

#WeStandTogether

Celebrating Diversity • Challenging Hate • For a Safer, Stronger Society
Charity No. 1175945



Conference & Awards Dinner

We Stand Together's Conference and Awards Dinner was held at the Manchester Communication Academy in Manchester on Monday 30th May with over 120 in attendance. Present were the mayors of Bury, Bolton, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan, community activists and charities from across Greater Manchester, local politicians, Queen Mother of Harlem, educators, University representatives and other supporters.

The recipients of the #WeStandTogether Affiliate Awards were announced throughout the event. Award Winners shared their cohesion efforts in the communities of Manchester and presented how they are bringing people from diverse backgrounds together. The £2500 award was given to Happy Smiles Training CIC. The £1000 awards went to Women's Voices CIC, Socio Economic Regneration, Bury Creative Case for Diversity Group, and Communities for All. CARISMA, Be The Change Youth Project CIC, Feelgood Communities, Rainbow Surprise, FeedMyCity, RedStar FC and Europa won a £500 award each.

The event included two robust table-top workshops on how local #WeStandTogether Projects and Groups can improve community cohesion, and how local authorities, GMP and We Stand Together itself can aid community cohesion efforts.



The Keynote Address was delivered by Barbara Rosenthal - therapist and counsellor for Cruse Bereavement. She recounted the lives of those lost in the Arena Attack and the grief that came into the lives of all who had known them. She spoke about how love and understanding is the only way to heal from this grief and that we must not act with hate if we are to emerge stronger from this tragedy.

Dr. Erinma Bell - Chair of trustees, Jonny Wineberg - Director of Operations, Rogers Govender - Dean of Manchester, Qasira Shahraz - Co-Chair of the Steering group and Sir Peter Fahy - founder and former chair of trustees of We Stand Together and former chief constable of GMP, also addressed the attendees.

Participants enjoyed mocktails and a fabulous three-course vegetarian meal catered by Crumpsall-based cohesion charity and foodbank Rainbow Surprise.

For their outstanding leadership of #WeStandTogether, Sir Peter and Jonny Wineberg were awarded commemorative plaques.

Affiliate Award Winners Feature:



Be The Change Youth Project is in Manchester, United Kingdom. May 31 at 8:28 AM

We are delighted to announce we are proud winner of the #affiliateaward with We Stand Together, we were honoured to receive the Awards from the new Mayor of Bolton Akhtar Zaman

This award comes as a recognition for the work we do within our community; unifying the youth from all sorts of background across Bolton. #Educating our youth on matters such as #hatecrime so that they can make better decision for a better Bolton.

Change is meaningless without a vision. So we would like to take the time to thank our CEO and Founder Daniel Sukula Jr for leading the project through a tremendous period of change.

Change is vigorous with the right body of people. So, we would like to take the time to thank our staff volunteers and volunteers for their dedication to seeing young people flourish in Bolton.

We are inevitably the change we hoped and dreamed for. We are #bethechange and accepting this award, we pledge to continue standing for change.

We hope that you'll be with us.

#bethechange #allabouttheyouth #supportyoungpeople #WeStandTogether #difficultdialogues #changetheworld #vision #celebrating #award #community BoltonCVS Bolton Council Bolton at Home Bolton at Home Communities UK Youth



Women's Voices @WomensVoicesMCR · May 31

Had a great time at the conference and awards dinner at #WeStandTogether ceremony last night. We would like to thank you all for nominating us for an award to continue working towards improving community cohesion in #Manchester

Affiliate Awards
2022



Happy Smiles Training CIC

May 31 at 7:34 AM

What an incredible crew! Rights Community Ekhaya.UK

Winners of the big We Stand Together award 2022!

#Inclusion & #Diversity at our core!

#WeStandTogether Wigan Today Manchester Evening News #Wigan #GreaterManchester



Europaia

June 1 at 12:10 PM

We are very proud to be recognised, appreciated and awarded by #WeStandTogether for promoting #community #cohesion and preventing #discrimination and #hate.

