

# THE DERBY BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



## Annual Report 2016/2017

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## BRIEF HISTORY OF DERBY BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

On the initiative of Bosnian refugees sheltered from the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ex camp prisoners and their families, medical evacuees and others in 1994, work on establishing organization started in order to improve difficult situation of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Association was established in January 1995, and registered as Charity in 1998.

Former premises were secured using acquired grant from Lottery coupled by great voluntary work of Bosnia and Herzegovina refugees set-

tled in Derby. Centre was officially opened in 2001. It was a place of gathering for Bosnians & Herzegovinians and others from ex-Yugoslavia that wanted to socialise and seek advice.

We have managed to start "One Stop Shop" in order to provide full set of different services via our partners organisations, Derby Refugee Forum and NCISE. It is necessary and vital for our "One Stop Shop" to be open to all people and on daily basis for clients irrelevant of securing the necessary core funding for workplace or not.

# Chair Summary

**As we bring to a close year 2017, we reflect back on the work that was carried out at the Bosnia Community Centre this year. It is extraordinary that 11,162 people visited the centre this year for various reasons. Some 4,427 of those sought help through an advice session from the DBHCA (1,084) and DRAC (3,343).**



We welcomed people from all walks of life and different ethnic backgrounds who sought advice in respect of employment benefits, housing and council tax benefits, immigration, help with letter translation as well as interpretation appointments outside of the centre and other personal issues that do not fall under either of the aforementioned areas. Furthermore, our invaluable outreach workers made 374 visits to people who sought help outside of the centre.

We have continued with the activities provided every Saturday funded by BBC Children In Need. Our funding came to an end last year and before the new funding was approved in May 2017, the Centre has used very small reserves in order to continue providing the Saturday activities for children. We are pleased that BBC Children in Need have made a decision to provide funding to us for one more year and this is due to end on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

We congratulate our seven pupils who graduated from the Bosnian School this year and welcome 29 children who continue with the Bosnian School.

We have continued to provide dance classes to children every Friday evening and currently have 18 children in the group. Children who are in the dance group have attended various performances this year, such as QUAD for the Holocaust Memorial Day, Refugee Performance Week, Supplementary School performance, and Further from the Sea festival.

The Centre has organised various events through the year which have had a good attendance levels from the local community, the Mayor and various Council members. These events included Holocaust Memorial Day, Srebrenica Memorial, End of Heritage Project Celebration, Museum and Art Gallery Exhibition, AGM, Refugee

Week Exhibition, Visit from the supplementary school Birmingham, New Year party and presents for the children, Partners DRFT and UK Network.

Current committee consists of 15 members who have met every quarter with the Project Centre Manager and continue to play a vital role in the good governance of our charitable organisation.

It is evident from the number of visitors that come to the Centre to seek help how important the Centre is and the work that is done by the staff and volunteers of the Centre and the Derby Refugee Forum. We have seen a decrease in the funding available to support our charitable work, and have had to rely on our small reserves to keep the work going. This year, we must continue to seek other avenues of funding so that our work can continue.

On behalf of myself and the committee members I would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment this year. I would also like to thank the staff and volunteers at the Derby Refugee Forum for all of the work and commitment they provide on a daily basis. I was fortunate to sit in one of the sessions with one of the volunteers this year and I was amazed by the patience and support given by the volunteers to people who rely on them to help them. All the staff and the volunteers do an amazing job and I hope that we can continue to source funding in the future to keep this work going.

Once again many thanks to everyone and I hereby propose the adoption of the Annual Return 2016-2017.

Kind regards,

**Nermina Webster**  
**Chair (DBHCA)**

# ONE-STOP-SHOP | Our Network Partners

## Chair Summary - Derby Refugee Forum

2016-2017 has been a very busy, demanding but also an uplifting year for Derby Refugee Advice Centre. We have had 3343 visits to the 'drop in' from various clients. The main issues for advice sessions are still asylum seeker support and immigration matters and benefit concerns for refugees. Destitution for failed asylum seekers in the long term and for new refugees in the short term is a growing problem.



We are working constructively with other organisations, especially the Red Cross and others within City of Sanctuary to give a co-ordinated response. There will also be challenges when the new Initial Accommodation at Laverstoke Court opens in January.

