



It's still summer! We have had a lovely few months filled with volunteer trips, campaigns, Moveable Feast events and much more. Continue reading to hear what we've been up to!

We took part in Refugee Week 2025!

We were proud to be part of Refugee Week again this year. At our [Welcome Centre Open Day](#) on 16th June 2025, we welcomed 30 members of the public, colleagues in the sector and old friends into our Monday drop-in to see what BHN is all about. With more than 170 mouths to feed, it was lovely to meet some new faces, and catch up with familiar ones!



BHN were host to three stalls at the [Celebrating Sanctuary Festival](#) on Queen's Square (22nd June 2025). While our Moveable Feast chefs cooked up a Botswanan storm at the food stall, our volunteers and Trustees manned the cake and information stalls, chatting to locals about BHN's role in the community (there was even a quiz!) In addition to raising £1398.98 across the day, we also managed to recruit 4 new volunteers! Thank you so much to everyone for coming down to celebrate Refugee Week with us!



Holiday(s) in the sun!

We were extremely lucky to take our members on not one, but TWO overnight trips this Spring and Summer!

The first was in April at [Othona Lodge](#) in Dorset. The connection is thanks to previous-Baraka Cafe manager Esther, who works at the retreat as the live-in chef. Othona not only allowed us to stay in their beautiful lodge for free, but the whole community also fundraised to make the trip happen. We took 12 of our female volunteers and their children down for 3 days of beach walks, crafts, baking and gardening. Thank you so much Othona!

"The trip was really good for mental health because you are not focused on asylum. I enjoyed it and I wish to go back."

Salamatu, BHN guest of Othona Lodge

The second trip was our annual partnership with [Chagford Hospitality Network](#), where generous residents of Chagford welcome BHN members into their homes for a week-long holiday. This year we took 9 of our members over and enjoyed 5 days of wonderful activities, including a trip to the beach, swimming in the town lido, and pottery making on a real potters wheel. Thank you so much to the incredible Chagford community for having us again!

"It was the same as if I was with my family. A big love for the people of Chagford."

BHN guest of CHN



Campaign for free bus tickets for asylum seekers in Bristol

Bristol City of Sanctuary is currently working on a campaign for free bus tickets for people seeking asylum in Bristol, and we are beyond proud to say that 5 BHN members are on the lobbying team for the initiative. Working with other sector partners such as Borderlands, so far the team have met to engage in campaign strategy training, held meetings with local councillors, First Bus representatives and MPs such as Carla Denyer. This is an ongoing project, so keep an eye out in the news and on socials for updates!

BHN Director nominated for Lord Dubs award

BHN Director Qerim Nuredini has been nominated for the Dubs Award for Outstanding Commitment. This award, established in 2023, is given by HIAS+JCORE, the UK's Jewish organisation, to recognise outstanding work with people negotiating the asylum system.

Qerim arrived in the UK in 1999 as a refugee from Kosova, as part of a humanitarian evacuation from a refugee camp in North Macedonia. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to help other refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. In August 2000, he moved to Bristol and worked as a case worker for Refugee Action, continuing working for them in various roles such as deputy manager, team manager and regional manager until 2016. He has also worked for Bristol Refugee Rights, seconded to Bristol City Council to help set up a Syrian resettlement scheme, and managed the refugee support team for the British Red Cross in Bristol.

During his time in Bristol, he has set up a Pride Without Borders Group in 2015, coordinated Bristol refugee week, and initiated the creation of the Bristol Refugee Festival charity that runs refugee weeks in Bristol, as well as speaking at the first UN compact on refugees in Geneva.

In June 2024, he moved to BHN as interim director, and BHN has been fortunate to have him as our Director since November 2024.



BHN Sri Lankan Feast at Bristol Lido 2nd April 2025

April seems like forever ago now, but we are still reeling from such a gorgeous evening! Our Moveable Feast chefs partnered up with the talented kitchen team at the Bristol Lido to create a mouthwatering, 17 dish Sri Lankan feast. The night began with a traditional "Nelli Crush" Sri Lankan mocktail, and what followed was delicious food, heartwarming speeches from our Director Qerim, Advice Manager Elinor, BHN Chef Kule and Lido Chef Pash — and 14 raffle prizes.



We raised a grand total of **£3553.74**, including a whopping £360.00 made in raffle tickets on the night (well done Carol & Kitty!).

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the event. Thank you so much to the wonderful staff at the Bristol Lido for donating raffle prizes and for curating such a beautiful night. We can't wait to do it again next year!



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