bringing local Afghan people together and re-establishing a sense of home and security, we will help to strengthen the Afghan community in Devon. We would welcome your involvement in our community group.

**Email:** [nsaifi@btinternet.com](mailto:nsaifi@btinternet.com)



## Afghan Community Exeter

Afghan Community Exeter CIC is a dedicated organisation committed to celebrating Afghan culture and supporting the Afghan community in Exeter. Our mission is to foster unity and enrich the lives of Afghan residents through various initiatives. We organise cultural festivals, provide education classes, and offer recreational activities to promote cultural awareness and integration. Our focus is on creating a supporting environment where Afghans can thrive, share their heritage, and receive the assistance they need. By working together, we aim to build a vibrant community that benefits all its members and preserves the rich traditions of Afghanistan.

**Email:** [afghance@icloud.com](mailto:afghance@icloud.com) OR [afghancic@gmail.com](mailto:afghancic@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 07886407279 OR 07802577800

**Address:** 152 Lancelot Road, Exeter EX4 9BX





## Beyond Borders Totnes & District

Beyond Borders Totnes & District is a volunteer-led network that lends support to asylum seekers and refugees. We collaborate with official refugee support organisations and:



- help to coordinate outings to local farms, retreat centres and other places
- organise events involving local artists and musicians
- provide English language sessions.
- signpost to volunteering opportunities such as tree planting or assisting at local libraries
- collaborate in local cinema and theatre initiatives to raise awareness
- fundraise for refugee family reunions
- coordinate small supplies of fresh food bags, food boxes and Welcome boxes.

Most refugees and asylum seekers we link with are in Plymouth and the Torbay areas

**Email:** [info@beyondborderstotnes.org.uk](mailto:info@beyondborderstotnes.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://beyondborderstotnes.org.uk/>



## Black South West Network (BSWN)

A black-led racial justice organisation based in Bristol that supports the development of dynamic, independent, and strong black and minoritised communities, businesses, and organisations to flourish whilst challenging systemic barriers. We drive racial equity in the UK society's dimensions of research, policy, innovation, socio-economics, and health through a collective and meaningful community-led approach.



**Website:** <https://www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/>

**Address:** The Coach House, 2 Upper York Street, St Paul's Bristol BS2 8QN

**Email:** [admin@bswn.org.uk](mailto:admin@bswn.org.uk)      **Phone:** 07495 329990



## Bulgarian Society of Devon

The Bulgarian Society was started in March 2012 to provide Bulgarians living in Devon with opportunities to support each other, to share experiences, to celebrate Bulgarian culture and to share information about upcoming events in the community.



**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bulgarians.devon/>



## bthechange CIC

bthechange CIC is an award-winning Community Interest Company that operates across the Southwest of England and South Wales, providing a range of life changing initiatives to directly support racially minoritized people, women, and first-time entrants who are either at risk of entering or who are in the criminal justice system, helping them move forward with their lives.



**Phone:** 0800 0016521      **Mobile:** 07841 402521  
**Email:** [hello@bthechange.org.uk](mailto:hello@bthechange.org.uk)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/bthechangeCIC>  
**Website:** [www.bthechange.org.uk](http://www.bthechange.org.uk)



## Chinese Community Wellbeing Society

**Founded in 1989:** Chinese Community Wellbeing Society (formerly Bristol and Avon Chinese Women's Group. Name changed in 2021)



**Mission:** Support the health and wellbeing of the Chinese-speaking community across the Southwest of England.

**Chinese Lantern Helpline Service:** provides information and support in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin to community service users. Service providers can also contact the helpline if they are supporting members of the Chinese-speaking community.

**Partnerships with service providers:** We work closely with service providers to provide information and support to our community. We collaborate to deliver information workshops, enabling service providers to gain access into the Chinese-speaking community in the Southwest.

**Helpline:** 0808 802 0012  
**Website:** <https://chinesecws.org.uk/>  
**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/chinesecws/](http://www.facebook.com/chinesecws/)  
**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/chinesecws/](http://www.instagram.com/chinesecws/)





## Connected Romanians from Exeter Devon (C.R.E.D.)



A CIC supporting Romanians in the Exeter area, aiming to raise the level of their well-being and help them integrate into the fabric of Exeter and Devon while maintaining strong ties to Romanian heritage. We aim to:

- preserve Romanian traditions and values
- facilitate cultural exchange and understanding
- provide practical assistance for Romanians navigating life in the UK
- encourage Romanian entrepreneurship and professional development
- strengthen the bonds within our community and with our local neighbours

**Email:** [credcic.ro@gmail.com](mailto:credcic.ro@gmail.com)  
**Phone :** 07466083954  
**Website:** <https://www.cred-ro.co.uk/>



## Crediton International Social and Cultural Organisation (CISCO)



Advice, advocacy, and free English classes for migrant workers and refugees living in the Crediton area. We provide advice and support for clients in their dealings with banks, Mid-Devon District Council, the DWP, estate agents, rental agencies, and utility suppliers etc.

Free English lessons are available at Ashtons Café, Market Square, Crediton on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 8:30pm. New students are always welcome!

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ciscodevon/>  
**Contact:** Natalia Letch  
**Phone:** 07455824053  
**Email:** [natalia.letch@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.letch@gmail.com)



## Devon Bengali Association (DBA)



We are a group of Bengalis committed to celebrating and sharing our culture, heritage, and traditions as well as supporting all Bengalis resident in Devon. The work we do includes:

- managing and promoting a local Bangla School for children of Bangladeshi origin.
- organising and promoting the Bengali New Year
- bringing together the Bengali community and welcoming Devon residents and businesses to be a part of our celebrations.
- holding an annual community gathering and awards ceremony

The catering trade is a big part of all Bengali communities across the UK and one important initiative we have undertaken has been to actively relieve the shortage of catering staff in restaurants across Devon by connecting much needed workers to local and regional businesses.

The Bengali tradition is one filled with beautiful colours, aromas, and tastes that will take you on an amazing journey of discovery. We offer everyone a warm welcome to join us on our journey that has swept us from 'Dhaka to Devon'. We say স্বাগতম 'Shagothom' (welcome)!

**Phone:** 07971 885789

**Email:** [devonbengaliassociation.dba@gmail.com](mailto:devonbengaliassociation.dba@gmail.com)



## Devon and Cornwall Chinese Association (DCCA)

Established in 1975, DCCA was the first Chinese organisation in the Southwest of England. We are a non-political, non-religious organisation formed to serve and represent the interests of those members of the Chinese community who recognise a common set of needs and wish to take positive action to achieve these aspirations. We aim to:

- encourage integration of community members into the wider society
- provide a range of services to meet the needs of the Chinese community living in the SW
- support the welfare of members in Devon and Cornwall
- promote and preserve Chinese customs, culture, and heritage.

**Address:** Abbey House, North Road West, Plymouth. Devon. PL1 5DH

**Phone:** 01752 297936

**Email:** [info@dcca.center](mailto:info@dcca.center)



## Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support (DCRS)



**Triage Services** provide OISC immigration advice at Level 1, asylum casework support, social casework support, signposting, and advocacy.

**Drop-in:** 7 Whimble Street, PL1 2DH, Plymouth (Mondays and Thursdays 10:00 to 13:00.)  
**Telephone:** 07823 495931 (Monday to Friday 10:00 - 16:00). Covers Devon and Cornwall.  
**Email:** [caseworker@dcrs-plymouth.org](mailto:caseworker@dcrs-plymouth.org) (10:00 to 16:00). Covers Devon and Cornwall.

**Health Point** a drop-in service providing health advocacy, education, and signposting for all aspects of health. At 7 Whimble Street every Tuesday from 10:00 to 14:00.

Call 01752 265 952 or email [gp@dcrs-plymouth.org](mailto:gp@dcrs-plymouth.org) to find out more.

### Devon and Cornwall wide services and projects

**Destitution Support:** Providing food vouchers for destitute asylum seekers and refugees  
**Service User Relief:** Clothing, transport costs in certain circumstances, and providing items to facilitate education or training.  
**Fresh Claims Project:** Supporting Appeal Rights Exhausted (A.R.E) clients with asylum claims.  
**A.R.E Home:** Providing temporary housing for homeless Appeal Rights Exhausted clients  
**Training:** Bespoke training for organisations who need to understand this sector.  
**Activities:** Various physical and mental health orientated activities.  
**Befriending:** Linking local volunteers with asylum seekers and refugees

Call 01752 265 952 or email [hub@dcrs-plymouth.org](mailto:hub@dcrs-plymouth.org) to find out more.

### Plymouth based services and projects

The following services and projects are located in Plymouth.

**English Classes:** Classes at Beginner and Intermediate levels  
Monday: 13:00 to 15:00                      Wednesday: 10:00 to 12:00  
Thursday: 13:00 to 15:00                  Friday: 10:30 to 12:00

**Outreach Activities:** A programme of various activities, every Thursday

**Music Tutoring:** Learn an instrument or share your musical talent. Tuesday 14:00 to 16:00.

**Creative Club:** Exploring the Arts - different topics weekly. Every Friday 13:00 to 15:00.

**Walking & Cycling:** Guided tours of Plymouth and the surrounding areas on specified dates.  
Craig Walker: [craig.walker@dcrs-plymouth.org](mailto:craig.walker@dcrs-plymouth.org)  
Suvi Rehell: [suvi.rehell@dcrs-plymouth.org](mailto:suvi.rehell@dcrs-plymouth.org)  
Tressa Thomas: [tressa.thomas@dcrs-plymouth.org](mailto:tressa.thomas@dcrs-plymouth.org)  
Telephone: 01752 265 952

**General Website:** <https://dcrs-plymouth.org/>



## Devon Development Education (DDE)



DDE is an education charity, working with pupils, teachers and community groups in Devon. We aim to enable people of all ages to explore the major issues in our world and our connections to them. We reflect on the actions we can take, locally and globally, to make the world a better, fairer, and more sustainable place.

We:

- support and train teachers to bring global learning into their classrooms
- run projects with schools to celebrate diversity and combat racism
- promote fair trade
- link with schools in a rural region of Uganda – this is a long-standing relationship.

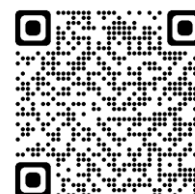
Our work in the community includes the Windrush group and Resilient Roots, which provide safe spaces for people of colour living in Devon. We also offer community driven guidance on diversity and inclusion.

**Website:** <https://www.globalcentredevon.org.uk/> **Phone:** 01392 438811

**Email:** [dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk](mailto:dde@globalcentredevon.org.uk)



## Devon Ukrainian Association (DUA)



Our mission is to build a thriving Ukrainian community in Devon by creating platforms where people meet and help each other. We:

**1. Create educational programmes and events** that focus on the preservation and celebration of Ukrainian culture along with assimilation of British culture:

- education in the English language and British Ways of Life,
- education of children and young people in Ukrainian language, history, geography and culture, as part of our Ukrainian Saturday School
- raising awareness of Ukrainian culture and history through educational and cultural events
- special interest groups: art, creativity, performance, poetry, traditional Ukrainian singing,

**2. Host a welcome hub for new arrivals** from Ukraine to create a culture of welcome and safety for those who are seeking a sanctuary from war. In-person and through robust social media channels:

WhatsApp Group, Telegram, Instagram, Facebook, Mighty Networks. Our hub provides:

- guidance to new arrivals in taking the first steps (bank, mobile services, NHS, etc);
- signposting to English classes and employment support

- advice, welfare, and other assistance to relieve suffering and hardship

### 3. Provide Wellbeing support:

- mental health group sessions.
- physical health group sessions: yoga, movement, walking sessions
- information and support for young people 12-18

### 4. Host Business Hub meet-ups and seminars:

- supporting entrepreneurs and building a professional community
- seminars on self-assessment, self-employment, starting a company, etc

**Email:** [welcome@dua.org.uk](mailto:welcome@dua.org.uk) **Telephone:** 01392 580044  
**Website:** <https://www.dua.org.uk/>  
**Social Media:** *Facebook:* <https://www.facebook.com/devonukrainian>  
*Instagram:* <https://www.instagram.com/devonukrainian>  
*Whatsapp:* <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LHoSNALhAO57XdzntFNT3J>  
*Telegram:* <https://t.me/s/duateam>  
**Address:** Devon Ukrainian Association CIC, 19 North Street, Exeter, EX4 3QS

## **DBI** Diversity Business Incubator CIC

Diversity Business Incubator

Diversity Business Incubator (DBI) is a CIC which is passionate about elevating business success in minority communities and helping newly settled BAMEs start-up businesses.



In response to finding only a small number of businesses with ethnically diverse leadership in Plymouth, our co-founders Jabo Butera and David Feindouno merged their passion and entrepreneurship ideas to create a business incubation hub where anyone and everyone could get help with starting and growing a business. Following many months in their own incubation centre, they formally set up the Diversity Business Incubator on January 10th 2018 to support both established and aspiring entrepreneurs, with a focus on those in the BAME community.

We work with local businesses, including self-employed people and non-profit organisations, helping them to find the right guidance and support to work smarter, develop, and grow. We help local communities and individuals grow and gain knowledge in the business sector.

**Website:** [www.dbi.org.uk/](http://www.dbi.org.uk/)  
**Phone:** 07376790747 or 01752 651010 **Email:** [info@dbi.org.uk](mailto:info@dbi.org.uk)



## Diverse Devon Together CIC

The objects of this partnership of 13 grass roots ethnic minority community organisations are to carry on activities which benefit the community and to further the interests of the partner organisations within Diverse Devon Together, including to:

- Reduce isolation
- Share skills, knowledge, experience and expertise
- Facilitate understanding and integration across different cultures
- Empower individuals and groups to express and to achieve their needs and ambitions
- Encourage a sense of community beyond that of the obvious and immediate community; to extend to and include those who may have appeared foreign or different
- Improve health and well-being of all communities in Exeter and Devon

We welcome all ethnic minority communities to join our partnership.

**Address:** Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG.

**Phone:** 01392 848741 or 01392 201572

**Email:** [admin@exetercommunitiestogether.org.uk](mailto:admin@exetercommunitiestogether.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/exetercommunitiestogether>



## Eat That Frog

Since being founded in 2011, we have steadily become the Southwest's no. 1 alternative education centre, solely based around people, values, and quality. Eat That Frog is a community interest company, offering community services, education, and training at several locations in Exeter, Torbay, and Teignbridge, as well as online.

We enable people to identify and overcome their barriers to live a more fulfilled life. Whether you're a teenager or an adult, it's never too late to learn. We provide safe and fun learning environments, tailored around you!

We provide a range of adult courses, tailored to suit the needs of the community. We work closely with Job Centre Plus and can help you to fulfil your needs. Search for courses and apply today.

**Phone:** 01803 551551

**Email:** [info@eatthatfrog.ac.uk](mailto:info@eatthatfrog.ac.uk)

**Website:** <http://eatthatfrog.ac.uk/>

**Address:** 89 Torquay Road, Paignton, UK







## Exeter Hindu Cultural Centre's Trust

The Southwest peninsula has a vibrant, multicultural society, with people from all around the world attracted to a region with one of the fastest growing economies in the UK.



The Hindu population has grown rapidly as new residents move to Devon and other parts of the region, attracted by commercial and employment opportunities or by the chance to study at the highly regarded Exeter university or one of the region's medical / dental schools. We believe that it is now time to build a cultural centre and place of worship for the growing Hindu community. But this core ambition is not the only purpose of our organisation, we are also here to:

- welcome Hindus arriving in the area
- provide social and cultural support to resident Hindus
- offer guidance, and signpost new arrivals to local services
- increase understanding and awareness of Hindu culture
- provide support and help to those facing hardship, irrespective of where they are from;

**Phone:** 07907373216

**Email:** [exeterhcc@gmail.com](mailto:exeterhcc@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://www.exeterhcc.com>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/exetertemple/>



## Exeter Malayalee Association

Exeter Malayalee Association is a non-political, non-profit making, social and cultural organisation for people from Kerala, the southern state of India, living in Exeter.



**Email:** [emaexeter@gmail.com](mailto:emaexeter@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://m.facebook.com/groups/312560703877218/about/>





## Exeter Mosque and Cultural Centre



In the 1970s, Muslims in Exeter offered their daily prayers in their homes. The majority of Muslims who first moved to Exeter were involved in the restaurant trade. On special occasions such as Eid, they would invite the Muslim community to celebrate together at their restaurants. There are now over 3000 Muslims in the city, of all ages, races, professions, and personalities.

**Address:** 12-15 York Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 6PG

**Phone:** 01392250597

**Email:** [office@exetermosque.org.uk](mailto:office@exetermosque.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://exetermosque.org.uk/>



## University of Exeter Pakistani Society



The University of Exeter Pakistani Society provides a forum for promoting and preserving Pakistan's rich history, culture, music, food, and art. We hope to represent all of Pakistan, from the snowy peaks of Kashmir; the lush valleys of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; the fertile plains of Punjab; the majestic deserts of Baluchistan; to the shores of Sindh.

**Contact:** <https://my.exeterguild.com/groups/794F9/pakistani-society>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ExeterPakSoc/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/exeterpaksoc/>





## Exeter Respect CIC



Exeter Respect CIC was established to promote diversity, equality, and human rights in Exeter and across Devon. It is best known for organising the Exeter Respect Festival, the biggest diversity festival in the Southwest. In 2025, we will celebrate our 28<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Exeter Respect Festival brings together a huge range of people, groups, and organisations from diverse backgrounds.

Exeter Respect CIC also offers a range of services throughout the year:

- support for BAME families, including family conferencing and parenting courses
- equality and diversity training
- mentoring for women and young people from minority ethnic communities
- homework clubs for schools
- football tournaments
- anti-racism projects
- consultation and training services: cultural competence, tackling racism

**Website:** <https://www.exeter-respect.org/>

**Address:** Exeter Respect CIC, LBD House, 39 George Street, Exeter, EX1 1D

**Email:** [info@exeter-respect.org](mailto:info@exeter-respect.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ExeRespect/>



## Filipino Community Association



The Filipino Community Association is a non-profit, non-political, tax-exempt, and non-sectarian organization.

Our purposes include:

- Welcoming new Filipinos to Devon and connecting them with local services.
- Promoting cultural diversity, ethnic pride, unity and building stronger relationships amongst Filipinos and with wider communities in Devon.
- Promoting Philippine culture, heritage, interests and concerns
- Participating in sports, civic, charity events, and community services.
- Providing aid for urgent needs in the Philippines, especially during calamities.
- Collaborating with similar groups, including charities and voluntary organisations, to exchange knowledge, information, advice and support.

**Email :** [lws\\_rln@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lws_rln@yahoo.co.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/858817157838756/announcements>



## Hikmat Devon CIC

Hikmat Devon CIC is a member-led community interest company providing services to BAME people living in Devon and Torbay.



Our purpose is:

- to empower individuals, families, and communities to access the skills, employment, housing, education, leisure pursuits, and well-being to which they are entitled
- to provide statutory and other mainstream services with good quality local information through the provision of bespoke consultation events and other forms of data capture
- to promote good relations between minority ethnic and mainstream white British residents

Since 2005, Hikmat has been developing several strands of service provision and currently delivers around 2000 in-person sessions annually through:

- Hikmat Hub Family Sessions (monthly on Thursdays, includes sports)
- Hikmat Chinese Group (Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking, weekly on Tuesdays)
- Hikmat Family Zoom Club (multicultural, children up to 16, school holidays and lockdown)
- video editing courses (beginners and advanced, all ages)
- Sweetie Ladies (East and Southeast Asian women, North Devon, Sundays)
- Hikmat Honeysuckles Allotment
- Hikmat Line Dancing (multi-cultural, alternate Wednesdays)
- Hikmat Fit and Fun (multicultural, indoor sports, alternate Saturdays)
- Community Covid Champions (multi-lingual information and support)
- Zenofilya Training (multi-cultural skills training and confidence building)
- Counselling (6 session solution-focused counselling)
- refugee and asylum seeker Resettlement Schemes
- consultation and community engagement (through the Devon Engagement Service)

We also offer individual support with navigating health and social care pathways, accessing school admissions, carers' issues, completing forms, victim support, resettlement, and other challenges. Our staff team combines a considerable wealth of spoken and written languages, clinical skills, and other professional training, as well as lived experience of migration and translocation.

**Contact:** Kharun Shah (Senior Administrator)  
**Address:** St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN  
**Telephone:** 01392 757220  
**Email:** [hikmatdevon@gmail.com](mailto:hikmatdevon@gmail.com)  
**Website:** <https://www.hikmatdevon.co.uk/>

## Hongkongers In Exeter

Hongkongers in Exeter is a voluntary group set up in the latter half of 2020.



Our aims are:

- to provide support for Hongkongers in Exeter and other parts of Devon. Hongkongers from Cornwall are also welcome to join.
- to organise monthly meet-and-mix events for Hongkongers in Devon
- to facilitate Hongkongers' integration into the local community
- to provide access to English language classes and "Life in the UK" classes
- to promote Hongkong culture in Exeter
- to support Hongkong parents and their children to preserve their ethnic identity
- to help children learn Cantonese and gain knowledge of Hong Kong traditions and culture
- to organise and participate in charitable events.

**Email:** [hkersinexe@gmail.com](mailto:hkersinexe@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063579969117>



## Imagine – Torbay Multicultural Group



Imagine is a multi-cultural group whose activities aim to provide benefit to people living in Torbay, both from ethnic groups and the wider community. We do this by championing cultural diversity through social events, workshops, training, and professional/personal development. Embedded within each activity, workshop or therapeutic engagement is the aim of encouraging social cohesion and integration, increasing participants' confidence and encouraging sustainable contribution to the wider community through supported volunteering, training, and employability.

Contact Lorrie Layne on 07771806870 or Nev Connor on 07908 819765 for more information and dates of events

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064739886627>

**Mobile:** 07939 326751

**Email:** [Lorrie.layne@yahoo.com](mailto:Lorrie.layne@yahoo.com)

**Website:** <https://imaginetorbay1.wixsite.com/imagine-torbay-cic>

**Address:** 4 Cecil Avenue, Paignton TQ3 1LW



## Inclusive Exeter



Inclusive Exeter delivers a range of activities to help put people from ethnically diverse communities on an equal footing in terms of having fair and equal access to the same opportunities as mainstream communities.

From January 2025 we will be operating on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9.30 am – 3.30 pm, from Southernhay Church, EX1 1QD.

People will be able to access our Drop-In Support Service where we offer help to people whose first language is not English, that is informal help with form-filling and a wide range of issues where language, limited familiarity with mainstream services, No Recourse to Public Funds and limited IT skills are barriers.

People can also meet with our staff and volunteers, join the English Conversation Group, join our Yoga sessions (women only), and find out more about our programme of physical activities, including Volleyball, Martial Arts and Badminton, all delivered by people from diverse communities; as well as cultural events, celebrating the rich heritage of our city's diverse communities.

They will also be able to find out about other services across the city, meet with representatives from other organisations or people might just want to pop in for a coffee and a chat!

**Email:** [admin@inclusiveexeter.org.uk](mailto:admin@inclusiveexeter.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.inclusiveexeter.org>

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## Italian Cultural Association Exeter



The Italian Cultural Association Exeter is a community root organisation made up of Italians living in Devon and local people interested in Italian culture. It was started in 2010 and its main aim is to keep Italian culture alive for the diaspora and also offer an insight into Italian culture to the community.

Since our beginning, we have organised:

- monthly cinema events (nowadays in collaboration with Exeter Phoenix)
- social events related to Italian language and food sharing
- Italian music and dance workshops
- and successful music evenings with invited Italian artists.

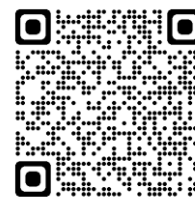
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ItalianCultureExeter>

**Instagram:** [https://www.instagram.com/italian\\_association\\_exeter/](https://www.instagram.com/italian_association_exeter/)

**Email:** [italianculturexeter@gmail.com](mailto:italianculturexeter@gmail.com)



## The Kurdish Community Devon



The Kurdish Community Devon began with a small group of Kurdish students at the University of Exeter in 2010 and later extended to embrace other Kurdish people living across Devon, including small business owners and their workers, families and friends. Kurdish people have spread around the world over the last three decades, mainly due to political situations in their home countries.

Kurdish Community Devon is a hub for cultural, social, and political activities of Kurds in Devon. We:

- aim to be a bridge between the Kurds and all the other ethnic groups living in Devon
- encourage the Kurdish community to integrate within wider society
- assist our community members to access services and education
- work to preserve and promote the richness of the Kurdish culture.
- coordinate the Kurdish Spring/ New Year Newroz, celebration in March
- organise monthly Kurdish film screenings at the Phoenix
- Kurdish Traditional Dance teaching sessions
- offer Kurdish Language and Tembur (a traditional instrument) classes for children (7 to 14)
- arrange academic and non-academic seminars and talks regarding Kurdish issues

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/kurdish.devon>

**Mobile:** 07846817274

**Email:** [kurdishc.devon@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishc.devon@gmail.com)



## Migrant Social Integration

Migrant Social Integration (MSI), launched in 2022, is a unique programme based on a proven social integration framework. The partnership programme covers Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth, and Torbay, with delivery supported by Plymouth Hope, and is primarily aimed at supporting the social integration of international recruits working in the health and social care sector.

**Support for care providers, employers and other organisations in the sector.** We believe that true impact comes from collaboration and MSI would like to walk alongside you as you support international recruits in the workplace. Support we offer includes training in Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Cultural Awareness, and Modern Slavery. Get in touch to book a 1:1 session; use our weekly drop in on Zoom every Thursday 14:30 - 15:00; or join our network to keep up to date

**Support for International Recruits and workers in the sector.** We offer a wealth of integration resources, information guides and webinars on a range of topics, including cultural adaptation, legal matters, healthcare and education.

**We provide support with:** Pre-arrival contact - Arrival induction sessions - Creating a bespoke support plan - Training sessions - Drop in sessions online every Thursday 12:45 - 13:45. Become a member for FREE to access resources and news about events.

**Volunteering for integration.** We work to promote a vibrant community where individuals thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally. Building a strong social network is vital for a sense of belonging and volunteering can play a key role in the integration of migrants who can and are willing to contribute their skills through volunteering.

**Email:** [socialintegration@plymouthhope.org.uk](mailto:socialintegration@plymouthhope.org.uk)



## Mixed Families Together Group

We connect mixed heritage and global majority families across Devon.

We organise regular family meetups which uplift and celebrate diverse heritages across the group and help families feel part of a vibrant, supportive community.



For more information, please email [mixedfamielstogether@gmail.com](mailto:mixedfamielstogether@gmail.com) or follow us on Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/mixedfamilies\\_together/](https://www.instagram.com/mixedfamilies_together/)



## Multilingua Devon CIC



We deliver interpretation and translation services for public service

providers, schools, groups, and individuals. We provide services in over 100 languages with a database of over 300 local freelance interpreters and translators.

The county's only locally based professional translation and interpretation service, Multilingua Devon was founded in 2007 in order to meet the language needs of local BAME communities and support equality of access to public services. Initially supported by Devon County Council, we are now financially self-sufficient, but we remain a not-for-profit business. We support other charitable organisations and have a close relationship with our interpreters; we meet them, interview them in-person, offer training, and hold regular social get-togethers. The biggest difference between us and many larger, national companies is that we are local; we know the area and understand the needs of local communities well.

Our interpreters are trained and have DBS checks. 99% are native speakers with a BA or higher university degree from their own country. We try to match the right interpreter to each job.

Multilingua provides:

- trained local interpreters in over 85 languages
- prompt responses to all enquiries and a speedy service
- specialist interpreting e.g. mental health, medical, child protection, counselling, domestic violence, housing, education, legal topics
- written translation on request in any language (email the document to get a quote)
- in-house training and workshops
- training for organisations on 'Working with Interpreters' and 'Cultural Advocacy'.

**Address:** Civic Centre, Room 1.1, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN (above CAB)

**Mobile:** 07951 948038 (Anil Lee- 24 hours)

**Email:** [info@multilinguadevon.co.uk](mailto:info@multilinguadevon.co.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.multilinguadevon.co.uk/>



## Nigerian Community in Exeter (NCIE)



“This group connects Nigerians in Exeter (both at work and in school) to support personal growth, career advancement, and community building. Key aims include:

1. Empowering members to support themselves and their families.
2. Sharing information on global opportunities and offering life coaching.
3. Assisting with UK job opportunities and career decisions.
4. Providing workshops for skill and knowledge development.
5. Facilitating networking for collaboration in similar career paths.
6. Guiding newcomers in settling and understanding UK laws.

**Joy Okumbor (President):** [info@ncie.org.uk](mailto:info@ncie.org.uk)

**Samuel Salami (PRO):** [Admin@ncie.org.uk](mailto:Admin@ncie.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://m.facebook.com/groups/840526011279031/?ref=share>

## Nigerians in North Devon (NIND)

NIND's Mission:

- To preserve and encourage fellowship among members.
- To establish an association for all Nigerians living in North Devon.
- To promote unity within the Nigerian community.
- To support families by fostering relationships that benefit members' interests.
- To build and sustain supportive connections among members and maintain a comprehensive member database.
- To create outreach opportunities and safeguard members' interests and well-being.

**Email:** [Nigeriansinnorthdevon@gmail.com](mailto:Nigeriansinnorthdevon@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 07729371349 or 07716957476



## Odils (Open Doors International Language School)



**Free English language education, skills development mentorships, employment, and community integration support for ethnic minority groups.**

Hello! We are here to help you. No matter where you come from, how well you speak English or what your beliefs are, you have a home at Odils Learning Foundation. We teach English Language classes to people who are refugees, seeking asylum or part of ethnic minority groups here in the UK. Our centre is located in Plymouth, Devon but we also have an office in Exeter. We help provide skills development so that people can find employment and integrate successfully. Many of our services and classes are free. Find out how it works or get in touch with us to see how we can help you. We are Odils and we are here for you because you belong here.

**Email:** [info@odils.com](mailto:info@odils.com)  
**Phone:** 01752 258770 OR 01752 258771  
**Website:** <https://odils.com/>



THE OLIVE PROJECT

## The Olive Project



### Our core aims:

To work with black and minoritized women and girls who are subjected to abuse and violence, and to support them to live free from harm.

To work with black and minoritized women and girls to support them to advocate for their own rights.

To deliver effective and meaningful training to public, private, and voluntary organisations to eradicate the experience of institutional oppression faced by black and minoritized women.

To develop and lead local campaigns to bring real and lasting change for black and minoritized women and girls living in Devon and Cornwall and the surrounding areas.

**Phone:** 07990 858510  
**Email:** [alexis@theoliveproject.uk](mailto:alexis@theoliveproject.uk)  
**Website:** <https://www.theoliveproject.uk/>



Migration &  
Resettlement

# St Leonard's Church Exeter Outreach Southwest CIC



Outreach Southwest CIC runs the Exeter International Cafe at various church locations across Exeter, meeting term time from 4.30pm - 6pm.

Come and practise your English with native speakers and other internationals. Learn about British culture, traditions, and life in Exeter. Tea, coffee, cake, and a warm welcome to all internationals, from beginner English level to advanced. To get a flavour of what happens at international café, watch our international talent show in 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E72ef9Oemk>

**Website:** <https://www.stleonards.church/international-english-cafe/>

**Email:** [scottinexeter@gmail.com](mailto:scottinexeter@gmail.com)



Plymouth & Devon  
Racial Equality Council

## Plymouth and Devon Race Equality Council (PDREC)



We work towards the elimination of racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity, and good relations, between persons of different racial groups within the county of Devon (including Plymouth, Exeter, and Torbay)

PDREC understand that collaboration improves the potential of our organisation to make a difference. We welcome opportunities to share practice and develop partnerships, and we believe this commitment makes us better placed to meet the diverse needs of our community members.

We work with our communities in the following ways:

- benefit and debt advice
- tailored support for women
- first contact support for domestic violence
- hate crime reporting centre and victim care
- support and advice for parents on education issues
- tutoring and support for school-age children and young people

We also work strategically with a range of partners across Devon on partnership projects and forums with a view to reaching our targets on race equality and community cohesion.

**Website:** <https://www.plymouthanddevonrec.org.uk/>

**Contact:** <https://www.plymouthanddevonrec.org.uk/contact.html>



Migration &  
Resettlement







## Pickwell Foundation

Since 2016, we have welcomed 7 refugee families from the MENA (Middle East/North Africa) region through the Government's Community Sponsorship Scheme, and are looking forward to welcoming 3 more families in the coming year. We recruit, train, and mentor groups to work alongside families and support them to independence.



We have also:

- welcomed 300+ Ukrainian guests into the North Devon and Torridge districts, assigning caseworkers to support every guest and host, who can help with problem solving and signposting to additional support.
- started to welcome families under the ARAP Scheme – supporting up to 18 Afghan families to our area with a full package of integration support needed. We are basing our framework around the Community Sponsorship model as it works so well.
- responded to the needs of other Afghan families needing resettlement to the UK from Pakistan.
- provided host and guest support for anyone offering a home to someone in the asylum process.
- worked with the local authorities to design services to support any future arrivals of displaced people to the area.

**Website:** <https://www.thepickwellfoundation.org.uk/>  
**Phone (Barnstaple office):** 01271 649108  
**Email:** [info@thepickwellfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@thepickwellfoundation.org.uk)  
**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/thepickwellfoundation/>



## Plymouth Hope

Plymouth Hope is a charitable organisation run by volunteers who believe in social equality. We recognise the social and health benefits of sports and wellbeing, and we work to ensure that children and young people have access to play and wellbeing programmes. We are known for creating platforms to bring communities together and fostering social cohesion.



**Asylum & Migration** We are an OISC accredited organisation and as such we provide asylum and Immigration advice. We run weekly drop-in as well as appointments only advice.

**Children & Young People** We run one of the region’s largest programmes using sports and wellbeing to improve the educational performance and reduce poverty in families.

**Wellbeing & Active Life** We strive to ensure beneficiaries can lead an active life and improve their health through access to regular sports, physical and social activities.

**Social Integration** We deliver social cohesion and integration programmes to help foster togetherness. We run one of the region’s largest multicultural festivals.

**Equity & Racial Harmony** We deliver bespoke training, organisational support and practical mentoring in Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and cultural awareness. We run the mid-group programme in schools to help children explore diversity and human characteristics.

**Advocacy** We stand for equity and a society devoid of discrimination. We support treating asylum seekers and refugees with dignity and respect.

