



Refugee Week 2018

Engaging local media

Example pitch and press release

NEWS: Syrian refugees fundraising for Coventry's homeless

Hi XXXXX,

I thought you might be interested in news about Syrian refugees living in Coventry, that are raising money for the city's homeless to say thank you to the city for welcoming them.

Working with Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, the group have organised a fundraising dinner on Saturday 3rd December. The Mayor and Bishop of Coventry will be in attendance and all funds will be used to support the homeless in the city.

Attached below is a press release with further detail.

If you require any further information or interviews, please do let me know.

Kind regards,

Niall

MORE...../////

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SYRIAN REFUGEES SAY 'THANK YOU' TO PEOPLE OF COVENTRY

FUNDRAISING DINNER WILL RAISE MONEY FOR CITY'S HOMELESS

Syrian refugees relocated to the city will host a fundraising dinner to raise money for Coventry's homeless. The dinner will bring together newly resettled Syrians and Coventrians. It takes place on Saturday 3 December at 6pm at St Peter's Centre in Hillfields.



Working with the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre (CRMC), the refugees and charity have jointly organised the dinner as a thank you to the city for welcoming the Syrians in starting a new life.

Adnan Khalil Omar came to Coventry from Syria in 2015. He now lives with his wife and daughter in Wood End and will be the chef at the event. He said: “We are thankful to the city of Coventry and its people for the support we have received since arriving.

“Hopefully this event will provide an opportunity for Syrians like me to give something back to the community, by raising funds for those in the city that really need it.”

The main event will be a specially drawn up Syrian menu freshly prepared, alongside a raffle and other competitions. Local dignitaries and businesses will attend and funds raised will go to the CRMC’s Destitution Fund. The destitution fund supports the homeless and those with no recourse to public funds in the city.

Sroosh Kouhyar, Social Integration Officer at CRMC and an organiser of the dinner said: “Our charity supports Syrian refugees to resettle in Coventry, and this dinner shows that the people we work with are keen to give something back to the city.

“Hopefully it’ll help with social integration, by meeting and engaging with members of the community in the city that welcomed and provided them sanctuary.

“It will be an exciting evening with great food and plenty of fun. I’m sure everyone will enjoy it!”

Sabir Zazai, Director at CRMC and Peter Barnett, Head of Service at Coventry City Council will also give a speech about the fundraising dinner and Syrian Integration Project. The project is a council led scheme that CRMC are a partner of by supporting Syrian families with community engagement, employment and social integration.

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Note to editors

Media contact

Niall Mann



Email: XXXXXXXXX

Phone: XXXXXXXXX

Mobile: XXXXXXXX

About Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre

Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre welcomes all refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to help them rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential.

From humble beginnings set up in the back of a laundrette, we have grown exponentially during the past two decades and now support over 3,500 people a year, including unaccompanied children, destitute families and the homeless.

Thanks to the kindness and dedication of over 80 volunteers and 30 members of staff, we provide a range of frontline and partner services to address the challenges our clients face on a daily basis.

These support our clients with their integration into the city's local communities, while also encouraging them to contribute fully to the life of Coventry; all within a safe and dignified environment.