

Scottish Refugee Council Press Release



15th June 2006

Different pasts, shared future : Launch of Refugee Week Scotland 2006 Monday 19th June, 18:00 – 20:00, The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow G1 3NU

Scotland's annual celebration of refugee contributions to the arts, culture, music and theatre. gets underway this evening. This year Refugee Week in Scotland features more than 70 events, ranging from film and drama, to rap music and storytelling. Tonight's launch includes previews of some of the treats in store, including:

- An international dance display from Maryhill Integration International Dance Group.
- Clips from the short film Primary which sees Scottish primary school pupils talking about what they like about their asylum-seeker friends, and from One Scotland advertisements featuring Albanian refugee Prendush Lleshi.
- Traditional and contemporary music from Royston Community Choir.

Scottish Refugee Council Chief Executive, Sally Daghlian said:

"This year's programme contains something for everyone, but Refugee Week is not just a showcase for the cultural riches that refugees bring to Scotland. It is a chance for people who would never meet a refugee to listen, look, ask questions, and find out more about why people come here seeking asylum. The programme also contains over 21 community events in which refugees and their Scottish neighbours are working together. Helping to create a piece of community art, perform a play, or write a piece of music helps break down barriers and turns neighbours into friends. It's a fantastic way to build communities. This is integration in action".

Minister for Communities, Malcolm Chisholm added:

"Refugee Week is an important opportunity to remember and highlight the contribution refugees make to Scotland's communities. Scottish Refugee Council's varied programme of events will be thought-provoking and inspiring, providing lots of opportunities for everyone to learn more about the lives of refugees and their experiences."

Full details of all events are available on the Refugee Week Scotland website at www.refugeeweek.org.uk.

For further information please contact

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Ends

1. Refugee Week Launch Schedule

18:15 Welcome : Sally Daghlian CEO Scottish Refugee Council

18:22 Film Clip 1 - Prendush Lleshi One Scotland Advert

18:25 Almir Koldzic, UK Coordinator for Refugee Week, talks about Refugee Week at UK level and Scotland's contribution

18:31 Film Clip 2 – Primary Clip

18:34 Neil Packham, Citizen's Theatre, Glasgow talks about the Citizen's involvement with refugee groups and the launch of their young company during refugee Week.

18:40 Maryhill Integration Network – Women's Dance group – integrated dance display, coordinated by Remija Sherifi

18:48 Royston Community Choir – Traditional and contemporary choir songs from this community choir run by Royston Stress Centres Ann Carolan

19:00 Buffet & Refreshments

2. We would like to thank the following bodies for their support, without which Refugee Week Scotland would not be possible

Scottish Executive's One Scotland Campaign
Glasgow Anti Racist Alliance (GARA)
Home Office