



Includes details of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations working with BME communities and of statutory agencies and departments with particular focus on supporting BME populations.

## Introduction

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Despite what is sometimes a traditional and rather mono-cultural image, Devon has always enjoyed a diverse community. In recent years, changing demographics have made this diversity more visible and encouraged local authorities and service providers to work towards becoming more responsive to differing needs.

We hope that this service directory will help individuals and families to find whatever support they are looking for and that it will also be of use to organisations and agencies from all sectors that want to improve their engagement.

The first section is devoted to Voluntary and Community sector organisations. Some are larger, well-established charities while others are small grassroots groups which are too often reliant on scarce and short-term funding; so readers should not expect them to have offices that are manned 5 days a week. Many of these organisations employ only part-time workers and rely on the work of willing volunteers. However, what they lack in capacity they often make up for with passion, enthusiasm and knowledge of the community. They often lead the way in promoting participation and community cohesion.

Other sections contain details of posts and services within the public sector with a BME focus and of some of the different BME networks and forums across the county.

We realise that things change quickly so the intention is to keep this directory updated on our website at [www.openheartsopenminds.org.uk/](http://www.openheartsopenminds.org.uk/).

We make no claims to have been exhaustive and will be glad to add in information about any other groups or services that we have missed.

If you have any suggestions please contact someone from the Open Hearts, Open Minds team (see website for details) or contact David Wright from Devon County Council at [dave.wright@devon.gov.uk](mailto:dave.wright@devon.gov.uk) Tel: 07971 267502

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## Amber Initiatives

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Amber Initiatives was set up in September 2005, when it became increasingly obvious that specialist advice and support was urgently needed to assist both the rapidly growing migrant communities as well as to support those local organisations and individuals (landlords, employers, farmers) who had direct contact with newly formed community groups of migrant workers.

Our aim is to assist in the settlement and adjustment of migrant workers and to provide services designed to increase the newcomer's participation in British society by helping migrants to overcome barriers. Amber Initiatives principal activity is providing Information, Advice and Guidance service for migrant workers.

The company runs drop-in centres in Plymouth, Bodmin, Redruth and Truro and provides advice and consultancy support on a wide range of issues including Employment, Housing, Finance and Benefit, Education and Health.

Contact: Svetlana Stoupnikov

Drop-in Centre: 35 Armada Street, PL4 8LZ,  
Wed, Thu, Fri 17.30-20.00 and Sunday 10.00-14.00

Correspondence: PO Box 285, Plymouth PL4 6WW

Telephone: 07867765714 or 07964492152

Email: [amberinitiatives@googlegmail.com](mailto:amberinitiatives@googlegmail.com)

Website: [www.amber-initiatives.co.uk](http://www.amber-initiatives.co.uk)

## Anglo-Polish Organisation/Polso- Angielska Organizacja

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The Anglo-Polish Organisation, based in Tiverton, was founded in 2007 to help develop friendship and understanding between the Polish and British communities living in Devon.

The organisation provides a social focus as well as offering a range of services to individuals, schools, groups and organisations, such as:

- Polish language tuition, translation and interpretation services
- Advice, guidance and practical support for Polish speakers
- Educational outreach and resources for schools, groups, and organisations (Polish Cultural Champions, Polish Heritage Teaching 'Trunks', handling collections and activities)
- English language tuition and support
- Walk and Talk English in the Community language cards for Polish speakers
- Polish Heritage in Devon Project - endeavouring to preserve the cultural heritage of the Polish people in Devon

Contact: Agnieszka Szpinda or Caroline Nicholson  
 Address: Grosvenor House, 25 Peter Street, Tiverton.  
 EX16 6NW  
 Telephone: 07891239997 & 01884 250200 (English)  
 07852488256 (Polish)  
 Email: dziendobrydevon@googlemail.com  
 Website: Not yet

## The Anglo-Polish Saturday School of Tiverton

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Founded in January 2008 to provide education for children in addition to that which they receive in mainstream schools. The school, which is run by volunteers, generally follows the curriculum provided by the Polish Educational Society in London and adopts the quality framework for supplementary schools as outlined by the National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education.

Classes are in Polish and children attend for four hours each Saturday. Children, however, do not have to speak Polish to enroll: the Anglo-Polish Saturday School welcomes children from all backgrounds and all language abilities, and additional language tuition is provided in either English or Polish to those who need extra support.

- Polish Language and Literature, Geography, History, Culture and Arts.
- Religious Education in preparation for children to take Holy Communion.
- English for Adults: Saturday English classes
- Classes about Polish Life and Culture for English speakers:
- Our Polish teachers are available to visit schools and organizations as 'cultural ambassadors' of Poland.

Head Teacher: Agnieszka Szpinda  
 School Address: c/o St John's Catholic Primary School,  
 Melbourne St, Tiverton EX16 5LB  
 Telephone: 01884 250200 or 07891 239997 (English)  
 07852 488256 (Polish)  
 email: dziendobrydevon@googlemail.com  
 Website: not yet

## Black South West Network

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The Black South West Network is based in Bristol and aims to provide support to BME organizations across the South West.

BSWN's primary function is to provide access to information on policy and funding programmes, supported by a capacity building and advice service. The aims are to help:

- Unlock further funds for the sector at a regional level
- Advocate effectively at a regional level
- Ensure that the sector is consulted and recognised

Increase the effectiveness of the sector through the provision of advice, information, training, representation, publications and development services.