- **Asylum & Immigration Advice:** Drop -ins, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10am to 2pm
- **Digital Hub:** Wednesdays and Fridays 10am to 1pm
- **Youth Club:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 5pm to 7pm
- **Sports & Physical Activities:** Weekly activities (football; cycling; table tennis; swimming etc.)
- **Women’s Exercise:** Women’s only gym; women’s dance; women’s swimming club.
- **Women Group:** Coffee morning and sessions with guest speakers Thursdays 11am to 2pm.
- **Men’s Group:** Thursdays 4pm to 7pm
- **Social Fridays:** Centred around play and sharing a hot meal, run fortnightly

**Website:** <https://plymouthhope.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/plymouthhopeInternational/>

**Phone:** +44 (0) 1752 289 071 OR +44 (0) 7712418206

**Email:** [info@plymouthhope.org.uk](mailto:info@plymouthhope.org.uk)

**Address:** Plymouth Hope, Youth Centre, 13 Beaumont Road, Plymouth, PL4 9B



## Polish British Community Group Exeter

This Facebook page is a celebration of the vital links between Poland and the UK. It is linked to a book on this topic entitled

'Poles in the UK: A Story of Friendship and Cooperation'.



**Contact:** [polesintheuk@gmail.com](mailto:polesintheuk@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/polishbritishgroup/>



## Refugee Support Devon (RSD)



RSD is an independent local charity based at the Exeter Community Centre. We offer a range of services to the refugee and asylum seeker community including:

- **twice-weekly drop-in:** offering information, support, and signposting for accessing legal services and for navigating life in the UK
- **weekly immigration clinic:** accredited by OISC to offer Level 2 advice
- **outreach support:** tailored packages of support to individuals who have complex cases
- **destitution relief:** coordinating referrals to crisis services and providing immediate financial support via the RSD emergency fund
- **education and employability:** providing English language and employment training
- **women's group:** monthly activities for female clients and their children
- **refugee resettlement:** since 2016, in partnership with Devon County Council (DCC), we have supported over 30 families resettled in Devon as a result of the war in Syria. In 2019, DCC awarded us the contract for the provision of integration casework in wider Devon,
- **community allotment:** a safe space for refugees to grow their own fruit and vegetables
- **RAMP (refugees as medical professionals) Devon:** assisting forced migrants who are qualified health practitioners to follow an appropriate training pathway

**Address:** Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter, Devon EX4 3RG

**Phone:** 01392 682185

**Website:** <https://refugeesupportdevon.org.uk/>



## Shumba Arts

Shumba Arts brings people from all walks of life together through



music, dance, and song to create, empower, and celebrate embodied connections, healthy communities, and vibrant culture.

Our work supports community cohesion, personal resilience, and physical and mental well-being. We are passionate about creating inclusive and empowering participative experiences which enrich people's lives and pay respect to the pan-African traditions which inspire and inform us.

Our vision is for a world where people care for, respect, and do good for themselves, each other, and the planet.

**Email:** [shumbaarts@gmail.com](mailto:shumbaarts@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.shumba.org.uk](http://www.shumba.org.uk)

**Phone:** 07955304747

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/Shumba.Arts](https://facebook.com/Shumba.Arts)



## South Asian Society - Devon and Cornwall



The South Asian Society (SAS) was founded in the year 2003. The main aim of this society is to create a cultural, social, and mutual support network for Devon and Cornwall's increasingly large South Asian community. SAS has a wide membership base of people who are drawn from countries surrounding the Indian sub-continent or are part of the Asian Diaspora.

**Contact:** <https://www.southasiansociety.org.uk/contact-us/> ( contact form)

**Website:** <https://www.southasiansociety.org.uk/>

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057501465744&locale=ms\\_MY](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057501465744&locale=ms_MY)



St. Sidwell's Community Centre

## St. Sidwell's Centre



We are an independent community centre in the heart of Exeter, giving a warm welcome to all. We offer a wide programme of activities, events, and services for the local community, including:

- community café
- community bakery – the Sidwell Street Bakehouse
- the Sidwell Street Cookery School
- gardening projects - we grow vegetables and look after one of the few large green spaces in Exeter city centre
- affordable meeting room and venue hire
- local heritage hub for the Eastern quarter of Exeter city-centre.

The Olive Tree Project, which started running free English classes in Exeter nearly 20 years ago, merged with St Sidwell's in 2013. Free classes taught by experienced volunteer teachers still run nearly every day of the week (see <https://stsidwells.org.uk/what-we-do/olive-tree> ) and are open to everyone – including refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers, and students.

We also offer a drop-in club for speakers of other languages every Thursday 2-4pm. Drop in for a chat about how to find a job, how to write a CV, you can get help to find other organisations such as Citizens Advice, chat about money, benefits, wellbeing and mental health support. We have laptops you can use and we will be on hand to give you help when you need.



Our Volunteering and Work-Experience Programme is at the heart of St Sidwell's work, and volunteers get involved in everything we do. We have a range of roles available in our café, our bakery, our garden, teaching English, etc. Contact us if you want to learn new skills, share your expertise, meet new people, gain work experience, or improve your English.

**Address:** St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6NN  
**Website:** <https://stsidwells.org.uk/>  
**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/StSidscc/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/StSidscc/?locale=en_GB)  
**Emails:** Volunteering - [volunteer@stsidwells.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@stsidwells.org.uk) ;  
 ESOL - [christine.olivetree@stsidwells.org.uk](mailto:christine.olivetree@stsidwells.org.uk)  
 Drop-in - [dropin@stsidwells.org.uk](mailto:dropin@stsidwells.org.uk)  
 Room Bookings - [bookings@stsidwells.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stsidwells.org.uk)  
**Phone:** 01392 666222



## Students and Refugees Together (START)



START offers practical, social, and emotional support in the form of information, advocacy and advice.

Supporting refugees to settle in Plymouth and the far Southwest. Providing innovative placement opportunities for students

**Phone:** 07841 985252  
**Email:** [info@startsw.co.uk](mailto:info@startsw.co.uk)  
**Website:** <https://studentsandrefugeestogether.com/>



## Sunrise Diversity

Sunrise Diversity is a grassroots charity promoting equality, diversity and social inclusion in rural communities in North Devon.

We work with the community to eliminate discrimination and promote strong, positive community relations through our range of services and activities, which challenge discrimination, help change attitudes, and celebrate diversity.



Sunrise provides a range of free services, activities, and training in North Devon for individuals with diverse identities including migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, people of colour, individuals with no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and the LGBTQ+ community.

Services include:

- confidential support and advocacy
- English language classes and activities (for speakers of other languages)
- social opportunities
- skills and knowledge sessions.

**Phone:** 01271 328915

**Email:** [admin@sunrisediversity.org.uk](mailto:admin@sunrisediversity.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://sunrisediversity.org.uk/>



## Teignbridge VCSE Led Support Programme



A partnership programme led by Teignbridge CVS supporting Refugees/Non-UK nationals living in Teignbridge. The partnership ensures that Refugees and, where they are a part of any programme, Host families, have access to support that includes

- Home visits on arrival and support to settle
- Support to access essential services including GPs, education, social care, housing
- Advice to access welfare benefits and employment;
- Help with form filling and applying for essential documents
- Social Groups across many of the towns in Teignbridge with support available
- Access to employability skills advice, English classes and employment workshops
- Support to volunteer locally
- Support for families where there are children under 5 years

**Email:** [cvsteignbridge@gmail.com](mailto:cvsteignbridge@gmail.com)

**Telephone:** 07918 205356

**Website:** <https://www.teigncv.org.uk/projects/homes-for-ukraine-programme>





## Ubuntu Educational & Mentoring Services CIC



**Who:** We are Devon's leading organisation for equality and educational services that is Global Majority Led

**Why:** To build vibrant communities where creativity flourishes, authentic collaboration is celebrated, and all individuals feel empowered and supported. Through our legacy of equity, understanding and affinity, we strive to create a more inclusive and just society for all.

**What we do:** Ubuntu Educational & Mentoring Services creates safe spaces for critical conversations about equity and race.

**How:** Through Education, Support and Creativity.

Our services include:

- Equity Led Mentoring
- CPD Accredited Mentoring Training
- Engaging Communities
- Restorative Practice
- Tree of life Narrative Therapy
- Experiential Staff Training
- Drama Based Learning
- Wellbeing and Bridging Cultures Workshops
- Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) Consultancy

**Our Inspiration:** Ubuntu means "I am, because WE are" - this African proverb speaks to the fact that we cannot exist in isolation.

**Website:** <https://www.ubuntu-ed.co.uk/>

**Phone:** 01803262271

**Email:** [info@ubuntu-ed.co.uk](mailto:info@ubuntu-ed.co.uk)



## Ubuntu Counselling Services Ltd



**A Multicultural Counselling Service Social Enterprise** providing an evidence-based, holistic Counselling Service for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities across Devon. Our objectives are:

- to provide psychotherapeutic services (mainly short-term), suited to BME communities
- to work alongside community networks so as to ensure cultural sensitivity and accessibility
- to link seamlessly with statutory services, including NHS and GPs
- to sign-post to other support agencies so as to ensure continuation of care
- to continue to develop the service so as to meet BME community needs
- to research and collect evidence of the mental health needs of BME communities in Devon
- to monitor and evaluate the service so that it remains relevant and responsive to need

We normally see clients within one week of referral, depending on availability. The service is free to clients and we are working hard to maintain this offer

We are organisational members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and abide by its code of ethics. Therapists are either accredited, on the BACP register of therapists, or working towards registration and accreditation.

**Address:** Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG.

**Phone:** 01392 201572.

**Email:** [info@ubuntucounsellingservices.org.uk](mailto:info@ubuntucounsellingservices.org.uk).

**Website:** <http://ubuntucounsellingservices.org.uk/>

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## ZEBRA Zebra Collective

Zebra Collective offers equalities consultancy, reflective learning and training, including general workshops on equality core concepts, as well as specific offers regarding cultural capability, anti-racism, challenging discrimination (courageous conversations) and unconscious bias



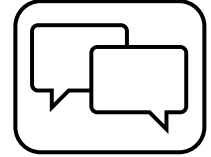
In our community work, we show a conscious commitment to actively promoting inclusion of all people who are at risk of exclusion, including people from ethnically minoritised communities.

**Email:** [info@zebra.coop](mailto:info@zebra.coop)

**Website:** [www.zebra.coop](http://www.zebra.coop)

## Section 2: Services by Theme

### Learning English. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)



DCC's ESOL and Engagement Team (see page 52) provides resources, signposting, and expert advice to ESOL learners and practitioners, and works with ESOL providers to improve information sharing and collaboration. You can find details of all English language classes on offer in Devon on our interactive map at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/maps/>. If you need information or advice about ESOL, including help with finding the right English language class, please contact us at [ESOL@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ESOL@devon.gov.uk)

### Mainstream (accredited) ESOL

To study towards a recognised qualification in English, sign up (subject to eligibility) for a course at a Further Education (FE) college or with the county council's own Adult Education provider, Learn Devon. ESOL courses offered by these providers are usually free for eligible learners.

#### Exeter College:

Contact: [adultESOL@exe-coll.ac.uk](mailto:adultESOL@exe-coll.ac.uk) or [lauragrix@exe-coll.ac.uk](mailto:lauragrix@exe-coll.ac.uk)

Website: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/course/esol-skills-for-life/>



#### PETROC (Barnstaple and Tiverton):

Contact: [adultsuccesscoaches@petroc.ac.uk](mailto:adultsuccesscoaches@petroc.ac.uk)

Website: [https://www.petroc.ac.uk/course-search/?sf\\_s=esol](https://www.petroc.ac.uk/course-search/?sf_s=esol)



#### City College Plymouth:

Contact: [info@cityplym.ac.uk](mailto:info@cityplym.ac.uk)

Website: <https://www.cityplym.ac.uk/study/course-search/?swpquery=esol&search=esol>



**South Devon College (Torbay):**

Contact: [Enquiries@southdevon.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@southdevon.ac.uk)  
 Website: <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/>

**Learn Devon:**

Contact: [learndevon@devon.gov.uk](mailto:learndevon@devon.gov.uk)  
 Website: <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/subjects/english-esol/>

**Workers' Educational Association (WEA):**

Contact: [Alison.Salm@wea.ac.uk](mailto:Alison.Salm@wea.ac.uk)  
 Website: <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/esol>



## Community ESOL

Devon is lucky to have many voluntary and community organisations and groups that offer free English classes and conversation groups. While most of these classes do not lead to a qualification, community ESOL classes are usually taught by well-qualified and experienced teachers. As well as helping learners to improve their English, they also support integration by helping to build strong connections in the local community. The main providers of community ESOL in Devon are:

|                              |                                     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| CISCO – see page 9           | Pickwell Foundation – see page 27   |
| DCRS – see page 11           | Refugee Support Devon – see page 29 |
| Imagine Torbay – see page 19 | St Sidwell's Centre – see page 30   |
| Odils Academy – see page 25  | Sunrise Diversity – see page 32     |

## Online ESOL and an app

Online classes at different levels are available for learners who face difficulties accessing face-to-face English classes in their local area.

- Learn Devon – <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/subjects/english-esol/>
- Our ESOL and Engagement Team. Contact us at [ESOL@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ESOL@devon.gov.uk)

For studying at home there is also a free app - **AILEM** – that has been created by refugees to support other refugees and asylum seekers. Go to <https://www.ailemapplaunch.org/>

# Employment and Careers



Finding a job in Devon when your first language is not English can be extremely challenging. Fortunately, there are a number of organisations offering support with:

- job searches
- writing a CV and/or a letter of application
- advice on interview techniques in UK
- signposting to work-experience and volunteering opportunities (volunteering is a great way to practice English and to improve your CV)
- English for Specific Purposes (ESP) – the extra English that you might need in order to work in a particular trade or profession, e.g. English for Construction



## Job Centre Plus (JC+)

The first place to go if you are looking for a job and/or to sign on for benefits. You will be introduced to a Job Coach who will help you search for jobs. JC+ can also provide free training, help with getting qualifications translated – and much more. <https://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus>



## Devon's Youth and Employment Hubs

There are six physical hubs in the county, providing in-person support to help you find out about different career options, jobs, and learning opportunities.



Whether you are a young person looking for career opportunities or an adult looking to retrain, find a new path or get back to work, our advisors can work with you for as long as you need to take the next step on your employment, learning or skills journey. Hubs are available in:

Exeter Central Library  
The Beehive Community Centre in Honiton  
Barnstaple Library

Cullompton Library  
Tiverton Library  
Ilfracombe Library

For more information about opening times or to make an appointment for any of the hubs, email [employmenthub@devon.gov.uk](mailto:employmenthub@devon.gov.uk) or visit [www.devon.cc/skills](http://www.devon.cc/skills)



## Library Work Clubs

Devon's 54 libraries are vibrant community hubs offering more than just books. Alongside the Employment Hubs listed above, several libraries host Work Clubs that offer tailored support for refugees and other migrants. Services include one-to-one mentoring, help finding jobs, signposting to English classes, and introductions to local employers.

For more information see <https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/refugee-employment-esol-and-enterprise-project/find-a-work-club-near-you/> or contact your local library.

### **Barnstaple Library Work Club** Tuesdays and Fridays, 10.00am – 1.00pm.

**Address:** IT Suite, First Floor, Barnstaple Library, Tuly Street, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1EL. Ask for the "Iain and the work club" at Reception.

**Email:** Iain Harris – [iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/355753868474474/>



### **Bideford Library Work Club** Wednesdays, 9.30am – 2.00pm

**Address:** Bideford Library, Bideford Arts Centre, The Quay, Bideford, EX39 2EY

**Email:** Iain Harris – [iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:iain.harris@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/304803953502600>



### **Newton Abbot Library Work Club** Thursdays 10am – 1pm. Book an appointment using the email below

**Address:** Newton Abbot Library, Passmore Edwards Centre, TQ12 2RJ

**Email:** [newtonabbot.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:newtonabbot.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

**Facebook:**

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1022429822119537/?hoisted\\_section\\_header\\_type=recently\\_seen&multi\\_permalinks=1034599920902527](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1022429822119537/?hoisted_section_header_type=recently_seen&multi_permalinks=1034599920902527)



### **Tavistock Library Work Club** Wednesdays 10.30am – 1.00pm (drop-in)

**Address:** Tavistock Library, The Quay, Plymouth Rd, Tavistock PL19 8AB

**Email:** Sarah Hinton [sarah.hinton@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hinton@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1545105562692374>



### **Tiverton Library Work Club** Fridays 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Address:** Tiverton Library, Phoenix House, Phoenix Lane, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SA. Ask for "Anna and the work club" at Reception.

**Email:** [Tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:Tiverton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1879672489121973/>



## Other local support with finding the right job

The following organisations can provide specific employment support for ethnically diverse communities:

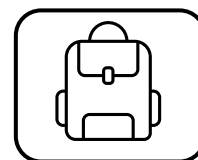
- Pickwell Foundation, North Devon - see page 27
- Teignbridge CVS – see page 32
- Odils Academy, Plymouth – see page 25
- St Sidwell’s Centre – see page 30. The centre runs a drop-in every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm which is open to all, including jobseekers looking for advice. Laptops are available.
- East Devon District Council Homes for Ukraine Team <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/resettlement-projects/what-is-homes-for-ukraine-scheme/>

To find other support in your area freely available to all members of the public, see our interactive map: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/maps/>

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# Children's Education



## Early Years

The government in UK provides funding for all 3 and 4 year old children, and some 2-year-olds, to attend early years provision for up to **15** hours per week. To find out more about Early Years support available in Devon, and how to apply for a place for your child, visit

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/early-years-and-childcare/>

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## School Admissions

If you are resident in Devon, you can apply for a place in a mainstream state primary or secondary school. For guidance on how to apply for a school place for your child and for information about where to go if you need support, visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/> or email the DCC Admissions team at [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)

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## EAL (English as an Additional Language)

EAL is the term used in the UK in reference to supporting children of refugees and other migrants with learning English. The following places provide advice, guidance and support with EAL:

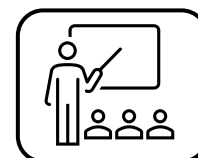
- EDEAS: see page 53
  - Visit the Bell Foundation: <https://www.bell-foundation.org.uk/> for expert guidance on EAL for parents, teachers and schools
  - The EAL academy: <https://theealacademy.co.uk/> guidance and practical tools for teachers and EAL consultancy and training packages for schools
- 

## Schools of Sanctuary

A growing national network of more than 680 schools and nurseries, all committed to creating a culture of welcome, understanding and belonging for refugees and other migrants. In Devon, the Schools of Sanctuary initiative is being championed by the Pickwell Foundation (see page 27).

**Website:** <https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

# Adult Education



## Further Education (FE)

Colleges in the UK offer a wide range of courses to adults aged 16 and over. You can sign up for a course whether you are 16 or 76. All courses for 16 to 18 year olds are free. In Devon, there are three FE Colleges and DCC's own FE provider, Learn Devon

- Exeter College <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/>
- Petroc College. Barnstaple and Tiverton campuses <https://www.petroc.ac.uk/>
- South Devon College. Torbay and Newton Abbot campuses <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/>
- Learn Devon <https://www.learndevon.co.uk/>

## Higher Education (HE)

In the UK, you need to apply for university through a website called UCAS: <https://www.ucas.com/>  
The following link explains how to apply: <https://www.ucas.com/applying>



University  
of Exeter

## University of Exeter

The University of Exeter, a top UK institution, offers a full range of

undergraduate, postgraduate, and research opportunities. With students from 140+ countries, it fosters a vibrant, inclusive environment through cultural festivals, international societies, and language programs. Exeter University values diversity as a catalyst for innovation and creativity, recognising that a multicultural community promotes a deeper understanding of global issues and prepares students to become global citizens.



Search for undergraduate / postgraduate courses and research opportunities here:  
<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/>





## The Universities of Sanctuary team at Exeter

As part of the University of Sanctuary network, a UK-wide initiative, the University of Exeter Sanctuary team work to foster a culture of welcome and inclusion for asylum seekers and refugees – including offering sanctuary scholarships and partial fee waivers to undergraduate students who are seeking asylum. These scholarships are competitive, so if you are interested in applying, it is a good idea to apply well in advance of your course.



**Website:** <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/inclusion/support/uos/>

**Universities of Sanctuary Network:** <https://universities.cityofsanctuary.org/>

**Exeter sanctuary scholarships:** <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/funding/award/?id=2750>



UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH

## University of Plymouth

The University of Plymouth, located in Britain's Ocean City, is renowned for its world-class teaching, impactful research, and commitment to sustainability. With a diverse and inclusive community, it welcomes students from around the globe, fostering cultural exchange and collaboration. Plymouth offers a vibrant campus life and a wide range of programs designed to prepare students for a global future, combining practical learning with a supportive, welcoming environment.



Search for undergraduate / postgraduate courses and research opportunities here:

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/study>



The Open  
University

## Open University

The Open University offers flexible distance-learning courses and other accessible options for study to students of all backgrounds. Designed to fit around work and life commitments, it provides a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, along with tailored support for diverse learning needs. Its inclusive approach empowers students to upskill, retrain, or achieve qualifications at their own pace.



Search for courses here: <https://www.open.ac.uk/>



Migration &  
Resettlement

# Housing



*In Devon, the District and City Councils manage local social housing and provide advice and support with finding a home, dealing with landlords and for anyone facing homelessness.*

*By law in the UK, your local council must provide you with emergency accommodation if you have a priority need. For example, if you are pregnant if you have a disability; if you are suffering from trauma because of your experiences*

**East Devon District Council** <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/> phone: 01395 517469

**Exeter City Council** <https://exeter.gov.uk/housing/> phone: 01392 277888

**Mid Devon District Council** <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/mid-devon-housing/> phone: 01884 255255

**North Devon Council** <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing> phone: 01271 388870

**South Hams District Council** <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/housing> phone: 01803 861234

**Teignbridge Council** <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/housing/> phone: 01626 361101

**Torridge District Council** <https://www.torridge.gov.uk/housing> phone: 01237 428700.

**West Devon Borough Council** <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/housing> phone: 01822 813600

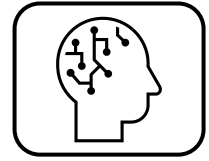


## Other sources of support with housing:

- **Shelter** - A UK charity that provides help for anyone facing a housing problem.  
<https://england.shelter.org.uk/>
- **Refugees at Home** - connect hosts with refugees and asylum seekers across the UK  
<https://refugeesathome.org/>
- **British Red Cross** - <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/get-help-as-a-refugee>

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

## Neurodiversity



The word Neurodiversity refers to the diverse experience of all people and the many different ways in which we experience and interact with the worlds. However, it is often used in the context of the autistic spectrum and other neurological conditions such as ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or learning disabilities.

### Devon County Council's SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) local offer

signposts a wide range of locally available support.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/about-send-and-the-local-offer/>



### South West Autism Support Services

specialise in supporting children and young people on the autistic spectrum

<https://www.southwestautismsupport.com/>



### North Devon Down Syndrome group

supports families from all walks of life who have a family member with Down Syndrome. Organises outings and activities - bringing families together for support and to have fun.

**Website:** [https://devonconnect.org/profile/lynn\\_646](https://devonconnect.org/profile/lynn_646)

**Email:** [lynnashman@live.com](mailto:lynnashman@live.com)



### WayMakers Devon CIC

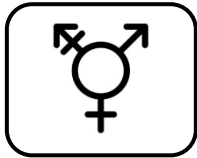
Supports autistic people in Devon (aged 14+) and/or those with anxiety-related challenges, to achieve the lives they deserve. Also works with employers and professionals to improve accessibility and inclusion for neurodiverse employees.

**Website:** <https://waymakers.co.uk/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WayMakersDevon/>



# LGBTQ+



## Intercom Trust

Supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans+ people across the SouthWest  
Registered Charity Number 1171878

A Southwest charity providing LGBT+ communities with advocacy, low-cost

counselling, domestic abuse services, training / consultancy, and general support. Combating homophobia and transphobia across Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay to promote respect and equality.

**Website:** [www.intercomtrust.org.uk](http://www.intercomtrust.org.uk)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/TheIntercomTrust](https://www.facebook.com/TheIntercomTrust)



## Micro Rainbow

Working towards a world where LGBTQ+ people are free from discrimination and have equal opportunities in all

fields of life. Provides safe housing for LGBTQ+ asylum seekers; supports refugees through employment, education, volunteering and training programs; and runs social activities to combat isolation.

**Website:** <https://microrainbow.org/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MicroRainbowInternational>

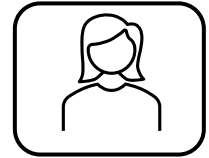


## Sunrise Diversity

Sunrise Diversity provides support for LGBTQ+ people. See page 32 for more information and contact details.



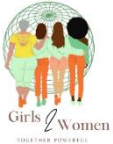
# Women's Support



## CoLab Women

Supports women facing multiple disadvantages, particularly homelessness, domestic abuse, sexual violence and other challenges. CoLab Women uses a trauma-informed, strength-based approach to rebuild resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. Brave Spaces is a two-year test and learn project supporting women facing these issues.

**Website:** <https://www.colabexeter.org.uk/colab-women>



## Girls to Women (G2W)

A network supporting girls to reach their full potential, guided by women with varied life experience. G2W aims to empower girls and women, sharing skills and resources with those less fortunate in life to ensure no one is left behind. Their mission is to inspire and empower women and girls to excel in all areas of life.

**Website:** <https://www.girlstowomen.co.uk/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/girlstowomenuk>



## The Olive Project

The Olive Project works with black and minoritized women and girls who are subjected to abuse and violence, and to support them to live free from harm. For more information, see page 25.



## Wave Wahines CIC

A surf club with the Aloha spirit, offering a safe space for women and girls from all backgrounds and lived experiences to access surfing and connect with our oceans. Also run bespoke sessions for resettled communities and women recovering from trauma.

**Website:** [www.wavewahines.co.uk](http://www.wavewahines.co.uk)

**Facebook:** <https://facebook.com/NDwavewahines>





# Health and Wellbeing



In the UK, your GP (General Practitioner) is your first point of contact for health concerns and can refer you to specialists if needed. For help finding and registering with a GP, visit <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/> and for NHS services in Devon, see <https://myhealth-devon.nhs.uk/>

Below are additional national and local organisations offering health and wellbeing support.



**THE EDDYSTONE TRUST**  
HIV and Sexual Health Services

## The Eddystone Trust

Southwest-based charity supporting Devon residents with sexual health and HIV services.

Offers rapid HIV and syphilis testing, help accessing sexual health screenings, and resources like condoms, PrEP, and PEP. Advocates for those living with HIV, offering peer support, guidance around diagnosis, and non-judgmental, person-centred care.

**Website:** [Eddystone.org.uk](https://Eddystone.org.uk) **Phone:** 08003283508.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/TheEddystoneTrust/>



## The Gardeners Collective CIC

The Gardeners Collective in North Devon connects people with nature through gardening, offering sessions for families, beginners, workplaces, and the general community.

<https://thegardenerscollective.co.uk/>



## Wheels of Ananda CIC

A project to support wellbeing in North Devon through inclusive, mind-body wellness programs for vulnerable individuals facing challenges such as asylum/refugee status uncertainty, displacement, domestic abuse, loss, illness, isolation, or poverty. <https://www.facebook.com/WheelsofAnanda/>



# Mental Health



*If you are experiencing mental ill-health and looking for support, please start by talking to your doctor. Your doctor may refer you to specialist support. There are also a number of organisations and projects that offer mental health support to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers*

## National Organisations



### Barnardo's: Various Helplines



Barnardo's offers several mental health and wellbeing helplines for

ethnically diverse communities. All helplines are available Monday to Friday, 10am-8pm, and Saturday, 10am-3pm.

- **Boloh Helpline:** Support for adult asylum seekers and HK British nationals. Offers advice, signposting, emotional support, and 8 free therapy sessions. Call **0800 151 2605** (languages available, with interpreters) or use webchat at <https://helpline.barnardos.org.uk/> or email [boloh.helpline@barnados.org.uk](mailto:boloh.helpline@barnados.org.uk)
- **Refugee Family Helpline:** Emotional and practical support, advice and signposting for families seeking sanctuary in the UK. Call **0808 156 8777** or email [refugeefamilyhelpline@barnados.org.uk](mailto:refugeefamilyhelpline@barnados.org.uk)
- **Hong Kong Helpline:** Referrals for therapy, counselling, youth space, peer support, family space, and webinars for HK British nationals. Call **0808 169 1671** or email [HongKong@barnados.org.uk](mailto:HongKong@barnados.org.uk) (English and Cantonese).
- **Hong Kong Online Youth Space:** For HK British nationals aged 10-13 to discuss feelings and share experiences. Visit <https://helpline.barnardos.org.uk/youth-space#:~:text=Don%E2%80%99t%20worr>
- **Ukrainian Support Helpline:** Therapy, advice, and practical support for Ukrainian refugees. Call **0800 148 8586** (English, Ukrainian, Russian) or email [ukrainiansupport@barnados.org.uk](mailto:ukrainiansupport@barnados.org.uk)





## Migrant Right's Network

is a national network offering advice and guidance on mental health, on what support is available and how to access it.

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/resources/know-your-rights/mental-health/>



## British Red Cross: Afghan Warm Welcome Service

Mental health assessment, advocacy and support for Afghans already living in England who worked to assist the British Armed

Forces between Oct 2001 – Aug 2021, as well as their families. Staff speak English, Dari and Pashto. To contact support, call 02033177979, email

[afghanservice@candi.nhs.uk](mailto:afghanservice@candi.nhs.uk) or visit <https://londonveteranservice.nhs.uk/warm-welcome-afghan-service>



## Royal College of Psychiatrists: Information Packs

Mental health information packs for patients and carers translated into 29 languages [https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/translations)

[health/translations](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/mental-health/translations)



## Child Bereavement UK: Ukrainian Packs

Child bereavement resources in Ukrainian

<https://www.childbereavementuk.org/Listing/Category/resources-in-ukrainian>



## Mental Health Foundation: Resources for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Resources for refugees and asylum seekers translated into multiple languages including Pashto, Dari, Arabic Ukrainian.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/programmes/refugees/resources>



## In Devon



### Devon Partnership NHS Trust

Offers guidance and a range of different links for anyone experiencing mental ill-health.

<https://www.dpt.nhs.uk/about/corporate-information/citizens-in-waiting>



### Talkworks

DEVON'S NHS TALKING THERAPIES SERVICE

Devon's NHS Talking Therapies Service. A free, confidential, service, part of [NHS Talking Therapies](#), for people (aged 18+) in Devon ([excluding Plymouth](#)). <https://www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk/>



### Livewell SW

Offers a specialist service for anyone living in the Plymouth area. Dedicated to supporting the health and mental health needs of asylum seekers and those who have sought refuge in the UK. <https://www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk/project/asylum-seekers-refugees-mental-health-team>



### Ubuntu Counselling Services

(see page 34) Ubuntu Counselling offers a holistic counselling service for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in Devon.



### Community Environmental Educational Therapy CIC (CEETCIC)

Offers support, for the health of people and the planet, through community, art, activity, environmental and wellbeing projects. CEETCIC believes that immersing ourselves in nature, learning how to help our planet, being part of our communities, and being active are valuable ways of developing skills, friendships, confidence, happiness, and self-esteem. Works with schools, refugees, and over 55s.

Email: [sarah@ceetcic.com](mailto:sarah@ceetcic.com)

Website: [www.ceetcic.co.uk](http://www.ceetcic.co.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CEETCIC/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/ceet\\_uk/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/ceet_uk/?img_index=1)



# Carer Support



## Devon Carers

Devon Carers is a free service by Westbank commissioned by Devon County Council and NHS Devon. If you provide unpaid support for an adult living in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) who needs help because they are ill, frail, disabled or have a mental health or addiction problem, then you can access free support in your caring role.



We treat each carer as an individual, taking time to find out what's important to them, and work out together how we can support them in their caring role. Services include a helpline, webchat, workshops, peer support groups, hospital services, carer assessments, carers passport, sitting service, website and quarterly magazine.

To find support, contact 03456 434 435, email [info@devoncarers.org.uk](mailto:info@devoncarers.org.uk) or visit [devoncarers.org.uk](http://devoncarers.org.uk). Helpline hours: Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm.



## Families in Grief

Our mission is to provide free support to bereaved families in North Devon and Torridge at the moment it is needed, tailored to meet the developing needs of young people and adults. We focus on two areas:

- Direct support for bereaved families.
- Training and education for professionals and agencies

Our work helps families achieve these key outcomes:

- Understand and manage grief
- Improve family communication and relationships following bereavement
- Reduce isolation, boosting mental wellbeing.
- Re-engage with school and community, developing skills to move forward to maximise life opportunities.

**Email:** [info@familiesingrief.org](mailto:info@familiesingrief.org)

**Phone:** 01271 447960

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/FamiliesInGrief> **Website:** <https://familiesingrief.org/>

**Address:** Families in Grief, Castle Lodge, North Walk, Barnstaple EX31 1DF



# Section 3: Public Services

## Devon County Council

### Migration and Resettlement Team (M&R)

*M&R was launched in September 2022, bringing together a wide range of skills, experience, and expertise within the council, with a focus on developing a more integrated, long-term and holistic approach to supporting refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants resident in Devon. There are several strands to our work:*



**Resettlement** oversees the local implementation of UK Government Resettlement programmes from countries including Syria and Afghanistan. We also provide support and assistance to Community Sponsorship Groups who are seeking to welcome a resettled family into their local community. [refugeeresettlement@devon.gov.uk](mailto:refugeeresettlement@devon.gov.uk)



**Community Bridging** supports families and individuals resettling in Devon. We offer assistance with health and wellbeing, understanding cultural differences, finding community resources, education, employment and parenting. We also support people without recourse to public funds. [communitybridgingteam@devon.gov.uk](mailto:communitybridgingteam@devon.gov.uk)



**Homes for Ukraine** works together with District partners to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for those leaving Ukraine and moving to the UK. This includes maintaining the Government's database for the Homes for Ukraine scheme, completing DBS checks, and assisting guests, sponsors and districts with any queries. [ukraineresettlement@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ukraineresettlement@devon.gov.uk)



**ESOL and Community Engagement** works with ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) providers from all sectors. We map and signpost classes, provide expert advice and support, offer networking and professional development opportunities for teachers, and maintain an ESOL resource hub. The other strand of our work is focused on improving information sharing and encouraging collaboration. [ESOL@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ESOL@devon.gov.uk)



**Supporting People Seeking Asylum.** M&R works as part of a wider collaboration to support adults and children living in Devon who are seeking asylum. Our focus includes safeguarding, school admissions, employment support, ESOL, wellbeing and day to day living. Further information: [angela.welch@devon.gov.uk](mailto:angela.welch@devon.gov.uk)

To find out more about Migration and Resettlement, visit our webpages at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/migration-and-resettlement/>



## Ethnically Diverse Education Achievement Service (EDEAS)



EDEAS provides advice and guidance to support schools to remove barriers and inequalities in attainment and achievement for ethnically diverse children and young people, as well as those learning English as an additional language (EAL), including providing Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) and bilingual resources. We provide bilingual support, EAL, GRTS and EDI consultancy, as well as interpreting and translation services to schools and Early years providers.

