



ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

Office Opening Hours:

9.00am – 5.00pm

Monday, Wednesday and
Friday

Office Contact Details:

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ChangeMakers
Resettlement Forum

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Whatsapp:

CRF Community
Noticeboard

Monthly Newsletter

April 2022

Update from Jacqs

Kia Ora everyone

This month we are seeing many community celebrations, commemorations, and observances with us wishing Happy Easter, Ramadan Kareem and Happy New Year to different some of the communities we have the pleasure of working alongside.

Many of our Christian communities are celebrating Easter this coming weekend and our Orthodox Christian communities will be finishing their 40 days of fasting and celebrating Easter the week later. Our Islamic communities are currently observing Ramadan, which sees members of these communities fasting during daylight hours and placing a greater focus on their spirituality and doing good deeds. Karenni New year was celebrated last week and both Tamil New Year, known as Puthandu, and Burmese New Year, known as Thingyan, are coming up in the next week.

We have been seeing a lot of work across all of our programmes, with plenty of activities, support, community connection and development and advocacy going on. There has also been a huge amount of work carried out in the COVID Food and Welfare response area, with most members of the team having been involved at some point.

Now that we are at a COVID Orange Traffic Light setting, we have a lot of projects and activities coming to fruition and we are also in the process of planning the ChangeMakers World Refugee Day celebration, with support from some of our partner organisations and input from our communities.

Our World Refugee Day event will be an opportunity to celebrate the cultures of our communities through dance, music and art and to hear about the contribution and successes of some of our community members. Of course, this will also be an opportunity to enjoy various cultural foods, learn information about settlement support and services, and for children (and adults) to participate in a range of activities. Keep the afternoon of 18th June free and keep an eye out for further information.

Please take care out there and enjoy your long weekend

Jacqs 😊



New Zealanders of refugee background participating fully in life in Aotearoa New Zealand

Nothing About Us Without Us

Focus On Strengths Not Weaknesses

A human Rights Approach

A Shared Voice is A Strong Voice

Board Update

The board had their monthly meeting one week early due to Ramadan/breaking the fast times conflicting with board meeting times. The board passed the Service Delivery policy of CRF.

The board discussed the Leader's Council dinner and key themes out of the evening which included ChangeMakers' relationship with Tangata Whenua, ChangeMakers support for vulnerable communities post COVID-19, and the sustainability of ChangeMakers at all levels.

The board are currently looking for people to 'shadow' board members from a legal and accounting background to hopefully put their name forward to be voted in at the AGM.

Please remember you can place feedback in the feedback box on the cabinet just inside the office and also contact our board chair, Shahd, at shahd.elmatary@hotmail.co.nz

What's been happening:

A trip to the zoo...

In March our free family passes to the zoo were utilised by 11 families from our communities....a total of 36 people. The day was sunny and the families really appreciated this opportunity to have some different family outdoor activity with their children.

We had some fantastic feedback, which we are happy to share with you here:

"We had a good time. Thank you so much. Especially our kids were very happy. They have never seen different types of animals like this before"

"Thank you so much for the opportunity. We appreciate it. We had beautiful time with our children"



Thanks so much to Wellington Zoo for working with us to give some of our community members the opportunity to participate in an activity that they wouldn't be able to without the support of the zoo.

We will continue to facilitate family zoo visits throughout the year, 5 families at a time. Please contact Hafsar if you are interested at Hafsar.tameesuddin@crf.org.nz or whatsapp/text 020 4113 0531



World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is coming up on Monday 20th June, 2022.



While there is still uncertainty around COVID, we have decided to go ahead and hold an event on Saturday 18th June from 11.30am to 3.30pm for the Wellington region.

We will be having a celebration of the cultures of our refugee background communities through dance, food, art and music, and also look at some of the successes our community members have achieved as newcomers to Aotearoa New Zealand.

A venue is yet to be confirmed, but we will be promoting as soon as we have details. So, please keep the afternoon free.

Contact Judah on Judah.seomeng@crf.org.nz.

Introducing two new members of the team...

Luis Perez – Community Connector



Luis is originally from Colombia and he has been in Aotearoa since 2014. Luis enjoys working in the social space and believes that everyone should have the same opportunities regardless of their nationality, gender, language, colour of their skin, or religious affiliation.

Outside of work, Luis is part of multiple initiatives that support former refugee and migrants communities to flourish and thrive in Aotearoa. For example, he has been a speaker at Voice of Aroha for two years where he shares his views on the challenges and wins that former refugees and migrants face in Aotearoa.

