

Newsletter

Our latest news, updates and announcements

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**Friends of Street
Children Bangladesh**

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Image (above): our next fundraiser at Graam Bangla on Brick Lane

Fundraising lunch at Brick Lane's Banglatown

Next event: 1pm on Saturday 18th December

After over a year of lock down and restrictions on holding events, we are pleased to be organising our first face to face meeting- which will be a meal at the Graam Bangla Restaurant, 68 Brick Lane, E1 6RL on Saturday 18th December starting at 1pm. Please join us to celebrate the return of our live fundraising, the victory of Bangladesh in the war for independence in 1971 and to look forward to the LEEDO girls' team

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Mentoring update

The second on-line session with older children at LEEDO Peace Home focussed on how to take up a career in the arts. We were joined by a renowned Dhaka artist who made suggestions to the children about getting practice in art and contacting organisations who could display their drawings. We are still looking for people who can meet with the children on-line and provide advice about careers in sport and journalism.

at Peace Home taking part in the Street Child Football World Cup tournament in Doha from 3rd to 15th October 2022.

We will be joined on zoom by the children of LEEDO during this lunch time event. We will also be playing the youtube videos produced by our supporters to raise funds for work with children surviving on the streets of Dhaka as part of our celebrating 50 years of Bangladesh initiative. You can view the videos at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1qZ6--wDt4anF3DtXbkJA/videos>

If you want to sing a song or recite a poem and record it on video to raise funds to support children on the streets of Dhaka then please do so and send it to us. We will include it on our channel and in the performance on 18th December.

To attend the fundraising meal on Saturday 18th December please email friendsofscbd@gmail.com before 15th December to confirm your place. To donate to our final event in the Celebrating 50 Years of Bangladesh programme please go to:
<https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/fundraising/debitcreditcard/Independence50>

Photographs:

(1 (top): Girls at LEEDO Peace Home

(2 (below): Children at Railway station in Dhaka

'Journey on a River' art workshop raises £350

On 4th September 2021 we held our second on-line arts workshop based on the theme "Journey on a River". We were pleased to be joined by supporters from around the world including children from both the Peace Home and the Sadarghat launch terminal transitional shelter near the river, in Dhaka.

The workshop was part of Totally Thames 2021 a London-based river festival, with support from the environmental charity Thames 21. The online workshop started with a live connection to the LEEDO team at the Buriganga river in Dhaka and a discussion with children who live at the river port.

Participants were then provided with guidance about drawing a river scene and shared their memories of river journeys. Thanks to all those who took part and helped to raise £350 to support LEEDO's education work.

Active Supporters are making a difference with regular donations and by taking part in fundraising events

Active supporters group gathers momentum

There are now seven members of our Active Supporters Group. All our supporters are promoting the events of Friends of Street Children Bangladesh. Some are now donating a small sum each month, and this gives a big boost to our ability to sustain financial help to LEEDO for education and outreach work. It is easy to donate regularly using the Friends of Street Children Bangladesh donation page at: <https://www.goldengiving.com/secure/direct-debit/create/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh> If you are a tax-payer please remember to tick the relevant box so that we can also receive Gift Aid in addition to your donation.

One of our Active Supporters is planning to take part in a Marathon to raise funds for us and another charity. Others have provided performances for our on-line programmes helping to raise much needed funds to support the work of LEEDO in Dhaka. Please contact us at friendsofscbd@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming one of our Active Supporters.



Image (above): Art workshop part of Totally Thames Festival

The LEEDO Street Child Football Girls' Team has been selected

A team of girls will take part in Doha 2022

The LEEDO team for the Street Child Football World Cup that is being held in Doha from 3rd to 15th October has now been selected. They are practicing every morning with help from 2 volunteers from Germany and trainers from Sports for Hope and Independence Bangladesh. 10 girls aged 13-17 will go to Doha along with 3 team leaders. The other girls' teams will be from Brazil, Bolivia, Darfur, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, USA, and Zimbabwe. Along with the tournament for girls there will be a boys' tournament too with teams from Burundi, England, Hungary, Mauritius, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaatari.

The tournament will be a unique opportunity for the children from LEEDO to meet children from all over the world. Apart from the football the event will include a child-focused Congress and General Assembly where the children will speak about their rights and protection including the importance of access to education.

For LEEDO this is the second time that a team has participated in an international children's sports tournament. It follows the success of LEEDO's involvement in the Street Child Cricket World Cup held in England in 2019.