Congratulations to #Europaia and all fantastic organisations and individuals awarded and nominated.

Many thanks to the Organisers We Stand Together, we trully enjoyed the whole conference

Please share the hashtag #WeStandTogether while celebrating #diversity, challenging #hate and creating safer and stronger #society to support #integrity and spread #awareness.

Thank you!

From the Director's Desk



May 22nd will mark 5 years since the Manchester Arena Attack, following which we registered We Stand Together as a charity, committed to work for cohesion. The last 5 years have seen us make some progress but so much more needs to be done.

We designated May each year as #WeStandTogether Month so that you can use it as a focus for cohesion events and a springboard for more work that brings people from diverse backgrounds together. Please look to put something on in your community or neighbourhood and reach out to those who are different to build respect, understanding and joint work.

Please visit www.westandtogether.org.uk to see how you can be part of a movement that is committed to stopping hate crime and celebrating diversity. Affiliate, Act and Achieve real change so that we reverse the huge increase in hate crime currently being seen. Don't expect others to do this - it is up to each and every one of us! Get in touch if you want any support with planning, delivery and/or finding funds. We are here to help you succeed.

Jonny Wineberg
Director of Operations for #WeStandTogether



#WeStandTogether at the opening of the Glade of Light Memorial

Several trustees and many supporters of #WeStandTogether attended the opening of the #GladeofLight at Manchester Cathedral with HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to commemorate the 22 lives lost in the Arena Attack 5 years ago.

HRH Prince William said: "When we come to this memorial let's look back with love for those we lost. Let's look back with love for the people who cared for and protected this community. And let's look back with love for the ongoing strength of the great city of Manchester."

#WeStandTogether remembers the lives lost and call upon the communities of the UK to come together, to build bridges and respect and understanding so that such senseless acts of violence can never happen again.



#WeStandTogether delivers Cohesion Workshops

We Stand Together held cohesion workshops led by our Director of Operations Jonny Wineberg for 40 women from the Social Lites Women's Institute in Urmston on 2nd June and for 30 young people from Oldham Youth Council on 5th May.

The attendees, through workshop exercises found in our Anti-discrimination Workshop Pack, explored their views on diversity and how we can actively challenge hatred and discrimination.

#WeStandTogether Chair of Trustees Wins Spirit of Manchester Award

Dr. Erinma Bell MBE - Chair of trustees for #WeStandTogether and renowned peace activist - was awarded the Spirit of Manchester Award by The Pride of Britain Awards on 19th May 2022 in recognition of her commitment to building bridges between communities and promoting cohesion.

#WeStandTogether is incredibly proud of Erinma's achievements and is grateful to have her expertise, passion and compassion at the helm of our organisation.



#WeStandTogether on Covid-19 and the Resilience of Young People

We Stand Together's latest Difficult Dialogue, in partnership with Bury Council, titled 'COVID-19 and Young People's Resilience', was held at the Bury Town Hall in Manchester on 12th May with many also present on Zoom.

The event was introduced by Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of Bury Council and GMCA lead for young people. The councillor outlined the impact of COVID-19 on young people's mental health, talked about the digital divide and offered recommendations on helping young people recover from the pandemic.

The event featured a robust discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on youth mental health, the disproportionate impact on young people of marginalized communities and measures to build resilience into support systems and young people.



#Jonny Wineberg and Nicky Campbell Discuss Twitter and Hate Crime

WeStandTogether's Director of Operations, Jonny Wineberg made an appearance on BBC Radio on 26th April 2022. He and presenter Nicky Campbell discussed what Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter means for hate speech.

Jonny said that the wonderful thing about having a platform like Twitter is that it's protected by laws that ensure that people don't incite violence and hatred. What Elon Musk is saying is that anything goes - that means there is a need to protect people.

We do not want to stop people from having difficult conversations, we also encourage difficult conversations through difficult dialogues at #WeStandTogether. However, there are limits. Social media should not be a place where hateful and discriminatory ideas are freely allowed to foment. Allowing people to do so can result in such harmful ideas manifesting in the form of violence.

AN INVITATION TO

HOLD YOUR VERY OWN

#WeStandTogether

COHESION EVENT

WWW.WESTANDTOGETHER.ORG.UK/EVENTS

Are you passionate about bringing people of different backgrounds together and bridging communities? Do you believe in actively celebrating diversity, challenging hate and making the communities of the UK safer and stronger for all? #WeStandTogether invites you to hold your own cohesion event bringing together people of different faiths, races, sexualities, genders, ages, disability and backgrounds together.

This event can be a difficult dialogue, workshop, celebratory event or any other format of your choosing. Planning an event is a daunting task, but we're here to help with planning, marketing, fundraising or any other aspect of the event. Reach out via support@westandtogether.org.uk



#WelftarTogether Event Brings Dozens Together in Manchester

#WeStandTogether, in partnership with Communities for All and Faith Network for Manchester, held a communal Iftar at Khizra Mosque on Thursday 28th April. The event was attended by a number of people hailing from different backgrounds and allowed them to experience different cultures and religious practices.

Attendees were given a tour of the Khizra Mosque and how it acts as a communal space to bring people together and build cohesion. Attendees were given the opportunity to learn about fasting in different faiths and how different religions encourage their believers to help all members of their communities. Attendees were invited to break the fast with a fabulous meal catered by the mosque.

#WeStandTogether



#WeStandTogether Difficult Dialogue on Ukraine and the European Crisis

We Stand Together's Difficult Dialogue, in partnership with Europaia, titled 'Europe in Crisis?', was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre in Manchester on March 14th with many also present on Zoom.

The event was introduced by Bob Sopel, Chair of the Association of Ukrainians Great Britain, Manchester Branch. He detailed the heroism of the Ukraine people and the ferocity with which they continue to defend their country. He implored people to not buy into propaganda and misinformation about Ukrainians and thanked the locals for their generous donations.

The event featured a robust discussion on the war in Ukraine, refugees, double standards, impact on diverse groups, misinformation, and other related issues. A need for honesty and humanity was highlighted by participants. Participants suggested that there was a need to bring communities together, building understanding and respect, so that more people move from being insular to open-minded and welcoming of all.

Kush Chottera, CEO of Europaia, commended the generosity of Poland in taking in large number of refugees and appreciated the local response to the crisis. He said that there was an urgent need to offer personalised immigration support to refugees, protect marginalised communities in Ukraine and ensure that there was a long-term plan to address trauma and build emotional resilience for those who had been ousted from their country, helping them rehabilitate.

The event also featured a fundraiser for helping Ukrainians in need, which attendees donated to generously.

£250 for Your Next Cohesion Event

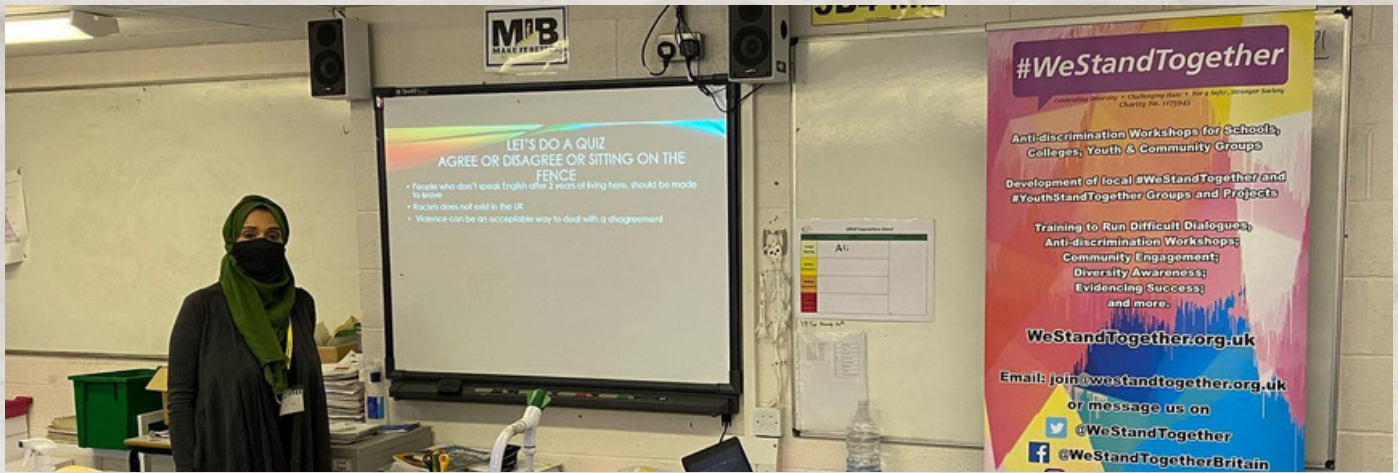


Looking to run a cohesion event in Greater Manchester? We're giving out £250 Microgrants to individuals and organisations that are planning an event which brings people from diverse backgrounds together.

If, as part of this, you create a #WeStandTogether Committee/Project/Working Group with at least 5 members, hopefully from diverse backgrounds, we have funding to support you. This group must be affiliated with #WeStandTogether via: www.westandtogether.org.uk/affiliate-application

Just send us up to 250 words to support@westandtogether.org.uk on what you are planning with a phone number to get back to you on and we'll be in touch.

Please note that only applications which have a #WeStandTogether group set up and affiliated will be entertained.



#WeStandTogether Workshops - Measuring Impact

In the last 18 months, over 5,000 people have benefited from the #WeStandTogether cohesion workshops through 15 schools, 2 colleges, 6 youth groups and 8 community groups across Greater Manchester.

60 community activists have benefited from 14 different training sessions covering: Using the #WeStandTogether Anti-Discrimination Pack (Train the Trainer); Planning and Facilitating Difficult Dialogues; Community Engagement & Development; Fundraising for Cohesion Activities and Consultation Facilitation.

Huge appreciation to our two previous Project Workers, Faiza Chaudhri and James Edgington, as well our current worker, Talha Chaudhry, and all our volunteers. They, with the management of Jonny Wineberg, have achieved some remarkable results:



Our Sincerest Thanks to the



We Stand Together would like to offer its profound gratitude to the GMP Asset Recovery Incentive Scheme (ARIS) for sponsoring our cohesion work.

The ARIS fund allows capital recovered from those who commit acts of criminality in Greater Manchester to be reinvested in community betterment projects.

The generous patronage of the scheme has enabled us to bridge communities, deliver anti-discrimination workshops, hold difficult dialogues and celebratory events, and allowed us to recognise and support the cohesion efforts of local organisations through our Affiliate Awards. We thank the GMP for their invaluable support and their commitment to making the communities of Greater Manchester safer and stronger for all.



Support #WeStandTogether

Since its inception, #WeStandTogether has worked tirelessly to bring people of diverse backgrounds together and build bridges between communities.


Over the years, our difficult dialogues have created space for people of all backgrounds to discuss important issues in a manner that builds respect and understanding. Our workshops in schools, colleges and youth and community groups have enabled our participants to develop a willingness to engage with those previously seen as 'outsiders' and actively challenge hate when they see it. Our celebratory events have allowed multitudes of people to experience different cultures, faiths and traditions and go beyond the idea of building tolerance to actively celebrating diversity and increasing positivity towards those from different backgrounds. Our partnerships, affiliate work and Affiliate Awards have enabled countless other organisations in Greater Manchester to more effectively build cohesion in their communities.

However, we cannot do what we do without your support. #WeStandTogether, and the communities of Greater Manchester need you. We would love to have your support.

You can make a donation by:

1 - Scanning the QR Code below:



 Donate

2 - By Visiting:

www.totalgiving.co.uk/donate/we-stand-together

3 - Via Bank Transfer at:

A/C No. 50695289 Sort Code 20-82-13

4- By making us a beneficiary at your next fundraiser

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To learn more, visit us at
www.westandtogether.org.uk



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