Most of BSWN's services are accessible online at the address below. Membership is open both to individuals and to organizations across the region.

Address: 5 Russel Town Avenue, Redfield, Bristol BS5 9LT  
 Telephone: 01179396648  
 Email: reception@bswn.org.uk  
 Website: www.bswn.org.uk

## Challenging Discrimination

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### A CAB (Citizen's Advice Bureau) Project

Exeter Citizens' Advice Bureau have funding from the Equality and Human Rights Commission to investigate and positively challenge issues of discrimination occurring in Exeter. The project focuses on the experiences of Exeter residents who are disabled or come from BME community. The key aims of the project are to:

- EXAMINE cases of discrimination collected by Exeter CAB.
- NETWORK with BME and disability interest groups and organizations to improve mutual communication and enhance our understanding of issues and solutions.
- PRODUCE an evidence report on our findings.
- DEVELOP training initiatives for businesses and organizations to promote good practice.
- SET UP a Local Action Group to continue the work
- INVOLVE people with lived experience of discrimination in all stages and areas of our project.

Contact: Rachel Nicholson  
 Address: Exeter Citizens' Advice Bureau, Wat Tyler House,  
 3 King William Street, Exeter EX4 6PD  
 Telephone: 01392 209623  
 Email: rachel.nicholson@exetercab.org.uk  
 Website: www.exetercab.org.uk/

## Cultural Champions

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Based at the Global Centre with the following aims:

- Building a growing group of Cultural Champions – Black and Minority Ethnic Devonians who can deliver sessions in school, colleges, public sector bodies and beyond, on a wide variety of topics, countries and focuses;
- Helping to tackle Devon’s hidden racism, and helping to keep Devon a county that welcomes people from all backgrounds, cultures and religions;
- Delivering the entitlement of our children and young people to a global dimension in their education

This is carried out through:

- An annual training programme to expand the group of Cultural Champions
- Supporting and marketing the existing Cultural Champions Developing (with Devon County Council’s EAL service) a Youth Cultural Champion programme for 11-14 year olds in Secondary schools.

Contact: Ghee Bowman  
 Address: Global Centre, Exeter Community Centre,  
 17 St David’s Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG  
 Telephone: 01392 438811  
 email: gbowman@globalcentredevon.wanadoo.co.uk  
 Website: www.culturalchampions.org.uk

## Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support Council (DCRCS)

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DCRSC was started by a group of refugees and local community members in 1999 with the purpose of providing assistance and support to refugees and asylum seekers living in Devon and Cornwall. We aim to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees enjoy the benefits of their full entitlement under UK and international law.

Services we offer include:

- Advice and Advocacy: specialist advisors can offer guidance on range of issues including: health, education, legal matters, housing, finance and leisure.
- Emergency Support for asylum seekers facing short-or long term difficulties
- Clothing Store: run by Churches Together. Provides second-hand clothing and household goods.
- Women’s Development Group: usually held at 12 noon on the last Thursday of each month. Children welcome.

Our drop-in service is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 2pm.

Address: The Masiandee Centre, 7 Whimble Street,  
 Plymouth PL1 2AY  
 Telephone: 01752 265952  
 email: dcrsc@btopenworld.com  
 Website: <http://dcrsc.cfsites.org/>

## Devon Racial Equality Council

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Aims to promote racial equality for everyone and to assist and support people who have been discriminated against because of their race, religion, colour, national or ethnic origin.

Offers a range of services including:

- Specialist advice on race discrimination complaints.
- Support for isolated and vulnerable children & families.
- Advice and support for the Gypsy/Traveler community.
- Training on Equality and Diversity for voluntary, statutory and private sector organisations.
- Advice and support to public bodies on policies and procedures relevant to the Race Relations Amendment Act 2000, under their general duty.
- To support the development of community engagement initiatives county wide.
- Advice and support regarding housing issues for the BME community.
- Advice and support for Migrant Workers.

Address: 15 York Rd, Exeter. Devon EX4 6BA

Telephone: 01392 422566

email: suaad@devonrec.org  
or for Gypsy and Traveller work contact  
penny@devonrec.org

Website: www.devonrec.org.uk

## The Devon Inclusive Housing Project

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The primary aim of the project is to develop responsive, culturally competent services that tackle the causes of homelessness and ensure that the ethnic minority population has the same range of options and quality of services as everyone else.

We provide a casework service for clients with housing problems and will represent their interests.

Through contact with Housing providers (Council, Housing Associations & the Private Rented Sector) we can assist the improvement of services for our clients and provide training and support for service providers.

The project, which covers Plymouth, Torbay, Exeter & Devon, is funded until March 2009.

Contact: Ian Smart

Address: 15 York Rd, Exeter, Devon EX4 6BA

Telephone: 01392 422566

email: ian@devonrec.org

Website: not yet

## Devon United Women

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Devon United Women works to empower women, especially those from minority ethnic backgrounds, and to raise awareness of the needs of women in Devon.

Ongoing work we are involved in includes:

- Supporting families
- Equality and Diversity Training
- Promoting Active Citizenship and community involvement
- Providing access to information and advice
- Advocacy

The work we do is built around supportive and inclusive activities which help women to develop their confidence: helping them to find employment and take on leadership roles within their communities.

Contact: Suaad Genem-George  
 Address: c/o Devon Racial Equality Council, 15 York Rd, Exeter, Devon EX4 6BA  
 Telephone: 07792373347  
 email: sgenemgeorge@yahoo.co.uk  
 Website: not yet

## DRIVE

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### (Diversity, Racial, Inclusion in Volunteering for Everyone)

Based at Exeter Council for Voluntary Services and funded until April 2009, DRIVE aims to encourage, support and recruit volunteers from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds to volunteer in our local communities.

DRIVE wants to ensure that participants enjoy and get the most out of their volunteering experiences. As well as offering support and mentoring to all volunteers, DRIVE is happy to help organisations to create new, engaging and high-quality volunteering opportunities.

If volunteers are interested in setting up their own projects then DRIVE can help with that too.

Contact: Gervaise Cevio  
 Address: Exeter Council for Voluntary Services, Wat Tyler House, King William St, Exeter EX4 6PD  
 Telephone: 01392 202055  
 Email: diversity@exetercvs.org.uk  
 Website: www.exetercvs.org

## ECVS Human Rights Project

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ECVS currently employs a full-time Human Rights Officer, who has a wealth of Knowledge in Human Rights and Equality Issues for the Voluntary and Community Sector. The officer's role is a capacity building one that involves responding to enquiries from CVS members; facilitating briefing sessions/training days and offering human rights-related materials and advice.

The project offers the following services to Exeter and Devon's Voluntary and Community Sector:

- **Information and advice** on Human rights and equality
- **Signposting to Legal Advice** where violations on human rights have occurred.
- **Outreach and face to-face-consultation**
- **Current and Updated Information** about the latest human rights and equality case law.
- **Training** for staff, volunteers and trustees on human rights and equality.

Contact: Fiona Gaffa

Address: Exeter CVS, Wat Tyler House, King William Street, Exeter EX4 6PD

Telephone: 01392 202055

Email: [fiona.gaffa@exetercvs.org.uk](mailto:fiona.gaffa@exetercvs.org.uk)

Website: [www.exetercvs.org.uk](http://www.exetercvs.org.uk)

## Equality South West

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Equality South West, in partnership with the South West TUC, in 2008 work on a two year project, funded by the South West Regional Development Agency, to support migrant workers and their employers and to encourage the take-up of good practice. The project aims to help with understanding trends in migration and the impacts across the region; to support employers and encourage good practice; and to help the public sector offer a coordinated response to migration.

Equality South West is a regional organisation that can offer support with:

- Mapping
- Networking
- Setting up local forums and linking these into regional forums
- Organising sub-regional events to promote good practice
- Support with research

Contact: Monika Stennett  
Charles Dorr

Address: Equality South West, East Reach House East Reach, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3EN

Telephone: 01823 250824 and 07971309235

Email: [monika.stennett@equalitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:monika.stennett@equalitysouthwest.org.uk)  
[charles.dorr@equalitysouthwest.org.uk](mailto:charles.dorr@equalitysouthwest.org.uk)

Website: [www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk](http://www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk)

## Exeter Mosque and Cultural Centre

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The Islamic Centre in Exeter was established in 1978 through the efforts of local Muslim businessmen and students from the University of Exeter. Since its formation it has grown considerably both in its physical size and in the range of activities on offer. Though our primary purpose is to provide a place for worship we are also a community centre for Devon's Muslim population and a cultural centre that aims to bring people from different backgrounds together.

Among other activities we have a Youth Club and offer English lessons, run by volunteers, for women from the community. We welcome visitors who want to find out more about Islam and every year our Imam gives tours and talks to children from schools around Devon. Feel free to contact us if you would like to arrange a visit.

We are in the process of developing a new building, complete with classrooms and multi-purpose hall for the benefit of the whole community: in 2007 the demolition of the old buildings started and we hope to see the new centre complete within the next 2 years.

Address: Islamic Centre Of The South West,  
12-13 York Rd, Exeter EX4 6PG

Telephone: 01392 250597

email: [enquiries@exetermosque.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@exetermosque.org.uk)

Website: [www.exetermosque.org.uk](http://www.exetermosque.org.uk)

## Fata He

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Fata He is a West African word which means inclusion. Fata He was established in 2001 to help redress the social and economic inequalities experienced by many Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) individuals, families and groups within the city of Plymouth.

Since becoming incorporated as a limited company (social enterprise) in 2003, Fata He has become an umbrella organisation for both BME individuals and groups and aims to work in partnership with other local, sub-regional and regional organisations.

Through the BASIS project Fata He is there to help other community organisations build their capacity. Please feel free to contact us if your group needs help with writing a constitution, putting effective policies and procedures in place or applying for funding.

Contact: Ossie Glover

Address: The Welcome Hall, 4 Fore Street, Devonport,  
Plymouth PL1 4DW

Telephone: 01752 607853

email: [admin@fatahe.com](mailto:admin@fatahe.com)

Website: [www.fatahe.com](http://www.fatahe.com)

## Global Centre

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The Global Centre aims to work with people of all ages, from all parts of Devon and from all different backgrounds:

- To understand the links between our own lives and those of people throughout the world
- To increase our understanding of the complex forces that shape our lives in an age of globalisation
- To work together to bring about positive change and to take control of our own lives
- To promote ways of living together that are sustainable and just

The Global Centre houses a wide range of resources on global issues that can be loaned out to schools and other groups. We regularly host training and awareness raising workshops and our project workers can offer advice and guidance to individuals, groups and schools.

Contact: Sue Errington  
 Address: Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill,  
 Exeter EX4 3RG  
 Telephone: 01392 438811  
 email: [dde@globalcentredevon.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:dde@globalcentredevon.wanadoo.co.uk)  
 Website: [www.globalcentre.org.uk](http://www.globalcentre.org.uk)

## Hikmat

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### (part of the Olive Tree Association)

The Hikmat (Wisdom) Social Contact Centre is a BME elders project, aimed primarily at those over 45, which runs a drop in day centre at St Sidwells in Exeter. The drop-in centre is currently open every Tuesday and Thursday between 10 am and 3.30 pm.

There are over 40 regular participants, mostly from the local Chinese and Muslim communities, but new members – from any ethnic minority background are always welcome. There is a women's-only room available on Thursdays.

As well as being a social centre, where people can come together to talk, relax and eat together (subsidised lunches are available) Hikmat helps clients to link up with a range of services:

- Education (including English classes)
- Financial advice
- Social services
- Health (we can arrange consultations with a range of health practitioners, including NHS nurses and professional counsellors, who attend our sessions every fortnight)

Contact: Fakhira Ashfaq (Manager)  
 Address: St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell St,  
 Exeter EX4 6NN  
 Telephone: 07976876979  
 email: [hikmat@stsidwells.org.uk](mailto:hikmat@stsidwells.org.uk)  
 Website: [www.diversedevon.org](http://www.diversedevon.org)

## Multilingua

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Multilingua is an Exeter based Community Interpreting and Translating Service that was launched in 2007. From November 2008 this local interpreting service has been working in partnership with the Workers Educational Association: an initiative being funded by Devon County Council. Multilingua can offer the following

- Access to trained local interpreters with knowledge of over 25 languages
- Interpreting for public services – including courts, hospitals, GPs, social services and schools
- Specialist interpreting – e.g. legal, medical
- Face-to-face interpreting
- Translation by request
- Accredited training courses in Community Interpreting
- Training for organisations on ‘Working with Interpreters’

Multilingua is a local agency, training and employing local people.

Contact: Anil Lee  
 Address: c/o WEA, Bradninch Hall, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PL  
 Telephone: 01392 435385  
 email: devonci@uk2.net  
 Website: multilingua.webs.com

## Olive Tree Association (OTA)

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The Olive Tree Association is a grassroots community association, based in Exeter but working across the whole of Devon.

Olive Tree grew out of an educational project, setting up and running English classes at Exeter Mosque. We still organize ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, run by volunteers, but are now involved in a much wider range of community development initiatives among Devon’s minority ethnic communities: educational projects, social and health care projects, cultural activities and social events. Hikmat, Mosaic, One World Clubs and Sahara were all launched through OTA.

Fundamentally, OTA aims to promote community cohesion by supporting any needs-led initiatives which bring people together to share experiences and ideas and to open doors to further opportunities.

We are always looking for volunteers to help with our projects, particularly the ESOL classes; so, if you are interested, please get in touch.

Address: OTA, St Sidwell’s Community Centre, Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6NN  
 Telephone: 07877 688418  
 Email: a@btconnect.com  
 Website: www.diversedevon.org

## One World Clubs

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The One World Clubs (the name was chosen by children attending the clubs) were started in 2007 by the Olive Tree Association with the aim of supporting children, and their families, whose first language is not English. The clubs are open to all.

As well as organising activities for children, the clubs provide opportunities for parents to learn more about their children's schools and to meet up with teachers and other parents.

Two clubs were established: one at St Peters Secondary school and the other at St Sidwell's Primary school. In 2009 the aim is to extend to other schools in Devon. With the help of volunteers from Plymouth and Exeter Universities the clubs offer:

- Arts and Crafts
- Support with homework and language learning
- Storytelling and poetry
- Group discussions on dealing with bullying and racism
- One-to-one advice and guidance for children and parents
- Sports and games
- Trips and visits – coach trips, picnics, etc

Contact            Sevil Fertinger  
 Address            OWC, c/o The Olive Tree Association, St Sidwell Centre, Sidwell St, Exeter EX4 6NN  
 Telephone:        07809450126  
 email:             sevil.fertinger@gmail.com  
 Website:           www.diversedevon.org

## Planet Rainbow

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Founded by a community member in 2002, the Planet Rainbow Project (PRP) supports mixed heritage (often referred to as mixed race) families, children and young people (CYP) living in Exeter and Devon. Planet Rainbow offers

- A monthly Saturday group at The West Exe Children's Centre where mixed heritage families can come together for mutual support
- Organised activities and outings
- Opportunities to discuss issues in a non-judgemental environment
- Expert advice and training, on working with the mixed heritage community, for both the statutory and voluntary sector, including PCTs, CYP services, Adoption and Fostering teams, Youth services, Education, Children's Centres, CAHMS and Mental Health teams and Psychologists. We work to Every Child Matters Outcomes and within Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and AXS Pathway
- A Platform for CYP to find through creative expression whilst exploring identity with their peers

The mixed heritage population is the fastest growing minority group both locally and nationally. PRP will continue to make a positive contribution to the mixed heritage discussion and highlight this often invisible sector of the community. We often take part in conferences, seminars and research at local, national and global levels.

Contact:            The Planet Rainbow Project  
 Address:            West Exe Children's Centre, Cowick Street, Exeter EX4 1HL  
 Telephone:        01392 217452  
 email:              planetrainbow2004@yahoo.co.uk

## Plymouth and District Racial Equality Council

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Plymouth and District Racial Equality Council is dedicated to working to promote racial equality for all and to challenge racial inequality.

Our aims include:

- To increase the effectiveness of local race equality work and support organisations to deliver the statutory duty
- To support the development of an active and vibrant black and minority ethnic community and voluntary sector
- To work in partnership to build a safe and strong community for all which values and celebrates diversity
- To consolidate current services and practices and establish a secure basis for future work

PDREC offers:

- Advice and advocacy
- Support for victims of discrimination
- Youth work
- Community Development work
- Training and consultancy

Address 3rd Floor, Prideaux Court, Palace Street,  
Plymouth PL1 2AY

Telephone: 01752 224555

email: enquiries@plymouthrec.org

Website: www.plymouthrec.org

## Polonica

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### Exeter Polish Association

Set up in 2008 to provide assistance and support for Polish speaking people living and working in the Exeter area. Polonica helps develop cultural understanding by promoting local culture to new residents from Poland and other Eastern European countries, and by promoting Polish culture to local residents. We encourage social networking and cooperation between the communities.

Polonica also organises regular family meetings in St. Sidwell Centre in Exeter, during which the adults meet and chat over tea and coffee, while Polish stories are read to the children, who are also encouraged to draw and play. The association promotes and supports the Polish Saturday School of Exeter where children of Polish Migrant Workers are able to learn about their country and culture in Polish, and maintain ties with their roots of origin as well as their native language.

The Exeter Polish Association is a part of SW Migrant Workers Network (under the umbrella of Equality South West) and works closely with the Anglo-Polish Organisation of Tiverton. Polonica Exeter Polish Association invites all willing individuals, organisations, groups and professional bodies to join it in working together in collaboration.

Contact: Robert Sieradzki (Chair), Magdalena Wood (Public Relations),

Address: c/o Devon Racial Equality Council  
15 York Road, Exeter, Devon EX4 6BA

Telephone: 0789 481 73 96 (Robert)

0779 123 00 67 (Magda)

Email: o-makana@wp.pl (Robert)  
Magdalena.wood@nhs.net (Magda)

## Refugees First

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Refugees First is a voluntary organisation which aims to improve the skills, confidence and participation of refugees and asylum seekers (ASRs) in Plymouth and the surrounding area.

We provide a range of support services, including advocacy and outreach work, delivering awareness raising and myth-busting sessions. We have excellent knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting ASRs as our staff are embedded in our clients' cultures and linguistic backgrounds and so are in a strong position to identify and address their needs.

Refugees First has strong links to the local Kurdish community (see details below) and to the Azadi football team. Azadi FC was set up in 2003 to allow members of the asylum seeker and refugee & BME community to use football as a tool for improving their integration and cohesion within the city and to improve their communication and team work skills.

Contact           Roya Rafferty (Manager)  
 Address           Floor1, Anglia House, Derrys cross, Plymouth PL1 2SH  
 Telephone:       01752 242156  
 Email:            roya@refugeesfirst.org  
 Website:          <http://azadifc.co.uk/RFIRST/Rindex.html>  
 Azadi FC site     <http://azadifc.co.uk/index.html>  
 Kurdish Community   <http://azadifc.co.uk/PKC/pkc.html>

## Refugee Housing Support Service (RHSS) START and PATH

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This is a project that is run as a partnership between Students and Refugees Together (START) and Plymouth Access to Housing (PATH)

This partnership project provides a range of services aiming to support refugees and asylum seekers and promote racial harmony and social inclusion. Services offered include:

- Housing advice, guidance and support
- Practical help based on home visits, using interpreters when necessary.
- A weekly Cultural Kitchen, cultural celebrations and other social events.
- Volunteering opportunities

### START

Address:           Unit 4, HQ Building, 237 Union St,  
Plymouth. PL1 3HQ  
 Telephone:       01752255200  
 email:            Isaac@studentsandrefugeestogether.com  
 Website:          [www.studentsandrefugeestogether.com](http://www.studentsandrefugeestogether.com)

### PATH

Address:           The harwell Centre, 28-42 Harwell Court,  
Western Approach, Plymouth PL1 1PY  
 Telephone:       01752 255889  
 email:            info@plymouthPATH.org  
 Website:          [www.plymouthpath.org](http://www.plymouthpath.org)

## Refugee Support Group

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The Refugee support Group (RSG) was formed in 2001. It is based in Exeter, at Exeter Council for Voluntary Services, and its main aims are to:

- Promote the well-being of all asylum seekers in Devon and assist them in making choices about adapting to life in the UK
- Encourage the positive participation of the wider community in the lives of resident asylum seekers and refugees, and to raise the awareness of the general public about the misinformation and prejudice surrounding asylum seekers and refugees
- Provide a voice for this community and make representations on their behalf

RSG runs a drop-in centre at Wat Tyler House that is open four days a week (not Wednesdays).

