

NEWS LETTER

AUTUMN - WINTER 23/24 ISSUE



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16-18 Arbury Court
Cambridge
CB4 2JQ
01223 655 241

CecfEnquiries@cecf.co.uk
Website: www.cecf.co.uk

[facebook](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Charity No. 1086241
Company No. 04175678

We are open for appointments only. We are not currently operating a drop-in service. Please contact us via our office number 01223 655241 or cecfenquiries@cecf.co.uk for advice, information, or an appointment.

Introduction

In the last few months, we have been successful in obtaining continued funding for our Ukrainian project, in addition to accessing more monies for our Refugee Services, allowing us to recruit another adviser.

We also received a grant from NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, through the Healthier Futures Fund, to develop an exciting new project – This to recruit and manage a team of community volunteer health ambassadors who will help address long term health inequalities for Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) people, including migrant and refugee communities, through grassroots community engagement and cultural intelligence training in health settings like GPs.

Reported by Eddie Stadnik
CEO (Chief Executive Officer)



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Community Focus



CECF Annual General Meeting

15th November 2023

CECF held its annual general meeting on November 15th at the Meadow community centre. This was a great opportunity to invite the local community to come along and see the projects we have been working on, providing them with an opportunity to discuss anything they would like to bring to our attention. And to see the appointment of a new Board of Directors, the passing of a special resolution and opening our boarder representation from the communities.

At the AGM, the membership and board of directors gave an account of all the work we have done and achieved throughout the year. The CECF Chairperson, Mr. Asaduz Zaman and the CEO, Eddie Stadnik, alongside our Treasurer, Yang Wang and our Member, Ila Chakravarti, presented the ECEF’s annual report to the audience.

We produced marketing materials and invitations through social media and our website, resulting in over 100 guests attending the meeting, including members of other organisations. This was one of the most successful AGM meetings that we have held. There were pop-up stores by Kareem Foundation, Health Watch Cambridgeshire, Cambridge Home Improvement Agency - CHIA, and TZU CHI. The guests were also entertained by Sanskrit Cambridge which displayed a spectacular classical Indian dance performance for us.

Throughout the evening, we received a lot of positive feedback from the guests, who were very impressed with the event and our marketing AGM report. We ended the evening with a delicious selection of a vegetarian buffet with tea and coffee, adding a great end to a successful evening.

CECF would like to say thank you to everybody who attended the meeting and look forward to seeing you next year.





Community Focus cont...



Iftar Event 24th March 24

Eddie Stadnik, CEO was invited to attend a community Iftar organised by the Bangladesh Welfare and Cultural Association Cambridge on Sunday the 24th of March. This was a wonderful event with thought provoking words and great food. It was particularly nice to see invited guests from different communities. This was a great example of how such activities can really build bridges and improve understanding between people. A big thank you to those from the Association who worked really hard to make this a resounding success.

Development News



The last 6 months have been a busy period for training. In July, we ran a free face to face confidence building session for women, a Google initiative entitled #IAMRemarkable. The aim of the initiative is to encourage people to recognise and acknowledge their achievements, celebrating their successes big or small. The workshop was well attended and received, so we offered a repeat session in November. Unfortunately,

seasonal bugs meant that not everyone who had signed up was able to attend. However, the relatively low number of three attendees from Ukraine, China and Syria respectively, presented an opportunity for people to share at greater length. Feedback was unanimously positive, including:

“It inspired me.”
 “It made me recognise my successes.”

We will look to run this session again in 2024, including a men only session.

We delivered two very successful ‘Race Awareness Conversations’ sessions online to South Cambs District Council, which allowed participants across the organisation to come together and ask questions as well as gain knowledge and reflect on current individual and organisational practices. Some feedback included:

Development News cont...

"I think this conversation has given me a tool to be able to confidently be anti-racist, instead of just a non-racist. Eg; when others speak racist comments, I will now ask them what they mean. Instead of just ignoring the comment because I did not want to challenge and cause confrontation."

In response to suggested improvements, 50% of attendees commented that the training should be attended by more people in the organisation, some feeling it should be mandatory:

"I was very impressed with the material and by the facilitator. The only improvement would be if more staff from SCDC had attended so that additional views could be heard, and that the information provided could be disseminated to a wider audience across the council."

We also delivered a bespoke online EDI session to Tzu Chi, one of our member groups, at their request. This session was attended by 13 of their members, all of whom were very engaged and contributed to a lively discussion. Some feedback included:

"I used to have a fear of training of any sort because of my past school experiences, but this training has been very pleasant. It's not stressful at all; in fact, it's been quite enjoyable and has helped me stay engaged."

"Make myself individually be more aware of my strategies in recruiting volunteers from diverse backgrounds and help them to grow/develop smoothly in our charity organisation."

In September, we completed training with Protection Approaches in partnership with Besea.n (British East and South East Asian Network) and can now offer a session on how to be an active bystander. The session covers what it means to be an active bystander and by working through scenarios, explore how to safely take action if you witness identity-based harassment or violence. This free session will be delivered in April 2024, in person at the CECF office in Cambridge and in partnership with CCVS.

If you would like to enquire or book a place for #IAmRemarkable or Active Bystander Training, please contact louise@cecf.co.uk

SCDC EDI Training



EDI Training with Tzu Chi



Upcoming Active Bystander Training





Wednesday the 7th of February 2024 saw CECF deliver the last in a series of three learning sessions. This one being 'choosing the right structure for your group'. This session considered the different structures that might be available to those who may wish to form a community group or become a charity. With the advantages and disadvantages of each structure being scrutinised.

6 attendees from 3 different BME community groups attended. The feedback was positive with two thirds of those stating that it had given them increased knowledge.

'Lots of information and examples'

'A comprehensive idea of different company structures'

Aware that finances are always on the minds of community groups, we invited Voice4Change England to host an online session on Digital Fundraising on 13th of March. Voice4Change England are a national advocacy group for the BME voluntary and charity sector and were the ideal partner to work with. Content covered the use of social media, funding platforms and Artificial Intelligence (AI) with a view to diversifying and improving digital fundraising approaches.

A total of 11 people attended the session, representing four community groups including Women's Voices for Africa, the Karim Foundation, Khidmat Sisters and Cambridge African Network, as well as individual attendees. 100% of feedback received indicated that attendees found the session both useful and informative, and increased their confidence on the topic, with particular interest on the content around AI. Some feedback included:

"Definitely want to increase digital fundraising and now have more confidence and knowledge to do this"

"Useful to learn more about other fundraising platforms and what non-profits can access."

We hosted a very interesting FREE Online UK Parliament Session on Tuesday the 12th of March 2024. This was delivered by the UK Parliament outreach officer for the East of England, Kelly Stroud. The session gave participants a very useful overview of how Parliament works and how it can for us.

CAMBRIDGE ETHNIC COMMUNITY FORUM
FREE TRAINING
 for Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) Community Groups

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum is offering free informative learning sessions
 All sessions will be online.

Wednesday 7th Feb. 2024 1pm - 2.30pm
Choosing the right structure for your group
 There is no correct answer to choosing the structure for your group, you need to pick what is the right one for the way your group operates. This session will consider all the different structures you could choose, including staying as an unregistered community group. It will review the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

This will give you all the information you need to consider, to decide the right structure for your group. The session will also briefly look at what you need to do to register as a charity or as a company.

Please contact ila@cecf.co.uk or eddie@cecf.co.uk for any enquiries, or to secure a place.

Free training for Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) community groups

CECF Learning session
 Delivered by Voice 4 Change England

Digital Fundraising
 Wednesday 13th of March 2024
 1 pm - 2:30 pm

This FREE online session will be hosted via zoom. Which will provide an interesting insight helping you gain a better understanding of digital fundraising.

This online session will cover:

- What is digital fundraising
- The different ways to fundraise digitally
- How it could help your organisation find alternative funding streams

Please contact eddie@cecf.co.uk for any enquiries, or to secure a place

UK Parliament

FREE Online UK Parliament Session
 Tuesday 12th March at 11am: hosted via Zoom

We are working with the UK Parliament's outreach officer in the East of England to deliver an insightful online session on how the UK Parliament functions.

This session will last around 60 minutes and attendees will get an overview of how Parliament works for them. No previous knowledge is required, and the session is politically neutral.

Please contact: eddie@cecf.co.uk to reserve a place or for any enquiries.

Interactive session will include:
What is Parliament ?
 Looking at who works in Parliament
 What is the job of Parliament
 Eligibility to vote
 How to register to vote
 Contacting your local MP



Three Cities Collaboration



On 7th December, we travelled to Birmingham with our colleagues from Cambridge Doughnut Economics as part of the three cities collaboration between Cambridge, Birmingham and Leeds. Attendees were present from all three locations, many having made a very early start to be there! The meeting was hosted by community researchers, who presented very diverse and exciting examples of projects undertaken by community researchers in their respective locations. Some items included migrant maternity

health projects, local street level conservation and community integration and cohesion projects. CECF has used similar methods for health projects in the past, through the use of health champions, and it was inspiring to be among colleagues with a similar vision of approach who could offer lessons learned for all our future endeavours. We look forward to continuing to develop this partnership and empowering communities through this approach.

Our Funders:



Our Partners:

