

INCLUDING YOU

A



approach to migration

Acting Together for One World in Peace

by Sarah Hirom

Has anyone here heard of One World Week?



So what is OWW ?

- It's a Development Education Charity (staffed almost entirely by volunteers) which raises awareness of global issues that affect us all globally and locally.
- We are the UK representatives of the European Global Education Week Network.
- We hold OWW during the week in which United Nations Day, 24th October, falls. But it can be at other times if more convenient to the local organisers.

What are OWW's Aims?

- To expand perceptions of what it is possible to do to build a just, peaceful and sustainable world;
- To work with others to make a significant contribution to building an informed, concerned and inclusive public in the UK;
- To make OWW a nationally recognised annual occasion during which organisations hold local events to involve adults, families, youth and children from all backgrounds and to engage with global issues and local impacts.



We seek to do this by:

- expanding perceptions of what individuals and communities can do promote:
 - economic and social justice
 - environmental sustainability
 - a culture of peace
 - a culture of inclusion

Each year's theme focusses on one or a combination of the above

AND:

- inspiring hope that their efforts will be worthwhile by offering examples of actions which have been successful.



How do we work?

We believe that:

When we understand each other's perspectives, our lives can be transformed and enriched.

“We see that people of other faiths and none do mix, but there is always that apprehension of “the other” and, until we break down those barriers and start working together, that will remain so.”

Amrick Singh vice-chair of the Council of Sikh Gurdwaras



So, we stimulate local organisers to put on events in their communities to bring people together to explore the impact of global issues.

We want OWW events to:

- bring people together to share their perspectives
- be inclusive
- increase understanding
- inspire hope (by reference to successful actions)
- plan actions people can do together to build a just, peaceful and sustainable world
- enable people to have fun!

So we encourage events that celebrate diversity, share food, involve entertainment and art as well as serious discussion, films, speakers.



OWW's Theme for 2016 is:

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It addresses the challenge of building an inclusive society in the context of mass migrations fleeing war, poverty and environmental change to countries where many citizens feel threatened by austerity, deteriorating public services and fear of terrorist attacks

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Acting Together for One World in Peace

"Diversity as experienced across Europe, ... is a compelling, gripping transformation — a story that we are all part of, and one we should start talking about in new ways."

Nougayrède (5.01.2016)



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OWW promotes the understanding that:

Injustice, inequality and prejudice are not inevitable but man-made, so we can change them.

So, in 2016, we seek to counteract racism, xenophobia, and anti-migration views with:

- **factual information** expressed in meaningful concepts that people can visualise...
- **stories of refugees' and asylum seekers' experiences that emphasise our common humanity** – Mums, Dads and children not numbers
- **events which facilitate local residents and refugees, asylum seekers and migrants meeting** through activities undertaken together ...
- **positive stories about the contributions made to our society by migrants**, people of various faiths and ethnicities, to challenge perceptions ...
- **inspirational stories** of actions people and organisations could emulate ...
- **a deeper understanding and acknowledgement of the underlying causes of migration and refugees** ...

Understanding causes

OWW is encouraging people to reflect on the part industrialised countries, through their values, economies and policies, have been playing in:

- causing and exacerbating wars,
- exploiting and impoverishing people,
- the misuse of development aid (e.g. the refugee from Ethiopia whose land was requisitioned without adequate compensation under a New Alliance for Africa food programme supported by, among others, UK Aid, and now subject to severe criticism by the EU, is a case in point.)
- laying waste land and other resources
- fuelling climate change and environmental degradation

All of these may cause people to seek a more secure life elsewhere.

Not just events - Social Media too

OWW is encouraging its supporters to spread many of these stories/ videos/ ideas /actions and pieces of information through social media to reach a wider audience and encourage debate.

INCLUDING YOU?

This year's theme: reminds us all, in this room, that all our actions, purchases, attitudes, Tweets, contribute to the ripple effect of economic and environmental justice or injustice across the world ...

Which is why holding events in solidarity with others at the same time enables us to **“Act Together for One World in Peace”**, in the spirit of “Ubuntu”, recognising our mutual interdependence.

Prepared for
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by
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www.oneworldweek.org.