Through this tournament LEEDO was able to



raise its profile and increase support for children surviving on the streets of Dhaka. It is hoped that the 2022 tournament can build on this success.

If you, or anybody you know, is interested in supporting the team financially please get in touch with us. Support has already been received from the University of West England, the main sponsor of the team in 2019, and from the Growing Up Club in Dhaka who have provided the team with practice kits and equipment.

We will be following the team using our face book page whilst they are in Doha and will also organise support events in the UK and online.

Photographs:

(1 (top): LEEDO girls' football team with new kit from the Growing Up Club

(2 (below): LEEDO girls' football team practice session

News from the open-air school that we support in Dhaka

On 10th October our Chairperson, Mike Sherriff, was pleased to visit the open-air school we support at Rayer Bazar next to the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Dhaka. 25 students regularly attend the school. Most of the children are from families who quite recently moved to Dhaka from the remote areas of Bangladesh and who now live in the shanty towns near the memorial.

The school recruit the children from the street, where they meet. The aim is that after a year they should get admission to a government school or madrassa. There were 2 groups of children – one for the older age group and one for the younger children. Nizam, one of the young people who took part in the Street Child Cricket tournament in London in 2019, is one of the teachers at the school. He showed Mike the curriculum which has a mix of formal learning in Maths, Bangla, and English and human values education. During the visit there was a discussion with the children about the environment including the effect of rubbish on water and how pollution limits the opportunities for children to learn to swim.

Photograph (top right): Children at the Rayer Bazar School in Dhaka



Children at the station - our theme for fundraising in 2022

A lot of the work undertaken by LEEDO is with children who arrive in Dhaka by train. LEEDO meet many children at the station, and with the children's agreement, some go to the transitional shelter where arrangements are made to rehabilitate them with their families or alternative long-term care arrangements are made with non-Government organisations, including long term care at the Peace Home run by LEEDO. An open-air school is also held at the station and food distributed to the children on 4 days a week. The school is mainly attended by older children who sleep at the station and who also work there – for example carrying luggage and working at tea stalls.

Continues overleaf...

Mike went to the station and met with LEEDO's social mobiliser who had just found a 9 year old boy who had come from Jessore in the South West of Bangladesh by train. He had been surviving on the street for about two days. The social mobiliser took the boy to the railway station police office where there is a welfare desk for children. A form was filed to confirm the name of the child, where he was from and that he was being cared for by LEEDO. This helps with tracing family members. The police have been working with LEEDO in this way for many years and know the LEEDO staff.

The boy went by rickshaw with the social mobiliser to the nearby shelter run by LEEDO. There are 10-12 children there at any one time aged from as young as 5 to 11. They are mainly boys but also some girls. There is a carer and a cook who stay at the shelter with the children and a child volunteer from Peace Home who helps regularly. The children sleep in small dormitories with separate rooms for boys and girls. The shelter is at the top of a block of offices.

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh plan to focus our fundraising in 2022 on the theme of children at the station. We hope to have another art workshop. We are planning a sleep-out at the station in Dhaka with LEEDO, following the successful sleep out by the Executive Director of LEEDO when he visited the UK in 2018. The sleep out will be shared on facebook live and we will be asking our supporters to join in by sleeping outside at their home and/or joining us on-line. We also hope that any supporters with a train set from their child hood will consider auctioning it to raise money for Friends of Street Children Bangladesh.

Photograph (top right): Children at the 'School under the Sky' at the Rayer Bazar School in Dhaka



Two bands in Dhaka supporting the 50 years of independence fundraising initiative for **LEEDO**

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh were very honoured to receive support from two bands in Dhaka at our on-line concert celebrating 50 years since the London demonstration for Bangladesh independence and 50 years since the famous George Harrison Concert for Bangladesh. Backstage Club play instruments and sing many popular Bengali folk and rock songs as well as singing their own compositions. Their moto is “music is fun” For our concert they produced a unique video with musicians and singers from countries all over the world:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPMqv6a6hpo)

[v=MPMqv6a6hpo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPMqv6a6hpo) The songs included Michael Jackson’s Heal the World; John Lennon’s Imagine; George Harrison’s While My Guitar Gently Weeps; and Aj Je Shishu by Renaissance.

The band formed by our Active Supporter Khaled Chowdhury with students of the Dhaka based London College of Legal Studies South sang songs including Rangiyee Dao.



You can see most of the songs on our youtube channel where you can also listen to Val Harding’s inspirational talk about volunteering at a refugee camp in India during the 1971 Bangladesh Independence War.



Photograph (above): Backstage band meet online