In his spare time, he likes learning languages and his goal is to be fluent in Te reo Māori and NZ sign language. Luis is currently doing his te reo Māori level 1 and 2 at Te Wananga o Aotearoa. Last year, he completed the Tikanga course, where he realised the importance of learning more about te ao Māori.

Luis is working as a Community Connector for our COVID food and welfare response and working on some of our Holiday and Family activity programmes.

Samuel Judah Seomeng – Community Connector

I was born and raised in Botswana, and I immigrated to New Zealand with my family in 2004.

As a long-term migrant with personal experiences of social and cultural adaptation, I am passionate about migrant experiences and issues. My academic background is in cultural anthropology, specialising in migration studies.

My MA research project looked at the role of health services in socio-cultural integration of refugee background migrants in the Wellington region. Currently, I am in the process of starting a PhD study which will be looking at the impact of inter-ethnic relational dynamics (specifically intra and inter-ethnic prejudice amongst ethnic minority migrant communities) on integration.

I am excited to be part of the ChangeMakers team, and I look forward to meeting and working with Wellington's diverse communities.

Judah will have the pleasure of working in Community Connection in the Community Development space, alongside Hafsar.



Open Road Driving Programme...

fantastic results

Our year to date stats are looking good - for the year ending 30 June 2022 we have had 30 passes so far. This is well on track to our targets set by MBIE of 35 passes in a calendar year - hooray!. The stats make up 17 restricted passes and 13 full licence



passes.

Currently on the programme we have 16 learners, 7 of these are new learners who have started with our newly trained mentors, 4 are learners continuing from last year and 3 people are past learners sitting their full test.

Coming up...

Understanding Kiwi Education

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, we are offering this fun and interactive series of 5 workshops to help our community members understand the Kiwi education system and be best placed to support their children's education.

This is a great opportunity for parents and their children to learn about the education system in New Zealand, from the very basics such as what happens on the average day at school to why there isn't much homework in NZ and how to have a voice or raise a concern.

There will be activities for the children, who we want to come along, and we will also have translators on hand.

Afternoon tea will be provided at each session and each family that attends all 5 sessions will receive a \$100 petrol voucher to cover their costs.

Please note that we have changed the dates so that the programme doesn't clash with celebrations of our communities.

Attention School Families of Refugee and Migrant Background
We are offering 5 workshops to help you know more about Education in NZ and how to make it the best experience for your children.



We are excited...

Train the Trainer

We are really excited to be running the Train the Trainer Driving Workshop over the holidays.

We have a range of community members participating and they will go on to teach members of their own community the learners drivers licence in their mother language...to help get newcomers on the road to getting their license while they are still at the early stages of learning English.

NZQA Food Safety and Handling

The first course is happening in two weeks, and we have 18 people registered.

We hope to run more of these, so please get in touch if you are interested in obtaining this certificate.



COME AND JOIN US:

- Talk about your goals around cooking and selling food
- Complete a **FREE food safety and hygiene course** (NZQA Certificate) Limited Places



THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2022
9.30AM - 1.30PM (MORNING TEA PROVIDED)
SISTERS OF COMPASSION, 2 RHINE ST,
ISLAND BAY

Registrations essential
phone | text | jaces on 022 457 5839
or email jacqueline.willson@crf.org.nz
There is a \$15 bond to register. This will be refunded to you on the day.

Coming up continued...

Swimming Lessons for Children

We are currently working with Peninsular Foundation and through them have secured swimming lessons later in the year for children, and are working on other water safety activities as well.

Please contact Hafsar as below if you and your children are interested in them attending some swimming lessons in July and August.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

learning to swim

Would your children, aged 7 to 12, be interested in learning to swim? From July to August, we plan to hold one-hour classes in Wellington on Sundays for the kids from refugee backgrounds, for a total of ten weeks.

If interested, please email hafsar.tameesuddin@crf.org.nz or 0204113051 on whatsapp, viber and text

It's Free

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Thank you to our funders, supporters, and volunteers

It is with the support of the following organisations, as well as a lot of individuals that donate or volunteer with us, that we are able to work towards our missions of “New Zealanders from refugee backgrounds participating fully in Aotearoa new Zealand life” . We also send out a special thanks to Red Cross, Catholic Social Service, Sisters of Compassion and CCDHB for the immense amount of support they are providing to our communities and our work

