

Investing in People & Culture (IPC) was set up in 2010 to promote the economic and social inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers and other minority communities, providing links to vital services as well as opportunities for education, training and rewarding recreational activities.

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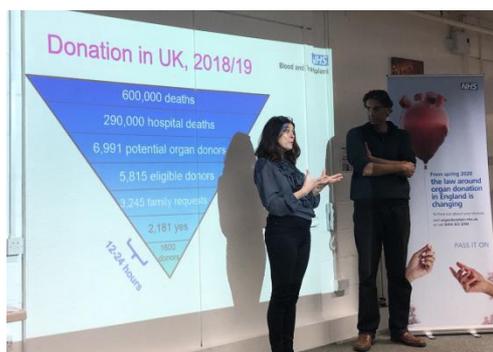
## *Our news* **NHS Training event**

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Only one per cent of black people in Britain are signed up to the NHS Donor Register – but, due to increased rates of diabetes and high blood pressure, they are three to four times more likely than the general population to need a kidney transplant.

Tyneside regional coordinator for IPC, Sirak Hagos said: “This project brings together NHS experts, community leaders and members of the refugee community to raise awareness and gain insights into this important issue which disproportionately affects people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities”



“It’s important to debunk urban myths and misinformation so attendees can gain a fuller understanding of these issues in order to increase the number of potential donors”

“We are grateful to all NHS experts donating their time to attend, with

kidney specialist Dr Saeed Ahmed and nurse Lynn Robson able to make an informative presentation and answer lots of questions from attendees during the event”

The message from NHS was clear: people should have full and frank conversations with their families so their wishes on organ donation are clear in the event of their death.

## IPC on BBC again!

12 new doctors have been recruited from countries including Sudan, Libya, Eritrea and Russia for our fourth cohort of the REPOD (**R**esettlement **P**rogram for **O**verseas **D**octors and other health professionals) in partnership with North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust and funded by Health Education England - North East.

REPOD provides holistic support to the trainees including tailored English language (IELTS/OET), pastoral support, financial support for medical exams to enable them to re-qualify and work for the NHS.



BBC coverage has been positive in promoting our work.

BBC Radio Tees:

<https://www.facebook.com/IPCCharity/videos/483206882342503/>

BBC Online, interview from December:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-50718146>

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### *Project focus*

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## AMIF EU Funding



IPC has recently started a new project supporting non-EU migrants to integrate into local communities. The project will widen access to integration services and facilitate social integration for more refugees by providing training and mentoring.

IPC welcome 2 new staff members to help us deliver this project:

Data Administrator Leigh Davison, who has a background in charity management for over 20 years in the North east, including successfully delivering projects in Health and Education.



Lucy Appleton, an experienced Finance Officer who joins us having previously worked for Newcastle charities including Ellison Services and Scotswood Centre.

The AMIF project has started weekly conversation classes to support migrants improve their English with themed relevant conversations including navigating life in the UK.

Our one-to-one employment sessions will be tailored to individual needs, support users to create a CV, apply for jobs and take part in mock interviews to improve their employability.

In addition, migrants will gain access to other support at our existing drop-in sessions, sign posting to local services and charities and refugee community organisations.

Over the 3 years of funding we aim to support over 200 vulnerable migrants.

This project is part funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.

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## *People focus*

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### **Case study 1: Ola**



Ola joins the Newcastle team as a dedicated volunteer, originally from Nigeria she has lived and worked in the UK for 12 years, most recently working for the NHS 111 helpline.

Ola is helping us recruit participants for our AMIF project and will join in the conversation classes which start this month.

As someone who has faced similar challenges herself, she is committed to helping our beneficiaries to integrate into life in North East of England.

Ola said: “I really want to give something back to the community, to support other people to settle here. I’m enjoying my volunteering experience at IPC so far, everyone has been friendly, relaxed and welcoming”.

### **Case study 2: Ndumiso Ncube**

Ndumiso Ncube is a 44 yr old Zimbabwean, he is a former professional track athlete runner. Whilst waiting for his asylum claim to be assessed he joined our project, during which time he has gained coaching qualification.

With the support of our staff he has set up his own project and is now assisting local people to lose weight. He has set up outdoor exercise sessions and circuit training.

Ndumiso said: “As I am awaiting my Asylum claim the help I have received has been invaluable. Bini has helped me keep going, provided a reference and kept me busy”.

