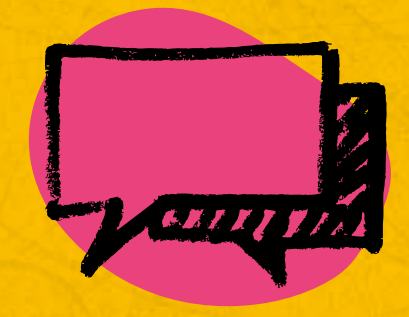


# REFUGEE FESTIVAL SCOTLAND 2022



## Overview & Selected Highlights

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This report is not intended to be an exhaustive evaluation of Refugee Festival Scotland. Only a small number of events are highlighted as examples to give a sense of the variety and range of activity that took place.



# Introduction

With the festival postponed in 2020 and an online edition in 2021 due to Covid restrictions, this year saw the return of Refugee Festival Scotland with in-person events taking place across Scotland from 17 – 26 June.

We were able to come together to celebrate the many ways refugees contribute to Scotland's cultural life by showcasing the food and drink, music and dance, art, language and ideas that people bring with them when they settle in Scotland.

Community groups were at the very heart of this year's festival. 105 fantastic events took place over the ten days of the festival across the length and breadth of the country from Inverness to Dumfries – all inspired by the theme of 'Storytelling'. What was clear from everybody attending the festival was just how 'up for it' they all were – it was truly inspiring, with everyone coming together to create a party atmosphere. The sense of community that comes from our festival shows that it really is for everyone, and that's because it takes everyone to make it happen.

For the festival team, it was a real privilege to meet all the amazing people who had organised events. Up until the festival many of us had only seen each other on Zoom and Teams calls.

This year's Refugee Festival Scotland felt so upbeat, creating opportunities for people to meet with New Scots and generated positive press coverage at a time when there is so much negativity in the media around refugees and asylum seekers.



## Why Refugee Festival Scotland Matters

Refugee Festival Scotland is an annual celebration of the contribution refugee communities make to life in Scotland. The festival creates opportunities for people from different backgrounds to meet and get to know each other and find out what we have in common. By building bridges across communities, the festival offers a vision of hope, friendship, neighbourliness and solidarity with people seeking refugee protection in Scotland.

It's been a year that's seen a record 100 million people forced from their homes by conflict.

A year when we learned of the harrowing rise in the number of people who have lost their lives while going through the asylum system.

A year where we've seen relentless attacks on refugee rights from the UK Government, not least through its Nationality and Borders Act and the Rwanda Deportation plan.

Against that backdrop, Refugee Festival Scotland provided a much-needed glimmer of hope in dark times by helping to shine a light on the cultural richness and diversity of our communities.



Festival Launch event.  
Image: Festival volunteer photographer Lyndsey Robertson



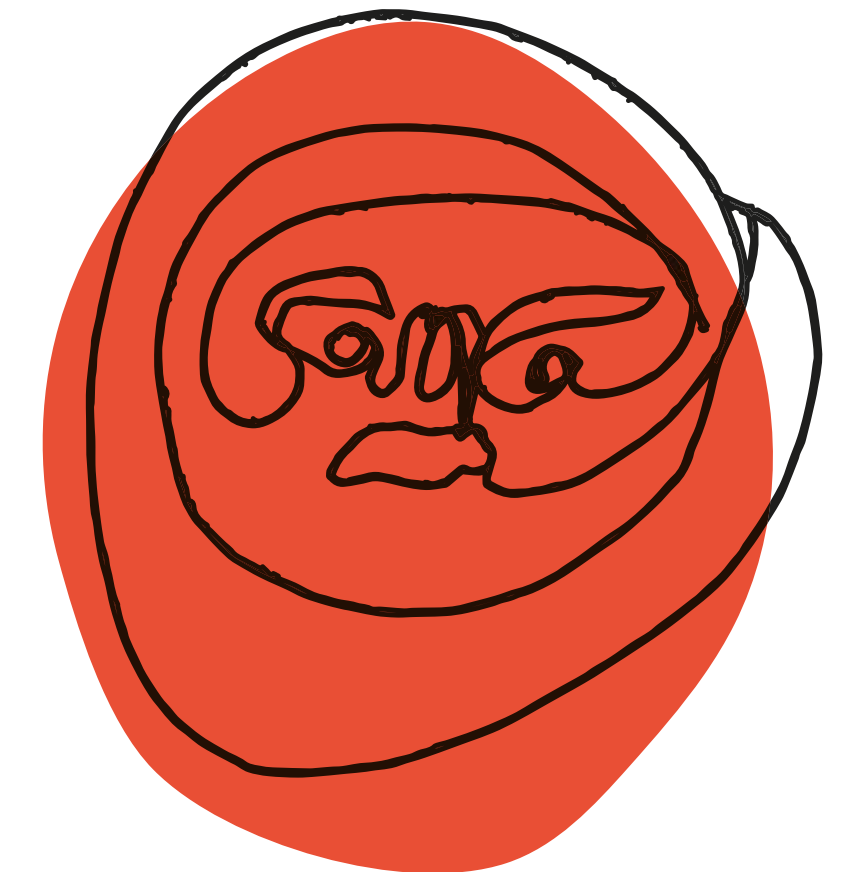
# Trenne

# Storytelling: What's Your Story?

This year the theme of Refugee Festival Scotland was “Storytelling: What's Your Story?” We chose this theme as we wanted to celebrate the stories of people from refugee backgrounds who have made their lives in Scotland. Through sharing our stories and listening to each other's stories, we can get to know each other better and build understanding, solidarity and friendship.

Visit Scotland staged the Year of Stories 2022, highlighting, celebrating and promoting the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland. By aligning this year's festival with the Year of Stories we were able to provide a platform for refugee communities to showcase their skills, talents and cultures and to tell new, more positive stories about integration and diversity in Scotland.

Our stories reflect the journeys our lives have taken and the places we want to go. Everyone has a story to share.



What's  
your story?

Our stories can be a really powerful tool when it comes to sharing the experiences of people who have come to Scotland in search of safety.

The festival's strapline "What's Your Story" encouraged people to join in the festival by creating events which explored, celebrated and shared stories of each other's cultures through a wide range of platforms.