Contact           Annette Hughes  
 Address           Wat Tyler House, King William Street,  
                       Exeter EX4 6PD  
 Telephone:       01392 682185  
 email:            info@rsgdevon.org.uk  
 Website:          www.rsgdevon.org.uk

## Rejuv-Nation

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Rejuvi-Nation is a newly formed grassroots community association which was set up late in 2007 with the aim of supporting people from BME communities in Devon who are coping with disabilities. It was started by a small group of local people – all from BME backgrounds, all with different disabilities – who were frustrated with the lack of support available from both the statutory and the voluntary sectors.

The group wanted to create a comfortable place to meet, to support each other and to campaign for change together and is currently applying for funding to run a support programme.

As well as working within the community, Rejuvi-Nation wants to work with professionals – from Social Services, from the Health services – in order to establish a dialogue that will help both service providers and service users. We welcome approaches from individuals looking for support and from organisations looking to make contacts.

Contact:           Diane Lawrence  
 Address:           c/o OTA, St Sidwells Community Centre, Sidwell St,  
                       Exeter EX4 6NN  
 Telephone:       07925829166  
 email:            rro\_exe\_col@hotmail.com  
 Website:          not yet

## Sahara

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### (BME Mentoring Project)

The Sahara project was launched in April 2008 under the umbrella of the Olive Tree Association. Building on the work of the Hikmat centre, Sahara is (initially) a one year programme funded by the Department of Work and Pensions that aims to reach out to elders from minority communities living in Exeter, Mid-Devon and North Devon.

The aim is to seek out and identify isolated BME people aged 45 plus. Individual needs are assessed and appropriate packages of services put in place, together with mentors whose job it is to assist clients in accessing local services.

The mentors themselves are all recruited from local BME communities and receive ongoing training.

If you would like to find out more, or would like a visit from a mentor, please contact our Project Administrator, Ella.

Contact: Ella Huffman  
 Address: 1 Emporer Way, Exeter Business Park, Exeter EX1 3QS  
 Telephone: 01392 314753  
 email: saharaproject@googlemail.com  
 Website: www.diversedevon.org

## Spectrum

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We are a group of mixed heritage families in North Devon. We aim to celebrate diversity and encourage integration of diverse cultures in the local community. We are currently developing a project aimed at children: the Spectrum Children's Club which will give children of different age groups an opportunity to explore the diverse cultures of North Devon. The sessions run every last Saturday in a month and the activities include:

- Culture-specific drawing, painting, puppet making, storytelling, drama, dance, singing and sports
- Outings to the local parks, theatres and festivals
- Preparation of traditional food
- Sharing experiences with other mixed heritage families

Relevant professionals will be invited to get involved in the activities to signpost the families to the local agencies, enabling increased access to information about local services and increased awareness of the needs of mixed heritage families.

Contact: Emma Migliari  
 Address: Victoria House Family Centre, Barnstaple EX32 8NP  
 Telephone: 01271 321 41 or 01271 375 803  
 Email: migliari@btinternet.com

## TMG

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The Monitoring Group (TMG) has over 25 years experience in delivering support services to victims of racial harassment and violence nationally.

TMG offers casework services which provide legal, practical and emotional support, advocacy and advice to victims of racial harassment and violence. The organisation also conducts outreach and development work with Black Minority Ethnic communities, provides training around best practice to front-line agencies in the voluntary and statutory sector and monitors the compliance of authorities to community safety legislative duties.

The regional office is in Torquay but TMG works across the region and is happy to offer support in all parts of Devon.

Contact            Elliot Perkins  
 Address            1 Lucius Street, Torquay, Devon TQ2 5UW  
 Telephone:        01803 203525  
 email:             eperkins@monitoring-group.co.uk  
 Website:           www.monitoring-group.co.uk

## Ujima

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### (an Exeter Community Initiatives project)

Based in Exeter, the project aims to support the BME communities of the city by:

- Providing direct support for existing groups and networks
- Supporting the development of new groups, networks and projects in response to community needs
- Promoting and enabling community development by supporting Black and Minority Ethnic communities at a strategic level within the city
- Helping to provide appropriate accountability to a range of stakeholders
- Ensuring that all work is carried out in accordance with accepted standards of good practice

Check out the Ujima website to find out about some of the newly formed community groups in the area.

Contact:            Ricky Croal  
 Address:            14 York Rd, Exeter EX4 6BA  
 Telephone:        01392 205807 & 07971221960  
 Email:             ricky@eci.org.uk  
 Website:            www.eci.org.uk

## Devon and Torbay PCT (Primary Care Trust) BME Mental Health and Well Being team

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Devon PCT employs a team of 8 Community Development Workers (CDWs) to Deliver Race Equality (DRE) in mental health services across Devon. CDWs act as bridges between the BME community and statutory services and work with BME communities, individuals and service providers to help ensure equal access to mental health and other services. Our role is to reduce the barriers and improve BME people's access to, experience, and outcome of using mental health and other support services.

The CDWs have four key roles:

- **Change Agent** Helping to identify community concerns and gaps in services; seeking out capabilities of communities to develop innovative practice; increasing channels of communication between the BME community and statutory services.
- **Access Facilitator** Helping people to find effective pathways across services; directing people to community resources; signposting and addressing barriers to services, such as language.
- **Service Developer** Advising on training and education of health-care staff; developing joint working between statutory and community services.
- **Capacity Builder** Assisting in the development of BME community organizations and mutual support groups; assisting with writing funding applications.

Individuals and families looking for help with accessing mental health or other support services are welcome to contact their local CDW, as are groups and organizations looking for help with policies, with training or with engagement.

### **Chukumeka Maxwell - Senior CDW, Devon and Torbay**

chukumeka.maxwell@nhs.net

Devon and Torbay Primary Care Trust  
Public Health Provider Service , C/O Unit 1  
Exeter International Office Park, Exeter EX5 2HL

07772 061740

### **Magdalena Koscielak - CDW, Exeter East and Mid Devon and Torbay**

magdalena.koscielak@nhs.net  
Exeter CVS, Wat Tyler House, Exeter EX4 6PD

07791 230067

### **Maja Lelandais - CDW, North Devon**

Drop-in every Tuesday 10am-5pm  
Torrige Voluntary Services (TVS)  
14 Bridgeland Street, Bideford, Devon EX39 2QE

maja.lelandais@nhs.net

07966 914718

### **Melanie Stiles - CDW, Devon PCT.**

Exeter CVS, Wat Tyler House, Exeter EX4 6PD

melanie.stiles@nhs.net

07966 914578

### **Sevil Fertinger - CDW, Torbay PCT**

Torbay Voluntary Service, 11 Castle Road, Torquay TQ1 3BB

sevil.fertinger@nhs.net

07826 917600

### **Penny Dane – CDW Devon, Gypsies and Travellers**

C/O Devon REC, 15 York Road, Exeter EX4 6BA

penny.dane@nhs.net

01392 422566 & 07979 838138

### **Tony Kuhl, Devon Partnership Trust**

tony.kuhl@nhs.net

07974 563028

### **Linda Ramdeen**

linda.ramdeen@nhs.net

07971 325878



## English as an Additional Language Service (EAL)

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The EAL service aims to support the achievement and inclusion of EAL children in schools across Devon. We are a team of 4 specialist advisory teachers, 3 higher level teaching assistants, and head of service, Loraine Davis. We provide:

- Specialist in-service training, advice and support for school staff working with bilingual pupils.
- Training & workshops on racism for all settings and schools.
- Support for schools preparing for new arrivals, strategies for support and integration
- Resources for schools e.g. differentiated materials and dual language support materials
- Guidelines for a whole school approach including raising an awareness of language and cultural diversity
- In some instances, direct Bilingual/Classroom Assistant support for EAL children.
- Valuable links for EAL children and families across Devon, through a variety of projects, cluster meetings and video conferencing sessions.
- Support for school staff and families of EAL children in liaising with community groups and representatives of ethnic minorities.

Contact: Loraine Davis, Head of Service

Address: English as an Additional Language  
Redworth House, Ashburton Road  
Totnes, Devon TQ9 5JZ

Telephone: 01803 869113

Fax: 01803 869129

E-mail: [ealadmin@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ealadmin@devon.gov.uk)

Website: [www.devon.gov.uk/index/learning/supporting-children/eals.html](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learning/supporting-children/eals.html)

## English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

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English language classes for UK residents and migrant workers are available at local Further Education colleges and through other providers. Fees are subsidized by the government and some learners, those on benefits for example, are eligible for free classes.

Through these courses, those wishing to improve their English can gain qualifications as well as working towards gaining Citizenship.

Contact:

### East Devon College

01884 235200 [www.edc.ac.uk](http://www.edc.ac.uk)

### Exeter College

01392 205222 [www.exe-coll.ac.uk](http://www.exe-coll.ac.uk)

### North Devon College

01271 345291 [www.ndevon.ac.uk](http://www.ndevon.ac.uk)

### South Devon College

01803 540540 [www.southdevon.ac.uk](http://www.southdevon.ac.uk)

### Action for Employment

01392 423030 [www.a4e.co.uk](http://www.a4e.co.uk)

### Voluntary organizations organizing English classes:

#### Open Doors International Language School, Plymouth

01752 242365 [www.odils.com](http://www.odils.com)

#### Olive Tree Association

07877 688418 [www.diversedevon.org](http://www.diversedevon.org)

## Hate and Prejudice Crime Prevention Group

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Sitting under the Safer Devon Partnership (SDP), this group is responsible for coordinating a local delivery plan for countering Hate Crime, including racially motivated attacks and abuse. As part of this work, Devon County Council employs a part-time Hate Crime Prevention coordinator.

The SDP recognises that Hate and Prejudice Crime can have an enormous impact: not just on the victims themselves but on their families and their communities. The work of this group includes:

- Promoting inter-cultural respect and community cohesion
- Improving communication and networking between BME community groups and statutory services
- Working with schools against racist bullying
- Increasing the reporting of Hate Crime incidents
- Supporting the victims of Hate Crime
- Improving the satisfaction of victims with the responsiveness of the police and other services

Contact            David Wright  
 Address           Room G41, County Hall, Topsham Rd,  
                          Exeter EX2 4QD  
 Telephone:        07971267502  
 email:             dave.wright@devon.gov.uk  
 Website:           www.devon.gov.uk

## Reporting Racial Abuse

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If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of physical assault, or of verbal or written abuse, and you believe it is because of race or religion, please report it.

Lots of victims don't report it. Maybe they don't trust the police or they think it won't be taken seriously.

But by reporting it you can help to change things. You might save others from suffering similar abuse. And even if there isn't enough evidence or you don't want to press charges, your information will help the police and local authorities to fight the problem.

### How to report racial abuse

- Phone the police on 0845 777444
- Call in at your local police station
- Contact your local Police Diversity Officer, they have specialist training in supporting victims of racial abuse. Contact details on page 39
- By post. Use a self-reporting or 3rd party reporting form. Available through many of the organisations listed in this directory
- Phone or email Devon's Hate Crime Prevention Coordinator directly. Details on page 42
- Contact The Monitoring Group. Details on page 34

## Community Safety Partnerships

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There are a number of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), also known as Community Safety Partnerships, around Devon, as well as the county-wide Safer Devon Partnership. These partnerships take responsibility for strategies in relation to a range of community safety issues, including Hate and Prejudice Crime.

### East Devon

Gerry Moore gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk 01395 273802

### Exeter

Michael Miller michael.miller@exeter.gov.uk 01392 265330

### Mid Devon

Julia Ryder jryder@middevon.gov.uk 01884 234997

### North Devon

Amanda Palmer amanda.palmer@northdevon.gov.uk 01271 341200

### South Devon and Dartmoor

Rebecca Gordon rgordon@teignbridge.gov.uk 01626 215873  
(the lead officer in South Devon and Dartmoor for Hate and Prejudice Crime is Peter Dale peter.dale@southhams.gov.uk 01803 861278)

### Safer Devon Partnership

Roy Tomlinson roy.tomlinson@devon.gov.uk 01392 382563

### Torbay

Kirsty Mooney kirsty.mooney@torbay.gov.uk 01803 841440

### Plymouth

Sarah Hopkins sarah.hopkins@plymouth.gov.uk 01752 315789

## Forums and Task Groups

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### BME Domestic Violence Action Group

This action group emerged after a local conference in May 2008 involving representatives from many of the local DV support services and delegates from Devon's BME communities.

The Action Group, which meets quarterly, was set up and tasked with implementing an action plan to address some of the issues around local BME communities accessing DV support services.

This action group has helped to set up an emergency fund which can help support victims of domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds.

Contact: BME/DV group c/o ADVA

Address: Room G41, County Hall, Topsham Rd,  
Exeter EX2 4QD

Telephone: (Maja) 07966 914718

Email: maja.lelandais@nhs.net

### Exeter Racist Incidents Action Group (ERIAG)

ERIAG works to monitor and to tackle racist crime in the Exeter area. The group, which usually meets every two months, includes representatives from Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, Exeter University and BME community groups.

Contact: Michael Miller (Chair)

Telephone: 01392 265330

email: michael.miller@exeter.gov.uk

### Equality Strategy and Scrutiny Group (ESSG)

The ESSG is an established group of the Devon Strategic Partnership, comprising representatives from the statutory sector and the main equality strands, including BME, (mainly through community, voluntary and faith organisations) which scrutinises and advises the Devon Strategic Partnership on equality issues. It is currently focused on improving the delivery of local area agreement work programmes and ensuring equality is at their heart. The group is chaired by Devon County Council's Chief Executive.

Contact: Ian Hobbs  
 Telephone 01271 344103  
 Email: [ian.hobbs@devon.gov.uk](mailto:ian.hobbs@devon.gov.uk)

### Migrant Workers Task Group (MWTG)

The Devon Migrant Worker Task Group was established in 2007 by the Devon Strategic Partnership with the financial support of Devon County Council. The group includes some migrant workers and representatives from a wide range of agencies from the statutory and voluntary sectors, employers and community groups.

The task force is currently chaired by the Community Council of Devon and has taken responsibility for producing a Welcome to Devon pack aimed at helping newly arrived Migrant Workers to access local services and to integrate into the community.

Contact Community Council of Devon  
 Address County Hall, Topsham Rd, Exeter EX2 4QD  
 Telephone: 01392 383443  
 email: [info@devonrcc.org.uk](mailto:info@devonrcc.org.uk)  
 Website: [www.devonrcc.org.uk](http://www.devonrcc.org.uk)  
 Online link to Welcome Pack:  
[www.devonsp.org.uk/migrantworkers](http://www.devonsp.org.uk/migrantworkers)

## North Devon Migrant Workers Task Group

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This multi-agency group was set up in the North Devon and Torridge area in 2007 to look at the challenges and benefits of migration in North Devon and to provide leadership and coordination to work aimed at supporting migrant workers' needs.

Contact: Julie Dixon  
 Telephone: 01271 313417 07736 731926

### North Devon and Torridge Diversity Group

- A multi-agency group set up in 2006. Purposes include:
- Advising the North Devon and Torridge Joint Local Strategic Partnership on matters relating to Equality and Diversity
- Networking and acting as an information sharing framework for all aspects of work on diversity
- Working in partnership to develop an action plan that promotes diversity
- Highlighting community tensions and gaps in services

Contact: Emily Poyner (Chair)  
 Telephone:  
 Email: [Emily.Poyner@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:Emily.Poyner@northdevon.gov.uk)