

**BMER Advice
Network – London
Partners Contact
Information:**

AdviceUK

0300 777 0107

**Advice & Learning Bu-
reau**

RM8 - 020 8507 2444

**Asian Women's Re-
source Centre**

NW10 - 020 8961 6549

**Afro – Asian Advisory
Service**

SE5 - 020 7701 0141

Asylum Aid

N1 - 020 7354 9631

**Asylum Support Ap-
peals Service**

E2 - 020 7729 3056

Barnet Refugee Service

NW9 - 020 89059002

**Bosnia Herzegovina
Community Advice Cen-
tre**

NW10 - 020 8459 4201

**Carila Latin American
Welfare Group**

N7 - 020 7561 1931

**Centre for Armenian
Information & Advice**

W3 - 8020 8992 4621

**Chinese Community
Centre**

W1 - 020 7439 3822

Corecog

E13 - 020 8548 4073

**Day-Mer Turkish Com-
munity Centre**

N16 - 020 7275 8440

**East European Advice
Centre (EEAC)**

W6 - 020 8741 1288

**East London Somali
Youth and Welfare Cen-
tre**

E1 - 020 7247 8488

**Ethiopian Community
Centre**

N17 - 020 8801 9224

**Haringey Somali Com-
munity & Cultural Asso-
ciation**

N17 - 020 8885 1307



Black & minority ethnic Advice Network

Delivering Advice, Information And
Legal Representation Services

BAN Newsletter

Edition 1- Page 1

BMER Advice Network

“Welcome to the first edition of BAN’s newsletter. BAN, London’s BMER Advice Network, is a network of 43 BMER advice providing organisations that serve London’s diverse ethnic communities. Our bimonthly newsletter aims to be a showcase for the work BAN is doing across London, the services that BAN provides pan-London along with bringing you news of BAN’s activities and events. BAN is a dynamic network, open to new and innovative ways of working and service delivery which we are keen to share with London’s advice sector. In coming issues we shall be profiling individual BAN members and giving you an insight into how they have dealt with the difficulties they have faced in these times of funding cuts and austerity”

Funding cuts!!!

In the midst of a housing crisis in London and welfare benefit cuts hitting the poorest Londoners, London Councils decided not to continue funding the BAN Network (BMER Advice Network) that provides targeted welfare benefits and homelessness prevention services (amongst other areas of advice) to London’s BMER communities.

The cuts to BAN advice services will mean that the poorest and most disadvantaged BMER communities will be denied access to essential welfare benefits, housing and homelessness advice services in London, which will risk leaving BMER communities destitute.

BAN was one of the last BMER specific advice projects to be funded by local government as many statutory funders try to mainstream BMER advice services or cut back on advice altogether. Some London Boroughs have moved to commissioning ‘Advice in community languages’ or a ‘Community advice partnership’ but these do not recognise or understand that trust is a key factor why BMER communities will only use services provided by their own community.

However, despite the cut BAN members have not shut their doors or closed down and while some services may have had to be cut back BAN continues to serve its communities while looking at innovative ways of re-modelling itself. BAN has already submitted a funding bid to make this transition as reality and to ensure that BMER advice services are able to continue long into the future

Dates for your diary:

BAN Network meetings

Wednesday 11 September 2013

Wednesday 08 January 2014

Wednesday 09 April 2014

**Non-members are welcomed to
observe!!!**

**Would you like to Become a member of BAN?
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Iranian Association
W6 - 020 8741 2304
Iranian Community Centre
N7 - 020 7700 0341
Iraqi Association
W11 - 0207 023 2650
Latin American Association
NW6 - 020 7372 8653
Latin American Women's Rights Service
EC1 - 020 7336 0888
Lewisham Refugee & Migrant Network
SE8 - 020 8694 0323
Limehouse
E14 - 020 7790 9699
Migrants Resource Centre
SW1 - 020 7834 2505
Multi-Lingual Community Rights Shop
SE5 - 020 7703 4442
Newham Monitoring Project
E13 - 020 8470 8333
Notre Dame Refugee Centre
WC2 - 020 7440 2660
Island Advice Centre
E14 - 020 7987 9379
Refugee Action Kingston
KT2 - 020 8547 0115
Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London
IG1 - 020 8478 4513
Refugee Network Sutton
SM1 - 0208 770 6198
Refugee Women's Association
E8 - 020 7923 2412
Roma Support Group
E7 - 020 7511 5721
Sangam Association of Asian Women
HA8 - 020 8952 7062
Sangat Advice Centre
HA3 - 020 8427 0659
Tallo Information Centre
W3 - 020 8993 3187
Tamil Welfare Association Newham
E12 - 020 8478 05 77
Tamil Relief Centre
N9 - 020 8345 6301
Welwetchia Legal Advice Centre
N17 - 020 8808 1255



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History Of BAN Network

BAN (BMER Advice Network) is a network of advice providing BMER organisations established in 2007. BAN grew quickly after its establishment in 2007 and currently has 43 members. The partnership was comprised of subgroups which has successfully delivered the London Councils funded Advice Integration Project which was led by AdviceUK. Some of the BAN members from the wider group were and continue to be also funded by LC under different projects such as women's services. During the period of funding from November 2008 to March 2013, the group of 19 organisations commissioned by London Councils together provided advice to over 12,000 Londoners a year covering every London borough.

Even though the advice commission have come to an end the partnership continues to exist and BAN members deliver services for and by the people from London's diverse migrant and refugee communities made possible through other sources of funding or through voluntary input. Services are delivered in more than 35 community languages. BAN helps London's BMER communities by providing capacity and a network with which the advice needs of the local communities are met holistically.

The cross-borough work enabled by London Council's funding continues to complement the services provided locally. BAN seeks to promote good quality culturally appropriate advice services to all Londoners, through: Ensuring that BMER - led legal advice is available to all BMER communities in London, develop closer working relations amongst partner organisations and expand BMER advice services in parts of London currently under resourced.

All BAN member services hold at least the minimum accreditation, of General Help kite mark and/or are registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. In general BAN members continue to deliver free and confidential advice services across London in the following areas of law: Asylum, Immigration, Housing, Homelessness, Debt/money, Welfare benefits, Education Employment, Health, Racial discrimination, Domestic Violence, Community Care and education. In addition, BAN members provide legal representation services in: Asylum, Asylum Support, Immigration and Welfare Benefits.

BMER advice providers current face an increasingly competitive environment in which the ability to deliver quality, value for money services is being challenged from many sides. This is occurring despite the continuing need for language and culturally appropriate advice provision, especially in areas of London that have under-developed services and where demand for advice currently outstrips supply.

Faced with this situation yet taking the needs and issues of its target communities as the main drive for their work, the 43 organisations making up the partnership have not only preserved the existence of the network but committed to working together to progress the innovative collaborative work on the basis of having worked over the last 5 years together. The partnership is still meeting regularly, sharing good practise, identifying strategies to address common issues of service delivery and sharing resources to this end, developing the infrastructure of the partnership and service projects and is actively inputting into local and regional advice strategy. To find out more about BAN, its members, where they are located and the services they provide, please visit our website: <http://www.bmeadvicenetwork.org.uk/index.aspx>.

Would you like to become a member of BAN?

For details of how to join the network please contact
Wesley Harcourt at AdviceUK:

Tel: 0300 777 0107 Email: wesley.harcourt@adviceuk.org.uk