**Contact:** [educate.educationethnicallydiverseachievement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educate.educationethnicallydiverseachievement-mailbox@devon.gov.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/inclusion/ethnically-diverse-education-achievement-service/>

**Interpreter booking request:** <https://tinyurl.com/EDEASbooking>

Send translations to [educate.educationbilingualsupport-mailbox@devon.gov.uk](mailto:educate.educationbilingualsupport-mailbox@devon.gov.uk) for a free quote.

## Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Team



The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Team supports Devon County Council to be an inclusive employer and service provider and to meet its legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.

We oversee the County Council's EDI Action Plan and provide a range of policies, guidance and learning opportunities to ensure best practice. If you are unhappy about a service you receive from the Council and you think this is because of discrimination, you can contact us here:

[www.devon.gov.uk/equality/reportincidents](http://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/reportincidents). You can also contact us if you have other feedback about the County Council in relation to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

**Website:** <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/>

**Email:** [equality@devon.gov.uk](mailto:equality@devon.gov.uk)

## School Admissions



If you are resident in Devon, you can apply for a place in a mainstream, state funded primary or secondary school. For guidance on how to apply for a school place for your child and for information about where to go if you need support,

visit <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a%20school-place/> Or you can contact the My Devon helpline on 0345 155 1019 or by emailing [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)



# District Council Support for Migration and Resettlement

*Some of these teams were originally established specifically to support arriving Ukrainians but now offer support to other refugees in the area.*

## East Devon

Website: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/resettlement-projects/what-is-homes-for-ukraine-scheme/#:~:text=This%20scheme%20is%20open%20to,to%20come%20to%20the%20UK.>

Email: [homesforukrainesupport@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:homesforukrainesupport@eastdevon.gov.uk)



## Exeter City

Website: <https://exeter.gov.uk/useful-information-for-ukrainian-refugees/>

Email: [Ukraine@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:Ukraine@exeter.gov.uk)



## North Devon

Website: <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing/refugee-support>

Email: [HomesforUkraineND@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:HomesforUkraineND@northdevon.gov.uk)



## Mid-Devon

Website: <https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/ukrainian-refugees-in-mid-devon/>

Email: [refugeehelp@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:refugeehelp@middevon.gov.uk)

## Teignbridge

Website: <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/community-and-people/people/refugees/>

Email: [housingoptions@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@teignbridge.gov.uk)



## Torridge

Website: <https://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/20827/Support-For-Ukrainian-Refugees-Torridge-Council-Information-Page>

Email: [HomesForUkraine@torridge.gov.uk](mailto:HomesForUkraine@torridge.gov.uk)



## West Devon and South Hams

Website: <https://www.westdevon.gov.uk/communities/we-stand-ukraine>

Email: [supportforukraine@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:supportforukraine@swdevon.gov.uk)



## Torbay

Website: <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/housing/refugees-statement/>

Email: [RefugeeSupport@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:RefugeeSupport@torbay.gov.uk)



## Plymouth City

Website: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/inclusion-and-community-cohesion>



## Other Public Bodies



### Devon and Cornwall Police Diverse Communities Team (DCT)



The Devon and Cornwall Police Diverse Communities Team (DCT) is a small team of specialist officers and staff who focus on maintaining and developing confidence in the police, working to ensure community cohesion. It supports local officers in understanding the needs of people with protected characteristics and ensuring that we work with our diverse communities to protect the vulnerable and reduce the risk of harm.

We work to achieve the following aims:

- engagement with people with protected characteristics and from diverse backgrounds to create and maintain trust
- reduce risk to vulnerable people and promote community cohesion through our work with partner agencies
- increase awareness and reporting of hate crime
- reduce the re-victimisation of hate crime victims
- champion the Devon and Cornwall Police Equality Objectives (including reducing violence against women and girls)

We cover all of Devon and Cornwall and can be contacted for non-urgent enquiries Monday to Friday by email using the addresses below. **Please note that in an emergency, people should telephone 999/101 or contact via the Devon & Cornwall Police website instead.**

**Website:** [devon-cornwall.police.uk](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

**Contact (for non-urgent enquiries):**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Diversity Cornwall | <a href="mailto:CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk">CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk</a>         |
| Diversity Devon    | <a href="mailto:DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk">DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk</a>       |
| Diversity Plymouth | <a href="mailto:DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk">DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk</a> |

# Section 4: Forums and Networks

*There are a number of networks and forums in Devon and the South West that regularly bring together people from different organisations and communities; to share information, identify and discuss issues and explore opportunities for collaboration.*

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## Devon County Council (DCC) ESOL Network

DCC's ESOL and Engagement Team have built a network of contacts with ESOL practitioners around Devon. Participants receive regular newsletters and we also organise training workshops and networking events to allow local ESOL teachers to meet and to share ideas.

If you would like to be a part of our network and receive newsletters and invites to events, please email [ESOL@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ESOL@devon.gov.uk)



## South West ESOL Forum (SW Councils)

South West Councils hosts the South West Strategic Migration Partnership (SW SMP) which supports migrants at local, regional, and national levels. The SW SMP has a dedicated ESOL Coordinator who works to improve and increase ESOL provision and supports practitioners with training, resources, and professional development.

The SW SMP runs a well-established online ESOL Forum, a community for practitioners to network, share resources, and receive updates on policies and best practices. The forum meets several times a year and features specialist presentations from ESOL practitioners and organisations.

The South West Council also runs other regional networks including the UASC Forum, SW HKBNO Welcome Hub, the Ukraine Network and more.

For more information and to join the ESOL forum and receive ESOL specific monthly email newsletters with upcoming events, online programmes, teaching and learning resources, funded offers, and more please contact [info@swcouncils.gov.uk](mailto:info@swcouncils.gov.uk)

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## NATECLA SW Branch – coming soon



NATECLA (National Association for Teaching English and Community Languages to Adults) is one of the UK's leading experts on ESOL. In 2024, a South West branch will be launched, offering networking opportunities, access to free teaching and learning resources, invitations to free, monthly professional development workshops. Organisational and individual membership options available.

To find out more about what NATECLA offer and details of how to become a member, visit <https://www.natecla.org.uk/>



## Devon Faith and Belief Forum



Working together to promote better understanding and good relations between our communities. Devon Faith and Belief Forum brings together people from different faith and belief traditions to build a better society through promoting good relations, encouraging better understanding, and developing stronger bonds between our communities.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068326294371>

**Complete our Contact Form to get in touch:** <https://devonfaiths.org.uk/contact-dfbf/>

## Equality Reference Group



Our Equality Reference Group supports the County Council's work on equality and diversity by providing advice, feedback, ideas, and scrutiny. It symbolises the partnership of Devon County Council with the local community in its commitment to equality and includes members from various local organisations pressing for change. Equality Reference Group members from the voluntary and community sector are independent of the County Council, and Service Level Agreements are in place.

See more information on the website below or use the email address below to contact us.

**Contact:** [equality@devon.gov.uk](mailto:equality@devon.gov.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.devon.gov.uk/equality/our-commitment/equality-reference-group>



## Migrant Champions Network



The Migrant Champions Network is a network of local councillors from across the UK, and across different political parties, working together to fight for the rights of all migrants. The network aims to ensure that local communities have the resources they need to build strong connections and make the case for change. We exist to support the brilliant work being done by local councillors, Migrant Champions and others, to support migrant constituents and fight for the rights of all people who have moved to the UK, whether they moved by choice or by force. The network organises quarterly meetings, provides resources and trainings, and supports members to work with migrant constituents.

The network is non-party political, and is funded by the Oak Foundation (<https://oakfnd.org/>).

**Contact:** To find out more about the network, please don't hesitate to email us on [info@migrantchampionsnetwork.org](mailto:info@migrantchampionsnetwork.org)

**Website:** <https://migrantchampionsnetwork.org/home>

## Police Community Reference Group

The Police Community Reference Group is a forum chaired by the Commander for each of the three geographical areas across Devon. The Commander and their Senior Management Team meet with members of the diverse communities they serve, to seek feedback and views on a range of policing matters, and to understand the impact which changes in policing practices may have across different sections of the community. This forum is supported by the Diverse Communities Team and the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Team.

### Email contacts:

Diversity Cornwall: [CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CIOSDiversity@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Diversity Devon: [DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:DiversityDevon@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

Diversity Plymouth: [DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:DiversityPlymouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)



## Refugee & Asylum Seekers Network (RAN)

A local network, bringing together organisations working to support asylum seekers and refugees in the Plymouth area. **Email Jabo Butera** [jabo@dbi.org.uk](mailto:jabo@dbi.org.uk)

## South West Peninsula Inclusion and Ethnic Diversity Group for Social Workers

This is a regional networking group for local authority social workers across the South West including Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and Devon. Each authority has agreed to encourage and support attendance of social workers who are from an ethnic diversity group.

There is an opportunity to discuss and share experiences for those social workers who identify as being from an ethnic diversity group. This can include the opportunity to explore challenges and common issues which can be faced by social workers. There is also the ability to share any key messages with Local Authority representatives.

If you have any questions about the group please email [DevProf@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:DevProf@plymouth.gov.uk) who will be able to answer your question or link you to a member of the group who can.



### Torbay Multi-Cultural Network

The Torbay Multicultural Network is a group based in Torbay, bringing together and celebrating different cultures as well as tackling important topics such as discrimination. We have members from a diverse range of backgrounds who meet via zoom every 3 months. This is a safe space to spark discussion around important topics and ideas for future work.



The group also connects with organisations (for example Torbay Council, the Fire Service, the Police Service etc.) throughout Torbay and the surrounding area to raise awareness about diversity and promote inclusion. We send a monthly newsletter with useful educational resources such as anti-racism books, cultural celebration, and news of local events as well as arranging meetings to give advice about how to be as inclusive as possible.

