

---

Report on the MigrationWork Trust 2017

# Community Integration Awards

Making Migration Work

The Community Integration Award scheme was set up in 2016 by the MigrationWork Trust to **reward, celebrate and support best practice in community integration and cohesion** in the United Kingdom. The annual award focuses on grassroots and local initiatives to promote the integration of communities of migrants and other residents in the UK.

This report from the Trust describes the highly successful second year of the scheme. At a time when Brexit and far-right politics overshadow progressive debates on migration, the Community Integration Awards have shone a light on a far more hopeful reality. The Awards **recognise and pay tribute to the rich variety of integration work being pursued by skilled and passionate activists, entrepreneurs and professionals to support migrant and ‘host’ communities in our cities, towns and villages**. This work is critical at a time when there is a distinct lack of central guidance or funding for integration work in the UK.

With its report on the Award scheme in 2017, the MigrationWork Trust invites those who value this work to join it in developing the scheme in 2018 and beyond. **Sponsors can now play their part in extending the reach and impact of the Community Integration Awards for future years – and help to demonstrate the positive reality of the UK’s response to migration.**

## TRUSTEES

---



**SUE LUKES**

MigrationWork CIC



**STEVE LORD**

MigrationWork CIC



**DEVAN  
KANTHASAMY**

Tamil Housing Association



**RACHEL  
MARANGOZOV**

MigrationWork CIC



**SANDRA  
PENALOZA RICE**

Migrant Support



**ALICE KLEIN**

Shelter

## About MigrationWork Trust and its sponsor organisation

The Trust is a small registered charity, aiming to work with both migrant and host communities to encourage social inclusion and integration, so these processes can benefit them both. Our funds are made up of charitable donations from the sponsoring body MigrationWork CIC and small fundraising grants. This year this included a Lush grant and in-kind donations from Impact Hub King's Cross and Impact Hub Westminster.

After a first successful year of the awards, Trustees were keen to develop the second year of the annual awards to reward, celebrate and support best practice in community integration and cohesion in the United Kingdom.

The Community Integration Awards were launched in 2016 by the MigrationWork Trust which continues to oversee the scheme.

MigrationWork CIC, the Trust's sponsor, is a not-for-profit consultancy (community interest company) established in 2009. It aims to help communities, practitioners and policy-makers to respond to migration, in ways that ensure both migrant and 'host' communities can benefit from this process and move towards integration. It donates surplus income generated by its work to the Trust, helping to fund the Award scheme.





## 2017 Awards Ceremony

The first awards ceremony was organised to celebrate the achievements of the winning and shortlisted projects, and was held at the inspiring **Impact Hub King's Cross** in October 2017. Eighty guests from across the refugee and migrant sector came to celebrate and enjoyed food by **Papi's Pickles**, a social enterprise providing employment to Sri Lankan and South Indian women. The audience heard from keynote Human Rights campaigner **Laura Alvarez** and expert speakers; **Maryam Pasha**, **Ambica Jobanputra**, and **Sue Lukes**. Their informative talks on Storytelling and Pitching, User Centred Design and Project Evaluation shared best practice to support the development of not only our winning projects, but also shortlisted, nominated and wider community projects.

Photo credit: Carole Isseka



# Categories



## GRASSROOTS

**Grassroots organisations doing outstanding two-way integration work in local communities.**

The Grassroots category continues to be our main focus to showcase and support the excellent integration work that happens locally in our communities. That is why we offered our winner £3000, bespoke consultancy, acceleration programme support and membership from Impact Hub King's Cross and a professional short film to help promote their work.

The Grassroots category was open to charities, un-associated groups social enterprises and CICs which had done migrant/ refugee integration related work in the last 12 months.



## TECH AND INNOVATION

**Technology that is used to bring migrant and host communities together in innovative ways.**

This category was developed in response to last year's winning article of the Media Category (*The global tech community tackles the refugee crisis*). This highlighted the inspiring work being undertaken in the UK by socially conscious entrepreneurs. We offered the winner prizes to support upscaling of their initiative including £1000 for product/service development, bespoke consultancy, access to startup workshops and membership from Impact Hub Westminster.



## RESEARCH

**Research which advances good practice implementation and/or understanding of migrant/refugee integration.**

We wanted to highlight research which has strong community impact, involves expert practitioners and has resources which are easily accessible by communities. The winner was featured in a short film to further promote the research with communities.



## 2017 GRASSROOTS CHAMPION

# Olympias Music Foundation



Inspiring the way in local integration, Grassroots Champion winner OMF brings communities together, through music. It provides quality musical instrumental tuition to local schools, singing lessons to the Women's Voices Choir (for refugees, asylum seekers and victims of domestic violence), and African drumming classes for victims of human trafficking.

OMF believe that music has the power to inspire, enrich and transform the lives of ordinary people, as well as serve as a catalyst for social cohesion and community integration. They aim to make music accessible to those who can't afford it, and give those who might otherwise not have had the opportunity to take part, the chance to enjoy and benefit from regular musical engagement.

OMF's achievement in the awards was recognized in local media including That's Manchester TV and Business Manchester.

The panel members were Sandra Penaloza Rice from Migrant Support, Richard Williams MigrationWork CIC Trustee and Devi Patel from sponsor Impact Hub King's Cross.

---

**"Winning the Grassroots Champion Award has been a tremendous experience - from the day spent making the film in Manchester, all of the expert help we've received to develop and expand our organisation, and of course the fantastic awards ceremony in London. The process has been so encouraging for both the team and the groups we work with. We are very grateful to the Community Integration Awards for this wonderful opportunity and excited about what the future has in store for the OMF"**

Jo Yee Cheung  
Director, OMF





Photo credit: Carole Isseka

## 2017 TECH AND INNOVATION CHAMPION

### Chatterbox



This innovative project allows refugees and migrants to teach others in their native language via Skype and demonstrates how a little bit of technology can allow those in isolated dispersal areas to enter into work. The project harnesses what refugees offer, and empowers them in the role as givers rather than receivers.

Chatterbox believe their work is vital because the skilled opportunities for displaced people in the UK are so limited. "Refugees and asylum seekers in our communities experience greater levels of unemployment, exploitation in work, and poverty than almost any other ethnic group. This is despite the fact that refugees here have often studied to an advanced level. In surveys, more than ten percent

were previously teachers and many more were from professional backgrounds like engineering and medicine. Chatterbox offers them flexible, paid work that can fit around their other commitments".

The panel of judges was made up of Alice Klein MigrationWork Trust trustee, Maryam Pasha, Curator and License Holder TedxLondon, and Devina Pandey from Impact Hub Westminster.





---

**"We're thrilled to be in the company of some really innovative and empowering projects - such as the Olympias Music Foundation. The award gives us additional credibility, and the amazing video you've produced is another way to communicate our vision"**

Mursal Hedayat,  
Founder and CEO, Chatterbox

## 2017 JOINT RESEARCH CHAMPION

# Our Migration Story – Runnymede Trust



The strong competition in this category led to joint winners who both demonstrated exemplary community impact.

Race Equality Think Tank Runnymede Trust were joint winners with 'Our Migration Story'. This project makes an important intervention in the much-needed conversation on migration, British colonial past and the legacy of the Empire. It challenges the history curricula and invites us to consider how the history of Britain is intermingled with the history of migration. This disrupts and unsettles the unhelpful, binary narratives around 'Them and Us', especially in the times of revival of nationalist sentiments in Britain.

This fantastic project clearly involved many historians, schools, and researchers. It enriches the

curriculum, makes research relevant and focuses on influencing future generation. The online resources, lesson plans and excellent strategy for dissemination make this project highly accessible and impactful.

