



North East Regional Gathering Review Report



This project is part funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.

Section 1 Event Details



Event Title	North East Regional Gathering
Event organised by	Regional Integration coordinator for North East
Event Venue	St. Peters Free Church, 4 St. Peter Street, Dundee
Event Date	Saturday 1st February 2020
Event Start – End times	10.00 – 3.30pm



Section 2 Event Agenda Regional Gathering in Dundee, 1st of February 2020

AGENDA		
Time	Area	Task
11.00 – 11.30 30 mins	Registrations and welcoming	Entrance and Main Hall
11.30 – 11.40 10 mins	Welcome and Opening performance	Main Hall
11.40 – 11.50 10 mins	Story from the East	Main Hall
11.50 – 12.00 10 mins	Speakers / Scottish Refugee Council	Main Hall
12.00 – 12.45 45 mins	Mapping of Al Zaatari Camp / conversation	Downstairs Hall 1
12.45 – 2.00 1hr 15 mins	Food and socialize	Main Hall, Downstairs Hall 1 and kitchen
2.00 – 3.00 1 hour	Arabic Music History and performance	Downstairs Hall 1
2.00 – 3.00 1 hour	Services chat / exchanging experiences	Main Hall
3.00 – 3.30 30 mins	Dance and finale performance / Closing	Main Hall

KIDS		
Time	Area	Task
11.30 – 1.30 2 hours	Parklives Dundee programme Family activity/sports	Outside Courtyard
11.30 – 3.00 3hr 30 mins	Mask making and accessorising	Upstairs Hall 2
11.30 – 3.00 3hr 30 mins	How it feels kids workshop/Puppet Making /Jewellery Making	Upstairs Hall 2

Section 2

Event Agenda continued

NEW SCOTS CONVERSATIONS		
Time	Area	Task
12.00 – 12.45 45 mins	Collecting questions about services from Refugees and Asylum seekers	Main Hall
Lunch Time	Answering the questions / Finalising the conversation	Main Hall
2.00 – 3.00 1 hour	Open Conversations about New Scots Strategy Themes	Main Hall

EXHIBITION		
Time	Area	Task
11.00 – 3.30 4hrs 30 mins	Humans of Syria, Young Lens and Antonio Olmos Photography Exhibition	Main Hall

STALLS	
Dundee International Women Centre	Main Hall
Amina Muslim Women Centre	Main Hall
With Refugee Broughty Ferry	Main Hall
One World Centre / Aberdeen for a Fairer World	Main Hall
Citizen Advice Bureau / Perth	Main Hall
ParkLives Dundee / Leisure and Culture Dundee	Main Hall

Section 3

Attendees

Total number of attendees

The registration sheet indicates that around 300 people attended the event. This did not count everyone attended during the event as there were extra helpers and entertainers during the day. The actual number was around 320.

Organisations attending in an official capacity

- Action for Children (Community/children and young people)
- Perth Citizen Advice Bureau (Charity)
- Dundee International Women Centre (Education, Employment and Community)
- Scottish Refugee Council (Staff and Volunteers)
- Grampian Regional Equality Council/GREC (Community)
- Amina Muslim Resource Centre (Education, Employment and Community)
- Leisure and Culture Dundee/Parlives Programme (Community, Charity)
- Yvonne Stewart – Children’s Activities /Artist (Homes and mask making)
- How it Felt Activities (Arts and Crafts)
- With Refugee Broughty Ferry (Charity)
- Dundee City Council (Local Authority)
- Perth and Kinross Council (Local Authority)
- Aberdeenshire Council (Local Authority)
- Aberdeen City Council (Local Authority)
- Angus Council (Local Authorities)
- University of Dundee of Scotland (University)
- University of Aberdeen (University)
- University of St. Andrews (University)
- Al Amal group (Refugee Led Group)
- Friends of Amal (Volunteers)
- Al Salam Project Aberdeen (Refugee Led Group)
- Pitlochery Festival Theatre

(Community and Charity)

- Scottish Faiths Action for Refugee (Religious)
- Dundee Central Mosque (Religious)
- Children at War, Humans of Syria, Young Lens and Antonio Olmos (Art and Photography)

‘Groups’ contributing to the event

– e.g. musicians, entertainers, caterers etc.

- Aberdeenshire Council (Transportation and registration)
- Perth and Kinross Council (Transportation and registration)
- Angus Council (Transportation and registration)
- Perth Citizen Advice Bureau/Informational Stall (Charity)
- Dundee International Women Centre/Informational Stall (Education, Employment and Community)
- Scottish Refugee Council (Staff and Volunteers)
- Amina Muslim Resource Centre/Informational Stall (Education, Employment and Community)
- Leisure and Culture Dundee/Parlives Programme/ Family Activity (Community, Charity)
- Children’s Activities/ Artist (Homes and mask making)
- How it Felt Activities Puppet making (Arts and Crafts)
- With Refugee Broughty Ferry /Informational Stall (Charity)
- University of Dundee of Scotland (University)
- Dundee Central Mosque/Taught by Mohammed / Sizzler Food Catering (Religious)
- Tesco/Dundee Riverside Branch (Food Catering)
- Vegware (Food Catering)
- Syrian musician
- Refugee Led Band from Dundee (Music)
- Children at War, Humans of Syria and Young Lens (Art and Photography)

Section 3

Attendees continued

The local member of Parliament was also due to attend and speak at this event but he was unable to participate and sent his apologies in advance.