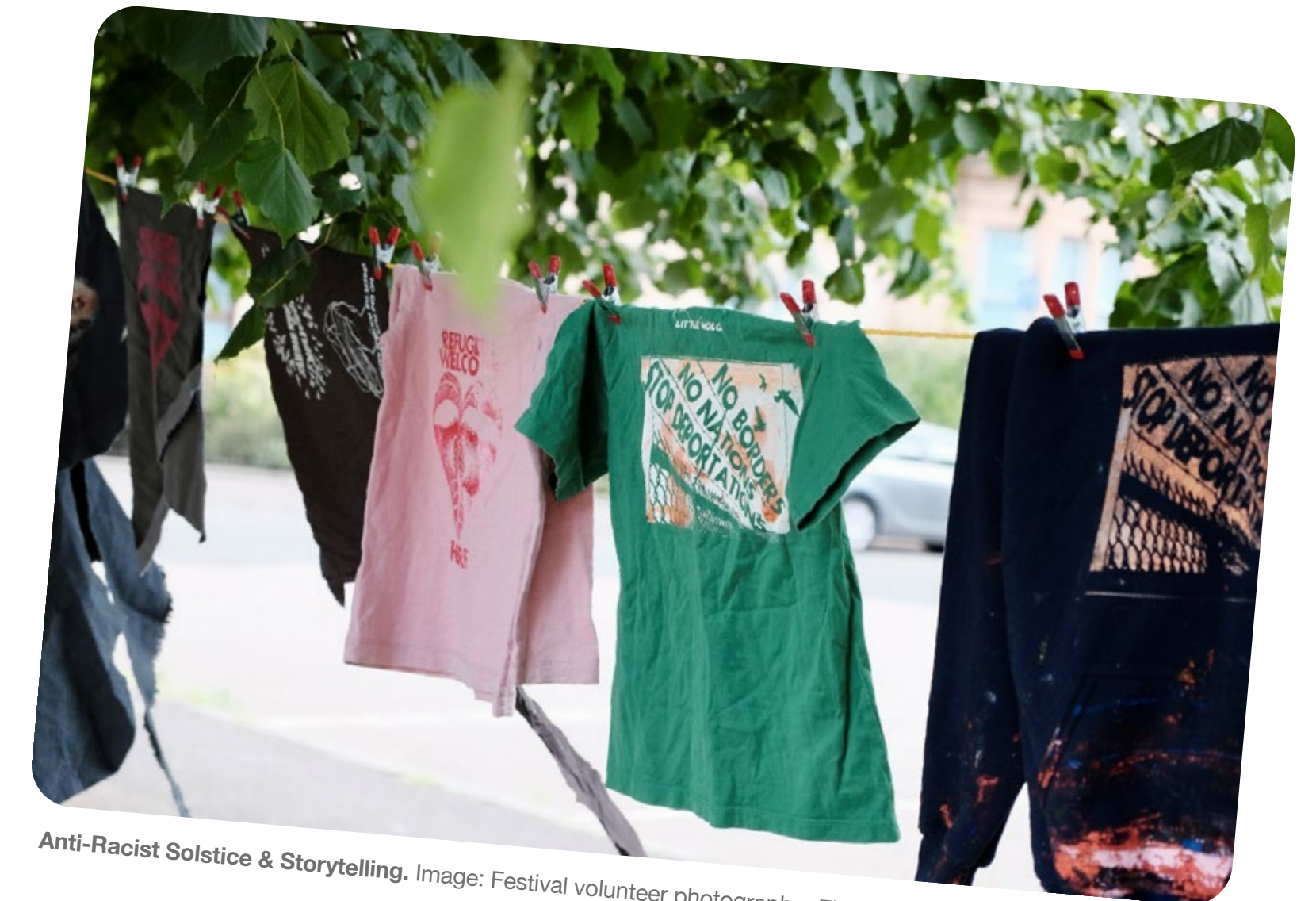
Bikes for Refugees. Image: Phoebe Hendy, Scottish Refugee Council



GoMA Youth Group. Image: Nora Aubry



Afghan Social Club. Image: Festival volunteer Helen Beaumont



Anti-Racist Solstice & Storytelling. Image: Festival volunteer photographer Eloise Bishop

# Key Stats



# The Festival in Numbers



21

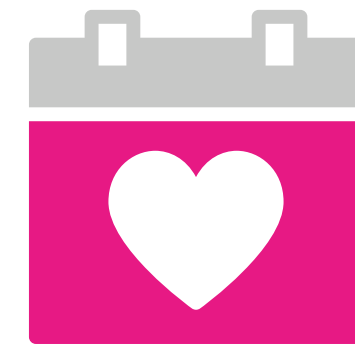
This year we held the **21st** edition of Refugee Festival Scotland

Co-ordinated by Scottish Refugee Council, Refugee Festival Scotland is centred on World Refugee Day, 20 June, established by the United Nations in 2000.



89

**89** community groups and partners took part



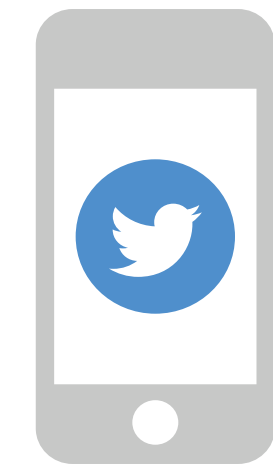
105

**105** events took place across the country from Inverness to Dumfries and Galloway, which included **9** events which were online