**Email:** [torbaymulticulturalnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:torbaymulticulturalnetwork@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2914822185486872/about>



# Section 5: Cultural Calendar 2025

*This calendar identifies some of the international, national and local religious and cultural events and activities that will be taking place in 2025; opportunities for people to come together; to learn more about different cultures; to join in with cultural celebrations and/or to focus on particular culturally related issues.*

| January          |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Christmas Day</b>   | For Orthodox Christians   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | <b>World Religion Day</b>  | <a href="https://nationaltoday.com/world-religion-day/">https://nationaltoday.com/world-religion-day/</a>   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Martin Luther King Day</b>                                      | <a href="https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2025/">https://thekingcenter.org/king-holiday-2025/</a>   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Burns Night</b>   | A celebration of the life and poetry of Scottish poet Robert Burns. <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/burns-night-teaching-resources/zhxm7yc">https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/burns-night-teaching-resources/zhxm7yc</a> |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Holocaust Memorial Day – 2025</b><br>Theme: For a better future | <a href="https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/">https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/</a>   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Lunar New Year</b>  | New Year celebration in many Chinese and Buddhist communities <a href="https://chinesenewyear.net/">https://chinesenewyear.net/</a> . The Hongkongers in Exeter (page 19) will be organising celebrations in Exeter     |

| February                                    |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Whole Month                                 | <b>LGBT+ History Month</b>                                  | <a href="https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/lgbt-history-month-2025/">https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/lgbt-history-month-2025/</a>   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>          | <b>National Storytelling Week</b>                           | <a href="https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week">https://www.sfs.org.uk/national-storytelling-week</a>   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup>          | <b>Race Equality Week 2025</b><br>Theme: #EveryActionCounts | <a href="https://www.raceequalitymatters.com/race-equality-week/">https://www.raceequalitymatters.com/race-equality-week/</a>   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>                            | <b>Magha Puja</b><br>(aka “Fourfold Assembly Day”)          | <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%81gha_P%C5%ABj%C4%81">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C4%81gha_P%C5%ABj%C4%81</a><br>Celebration of the presentation of teachings by the Buddha to a spontaneous gathering of 1250 arahants (holy men). Also known as ‘Great Assembly Day’ or ‘Sangha Day’. |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                            | <b>St Valentine’s Day</b>                                   | International celebration of love.<br><a href="https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2">https://www.history.com/topics/valentines-day/history-of-valentines-day-2</a> .   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb or 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar | <b>Ramadan</b> – probable start date for 2025               | Fasting month. Observance of Ramadan is one of the 5 pillars of Islam <a href="https://ing.org/resources/for-all-groups/calendar-of-important-islamic-dates/ramadan-information-sheet/">https://ing.org/resources/for-all-groups/calendar-of-important-islamic-dates/ramadan-information-sheet/</a>     |

| March           |                              |   |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|
| Whole Month     | <b>Women’s History Month</b> | <a href="https://womenforwomen.org.uk/womens-history-month-calendar">https://womenforwomen.org.uk/womens-history-month-calendar</a>   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <b>St David’s Day</b>        | National day for Wales<br><a href="https://www.visitwales.com/info/history-heritage-and-traditions/have-happy-st-davids-day-celebration">https://www.visitwales.com/info/history-heritage-and-traditions/have-happy-st-davids-day-celebration</a> |

|                                     |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>Shrove Tuesday (“Pancake Day” aka “Mardi Gras”).</b>        | <a href="https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day/">https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pancake-Day/</a>   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>World Book Day</b>  | <a href="https://www.worldbookday.com/">https://www.worldbookday.com/</a> . Schools often ask children to prepare a report on their favourite book.   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>International Women’s Day<br/>Theme: #Accelerate Action</b> | <a href="https://www.internationalwomensday.com/">https://www.internationalwomensday.com/</a>   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>Holi</b>  | Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colours, Love and Spring <a href="https://www.britannica.com/story/holi-festival-of-colors">https://www.britannica.com/story/holi-festival-of-colors</a>   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>St Patrick’s Day</b>  | A celebration of Irish culture <a href="https://www.ireland.com/en-gb/things-to-do/themes/culture/st-patricks-day/">https://www.ireland.com/en-gb/things-to-do/themes/culture/st-patricks-day/</a>  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>                    | <b>Kurdish Newroz</b>  | New Year – celebration of Spring for Kurdish communities <a href="https://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-culture/kurdish-newroz/">https://thekurdishproject.org/history-and-culture/kurdish-culture/kurdish-newroz/</a> The Kurdish Community (see page 21) will be organising a celebration in Exeter |
| 30 <sup>th</sup>                    | <b>Mothering Sunday (“Mother’s Day”)</b>                       | <a href="https://www.arenaflowers.com/blogs/news/the-history-of-mother-s-day/">https://www.arenaflowers.com/blogs/news/the-history-of-mother-s-day/</a>   |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> / 31 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Eid-ul Fitr</b>   | Islamic festival to mark the end of Ramadan <a href="https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/giving/islamic-giving/ramadan/eid-al-fitr/">https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/giving/islamic-giving/ramadan/eid-al-fitr/</a>   |

| April                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                      | <b>April Fool’s Day</b>                | <a href="https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/magazine-zone/april-fools-day">https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/general-english/magazine-zone/april-fools-day</a>  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Passover</b>                        | A major Jewish festival that celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. <a href="https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover/passover-history">https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/passover/passover-history</a>  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>Vaisakhi</b>                        | Festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community, the <b>Khalsa</b> , in 1699. It was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab until it became Sikhism's most important festival. <a href="https://www.sikhnet.com/news/vaisakhi-biggest-sikh-celebration">https://www.sikhnet.com/news/vaisakhi-biggest-sikh-celebration</a> |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>  | <b>Easter Sunday<br/>Easter Monday</b> | Easter, a Christian festival commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead<br>Easter Monday, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> day of Easter, known as Bright Monday in the Eastern Orthodox Church  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>                     | <b>Stephen Lawrence Day</b>            | National <a href="https://stephenlawrenceday.org/">https://stephenlawrenceday.org/</a> was inaugurated in 2019 to celebrate the short life and legacy of Stephen Lawrence, who was killed in a racist attack at just 18 years old.   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>                     | <b>St George’s Day</b>                 | National day for England. A truly multicultural saint, St George is the patron saint of England, Georgia, Venice, Genoa, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia  |

| May                                  |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Whole month                          | <b>Local and Community History month</b>      | Trips, library exhibitions and local lectures<br><a href="https://www.history.org.uk/historian/resource/1567/local-and-community-history-month">https://www.history.org.uk/historian/resource/1567/local-and-community-history-month</a>                                    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>                      | <b>Beltane (May Day)</b>                      | The Gaelic May Day festival, marking the start of Summer  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>                      | <b>Europe Day</b>                             | Europe Day is a day to celebrate peace and unity throughout Europe. <a href="https://www.celebrateeuropeday.net/">https://www.celebrateeuropeday.net/</a>   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>Wesak Buddha's birthday</b>                | <a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/Wesak">https://www.britannica.com/topic/Wesak</a>   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Mental Health Awareness Week</b>           | A week during which events are held to highlight issues around mental health. <a href="https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week">https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/public-engagement/mental-health-awareness-week</a> |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>Late Spring Bank Holiday (Whit Monday)</b> | The Whitsun weekend was traditionally a time for fairs, Morris dancing and parades with brass bands   |

| June                                 |   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Eid al-Adha</b>  | One of the holiest days in Islam, Eid al-Adha commemorates Ibrahim's (Abraham's) willingness to sacrifice his son for God, marked by prayers, charity, and community gatherings <a href="https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/giving/islamic-giving/qurbani/eid-al-adha/">https://www.islamic-relief.org.uk/giving/islamic-giving/qurbani/eid-al-adha/</a> |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup>  | <b>Exeter Respect Festival 2025: All Different, All Equal</b> | The largest celebration of diversity in the South West. Now in its 28 <sup>th</sup> year. <a href="https://www.exeter-respect.org/">https://www.exeter-respect.org/</a>   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> | <b>Refugee Week 2025: Community as a Superpower</b>           | <a href="#">Theme of Refugee Week 2025: Community as a Superpower – Refugee Week</a>  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>                     | <b>Summer Solstice</b>  | Midsummer, the longest day of the year and a pagan festival <a href="https://stonehengefestivals.co.uk/">https://stonehengefestivals.co.uk/</a>   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup>                     | <b>Windrush Day</b>   | A day to honour the contributions of migrants to life in the UK.. Specifically, it celebrates Afro-Caribbeans who began arriving on the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> or 26 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Islamic New Year</b>                                       | The start of the New Year 1446 in the Islamic calendar  |

| July             |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>South Asian Heritage Month</b>         | The start of a month-long celebration of South Asian heritage and culture <a href="https://southasianheritage.org.uk/">https://southasianheritage.org.uk/</a>  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | <b>Birthday of Emperor Haile Selassie</b> | Rastafarian celebration of the birthday of Hailie Selassie <a href="https://ethiopiancrown.org/biography-emperor-haile-selassie-i/">https://ethiopiancrown.org/biography-emperor-haile-selassie-i/</a> |

| August  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 13 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>                  | <b>Obon</b>   | Obon (also known as Bon festival) is an important Zen Buddhist festival in Japan – a commemoration of ancestors<br><a href="https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=48">https://www.japansociety.org.uk/resource?resource=48</a>  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>                                      | <b>International day for the remembrance of the slave trade</b> | <a href="https://www.unesco.org/en/days/slave-trade-remembrance">https://www.unesco.org/en/days/slave-trade-remembrance</a>   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> (dates may vary) | <b>Paryushan</b>  | The most important holy festival for Jains – an 8 day festival focusing on new beginnings <a href="https://oshwal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Insights%20Into%20Paryushan%20-%20By%20Kishor%20B%20Shah.pdf">https://oshwal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Insights%20Into%20Paryushan%20-%20By%20Kishor%20B%20Shah.pdf</a> |

| September                            |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>National Inclusion Week (Inclusive Employers)</b> | <a href="https://www.inclusiveemployers.co.uk/national-inclusion-week/">https://www.inclusiveemployers.co.uk/national-inclusion-week/</a> dedicated to celebrating inclusion and taking action to create inclusive workplaces |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>European Day of Languages</b>                     | Council of Europe initiative to celebrate language and cultural diversity. Click here for ideas to celebrate the day:<br><a href="https://edl.ecml.at/">https://edl.ecml.at/</a>  |

| October          |                                   |  |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Whole month      | <b>Black History Month</b>        | Annual awareness campaign to highlight African and Caribbean history and heritage, and the UK's diverse cultural heritage. A range of events to entertain and educate. <a href="https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/">https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/</a> |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | <b>National Poetry Day</b>        | <a href="https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/about-npd/">https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/about-npd/</a> – schools often ask children to prepare poems for lessons.   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | <b>World Mental Health Day</b>    | Aims to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health.<br><a href="https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day">https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-mental-health-day</a>               |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | <b>International Pronouns Day</b> | <a href="https://pronouns.org/day">https://pronouns.org/day</a>  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Diwali</b>                     | The Hindu festival of lights   |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Halloween</b>                  | A festival with diverse origins (including Pagan and Christian traditions) that has become an important cultural festival in UK and USA  |

| November        |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Whole month     | <b>Islamophobia Awareness Month</b>           | Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) is a campaign founded in 2012 by a group of Muslim organisations. It aims to showcase the positive contributions of Muslims as well as raise awareness of Islamophobia in society. <a href="https://www.islamophobia-awareness.org/">https://www.islamophobia-awareness.org/</a> |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Guy Fawkes Night (aka "Bonfire Night")</b> | <a href="https://www.britannica.com/topic/Guy-Fawkes-Day">https://www.britannica.com/topic/Guy-Fawkes-Day</a>   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>                     | A day to remember people killed or wounded in war. People often observe 2 minutes' silence starting at 11am. <a href="https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-">https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-</a>  |

|                                      |                           |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
|                                      |                           | <a href="#">involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/remembrance-sunday</a>   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> | <b>Anti-bullying Week</b> | A nationwide initiative that highlights the issue of bullying and encourages individuals to take action against it. It emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of respect and support, where bullying is not tolerated, and every person is valued. <a href="https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/">https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/</a> |
| 30 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>St Andrews Day</b>     | A day of celebration in Scotland. The thistle flower is associated with this day.  |

## December

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 18 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>International Migrants' Day</b> | <a href="https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day">https://www.un.org/en/observances/migrants-day</a> An annual opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of migrants to societies around the world. |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> | <b>Hanukkah</b>                    | <a href="https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/when-is-hanukkah-in-2023-2024-2025-2026-and-2027/">https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/when-is-hanukkah-in-2023-2024-2025-2026-and-2027/</a>                  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup>                     | <b>Christmas Day</b>               | Christian festival celebrating the birth of Jesus and a secular family holiday celebrated by both Christians and non-Christians  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup>                     | <b>New Year's Eve/Hogmanay</b>     | A worldwide festival to mark the arrival of a New Year   |