One World Centre and Aberdeen for a Fairer World were also meant to be in the Gathering, They also had a stall booked for information about education at school but for unseen circumstances, the two organisations were unable to attend and sent apologies.

Refugee groups and Asylum Seekers in attendance by geographic area

Refugee Groups were in attendance from the following areas:

- Aberdeenshire
- Aberdeen
- Dundee
- Angus
- Perth and Kinross

Refugees from Fife and Clackmannanshire were invited to the Gathering but the groups supporting them were unable to organise a trip at that time to Dundee. Scottish Refugee Council will try to invite those groups to the next planned National Gathering.



Section 4

Event Reporting

The New Scots Regional Gathering in Dundee was an open invitation from Scottish Refugee Council to refugees, asylum seekers, community groups and residents of the North East of Scotland to gather, chat and collaborate together towards “Building Bridges, Not Walls” in Scotland.

Integration is a two-way process in which New Scots and communities learn and adapt to each other to build a shared future. Focusing on this, the Regional Gathering in Dundee was an initiative to celebrate and present some of the cultural aspects from where the refugees come from; as well as learning about what the New Scots Integration Strategy is and the progress it is making to address integration throughout Scotland.

This family-friendly regional Gathering was held on Saturday the 1st of February at the St. Peters Free Church, 4 St. Peters Street, Dundee.

The event was an opportunity for refugees living in Dundee, Angus, Perth and Kinross, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen to come together and engage with the New Scots Integration Strategy. The stalls in the event were directly linked to different themes within the New Scots Strategy:

- Health and Well-being
Parklives and Leisure and Culture Dundee / Kids and family activity.
- Education
One World Centre and Montgomery Dec.
- Community and Equality support
Dundee International Women Centre, Amina and with Refugee Broughty Ferry.
- Rights and entitlements
Perth Citizen Advice Bureau.

In addition to the stalls, we planned to collect requests, questions and problems faced by the New Scots and try to answer or signpost them where appropriate with an open Question and Answer session which was planned in the Gathering for the afternoon with the help of all the practitioners with expertise who attended the event.

The event was also a fun-filled family day with performances, music, exhibitions, food and dance. It was planned with the intended outcome being that Social Connections (improving social bridges, links and bonds) amongst refugees would be improved and more cultural awareness would be raised within the local community about where the refugees and asylum seekers come from.

“People spent more than three hours on their one-way journey to come to the Gathering. It shows the motivation New Scots have to meet new people from different areas and learn more about communities in Scotland.”

Section 5

Key messages/outcomes

Key Conclusions

- The Gathering was a great opportunity for refugees and asylum seekers from different areas to meet and socialise. Many New Scots were really keen to attend and that is reflected by the turnout on the day which till the last minute was not expected. People spent more than three hours on their one-way journey to come to the Gathering which was hugely appreciated. It shows the motivation New Scots have to meet new people from different areas and learn more about communities in Scotland. Social bridges, links and connections were all enhanced by the great number attending the event.
- The Refugee Resettlement Coordinator from Aberdeenshire Council, was a great help in registering the families from her area, planning the transportation for all 130 New Scots to come to Dundee and also financially supporting the transportation which is reflected in the budget. She also joined for the Gathering and was a great inspiration for everyone attending.
- The Humanitarian Protection Coordinator from Dundee City Council was also a great help. We met for consultation at the start of the planning stage and she helped a lot in shaping and supporting the Regional Gathering in Dundee. She also came for a short time to the Gathering because of previous plans.
- Two groups of unaccompanied asylum seeker children attended the Gathering. They were really keen to come and meet new people. According to their support workers, they were feeling isolated and the event was a great opportunity for them to come, socialise, meet new people and gain more knowledge about local communities. After the event, the support workers were in contact to say the groups had a great day and asking for more events that the groups can attend.
- A Social Worker for unaccompanied asylum seeker children from Perth and Kinross Council was really helpful. She registered the group of 9, arranged for their transportation and accompanied them to the Gathering.
- A social care officer from Angus Council, also helped with registering and bringing the two unaccompanied asylum seeker Children from Angus to the Regional Gathering.

- The majority of those attending agreed the importance of these Gatherings for New Scots as well as for local communities. It was good to show different cultural aspects and experiences. It was also a great opportunity for New Scots to practice their traditions, music and dances in such a relaxing, friendly but cheerful environment. Everyone was really happy, relaxed and felt a sense of belonging at the end of the day. They also stressed the importance of such events and what it can bring to the local communities. This is reflected in all the positive feedback received after the event and by the fact that many families from different areas exchanged numbers and planned for future visits and connections.
- Many refugees attending the Gathering had one shared concern. This is Family Reunion. The majority of the families have a close relative that lives abroad, and they are concerned about. This is reflected by the amount of questions being asked during the Gathering and other events I attended as a Regional Integration Coordinator about this matter and the ability to bring someone to Scotland through this route. What is really not helping is the mixed messages that the refugees receive from others regarding this subject which puts more pressure on different Local Authorities in trying to support their families. More awareness and support would be beneficial in this matter.

Recommended Actions

- Continue our strong relationships and friendships with different Local Authorities in the North East and North West of Scotland as many are very keen to support New Scots in their integration.
- Follow up with Local Authorities and organisations who supported and were involved in the planning and delivering the NE Gathering to identify common issues faced by New Scots and ways to support them in their integration.
- Consider arts and performances as an effective means of improving integration for New Scots and strengthening local communities.
- Support refugees from different areas and improve their integration by building stronger connections with Local Authorities, organisations and groups supporting them, understand the difficulties they face in different communities and try to address and solve them where possible.

Section 6

Event Evaluation

Lessons Learned

- With a big turn out during the day, we were unable to do the question and answer session planned for the afternoon. Even though some of volunteers were able to collect questions from the New Scots regarding different issues, the crowds' wishes to move the Arabic music workshop to the main hall for everyone to enjoy meant we had to cancel the Q&A session and move the music to the main hall. As everyone was happy and engaged, the music and dancing session was extended and lasted till the end of the Gathering.
- With similar open events, more people turn up than register for the event online. In the NE Gathering, all of them came, which was a joy but it became a bit busy. The good thing is that we had booked a building with lots of different halls and spaces which really helped in accommodating those numbers.
- There were some issues around the food being suitable for all attendees.
- Volunteers and more volunteers to help during the day.

Positives

- The Gathering went really well. Even though it did not go exactly as planned, everyone enjoyed and benefited from the day and that is reflected by the positive feedback received after the event.
- Refugees from different areas within the North East of Scotland and Perth and Kinross were able to link up and learn more about different areas and receive advice regarding issues concerning them such as: Housing, Education, Employment and Communities. Social Links were improved by meeting different representatives from different institutions and organisations.

- New Scots from NE and NW of Scotland had the chance to meet many new friends and mix with people who had the same background and experiences as them but from different localities. Many exchanged numbers and promised future visits after the Gathering. That helped in improving the Social Bonds in the North of Scotland between New Scots.
- A more cultural understanding about where the refugees come from was achieved during the Gathering which was one of the aims. One way in which this was achieved was the way New Scots attended, engaged and even helped present some important aspects of their culture. This has also been enhanced by the two planned workshops during the event.

“The majority of those attending agreed the importance of these Gatherings for New Scots as well as for local communities. It was good to show different cultural aspects and experiences.”

Section 7 Attendee Evaluation

General Feedback

“I thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Congratulations for you and your team for its success.”

“What a wonderful day yesterday. Thanks to all who organised it and helped out on the day. I spent most of the time with a great big smile on my face! Looking forward to the next one!”

“I’m super proud and chuffed for you. You did a great job and the event seemed to be a success and I think everyone had a good time there. It was really good to work with the young people and also we did get to do some drama in the end with a couple of groups which was a positive and even make a bridge picture together.

“Thank you so much for the great day”

“One of the best event I attended. It was great meeting new people from outside Dundee. Kids loved the puppet making and had a great day”

“Learned about New Scots Connect”

“Enjoyed the day, music, food and meeting all new people”

“Enjoyed making puppets”

“That we are great together”

Social Media Posts

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2714395878649439&id=699679630121084

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2700611236694570&id=699679630121084

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B8CD-OnnkHB/?igshid=1jkfji9e3flcp>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=597884594123216&id=141123899799290

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10156539576665194&id=173717780193

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=594946087740159&id=210445889523516

“Many refugees attending the Gathering had one shared concern. This is Family Reunion.”

Section 8 Actual Expenditure

Final gathering spend

	Estimated cost
Food and Catering	£700.00
Kids Activity	Four hours rate £100 Puppets cost £200
Kids activity	Four hours Rate £80.00
Sound System hire	£120.00
Catering	£48.00
Aberdeen Coach	£460.00
Venue Hire	£460.00
Catering	£7.17
Cups/sticky taps/bin bags/paper plates	£8.49 + £6.90
Art and Craft	£5.99 + £29.87+ £40.74
Food Containers	£26.40
Transportation on the day	£30.00
Catering	£7.15
TOTAL	£2,330.71



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SCOTTISH FAITHS
ACTION FOR REFUGEES

Scottish Refugee photography by: Scott Preston