The panel of judges was made up of Dr Rachel Marangozov, Chair of MigrationWorkTrust, Azar Sheibani from London Metropolitan University and Dr Nando Sigona from University of Birmingham.





2017 JOINT RESEARCH CHAMPION

## Safeguarding Children from Destitution Toolkit – COMPAS



Migration research experts COMPAS also demonstrated outstanding community impact with their research on migrant children destitution. The project draws on two pieces of research, that map needs of vulnerable migrant children, to develop a toolkit for

local agencies at a time when austerity measures are likely to be constraining their capacity. This is a useful and timely toolkit, helping to support agencies, grassroots organisations and local authorities to access accurate information about the most marginalised

and vulnerable. The research is deserving of wider recognition, particularly at a time when the most vulnerable migrants have never been more at risk from the effects of cuts to voluntary and public sector support services.

---

**“Our research found there was a gap between the expectation in law that children in need would always be supported by local authorities and the reality on the ground. Our on-line tool addresses that gap and we are delighted to have won this award because it shows how research can lead to real change, for those providing legal advice and services and most importantly for destitute children and their parents.**

**The award endorses the value of a diagnostic on-line tool that ensures people are aware of the support available to them and we are now exploring whether the model could be adapted to assess legal entitlements for a wider range of services.”**

Dr Sarah Spencer,  
COMPAS



# Why become a Community Integration Awards Partner?

Becoming a **Community Integration Awards** partner means you share in our mission of making migration work. With your help, we can do more to influence the integration debate with positive examples, and to support organisations doing good work in this field so that they will flourish.

We offer you more than just a logo. Our goal is to create lasting partnerships with organisations that want to be a part of the **Community Integration Awards**, and add depth to them.

Joining us to develop the Awards, helping to tackle one of the great challenges of our era, you will also build your own profile as actors for

a better world and learn about innovative and effective integration projects taking place up and down the country. We share the stories and winning videos of these fantastic organisations widely on social media and with local and regional media in the winners' home cities. This resulted in thousands of views on Facebook, YouTube and some fantastic media coverage including for the Olympias Music Foundation, which won the Grassroots category, in That's Manchester TV, Business Manchester, Confidential.com and the news section of the Royal Northern College of Music. Meanwhile the Destitution Toolkit, co-winner of the Research category, was featured in the Oxfordshire Guardian. Our Twitter posts live from the event, kindly shared by key influencers, helped us reach thousands of people on social media.

As a Community Integration Awards partner, you will help us to:

## **Open up the positive reality:**

Through the Awards scheme, we make visible what is happening below the radar of the fraught debate on immigration – an abundance of work across the UK, creative and innovative, to realise the potential for good in the historic process of international migration.

## **Inspire change:**

We seek to reward and support best practice in community integration and cohesion in the United Kingdom and inspire people to change their lives, their communities and their world. As a Community Integration Awards partner, you'll be part of this.

**Contact us to explore the role you could play...**



## Who is working with migrants to make better places for all?

Integration is about places moving from inequality and division to new ways of working that give everyone a valued role in local life. Do you know a project or venture in your city, area or neighbourhood which opens up opportunities for refugees and other migrants to change your locality for the better?

Help celebrate great initiatives that promote integration where you live, and nominate them for the Community Integration Awards.

Find out more on: [www.integrationawards.uk](http://www.integrationawards.uk)

Or get in touch:  [info@integrationawards.uk](mailto:info@integrationawards.uk) •  [@integration\\_uk](https://twitter.com/integration_uk)

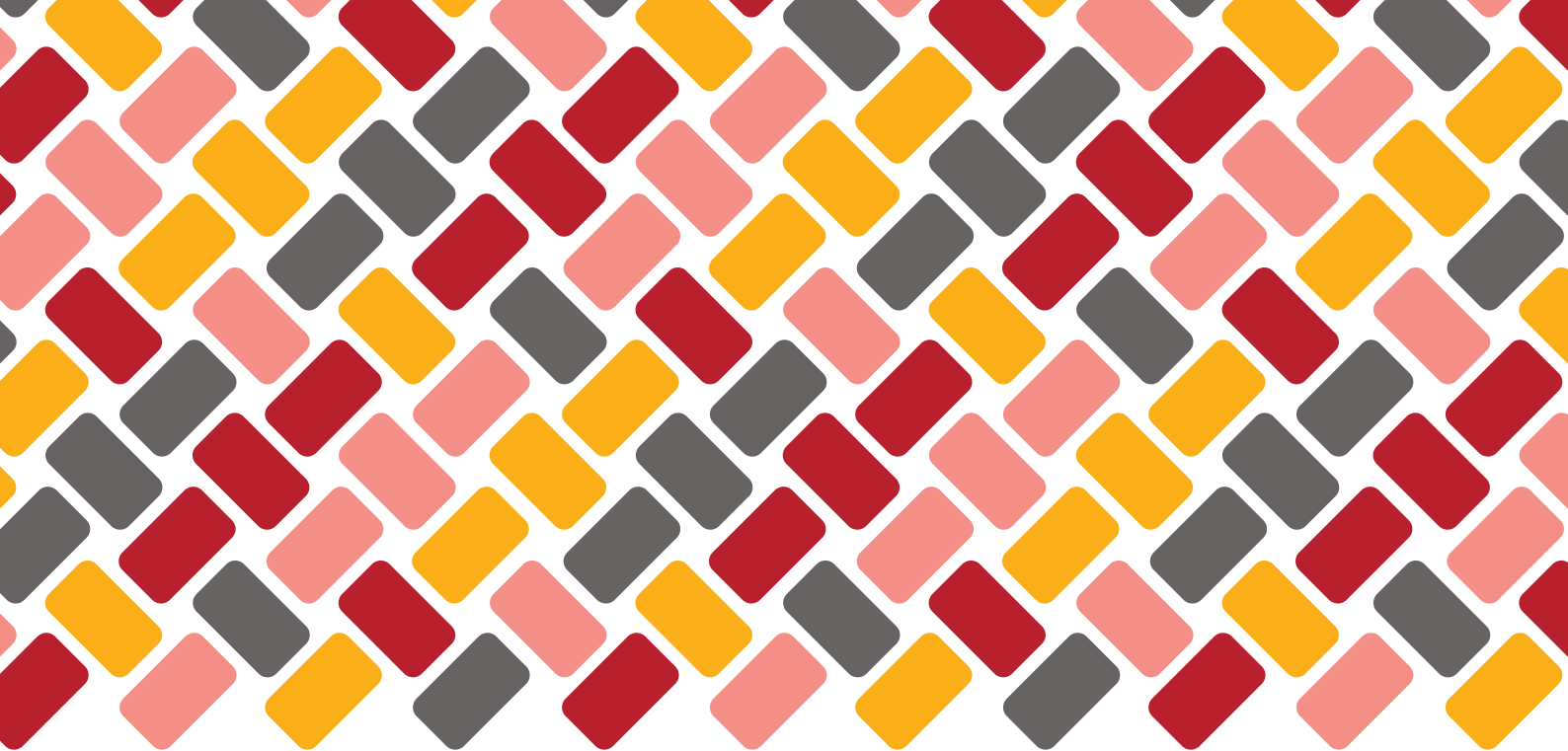
[www.integrationawards.uk](http://www.integrationawards.uk)



[info@integrationawards.uk](mailto:info@integrationawards.uk)



[@integration\\_uk](https://twitter.com/integration_uk)



[www.integrationawards.uk](http://www.integrationawards.uk)



[info@integrationawards.uk](mailto:info@integrationawards.uk)



[@integration\\_UK](https://twitter.com/integration_UK)

Proudly supported by:

