

# Newsletter

*Our latest news, updates and announcements*

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**Friends of Street Children Bangladesh**

e. [friendsofscbd@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofscbd@gmail.com)

w. [www.friendsofscbd.wordpress.com](http://www.friendsofscbd.wordpress.com)

a. Friends of Street Children Bangladesh,  
44 Slimmons Drive, St Albans AL4 9AP

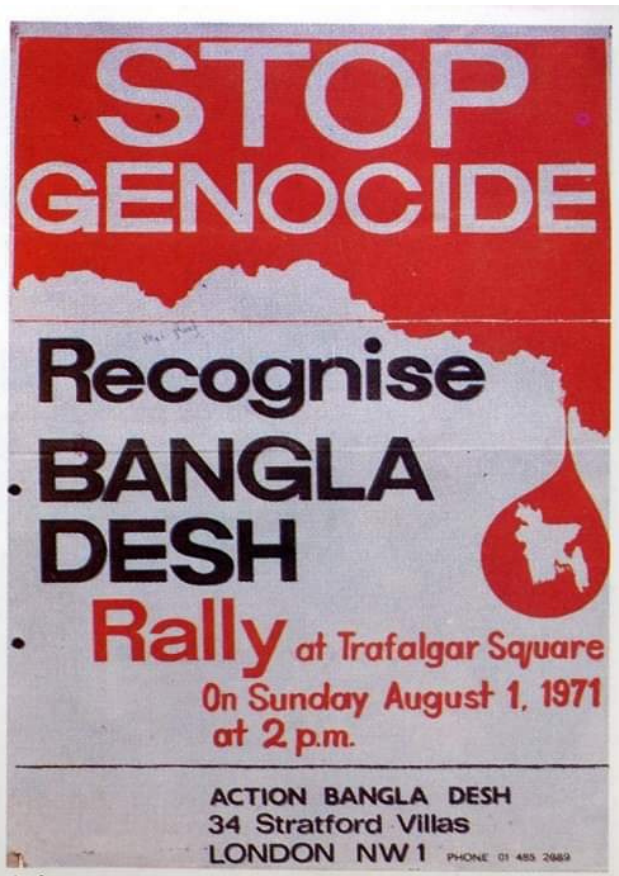


## **Celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh - our 2021 fundraising initiative**

**Next event: 10am on Sunday 1st August**

On 27th March we held our first on-line fundraising event celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh. Participants heard the famous song about the rivers of Bangladesh from Nishat Sabila. There were poems from Ahmed Kaysher, Saif Osmani and Ismail Khokon. Val Harding sang a famous Tagore song and the children of LEEDO Peace Home and children from the LEEDO shelter performed dances, songs, and poems. The event raised over £500 towards our target of £3,000.

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## Online quiz on the theme of rivers

We're holding a Zoom quiz on the theme of rivers on **Saturday 10th July at 10.30am (BST)**. This will include questions from the river quay (Sadarghat) in Dhaka. The quiz rounds will include: rivers of Bangladesh, UK, Europe and about rivers found in song and paintings.

To join the online quiz, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/online-quiz-on-the-theme-of-rivers-tickets-156661842789>

We're asking for donations of £5-£10. You can donate via our Golden Giving page:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/quiz>

Alternatively, text **HELPCHILD** to 70460 to donate £5 (text cost £5 + one standard rate message)

Photographs: Poster from Trafalgar Square rally (top). Concert for Bangladesh, 1971 (front page)

The next event in this series is a celebration of 50 years since the famous demonstration in London on Sunday 1st August calling for the independence of Bangladesh, which is also the anniversary of the famous Concert for Bangladesh. Our Zoom event will include recollections from the London demonstration from our trustee Tony Stevens, with songs from the original Concert for Bangladesh and contemporary Bangla rock songs sung by our supporters. A highlight will be performances from the children of LEEDO.

To join this event at 10am on Sunday 1st August 2021 please email [friendsofscbd@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofscbd@gmail.com) or book through this Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-50-years-of-bangladesh-with-songs-poems-and-stories-tickets-156474113285>

We will send you the link to join by Zoom.

Everybody taking part is asked to donate a minimum of £10 to support LEEDO. You can do this using a credit/debit card or paypal at our Golden Giving site:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/fundraising/Independence50> You can also donate using your phone:

Text **INDEPENDENCE** to 70450 to donate £10 (Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message)

If you are willing to read a story or perform a song, poem, or dance at our event on 1st August we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email us as soon as possible.

We also have a YouTube channel where you can email a video of yourself singing, dancing, or reciting a poem and ask your friends to donate to this campaign. Please subscribe to the channel and view the contributions from our supporters at

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1qZ6-\\_wDt4anF3DtXbkJA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1qZ6-_wDt4anF3DtXbkJA)

## The second wave of corona virus hits Dhaka

A second wave of corona virus has hit Dhaka city and we have heard from LEEDO about the impact on children who are surviving on the streets.

Most of the children, generally aged between 5 and 12 years old, have no father. Some stay from time to time with mothers or grandmothers who often do housework in the homes of better off people to earn money. However, even this housework has stopped due to the corona virus lockdown. The families live in extreme poverty and often children cannot stay with any family they do have, especially if they are not earning money to provide some support for the family.

The children earn money on the street by selling flowers, balloons, or bags. Some are porters at railway stations, ferry terminals or bus stations and carry loads for the passengers. Others collect paper or bottles on the street, which they then sell for small sums of money. However, when shops, offices and transport are closed there are no people on the streets and all the sources of income dry up. It is then not possible to even buy food. Some of the children try to beg at mosques or markets but with no people about due to lockdown this does not result in much income. The children end up sleeping on the street, but they are often chased away from offices and markets by security guards.

## 'Journey on a river' drawing workshop with the children of LEEDO Peace Home

Following our first successful art workshop with the children of LEEDO Peace Home on the theme of *Memories of a Street*, we are holding a second workshop on **Saturday 4th September 2021 at 10.30am**. This workshop will be part of the Totally Thames Festival 2021 and will highlight journeys on the Thames in London and the Buriganga river in Dhaka. The workshop will be a participative online workshop with some of the children at LEEDO Peace Home who are passionate about art.

To join, register via Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/journey-on-a-river-drawing-workshop-tickets-156675084395>

We are also asking participants to donate £5-£10 towards the welfare of the children. Visit:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/charity/search?searchCriteria=friends+of+street+children+bangladesh>

Although the Government in Bangladesh has offered some financial help to families during the lock down this does not reach children who are surviving on the street without a family. In these circumstances the outreach team from LEEDO are moving around the streets contacting the children and providing food and basic assistance. Some of the children, with the support of the outreach team, decide to go to one of LEEDO's transitional shelters – located near the railway station and the ferry terminal. There they receive food and basic accommodation whilst a long term solution is found that will prevent them from having to survive on the streets.



# Street Child Football

## World Cup 2022

### A team of girls from LEEDO will take part in Doha

Following their successful participation in the 2019 Street Child Cricket World Cup LEEDO will be sending a team of 10 girls to take part in the Street Child Football World Cup in Doha in March 2022. Funds are currently being raised to support the team and the main sponsor of the team in the cricket tournament, the West of England University, have again agreed to be the main sponsor for the Bangladesh team in Doha.

The tournament is being organised by Street Child United and 16 teams from across the world will take part – 8 teams of boys and 8 teams of girls. There will also be a festival of arts and advocacy for the rights and protection of children through a child-focused Congress and General Assembly.

Working with the Daneford Trust and LEEDO we are helping to recruit female volunteers who are interested in helping to train the LEEDO team. One of the volunteers may also accompany the team to Doha, supporting the girls during the tournament.

The details of these volunteer roles can be found here: [https://leedobd.org/?page\\_id=2306](https://leedobd.org/?page_id=2306)



If you know people who may be interested in the coaching role, or in supporting the team financially, please email [friendsofscbd@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofscbd@gmail.com) to receive further details.

Photographs:

Girl's education classes on the streets of Dhaka (top 1)

Filing a report on rescuing a child (top 2)

# Continuing LEEDO's education work on the streets of Dhaka

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh continues to support the work of the mobile school and the street school at Rayer Bazar. The mobile school visits different sites in Dhaka and uses a unique interactive method of learning. Since July 2021 150 children have used the mobile school. The children engage in educational activities using panels attached to a vehicle. They develop literacy and numeracy skills and learn about human values. Advice is provided about health and hygiene and nutritious food is provided such as eggs, bananas, and bread. Attendance at a mobile school session is often the first contact that LEEDO has with children surviving on the streets and some later make use of the transitional shelter run by LEEDO.

From funds raised by Friends of Street Children Bangladesh we are supporting the school at Rayer Bazar. This school provides education to children not currently attending government or other schools. It is often the only education the children take part in.



## Supporting the older children at LEEDO

As the children at LEEDO Peace Home get older they are starting to think about their long-term futures and Friends of Street Children, through trustee contacts in Dhaka, are piloting providing advice and support. Our first initiative was to set up a meeting with senior members of the Bangladesh medical students association and girls from the Peace Home interested in a career in medicine. The students were able to provide helpful information to the girls about the academic requirements for entry to courses, cost of study and accommodation and food arrangements whilst studying at a university in Bangladesh.

We are recruiting further volunteers with interests that coincide with those of the older children at Peace Home including sports, journalism, art, dance, and social work. If you are interested in being involved with this initiative please email our trustee, Mahreen at: [ferdousmahreen@gmail.com](mailto:ferdousmahreen@gmail.com)

Photographs: Children living at Dhaka ferry terminal (top), Schools under the Sky (left)



# Thank you Hamida

Hamida Chowdhury (pictured, right) is stepping down as a trustee of Friends of Street Children Bangladesh. She has made a huge contribution to our work with her enthusiasm and creativity and was especially popular with the children from LEEDO who visited during the 2019 cricket tournament. We are delighted that Hamida has agreed to continue to help our work in future as a volunteer and look forward to her continuing involvement in this role.

## Please join our new Active Supporters Group

We have 140+ supporters on our mailing list and this number continues to grow. However, if we are to provide more help to children surviving on the streets of Dhaka it would be helpful to know which of our supporters can be more active and what they can do to develop our work. We especially need people who can help us to attract new supporters including by publicising fundraising events more widely, people who can contribute their expertise such as digital marketing, people willing to take part in and help organise fundraising events and people who might be willing to donate on a regular basis (<https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/direct-debit/create/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh>)

If you are willing to be part of our Active Supporter's Group please email us at [friendsofscbd@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofscbd@gmail.com)



# Friends of Street Children

## Annual report and accounts

Our annual return to the Charity Commission and our annual accounts for 2020-21 will soon be available on the Charity Commission website. You can view them at: <https://tinyurl.com/d56nca8b> The current balance of our funds is 6,998.49.

This year our income was greater than our expenditure and we finished the year with a surplus of £985 compared to a deficit of £2,954 in the previous year. During the year income was £8,768.22 including a £1,500 grant from a Charitable Trust towards LEEDO's education work and £4000 raised by NG3O to support LEEDO's transitional shelter. Our own fundraising moved online with a series of zoom fundraising events, which have included children from both the Peace Home and the shelter. We have arranged performances of songs and dance and an innovative art workshop – memories of a street.

This year we sent 3 grants to LEEDO: £4,000 to support the shelter (NG3O); £3,000 for education work (mobile school and street school) and £700 for corona virus relief work. Our only other expenditure was for transfer of funds (bank charges).

During the year we produced two issues of our newsletter, which is circulated to 140+ supporters.



We have piloted careers advice to some of the older children by volunteers we recruited, and we are supporting LEEDO's successful bid to send a team of girls to the Street Child Football World Cup 2022

We have 1,197 face book followers and have started a you tube channel. As well as Golden Giving we are also piloting the use of giving by mobile phone.

Please consider making an online donation at our Golden Giving page or, if you have a restaurant providing meals or take-aways, please encourage your customers to donate to us by text using of our virtual collection bucket. The continuation of our support for LEEDO's work with children on the streets depends on continuing and increasing donations. Thanks to all our supporters over the past year.