80

**80** pieces of media coverage

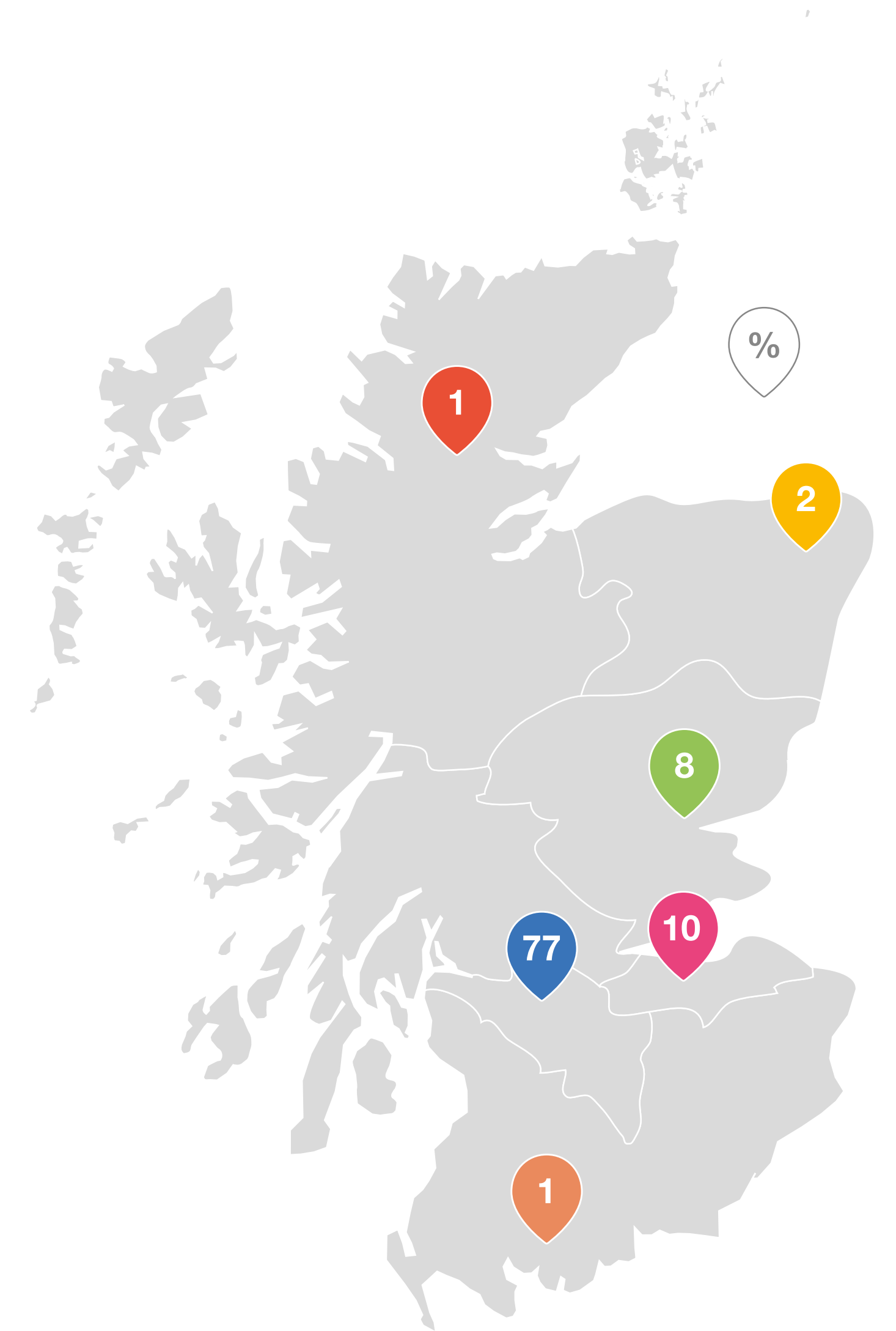
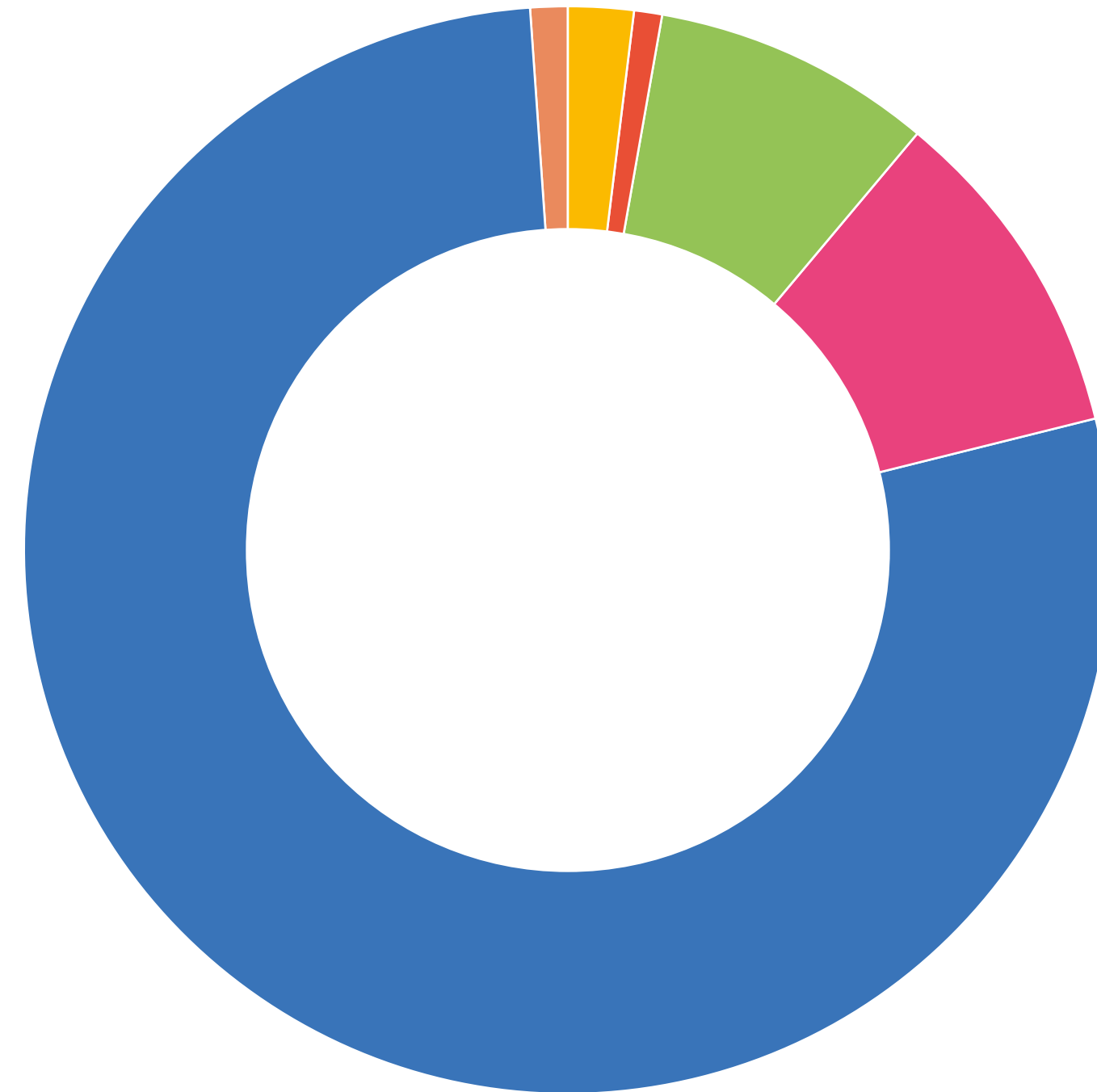


193.5

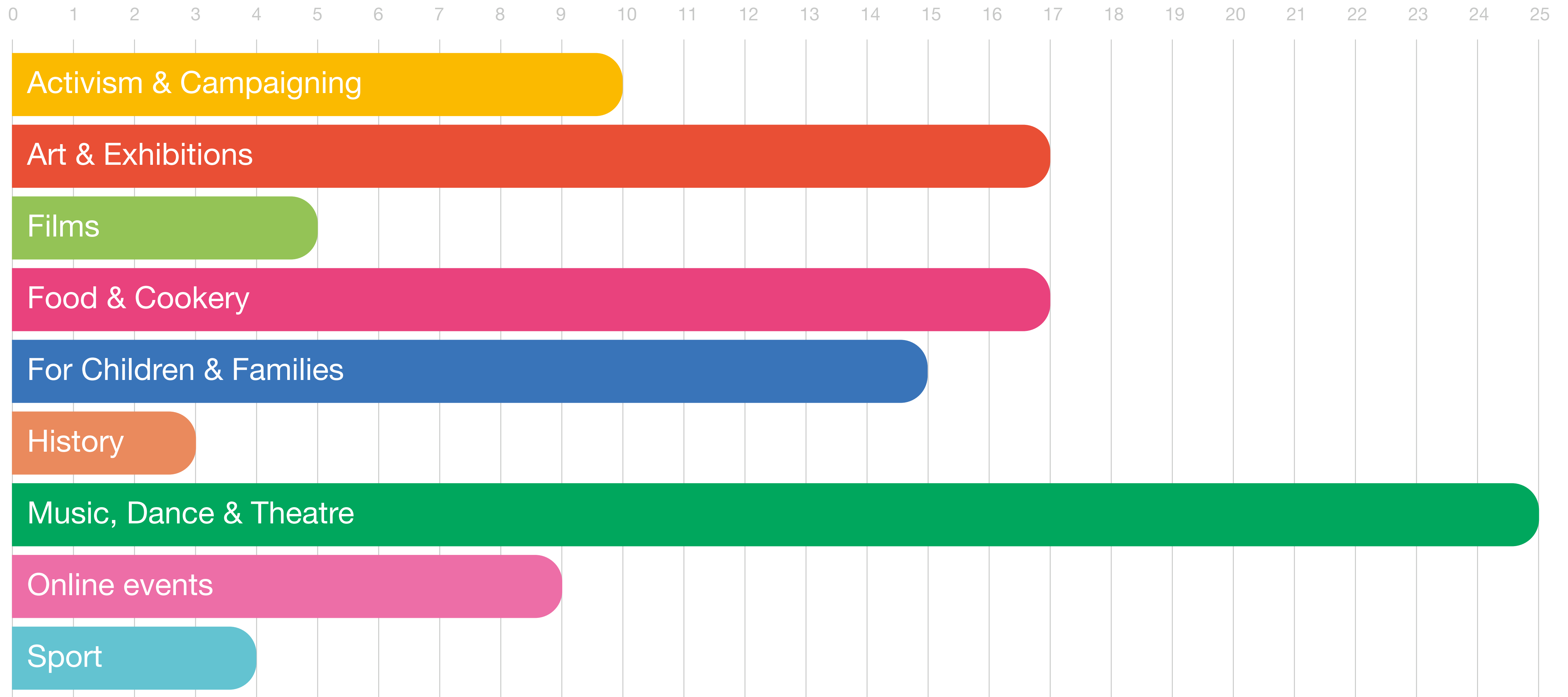
**193.5K** Tweets

# Geographical Spread

Aberdeen and North East **2%**  
Highland and Island **1%**  
Tayside, Central and Fife **8%**  
Edinburgh and Lothians **10%**  
Glasgow and Strathclyde **77%**  
South Scotland **1%**



# Event Categories





# Highlights

# Festival Highlights

## Beyond the Lines

Beyond the Lines is a poetic short film inspired by a collection of texts, sounds and stories by writers from refugee backgrounds now settled in Scotland which had its premiere at Glasgow's CCA on 16 June. Edinburgh based Artist and Film Maker Lucas Chih-Peng Kao drew from his own 19 years of experience in Scotland after migrating from Taiwan, still struggling to fit in from time to time.

Shot in Glasgow and Edinburgh on an iPhone, Beyond the Lines uses movement and green screen to interweave stories, and looks at the invisible baggage we carry and the impossibility of blending in.

The screening was followed by short readings and a panel discussion with Film Maker Lucas Chih-Peng Kao and Poet Sawsan Al Areeqe led by Sara Shaarawi.

Beyond the Lines was commissioned by Scottish Refugee Council for Refugee Festival Scotland 2022 through our Cross Borders programme of arts and cultural activism projects.

Find out more: [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/crossborders](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/crossborders)



Image by  
Lucas Chih-Peng Kao



Image by Najma Abukar

## Festival Launch

On Friday 17 June, we launched the festival at Scottish Youth Theatre in Glasgow. Hosted by actor Thierry Mabonga, the event featured stunning performances by Ukrainian opera singer Oksana Mavrodii and concert pianist Iryna Melnychenko, Maryhill Integration Network's Joyous Choir, and dancers from Pachedu. Event organisers, funders and partners were excited to meet up at last in person to celebrate the start of Refugee Festival Scotland 2022.

## Community Led Groups

This year, with funding from Scottish Refugee Council, The Hunter Foundation and UNISON Scotland, we were able to offer small grants of up to £500 to help grassroots groups and organisations that are either run by people from refugee backgrounds or support people seeking safety in Scotland.

63 groups from across Scotland were each awarded up to £500 to enable them to cover the costs of running events and activities as part of Refugee Festival Scotland.

## New Partners

Refugee Festival Scotland could not take place without the support of organisations across Scotland. This year we welcomed several new festival partners including – Edinburgh Printmakers; A Play, A Pie and a Pint at Oran Mor; The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Archaeology Scotland and Edinburgh Trades Union Council and welcomed back Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow (GoMA), National Theatre of Scotland, Glasgow Film Theatre and Solas Festival.

105 events took place across Scotland during the festival, here are some examples that highlight how people and communities came together to share their stories.

Image: Festival volunteer photographer Lyndsey Robertson



Image: United Yemeni Community in Scotland

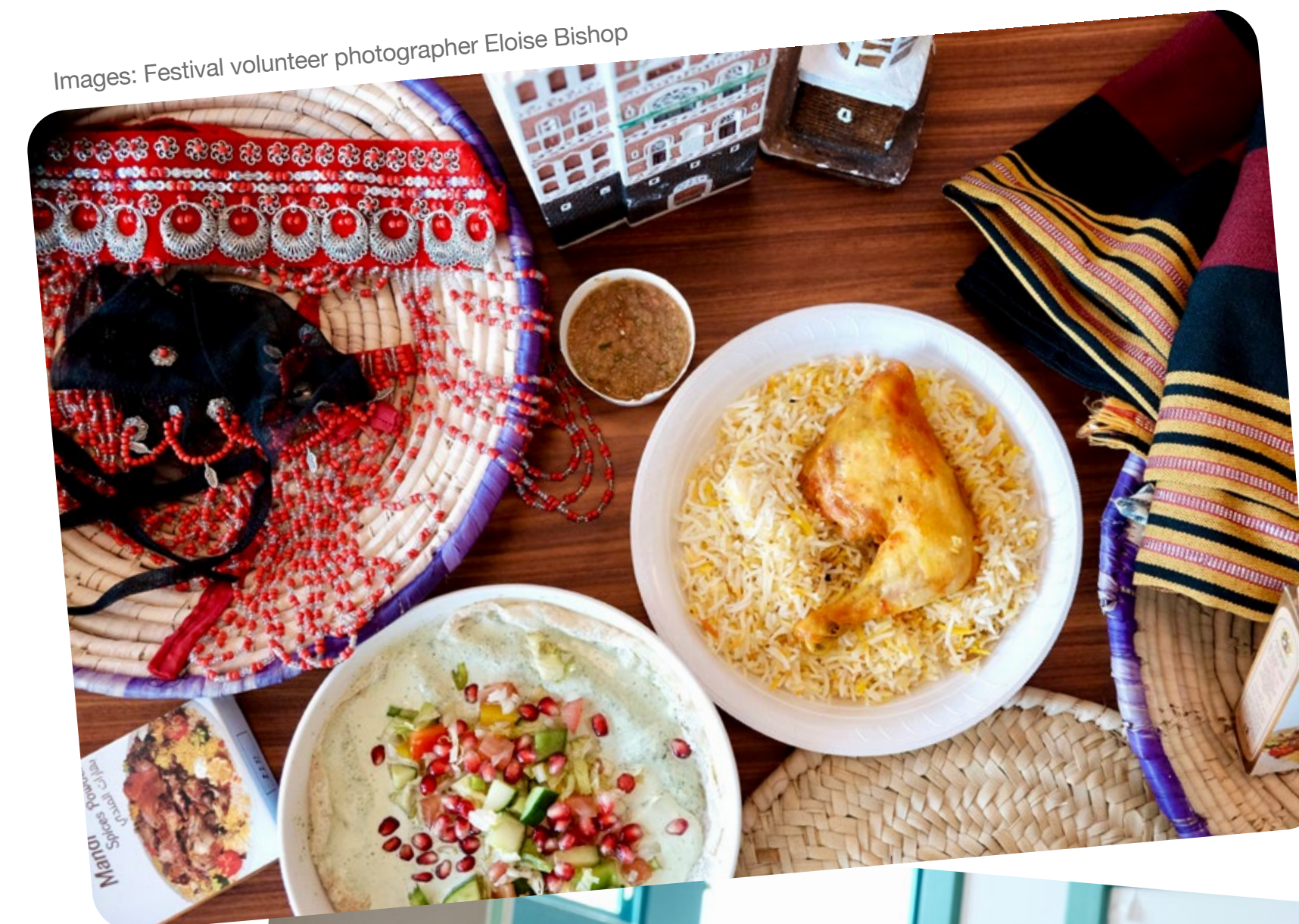
## The Story of Yemeni Cuisine by Yemeni Scottish Foundation

The Yemeni Scottish Foundation are a group of young people living in Scotland who want to share Yemen's culture and heritage and to be active individuals in the Scottish community.

The organisers felt that nothing builds bridges better than good food. While the food was being prepared by a Yemeni cook, the audience enjoyed some traditional Yemeni music and learned more about Yemeni cuisine and the stories behind them. The Yemeni Scottish Foundation is a refugee led group who are passionate about Yemeni food and who shared their own personal stories on the day with members of the wider community

*“Everything went great and we are overwhelmed that we got the chance to share our culture and story of Yemeni food with the audience who loved the food and gave us positive feedback on the day. It was great being part of a festival that hosts many different events which we got to see and experience. We felt like we were part of the bigger community that is supportive and kind”*

**Nabiha AlBanna, Secretary, Yemeni Scottish Foundation**



## Yoyo and the Little Auk by RSNO

RSNO produced an original animated film Yoyo and The Little Auk, which tells the story of Yoyo, a young Scottish girl from a diverse, multicultural family background, and The Little Auk as they prepare for her town's annual ceilidh. The animated film celebrates themes of sharing family histories and diversity

The animated film, accompanied by a live performance by an RSNO ensemble of musicians introduces children aged 3 – 6 years to the magic of classical music – a new and inspiring Scottish adventure by RSNO and Visible Fictions, supported by Visit Scotland's Year of Stories 2022.

RSNO kindly offered Scottish Refugee Council complimentary tickets for refugee families staying in local hotels, mostly from Afghanistan and also newly arrived families from Ukraine for two performances during Refugee Festival Scotland. The families enjoyed interacting with the musicians in a workshop before watching Yoyo and the Little Auk at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

*“Thank you so much for helping us make the Yoyo Live Concert a part of Refugee Festival Scotland!”*

*It was really great to welcome so many families into the New Auditorium.”*

**Hannah Gardner Seavey**

**Learning & Engagement Project Co-ordinator, RSNO**





## One Millie, All Nations: by Sewing2gether All Nations

In partnership with Journeys in Design: Our Linen Stories, Sewing2gether All Nations reflected on the rich textile heritage of Scotland and that of New Scots, with an exhibition of 'Millie dolls' (representing textile workers from all over the world, and the legacy of grandmothers, mothers, sisters who have passed their sewing skills down from generation to generation).

At the heart of the programme was an exhibition at Paisley Central Library of Millie dolls, hand-sewn by members of Sewing2gether All Nations. These fabric creations reflected the rich textile heritage of Scotland and of the New Scots that have settled here.

The dolls are unique to their creator and every member has put their own stamp on their doll, as founder of Sewing2gether, **Gabi Cullen explained:**

*“Each one of our members just developed how they would like their doll to be. So you’ll see some African fabrics, you’ll see a hijab on some of them, there’s different elements of their own traditions that they have incorporated in the dolls.”*

In addition to the exhibition of Millie dolls created by members of Sewing2gether All Nations, there was a family workshop, a Paisley Textile Walk, and a Twilight Talk: Creative Journeys for New Scots, discussing the role of design in our cultural landscape which involved representation from National Museums Scotland, Yemeni Foundation and Sewing2gether All Nations. The Talk enhanced and gave context to the exhibition and workshops.



Sewing2gether All Nations have been a part of Refugee Festival Scotland for a number of years. They support women refugees and asylum seekers across Renfrewshire and Glasgow who do not speak English and are socially isolated. They do this by building confidence in literacy and language skills, providing advocacy and signposting in addition to teaching sewing skills and offering creative skills workshops.

*“We were delighted to be part of Refugee Festival Scotland. We had lots of support and encouragement from the team at Scottish Refugee Council starting with the initial introduction to John at Journeys in Design and the Millie Dolls project right through to the collaborative twilight talk and exhibition of our own hand made Millies.*

*The media coverage we received highlighted the migration stories and resilience of the refugee women that had hand crafted these dolls that were a representation of resilient Mill working women with their own migration stories.”*

**Gabi Cullen, Sewing2gether**



Image: Sewing2gether All Nations

## The Conservation Volunteers Building Roots – Flavours of My Country: What’s Your Food Story?

The Conservation Volunteers Building Roots invited people in their local community in Irvine to sample delicious flavours from around the world and to try new dishes and learn the stories behind some of their favourite foods from home.

They also shared tips on sustainable vegetable growing and which gardening methods work well in Scottish weather. 60 adults and 15 children attended, enjoying face painting, soup making, Bannock making over a fire pit, garden activities and scavenger hunts.

TCV Building Roots aim to connect people to their community and local green spaces through outdoor sessions

*“The event made a huge difference to our volunteers and brought them all closer together and to their community. We had a lot of new faces and people I know who have been struggling with isolation coming together and enjoying food from different cultures. The feedback was undeniably positive, and it just shows that all the work building up to the Refugee Festival Scotland event was worth it.”*

**Laura Salvage, Senior Project Officer, The Conservation Volunteers**

Images: Graham Burns



## Annual Football Tournament by Esolperth English Language Lessons

This year there were eight adult teams involved, with six youth teams (aged 10-16). Esolperth worked with Fair City Football Club, who provided the goals, balls and two bouncy castles for the younger children. It was definitely a family day! Teams were a mixture of abilities and from different counties including Iran, Iraq, Egypt (NRPF), Poland, Bulgaria and Spain. In addition to the players a few other families came along providing support and enjoying the community atmosphere.

Although Esolperth primarily support refugees through teaching English and with practical matters, their wellbeing activities, including sport, art and cultural outings, have a great impact on providing a sense of belonging and engagement.

*“Sharing in Refugee Festival Scotland is important to us as most of our work is with refugees, either NRPF, or those who are part of a programme such as people from Syria, Afghanistan and now Ukraine. Although our students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and cultures, football is a common denominator, and provides a simple focal point through which to connect and share a community day, which is why we chose it.”*

*“Physical activity is important for everybody’s wellbeing, and our football tournaments are a way to engage in this with a spirit of friendly competition, bringing students together outside the classroom. We currently have 5 Afghan boys involved in another local football team as a direct result of this year’s football tournament and we see this as a very positive form of integration”*

**Linda El-Miligy, Centre Manager, Esolperth English Language Lessons**

Images: Linda El- Miligy, Esolperth



## Family Fun Day by Rainbow Muslim Women Group

The Group's free family fun day aimed to bridge the gap between refugees, people seeking asylum, and the wider community. It was an opportunity to celebrate different cultures and to give refugees a platform to share their talents and stories

The free event consisted of storytelling through arts and crafts sessions, with T shirt painting activity, and a talent show where participants were encouraged to share their talents in the art form of their choice through storytelling, singing and dancing. At the end of the day a healthy, nutritious and multi cultural dinner was served to everyone.

Rainbow Muslim Women Group is a Falkirk Based charity organisation aiming to provide social and educational opportunities to the vulnerable sector of the community, across the Forth Valley Area.

*"92 percent of people said that this event was a stepping stone to bridge the gap within their communities"*

**Sidra Tariq, Project Coordinator, Rainbow Muslim Women Group**

Images: Rainbow Muslim Women's Group



## The World's Game: Archaeology and Football at Cathkin Park by Archaeology Scotland

Archaeology Scotland hosted a fun and interactive open day at their excavation of Cathkin Park football stadium in Glasgow's Southside.

They ran tours, survey workshops, artefact handling workshops and talks all telling the story of the fascinating and diverse history of football in Glasgow. There was also the opportunity for people to participate in the archaeological dig, including some of young people from Scottish Refugee Council's Guardianship Service.

They learned about the history of the site, had a tour then took part in the dig. The young people found some interesting items, and then were shown how archaeologists record their findings (i.e. photographs, sketches, preservation techniques).

*"It's cool I really enjoyed it, so a good day. Thank you so much"*

Archaeology Scotland is the leading independent charity working to inspire people to discover, care for and enjoy Scotland's archaeological heritage. Established over 75 years ago, they believe in a world where everyone can benefit from the transformative power of connection to Scotland's heritage.



Image: Nadia Stuart, Scottish Refugee Council



# REFUGEE FESTIVAL SCOTLAND

Friday 17 June - Sunday 26 June



What's your story?

# Visuals

## BAR91

merchant city  
candleriggs www.bar91.co.uk

and long-established gastro-pub  
with a fresh lease on life!

# Artwork and Visuals

The artwork for Refugee Festival Scotland was designed by a group of artists from the Museum of Things, a group set up by Maryhill Integration Network during lockdown to offer a creative outlet to people in isolation.

Lead artists Paria Goodarzi and Mousa AlNana created a space for people from many different cultural backgrounds to come together, be creative and feel a sense of belonging, while learning a range of new skills and techniques.

Scottish Refugee Council were delighted to commission the group to design posters for Refugee Festival Scotland 2022. The artists were split into three sub-groups, who all came up with different ideas, colours, shapes and design elements which were combined into the final poster. The group also designed a range of icons representing the various artforms taking place during the festival and these were used on the festival website and in social media posts.



**Visual arts Exhibitions**



**Activism & Campaigning**



**Food**



**Beauty, a mum-of-two young children, is originally from Nigeria. She said:**

*“It’s been really nice being in the group because I was new to the UK and immediately after it was Covid. Coming to the UK as an asylum seeker with two kids was very difficult. I had a lot of anxiety and I was feeling depressed.*

*“Because of Museum of Things and these sessions, I became a happy person again. I believe doing art can really help. When you’re doing the artwork, you don’t even know you are stressed. It really gives me joy to see our artwork exhibited for all the people to see.”*

**Yamama, who is new to Glasgow with her young son, says it has been great for both of them:**

*“I’m really new here in Glasgow, just one year. When me and my son came here we were alone, no family. My doctor told me about this group. It’s such a lovely group, people are friendly and I enjoy it a lot and so does my son. I can meet other people and practice my English, it makes me really happy.*

*“I’m excited when I see my work around the city, it makes me feel like I am a person in this society.”*





# Media

# Media Coverage

Refugee Festival Scotland plays an important role in nurturing more welcoming and positive attitudes towards people seeking protection in Scotland. The festival provides a platform for positive media coverage of refugee issues, including stories of welcome and integration, and contributes to a greater public understanding of refugee and protection issues.

The festival featured in 80 pieces of coverage – up 33.3% on the previous year. This included, features, news stories, blogs, event listings and TV & radio.

There were 64 items of coverage in mainstream media (up from 48 in 2021):

- 1 International
- 43 Local / Regional
- 20 National

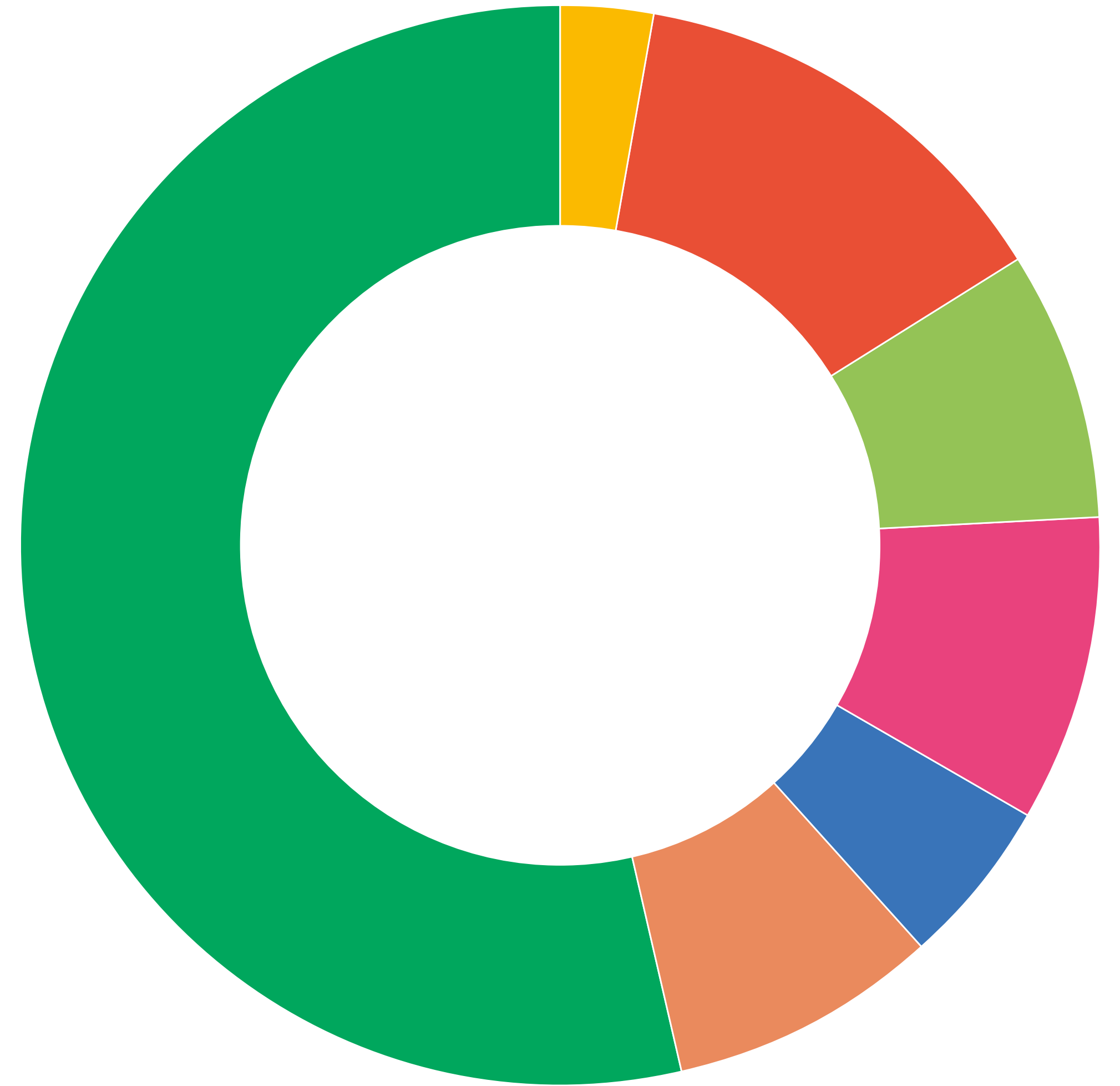
Refugee Festival Scotland also featured in 16 blogs and news articles on charity and partner websites.



## Coverage fell into the following categories:\*

- Broadcast **3%**
- Event listings **13%**
- Specialist **8%**
- Features **9%**
- Opinion pieces **5%**
- Other (charity & faith based) **8%**
- 46 news **53%**


\*some coverage falls into more than one category



# Media Awards

The annual Media Awards, organised in partnership with the National Union of Journalists, honour journalism on refugee and asylum issues in Scotland. This year's ceremony took place in Glasgow on Thursday 16 June, hosted by radio broadcaster and television presenter Jennifer Reoch.





Storytellers

# Storytellers

In the lead-up to Refugee Festival Scotland 2022, Scottish Refugee Council's Storytelling Officer held a short series of media training workshops with a fantastic group of participants based in Glasgow.

The workshops were focused on learning new skills, building confidence and making new connections.

During the first workshop, the group looked at setting boundaries. The group discussed what questions they would like to be asked by journalists, and what questions they would prefer not to answer, when being interviewed by the media

This exercise led to a lengthy and vibrant group discussion about consent, boundaries, culture, the asylum process, refugee journey, and identity.



Image: Iman Tajik

In the workshops, the group looked at some fun examples of avoiding difficult questions, and practiced being celebrities dodging difficult questions about their personal lives. They then watched Bafta-award winning Syrian activist Hassan Akkad's Good Morning Britain interview and examined how he responded to challenging questions from the two hosts and how he stuck to his key messages. They then looked at what parts of their stories they would want to share, and how to structure them for a media interview, with some key messages that they want the audience to remember.

The group shared stories from their past, their present, and their hopes for the future, had a fun photoshoot in Glasgow Green, and recorded videos for their World Refugee Day message.

Following the workshops, the storytellers were invited to the Media Awards ceremony where they met with journalists and community members who had shared their story with the media. The following night, they were also invited to the festival launch event where they connected with others involved in the festival. This led to the group attending each other's events during the festival too, including Mirna sharing her story at Interfaith Glasgow's women's writing workshop which Fakhriya helped to organise.

Mirna and Ibrahim brought invaluable knowledge to the media training workshops, as they were presenting Radio Buena Vida's Sound of Refugee Voices radio show during the festival already. Ibrahim and Adam also contributed messages to our World Refugee Day video.



Image: Festival volunteer photographer Lyndsey Robertson



**Ibrahim, who hosted Radio Buena Vida and Greater Govanhill's Sound of Refugee Voices show as part of the festival, shared some wisdom from his time in the UK and his hopes for the future:**

*"Things are much better now because when I tell people about what I want to do in entertainment they always try to help. I am able to express myself and am trying to learn new things, and am given the opportunity to do what I like."*

*When asked about his hopes for the future, he said: "I would like to improve my media skills and learn new things."*

**Fakhriya, from Interfaith Glasgow's Weekend Club, shared some of her hopes for the future too:**

*"A world where there is no division due to race, ethnicity, gender or religion. A world where status does not determine the type of life you live."*



A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The background is a soft, colorful gradient transitioning from warm orange and red tones on the left to cool blue and purple tones on the right. The lighting is soft and focused on the hands and the device. The word "Digital" is overlaid in the center in a white, outlined font.

Digital

# Digital

Digital media was at the core of this year's Refugee Festival Scotland. Our digital media communications incorporated both the Scottish Refugee Council and Refugee Festival Scotland websites, newsletter, and multiple social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

Our social media strategy focussed on two objectives:

- Raising awareness of the festival and driving traffic to the Refugee Festival Scotland website
- Creating and sustaining high levels of digital engagement



## Festival Toolkit for Event Organisers

We focused on creating shareable content along with a suite of open access festival assets available for all event organisers and partners to use and share.

These included:

- Refugee Festival Scotland logos
- Social media headers
- Social media graphics
- Suggested social media posts
- Posters
- Tips and templates to help contact the media
- Photography notice for events



# 6,412

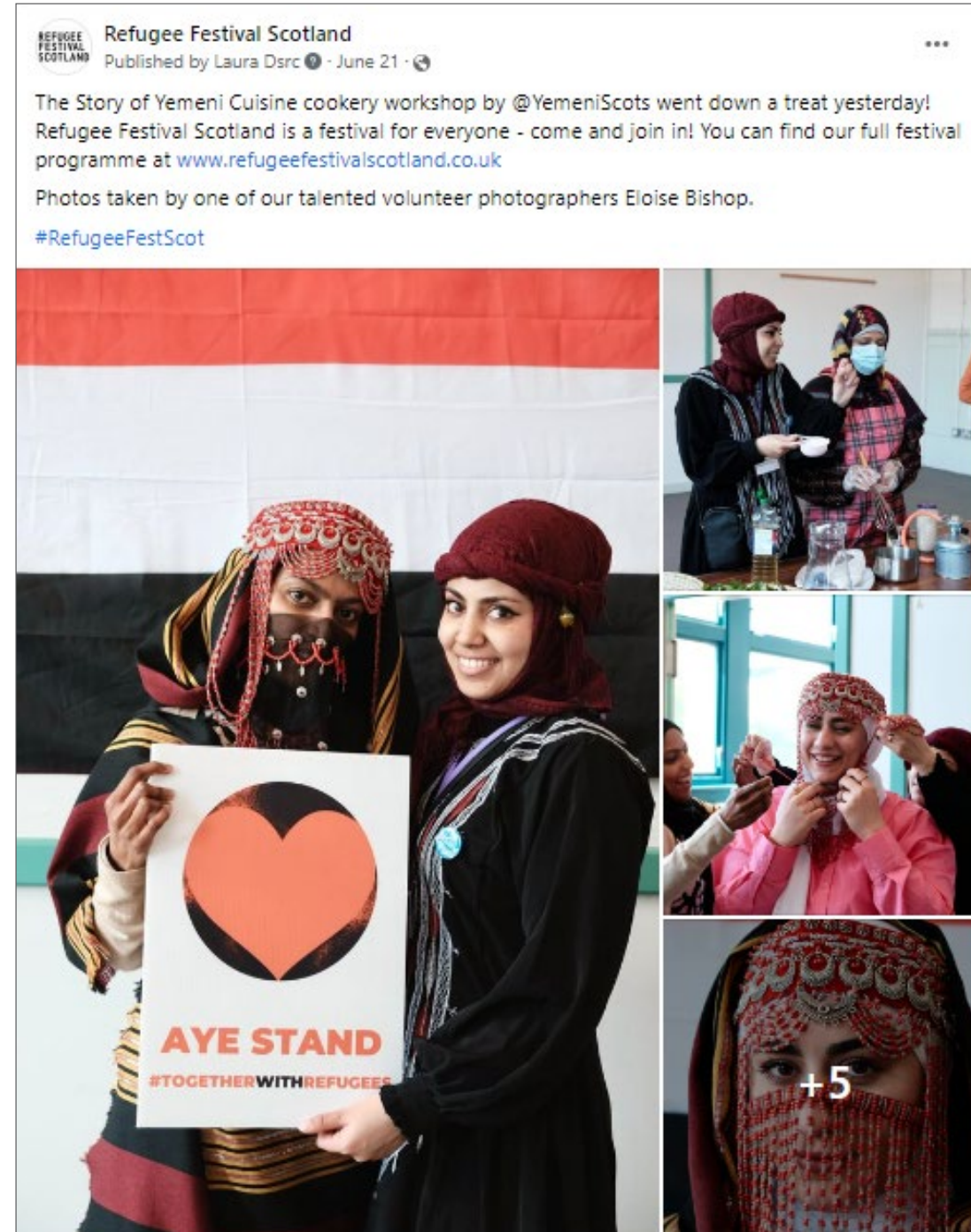
users visited the festival website in June

# 274,941

Our festival posts across all our social media platforms reached 274,941

## Facebook — Refugee Festival Scotland

# 16,172 Interactions



**Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre**  
13 June · 🌐

Still some free places left on next week's Guided Walk of the Garnethill Refugee Trail, organised with [Scottish Jewish Archives Centre](#). The walk, on 22nd June, is part of Refugee Festival Scotland, organised by [Scottish Refugee Council](#).

Find out about the fascinating refugee history of the Garnethill areas - More details and booking here: <https://www.refugeefestivalScotland.co.uk/.../guided.../> #RefugeeFestScot




REFUGEEFESTIVALSCOTLAND.CO.UK

**Garnethill Refugee Trail - Refugee Festival Scotland**  
A guided walk of the Garnethill Refugee Trail, revealing places that are connected with Jewish r...

**Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council (ELREC)**  
24 June · 🌐

ELREC celebrated Refugee Festival Scotland via our fantastic "Handmade Stories" event. Funded by [Erasmus+ projects United Kingdom](#), [SOMRA](#), the event was packed with stalls and activities, raising awareness of our project's intellectual outputs concerning migrants and refugees and the professionals working with them, as well as, showcasing our migrants' and refugees' clients' environment-friendly creative products. We even had a hand massage station for all those who created ... [See more](#)



**Music Broth**  
4 July · 🌐

What a fantastic day our Music Connects event was as part of [Refugee Festival Scotland](#)

Lots of trying instruments fun! 🎸🎹🎺🎻

Superb performances by our learners showcasing their skills, and Eyve, BigJson, [Nevis Ensemble](#) and [Archie Cw](#)

Th... [See more](#)









# Volunteers

What's  
your story?

[refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk](http://refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk)

REFUGEE  
FESTIVAL  
SCOTLAND

refugee  
council

# Volunteering

Refugee Festival Scotland couldn't happen without the team of dedicated volunteers who took on various roles from photography to helping organisers run events. Most importantly, during the busy festival period our volunteers help represent the festival team as the face of Scottish Refugee Council.

14 volunteers helped organisers at their events by serving up lots of food, assisting with front of house duties and carrying out audience surveys and questionnaires.