Ruth Long, Volunteer Coordinator and Admin Officer started in January. She quickly became an integral part of the Centre and has set up a wide variety of activities including creative art, 'Well for Life' health checks, sessions with Police and Fire Services, football, gym passes, theatre sessions, museum and school visits, massage therapy and board games. Those who use our Centre hopefully feel welcome, engaged, relaxed and as well as receiving advice if needed can socialise, be creative, learn and become more independent. English classes on Tuesday and Thursdays and Life in the UK/English on Mondays are flourishing.

We currently have about 50 volunteers, many of whom are asylum seekers or refugees. Everyone who volunteers at the Centre is part of a wonderful team of people who give so much time, effort and commitment. I cannot say a big enough thank you.

Being able to access legal advice is an extremely important for asylum seekers and we currently have Shabina from Burton & Burton and Ruth from Immigration Advice Service (IAS) on alternate Tuesdays, plus Julius from IAS every other Thursday, thus providing quite comprehensive legal support on site.

Funding from All Saints Trust £4,000, Allen Lane Foundation £5,000, Foundation Derbyshire, £4,500 and most recently Yapp £3,000 a year for 3 years provides a very positive base for our services. We have also received over £8,000 in donations from many very generous benefactors including local churches and community groups.

As always we are incredibly grateful to the Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre for their facilities, support and advice alongside financial and organisational help. Ferid and Nedzad are the cornerstone of our provision and together I hope we make a positive difference to the lives of asylum seekers and refugees in Derby.

**Janet Fuller**  
Manager—Derby Refugee Forum

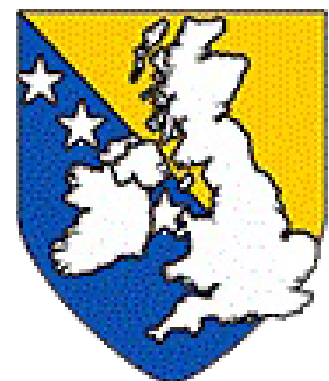
## BiH UK Network: Another Year of Successful Cooperation

We would like to sincerely thank BiH UK Network for their support, cooperation and idea sharing during the last twelve months. We assure you that this venture between Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association and BiH UK Network will benefit both the organizations for a very long period of time.

It is encouraging to see the employees

from both organisations maintaining the already established good working relationships between themselves. These are inevitable factors to both, positive workplace and success of the organisations.

Also, we would like to congratulate BiH UK Network on securing future funding and wish them luck in their newly extended and refurbished Premises.





# BBC Children in Need | Helping Children and Young People

During the last twelve months, Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association continued with the Saturday activities for children and young people. This project was partly supported by Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association and partly by the BBC Children in Need.

The effort we put in organizing these activities is because we consider it absolutely necessary that our children here in Derby have the opportunity to attend additional activities/classes in their native language. This project helps young people develop a lasting and profound interest in their homeland of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its people, towards the birthplace, preservation and enrichment of the mother tongue in all forms, introduction to geographical and other characteristics of our country, learning about cultural and other achievements of our homeland and promoting tolerance and mutual respect amongst all the people. It also helps children with their mainstream education and prepares them from an early age to understand and better fit into British society and culture.

Most of the children enrolled were aged between 5 and 15, all eager to take up opportunities to learn about their homeland as well as develop new skills which will help them in future. The aim of this project is to preserve our community's heritage and to raise the attainment of our children.

20 children were enrolled during the 2016/2017 academic year. They all attended Saturday Activities, every Saturday, for two hours.

In order to offer a quality service to our pupils, we continued with two groups. Alma Hrcic provided teaching for pre-school children through to year 3 and Azra Basic, supported by Amela Zahirovic took charge of years 4 to 8.

We would like to stress out that all those who work with children have been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).



We would like to say a big thank you to all the parents for providing support in a form cleaning premises after activities took place.

Following on a success from previous years, we offered work placement to a student from the University of Derby. Janine Castellon spent ten weeks with us during the first three months of 2017. While completing ten workshops, Janine demonstrated exceptional skills of working with children.

In July, our pupils attended the annual Supplementary School Gathering event which took place in Birmingham. We are pleased to announce that our school took first place in all competitions, winning gold in literacy, art and football tournament.

## PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITY



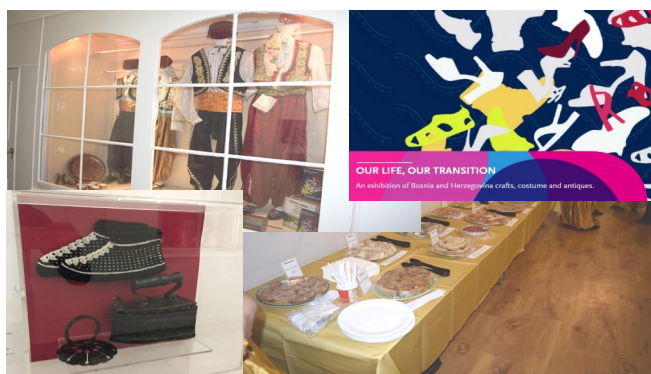
2016/2017 Academic Year remained low in terms of children who attend pre-school activities, however, we saw an increase on previous years.

During the last 12 months, we have offered a range of structured educational experiences based on learning through the play. The activities have involved play with mix of toys, games, singing, story-time, reading and painting.

Pre-school gives children a chance to interact with others. Interacting with other children means learning basic discipline. Young children learn social skills when they interact with other children. These skills are critical to developing personality.

Supported by  
 **BBC**  
**Children in Need**  
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and Scotland no. SC039557

## Exhibition at the Museum & Art Gallery



In October 2016, the official opening of our exhibition took place at the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Exhibition was named "Our Life, Our Transition" and was on display until 15th January 2017.

Exhibition was organized by our Community Association in co-operation with Derby Museums and its aim was to present our culture and heritage to the people of Derby and wider. It was an afternoon of music, dancing, crafts and food celebrating Bosnia-Herzegovina Culture and Heritage.

Samples of traditional dishes were prepared and served by the members of our Community. Visitors were able to make their own Bosnian - inspired crafts while our traditional dance group "Bosnian Pearls" entertained them with traditional dances throughout the afternoon.

Our new film, "Our Life, Our Transition" was screened throughout the afternoon and the accompanying book, "My True Story" was on display.

## PROM 2017

In July 2017, DBHCA organised a party for all those who attended Saturday activities. On top of that, seven children who spent many years with us and came to an end of their studies were treated with a surprise Limousine.



## Holocaust Memorial Day 2017



On Thursday, 26th of January 2017, Derby Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Association marked the Holocaust Memorial Day, the Day of remembrance of all those innocent victims from WW2 and all victims from conflicts after that, including victims from Bosnian civil war.

With this year's theme being "How Can Life Go On", we took the opportunity to remind people about the atrocities that happened in our homeland with the main emphasis on Srebrenica Genocide which marked its 22nd anniversary this year.

Our event was attended by the Mayor of the City of Derby, chancellor Linda Winter, High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Elizabeth J. Fothergill CBE, representative from the Ukrainian Embassy and many others.

## New Year's Presents



On 31st December 2016, Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association Derby treated all our Saturday Activity members with New Year's gifts. In total, 34 gifts were given away and it was a pleasure to see delightful faces of youngsters who turned up to this event in large numbers. Local entertainer, Geoffrey Jumper, entertained children until Santa arrived.



# EVENTS | TRAININGS | PRESENTATIONS

## Srebrenica Memorial Day 2017



On July the 10th, 2017, Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association marked the 22nd anniversary since Srebrenica genocide.

The event featured prayers, speeches, survivor testimony, poetry and food, bringing together members from the Bosnian community and wider, including councillor Asaf Afzal, representatives from Christian Science Church, SANA project and many others.

## End of Heritage Lottery Project Celebration Event



In October 2016, an event celebrating successful completion of the Heritage Lottery project was held at the premises of Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre.

All members of the Bosnian community in Derby were invited as well as all the volunteers who helped or participated in the project.

Movie that was produced as part of the project was screened for the first time and volunteers who helped during the project were given a copy of the book, movie on a DVD and a DVD with their individual interview.

## Birmingham Supplementary School Visit



In December 2017, Derby Bosnia Herzegovina Community Association hosted an event where Bosnian Supplementary School from Birmingham visited our Centre, meeting members of our community and Saturday activity group.

It was an afternoon of games, competitions and food followed with a visit to the Museum and Art Gallery where our exhibition was on display.

## Refugee Week 2017



Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association once again took vital part in marking a refugee week.

