



## YoungRAPAR - Our Vision

### Why YoungRAPAR?

YoungRAPAR was founded during a research project about displaced young peoples' views on education post 16. The research is being undertaken on behalf of the Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Commission, in partnership with DUBIT Ltd. It has brought together three groups of young people- children from families seeking asylum, families with refugee status and migrant worker families.



The focus groups were run by young RAPAR volunteers from similar backgrounds to their groups, acting as peer researchers. For the young people involved (both the researchers and the young participants) this was the first time they had been in a situation with other people who face the same challenges in their lives, where they felt comfortable and safe enough to speak about their problems and experiences.

The peer researchers were moved by the participants' desire to meet again, outside of the research. The researchers and participants wanted the chance to be part of group of individuals that could offer mutual support, friendship and a safe environment for them to be free to be themselves.

Consequently, RAPAR's leadership decided to offer its support to the creation of a YoungRAPAR, a group run by young people for young people, with support from RAPAR. Initially a group of young RAPAR members have met and identified the following as their vision for YoungRAPAR.

### **Aims of YoungRAPAR:**

- 1. Bring people together.**
- 2. Provide a space for people to feel physically and emotionally safe.**
- 3. Allow people to express their feelings and talk about their problems.**
- 4. Give a voice to these feelings and problems through awareness raising, advocacy and research.**
- 5. Provide support with learning to young displaced people.**



## **Objectives of YoungRAPAR:**

To meet our aims YoungRAPAR have come up with some initial ideas that we would like to achieve during 2009. These are:

1. **Social events** - beginning with a launch event where we will have live Polish folk music. These events are aimed at bringing people together to share experiences, meet new people, and most importantly have fun.
2. **Life stories project** – growing out of the education research project, the life stories project will provide an opportunity for young displaced people to express their feelings and tell their stories without fear through art, music and creative writing workshops.
3. **Awareness raising, advocacy and research** - .it is our hope that YoungRAPAR can provide a voice for young displaced people via a range of activities for example writing letters to our local MPs or newspapers.
4. **Education packs** - building on the life stories project we hope to produce a pack for schools that would inform students about the reality of being a young displaced person in Greater Manchester. The pack will be created by young people for young people.
5. **Support packs** - these would offer on newly arrived young people information about Manchester, where they can find help, and a young peoples' 'street' dictionary etc.
6. **Support with learning** - through ESOL classes, homework support and pathways into further education.

## **Who we are:**

At the moment the group who are leading YoungRAPAR are listed below:

Amina Ahmed  
Ben Hickman  
Karolina Ignatowicz  
Peter Ignatowicz  
Anastasia Melia  
Shamiso Nyanjowa

## **Find out more and get involved:**

To find out more about YoungRAPAR please get in touch using the details below. Also, we'd love to hear from anyone wishing to lend their support, offer their ideas or get involved.

Please contact: **Ben Hickman**  
**Phone: 07877892932**  
**Email: [youngrapar@rapar.org.uk](mailto:youngrapar@rapar.org.uk)**