For many of our volunteers, this was their first time volunteering at the festival and several enjoyed their experience so much that they have gone on to volunteer on longer-term projects at Scottish Refugee Council.



**Quotes from event volunteers:**

**I have loved the experience and I plan to do more volunteering with Scottish Refugee Council**

**The whole festival has been a fantastic experience**

**Quotes from event organisers:**

**Thank you for arranging John's visit. It was a real pleasure having him around and the photos are lovely. Apart from that, it was such a help knowing that he was taking photos, so we could get on with managing the activities**

**The volunteers were fantastic and photographer took amazing photos**

# Feedback

# Feedback

As this year was the first time in nearly three years that Refugee Festival Scotland was able to take place mainly in person, the festival Team were keen to receive feedback from event organisers through our online questionnaires and also from audience members who completed written and in person surveys conducted by our festival volunteers.

This feedback will enable us to shape our plans and make improvements for Refugee Festival Scotland 2023.



## We asked “What did you find the most daunting to deal with/organise this year?”

People unable to attend last minute due to Covid

The worry regarding Covid changes / impacts

Finding a suitable venue

Knowing how many people might turn up – being sure we prepared for an unknown number!

## **We also asked “Did your event meet your expectations?”**

**We were delighted. The participants (refugees we support) had an incredible experience and made great memories**

**The event was brilliant – we will continue to work with the participants who attended our event**

**Yes, the turnout was better than expected and everyone had a wonderful time**

**Yes, it was a real show of unity and celebration**

## Event organisers:

**Thanks again for the opportunity to be part of the festival, it provided the perfect space for our community members to create an event in which they could share what is important to them. The event went really well, 103 people attended and we got lots of positive feedback**

Community owned space, Glasgow

**We were delighted with our first participation in the festival and are very grateful for the small grant. We look forward to planning ahead to 2023**

Football charity, Edinburgh

**The asylum seekers and refugees in our community said that they felt valued that there was a festival about them**

Safety awareness group



## Event organisers:

**The Refugee Festival makes all refugees in Scotland feel good and proud to live in Scotland**

Housing Rights organisation, Glasgow

**It was a pleasure to take part in Refugee Festival Scotland again**

Community garden, Edinburgh

**It was a great experience for the community to sit together, share stories and enjoy the crafting activity we organised**

Muslim Women's Community Group

## We asked audience members “What did you enjoy about the event you attended?”

**It was amazing! I found it eye opening and very powerful listening to the stories of such amazing and strong women**

**Sharing stories, sharing emotions and getting to know people better**

**Brilliant event, emotional at times and very humbling**

**Great people, food and atmosphere**

**Sharing different stories, challenges and triumphs**

**We also asked “Did you learn anything new about refugees or refugee issues as a result of Refugee Festival Scotland?”**

**We all have different stories, everybody who comes from refugee backgrounds are an inspiration to many. They have powerful testimonies**

**The issues around transferring skills when moving to the UK**

**Yes, I met new people from different cultures**

**I learned how the asylum process is for women**

**The experience I am having is also the same as others and I am not alone**



Thank You

# Thank you

The community groups were at the heart of the festival with their events held across the whole of Scotland – thanks to all those who held events, those that performed, spoke, sang and danced and to the wonderful audiences and the fabulous folk who volunteered with us

A huge thank you to all our friends, supporters, participants, community groups, audiences, funders, volunteers and partners. Refugee Festival Scotland would not exist without you. Thanks to everyone for joining in and here's to next year!

Refugee Festival Scotland is produced and co-ordinated by Scottish Refugee Council in collaboration with a Scotland-wide network of partners. We would like to thank everyone involved for their huge contribution and commitment, especially the Festival Advisory Group which includes representatives from many of our wonderful partners.

Scottish Refugee Council is an independent charity dedicated to supporting people in need of refugee protection. Our vision is for a Scotland where people are protected, find safety and support, have their human rights and dignity respected and are able to achieve their full potential.

Find out more about our vision and aims:  
[www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/about/vision-aim](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/about/vision-aim)



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



**The Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba



Thanks to Refugee Festival Scotland Advisory Group members, who are represented by the following organisations:

- Cranhill Development Trust
- Educational Institute of Scotland
- Open Museum, Glasgow Life
- UNESCO: Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts
- British Red Cross
- Maryhill Integration Network
- Distanced Assemblage
- V & A Dundee
- GoMA

## Participating groups in Refugee Festival Scotland 2022

A Play, A Pie & A Pint	Glasgow Media Centre	SAWA Refugee Programme
Afghan Social Club	Govan Community Project	Scottish Africa United
Africa Delice community group	Grampian regional equality council	Scottish Asylum seekers Resident Association (SASRA)
Africa Future	Greater Govanhill Magazine	Scottish Civic Trust
African Collaboration Group	Greatway Foundation	Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre
Archaeology Scotland	How It Felt	ScrapAntics CIC
Big Hearts Community Trust	Ignite Theatre	Serve2020 – Zoom Clubs
Bikes for Refugees	Interfaith Glasgow’s Weekend Club	Sewing2gether All Nations
Central and West Integration Network	Iranian Scottish	Shaping Life
Central Scotland Regional Equalities Council (CSREC) and the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project	Jasmine and Thistle and the Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project	Sharpen Her: the African Women’s Network
Children’s Literature and Literacies, University of Glasgow	Kinning Park Complex	Solas Festival
Code Your Future	Licketyspit Ltd	Spike Wheat Scots
Cross Borders Programme – Scottish Refugee Council	MADAR Network	Stronger Together Enterprise
David Livingstone Birthplace	Maryhill Integration Network	Sudanese Community in Edinburgh
Deveron Projects	Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL)	SYNERGY
Edinburgh Napier University	Meadows Community Gardens (Greening our Street)	TCV Building Roots
Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust	Milk Cafe	The African Arts Centre
Edinburgh Printmakers	Music Broth	The GoMA Youth Group (GYG)
Edinburgh Trades Union Council	MUSICIANS IN EXILE	The Highlands Supports Refugees
ELREC – SOMRA project	National Theatre of Scotland	The Poverty Truth Community
Esolperth English Language Lessons	Non Place Collective	The University of Edinburgh
Failte Edinburgh	North East Glasgow Framework For Dialogue	The Welcoming Association
Faith in Community Scotland	North Lanarkshire Council	Ubuntu Scotland
Freedom from Torture’s Women Together and Peace Group	OneRen	United Yemeni Community in Scotland
Friends of the Amal Project (SCIO)	Rainbow Muslim Women Group	West District Hockey
Gaming against the Hostile Environment	ReAct Refugee Action Scotland SCIO	Westfield Park Community Centre (SCIO)
Glasgow Afghan United	Refugee Survival Trust	With Refugees Broughty Ferry
Glasgow Autonomous Space	Renfrewshire Effort to Empower Minorities (REEM)	Women’s Support Project
Glasgow ESOL Forum	Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO)	Woodlands Community Development Trust
Glasgow Film	Safety Awareness Glasgow	Yemeni Scottish Foundation



# Looking Ahead

# Refugee Festival Scotland 2023

We are keen to talk to new potential partners, including funding bodies and local authorities to support Refugee Festival Scotland 2023 and beyond to allow us to develop and deliver next year's festival which will hopefully mainly consist of in person events.

Join Us!

Please get in touch:

[festival@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:festival@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

**Scottish Refugee Council**

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 [www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/RefugeeFestivalScotland](https://facebook.com/RefugeeFestivalScotland)

 [twitter.com/scotrefcouncil](https://twitter.com/scotrefcouncil)

 [www.instagram.com/scottishrefugeecouncil](https://www.instagram.com/scottishrefugeecouncil)

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# REFUGEE FESTIVAL SCOTLAND

2022