We had an exhibition set up at our Centre which was in place for one week. Additionally, our dance group "Bosnian Pearls"

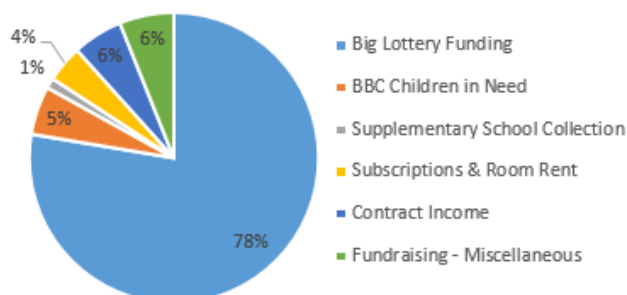


## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

2016		Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2017 Total £
<b>Total</b>				
£		£	£	£
	<b>Income</b>			
115660	Grants	0	87094	87094
2055	Donation & Invoiced Income	6154	0	6154
755	Subscriptions	4095	0	4095
0	Fundraising & Miscellaneous	6070	0	6070
<b>118470</b>		<b>16319</b>	<b>87094</b>	<b>103412</b>
	<b>Charitable Expenditure</b>			
80487	Salaries & Associated Cost	8510	64770	73280
5084	Travel Expenses	1102	2218	3320
3227	Training	0	877	877
2937	Telephone	0	2316	2316
6210	Fees	0	1551	1551
1757	Postage and Stationary	0	1538	1538
2700	Maintenance	0	2210	2210
222	Rent & Room Hire	0	398	398
3079	Office Equipment	0	0	0
2969	Insurance & Tax	126	4043	4168
3719	Electricity, Gas, Water	673	2899	3572
15302	Sundries	1687	2035	3722
<b>127692</b>		<b>12097</b>	<b>84855</b>	<b>96952</b>
<b>0</b>	<b>Cost of General Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>242</b>	<b>Managing &amp; Administering the Charity</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>501</b>
<b>127933</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>12097</b>	<b>85355</b>	<b>97453</b>
-9464	Surplus (Deficit) for year	4222	1738	5959
<b>64859</b>	<b>Funds Brought Forward</b>	<b>54242</b>	<b>1153</b>	<b>55395</b>
<b>55395</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>58464</b>	<b>2891</b>	<b>61355</b>

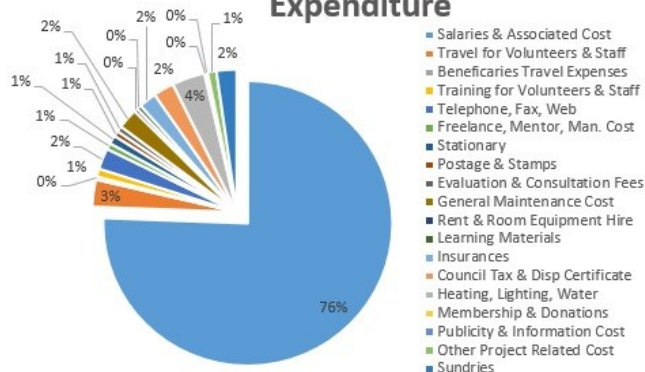


## Income



We continued to receive funding from more than one sources. The Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund was a core funding. BBC Children in Need was very supportive to our Saturday Children Activities for the last several years, but we have failed to provide funding for the year 2016-2017, however, we were successful at the second attempt and we secured funding for twelve months starting from May 2017. We also have managed to raise funding from other sources: hiring centre, subscription, donations, etc. in around £16,600, keeping on track with planned long term objectives. We keep our financial sustainability very healthy.

## Expenditure



The expenditure came in at much lower than the previous year, but this is down to the HLF Project costs accumulated during the 2015/2016 year. The expenditure was kept to the minimum level. The building expenditure was planned as part of Projects delivery, including Heating, lighting, Water and Maintenance which were lower than planned due to saving energy and no wasting money on maintenance and by doing a lot voluntarily. Finances were examined by Derby Community Accountancy Services and the Annual Return to the Charity Commission will be submitted after AGM. We are satisfied with the level of spending comparing to the work carried out, according to external monitoring report.

## Balance Sheet

2016		2017
	<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
300000	Building	300000
0	Depreciation	0
<b>300000</b>		<b>300000</b>
	<b>Current Assets</b>	
55095	Balance at Bank	61055
300	Cash	300
4440	Debtors	0
<b>59835</b>		<b>61355</b>
	<b>Liabilities</b>	
0	Creditors	0
<b>359835</b>	<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>361355</b>

## Statistical Information Sep 2016 - Aug 2017

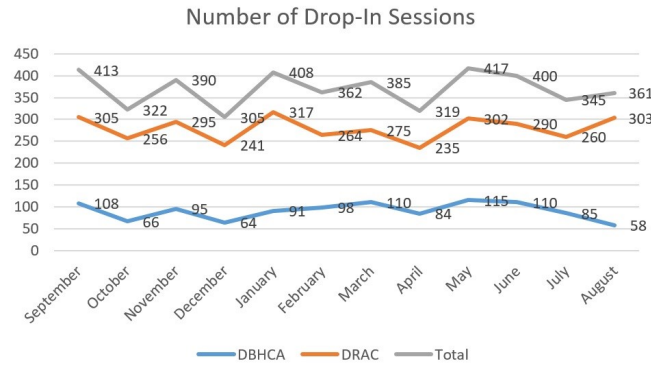
- ◆ **4427 Advice Sessions**
  - ◇ DBHCA 1084
  - ◇ DRAC 3343
- ◆ **371 of DBHCA advice sessions were outreach visits**
- ◆ **118 Applications to Home Office**
  - ◇ Travel Document 103
  - ◇ Biometric Card 3
  - ◇ Visits 6
  - ◇ ILR 3
  - ◇ Settlement 2
  - ◇ Citizenship 1
- ◆ **11,162 Centre Visits (Including Advice Sessions)**
- ◆ **10 Events Organised**
- ◆ **44 Saturday Activity Sessions**
- ◆ **42 Dance lessons**
- ◆ **6 Bosnian Pearls Performances**
- ◆ **6 Training sessions for staff and volunteers**
- ◆ **Work experience was provided to a student from the University of Derby**
- ◆ **184 Advice Sessions were for Roma families.**
- ◆ **12 New Volunteers Trained**

## Outreach Worker's Remarks

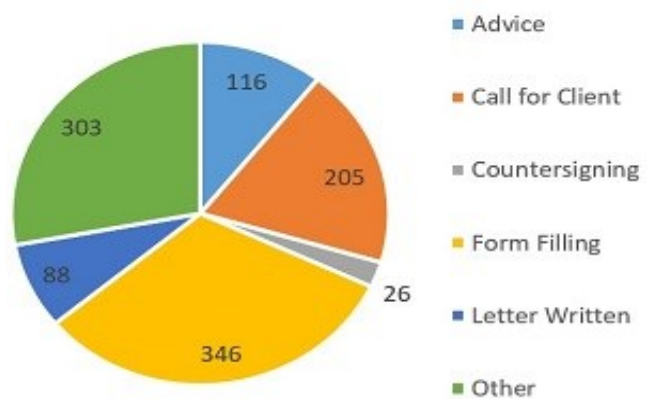
Year 2016/2017 turned out to be busy but very successful. Ermina Zahirovic-Algie provided outreach work from the start of the third project year in September 2016 till middle of July 2017, when Ermina decided to pursue her career elsewhere. I wish Ermina every success in all her future endeavours.

During the third year of the project, Outreach worker regularly visited and helped 17 families and 37 individuals. 371 outreach visits took place during this time, spending more than 450 hours altogether.

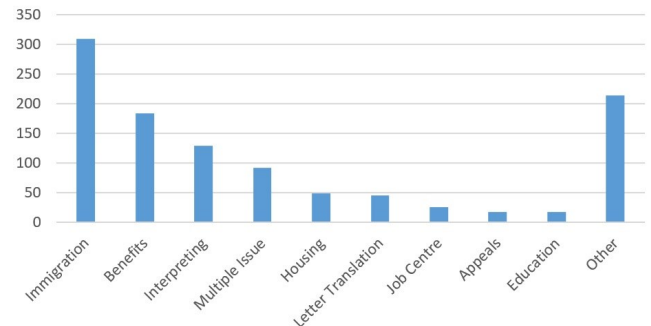
Majority of clients live in Derby, however, few of them live in Nottingham. They are all of different age groups, gender and beliefs, however, most of them are elderly and members of Bosnian Roma Community, many of



## Service Provided



## Query Type



whom suffer from various levels of mental health issues.

Support was provided in many different areas; interpreting, giving relevant advice, providing a listening ear and understanding their concerns, making telephone calls on their behalf, filling forms, liaising with local authorities, GP's, housing associations, schools, health professionals, pharmacies and care agencies.

I'm very pleased to say that, so far, current project year has been as successful and I look forward to continuing to deliver the excellent level of service that our organisation has been doing for the past few years.

**Nedzad Salkic**  
Outreach Worker

# COMMITTEE | 2016/2017

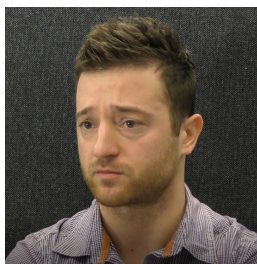
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**Nermina Webster**  
Chair



**Hajrija Halilovic**  
Vice



**Arnes Pobric**  
Secretary



**Muhamed Siranovic**  
Treasurer



**Midhat Kapetanovic**  
Committee Member



**Ahmo Salkic**  
Committee Member



**Mujo Hrcic**  
Committee Member



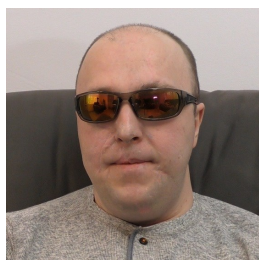
**Ahmed Velic**  
Committee Member



**Belma Velic**  
Committee Member



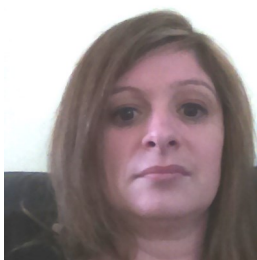
**Bekir Mujkic**  
Committee Member



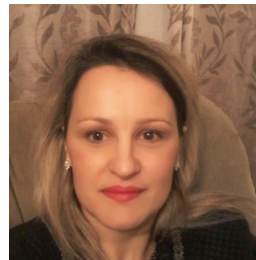
**Eldin Iovic**  
Committee Member



**Alma Pasic**  
Committee Member



**Amela Akram**  
Committee Member



**Elma Gopo**  
Committee Member



**Ajsa Bjelobrvic**  
Committee Member

Derby Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Association's 2016/2017 Committee was made up of fifteen members who were elected during the last Annual General Meeting which took place on the 16th of December 2016.

Over the course of the year 2017, committee regularly met, holding six meetings in total. Response to meetings was always positive, averaging around twelve members attending and three being absent per meeting which meant that the committee always had a sufficient number of members present in order to be able to make decisions.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the members of our incredible committee for all their hard work and efforts during the past 12 months.

Thank you for your support. Your personal commitment and energy have greatly contributed to the overwhelming success of our organisation.







## OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our mission and aim is to provide support and confidential service to alleviate effects of poverty, sickness and distress of Refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina and from the Former Yugoslavia and others, regardless of their ethnic origin and background. We believe that all refugees have the right to live in a just and equal society. We aim to achieve this by providing information, support, training and educational opportunity for all of them.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to say a special thank you to the following:

- Big Lottery Fund
- BBC Children in Need
- Derby Refugee Forum
- Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in London
- Parents of Children attending Saturday Activities
- B-H UK Network
- Our Volunteers
- Statutory or voluntary organisations we have been working with during 2016-2017

### Aims and Objectives

- ◇ to provide practical and social support to all refugees and others from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Former Yugoslavia, now settled in East Midlands.
- ◇ to provide advice services, support and a confidential information.
- ◇ to alleviate effects of poverty and distress to Refugees mainly from Bosnia-Herzegovina and refugees from the Former Yugoslavia, regardless of their ethnic origin residing in East Midlands.
- ◇ to equally provide independent and impartial advice and support those mentioned above people, who are on benefits or low income, disabled, elderly and vulnerable, residing in East Midlands.
- ◇ further development of the B-H Community Centre as a "One Stop Shop" place, as an efficient service for the Refugees and Asylum Seekers from all over the World.



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## Contact us

The Derby Bosnia-Herzegovina Community Association is a charity registered organisation. Registered in England and Wales number 1071955

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