



## **The Great Get Together – a great opportunity**

It will soon be a year since the murder of Jo Cox MP. Jo lived her life according to the belief that we have more in common than divides us, and was a great campaigner on refugee and migrant causes.

To honour her memory, Jo's friends and family, as well as thousands of organisations around the country, are coming to together for a weekend of community celebrations on 17 and 18 June 2017 for the biggest display of national unity since the Jubilee parties.

The weekend falls on the eve of Refugee Week (19 to 25 June), and The Great Get Together and Refugee Week are working in close partnership. So too is the City of Sanctuary network, and a wide range of other migrant and refugee organisations.

We would like you to be involved too, in whatever way you can, and to help you to take part.

We will be sharing how below, but first here are some **frequently asked questions** about The Great Get Together.

### ***Why should refugee and migrant groups get involved in The Great Get Together?***

At the heart of events on 17 and 18 June is the message, dear to Jo Cox's heart and we hope to yours too, that we have more in common than divides us and that we should be projecting that message loudly.

That goes for all groups in Britain, and very much includes refugees and migrants. Maybe you sometimes feel that newcomers and minorities get a bit left out of big national celebrations? Not this time.

We want refugees and migrants to be at the heart of The Great Get Together and for the events to promote a message of welcome and inclusiveness.

### ***How should we describe The Great Get Together?***

It's a weekend for people from all communities to get together to celebrate what we have in common in honour of Jo Cox. A Get Together can happen anywhere with anyone, for however long you fancy.

It could be big or small -- a street party, sharing food with friends and neighbours, or a celebration of community culture -- what matters is that we have fun and bring communities closer.

### ***What should a Get Together look like?***

It can look however you want. Our campaign branding is a gingham tablecloth (see above), so we'd love you to get creative with gingham decorations. But we are happy for Get Together events to also use other symbols, such as the Refugee Week logo, and your own logo.

## ***Will there be a website showing all the get togethers across the country?***

Closer to the 17 and 18 June, we are planning to show a map of all public events on the website, [www.greatgettogether.org](http://www.greatgettogether.org). You will also hear about events if you follow The Great Get Together on Twitter - @great\_together - and Facebook.

## ***Are you encouraging us to sign up to the website, and what happens if we do?***

Yes, we you want to sign up, if you are interested. If you do, you'll be sent occasional tips, ideas and reminders by email. You will NOT be asked for donations by email.

## ***Can we fundraise?***

The Great Get Together is about bringing people together rather than fundraising, and we will not ask you or your supporters for money. However, we know people getting involved may want to fundraise for a wide range of local good causes, including their own, which is fine.

We are happy for your organisation to use The Great Get Together to support your calendar of activities, be that fundraising events, recruitment drives, awareness raising in your local community, etc.

## ***Is the Great Get Together party political or about Brexit?***

Not at all! The idea for The Great Get Together is about bringing communities together to celebrate what we have in common.

So it has cross party backing and is supported by some of the most prominent remain and Brexit campaigners, but it is completely outside of party politics and the Brexit debate.

## ***Do we know that the Great Get Together falls during Ramadan and so Muslims will be fasting during daylight hours?***

Yes, and that is why we are working closely with Muslim friends – such as the Big Iftar - on ideas for how Get Together events can be organised which respect Ramadan and allow Muslims and others to celebrate together.

We hope we've answered the main questions about The Great Get Together. Here's how you and your organisation or group can get involved!

### **(1) Host a Get Together**

Could you host a Get Together on the weekend of 17-18 June, and be part of a national celebration of what we have in common?

You might already have plans or be thinking about doing an event for Refugee Week. In which case, we urge you to think about holding that event on the 17 or 18 June as a joint Refugee Week and Great Get Together event, in recognition of the close partnership between the two initiatives.

Events can be big or small – a street party, sharing food with friends and neighbours, or a celebration of community culture. Joining up with people in your area who you might not normally get together with is very much in the spirit of the weekend.

We need your creativity and would love your get together to be a reflection of what makes your organisation great!

Email us at [hello@greatgettogether.org](mailto:hello@greatgettogether.org) to let us know if you have ideas for the kinds of events you would like to plan.

## **(2) Co-branded materials**

If you are organising an event, we will be able to provide you with materials free of charge which you can use. We'll be producing The Great Get Together branded posters and leaflets that you can customise with your logo and print or use digitally as you wish.

Email us at [hello@greatgettogether.org](mailto:hello@greatgettogether.org) if you would like materials such as customisable posters and leaflets.

You can use these materials alongside the free Refugee Week posters and postcards and downloadable materials.

## **(3) Link up with groups in your area who are hosting Get Togethers**

If you are smaller organisation or group, it may be that organising a Get Together yourself is too big a task. But don't be put off.

If you would like to be part of the Great Get Together there might be events in your area, organised by others, where you would be very welcome.

We very much want refugees, migrants and their supporters to be a big part of the Great Get Together.

We can help to link you up to groups and events in your area, so please do get in touch.

## **(4) Shout about your involvement**

We'd love to hear - and for the world to know - about your organisation's plans to get involved with The Great Get Together. Let us know what you're planning and we can work together on a communications plan, to make sure we all come together to make a huge splash this June!

Email us at [hello@greatgettogether.org](mailto:hello@greatgettogether.org) and obviously tweet and Facebook about your plans using the hashtag #greatgettogether

## **(5) Spread the word about Great Get Together**

We want everyone, no matter who they are or where they are, to take part in The Great Get Together. So however you as a group get involved, we would also like you to spread the word among all the people you know.

Could you send a dedicated email to your network of contacts encouraging them to save the date, and to get planning a local get together? We suggest sending out an email as soon as possible, and following up in early May.

*See below for some example email copy that can be adapted and shared.*

### **Example Email**

Your organisation or group will have your own reasons for supporting The Great Get Together and know best how to speak to people you know. This text is only here as an example, feel free to take from it what's useful, but please do help us spread the word!

## **Suggested Text**

Do you believe we have more in common as people wherever we were born, whatever our ethnicity and whatever our immigration status? Are you fed up of focusing on what divides us? Help us do something amazing to bring our country together!

We are one of the refugee and migrant groups helping to organise The Great Get Together -- a huge weekend of community celebrations planned for 17 and 18 June in honour of Jo Cox. We want this to be the biggest moment of national unity since the Jubilee parties, so we need you to join us and take part.

**Will you pledge to do something -- big or small -- with your neighbours on the weekend of 17 and 18 June?**

**Yes, I want to be part of the Great Get Together**

**Maybe, tell me more**

The weekend marks the one year anniversary of the murder of Jo Cox MP, who inspired us all when she said that we have more in common than divides us.