

# Newsletter

*Our latest news, updates and announcements*

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**Contact Friends of  
Street Children  
Bangladesh**

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

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

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh is a UK registered  
charity (charity number: 1171061)



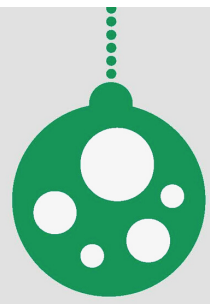
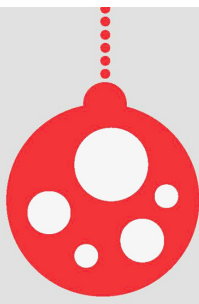
Photo (above): The School Under The Sky programme

## **Support LEEDO's work with children on the street this Christmas**

As 2022 comes to an end we are asking our supporters to make donations to enable LEEDO to continue their work with children on the streets. Instead of purchasing a box of chocolates or a bottle of perfume consider making a gift that will transform the opportunities for a child that has been surviving in extreme poverty on the streets. Next year we have already committed to send funds to support one of the street schools and to support activities for children living at Peace Home. Please donate at our online giving page and remember to click the box so that we receive the tax you would have paid on the donation:

**[https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friend  
s-of-street-children-bangladesh](https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh)**

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# Do Good By Going Out To Eat

Your **CHRISTMASPOUND** for Street Children

*The fundraising initiative in the restaurant industry for street children in Bangladesh*

This is how it works:

You visit a restaurant or café that's participating in the Christmas fundraising campaign "**CHRISTMASPOUND**".

You pay one pound extra to your bill, the "**CHRISTMASPOUND**".

100% of the "**CHRISTMASPOUND**" goes towards helping street children in Bangladesh

(Friends of Street Children Bangladesh is a UK registered charity - number 1171061)



Text **CHRISTMASPOUND** to 70450 to donate £1.

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

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





# Your Christmas Pound

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh was formed by people in the UK who are familiar with the work of LEEDO with children in Dhaka. People from other countries visit LEEDO too and see how their work is making a real difference to the lives of children surviving in extremely difficult circumstances that should not have to be faced by any child today. One of the German visitors to LEEDO formed a small charity in Germany called "Give One Back". Every Christmas they recruit many restaurants who agree to display a poster and ask customers to add one euro to the price of their meal when they eat at their restaurant. It has been a very successful fundraising campaign and this year they agreed to share their experience and the materials they use to run the campaign with us so that we can try a similar initiative in the UK.

If you know the owner or manager of a restaurant in the UK who would be willing to take part, then please let us know at [friendsofscbd@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofscbd@gmail.com)



We are pleased to announce that the following restaurants have agreed to join:

- **Jeera**, 48 The Hundred, Romsey SO51 8BX
- **Mogul Restaurant**, 21 High Street Saffron Walden CB10 1AT
- **New Gulshan Restaurant**, 141 Victoria St, St Albans AL1 3TT
- **Graam Bangla Restaurant**, 68 Brick Lane, London E1 6RL

If you get the opportunity to do so, please support this initiative by visiting a participating restaurant and make your £1 donation with your phone by texting

**CHRISTMASPOUND to 70450**

(Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message)



Photo (above): Trustees and supporters at the fundraising meal on Drummond Street, Camden

## Fundraising meal raised £750

This summer we held our fundraising meal at the Diwana Bel Poori House in the London Borough of Camden. The meal date fell at the end of Ramadan and on Eid day (which changes each year), but this did not deter ardent givers as we raised £750 in donations.

Our next fundraising meal including a film screening is being held in Brick Lane's Banglatown on Sunday 18 December at 1pm.



Image (above): FSCBD film screening of "Clay Bird" at the Monsoon Restaurant on Brick Lane

## Upcoming fundraising meal at Monsoon on Brick Lane

On Sunday 18th December please join us for lunch on Brick Lane at 1pm. This is our end of year fundraising event and is being held at The Monsoon Restaurant, 78 Brick Lane, London E1 6RL. After the meal we will show the award winning modern Bengali film "The Clay Bird" by Tareque Masud. The film tells the story of a family torn apart by religion and war, touching on themes of religious tolerance and cultural diversity.

Please let us know if you can attend this event on 18th December by emailing us at [friendsofscbd@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofscbd@gmail.com). Please make your donation before the event using this link

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh> or donate by cash on the day. Everybody is asked to order and pay for their own food and drink at the restaurant.

## Football in Doha 2022 and Cricket in Delhi 2023

From 7th to 16th October 2022 a team of girls from the LEEDO Peace Home took part in the Street Child United Street Football Child World Cup 2022 in Doha. 10 girls and 3 leaders travelled to Doha. One of the leaders was one of the young women who took part as a player in the Street Child Cricket World Cup in London in 2019.

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh supported the team. We helped with finding sponsors including The University of West England, London College of Legal Studies (Dhaka South), and US Bangla Airlines who provided free airline tickets for the team. Prior to departure the British High Commission in Dhaka organised a farewell programme for the team. It included drama from the children, songs, a film that has been produced about the work of LEEDO, and a video with the Band Blue Jeans with their song written especially for the team – "We can also". Friends of Street Children Bangladesh organised zoom calls with the team and supporters from several countries including the UK prior to the teams' departure, during the tournament and after their return. Our thanks to everyone who sponsored and supported the team of girls from Bangladesh.

During the tournament the Bangladesh team played teams of girls from Mexico, Zimbabwe, Peru, India, and the USA. The girls' tournament was eventually won by Brazil and Mexico won the boys' tournament.





Group Stages				Day 1 The girls				Day 2 The girls			
Pitch	Time	Group	Fixture	Pitch	Time	Group	Fixture	Pitch	Time	Group	Fixture
2	15:00	1	Qatar VS  Palestine	2	15:00	1	Bolivia VS  Indonesia	2	15:00	2	Bangladesh VS  India
2	15:20	2	Zimbabwe VS  Peru	2	15:20	2	Bangladesh VS  India	2	15:40	1	Qatar VS  Philippines
2	15:40	1	Bangladesh VS  Mexico	2	15:40	1	Qatar VS  Philippines	2	16:00	2	Peru VS  Mexico
2	16:00	2	Philippines VS  Colombia	2	16:00	2	Peru VS  Mexico	2	16:20	1	Bolivia VS  Palestine
2	16:20	1	India VS  USA	2	16:20	1	Bolivia VS  Palestine	2	16:40	2	Zimbabwe VS  India
2	16:40	2	Indonesia VS  Brazil	2	16:40	2	Zimbabwe VS  India	2	17:00	1	Indonesia VS  Philippines
2	17:00	1	Philippines VS  Palestine	2	17:00	1	Indonesia VS  Philippines	2	17:20	2	Peru VS  USA
2	17:20	2	Zimbabwe VS  Bangladesh	2	17:20	2	Peru VS  USA	2	17:40	1	Qatar VS  Bolivia
2	17:40	1	Bolivia VS  Colombia	2	17:40	1	Qatar VS  Bolivia	2	18:00	2	Zimbabwe VS  Mexico
2	18:00	2	Qatar VS  Brazil	2	18:00	2	Zimbabwe VS  Mexico	2	18:20	1	Brazil VS  Philippines
2	18:20	1	Mexico VS  USA	2	18:20	1	Brazil VS  Philippines	2	18:40	2	Qatar VS  Colombia
2	18:40	2	Indonesia VS  Palestine	2	18:40	1	Qatar VS  Colombia	2	19:00	2	Peru VS  India
2	19:00	1	Brazil VS  Colombia	2	19:00	2	Peru VS  India	2	19:20	1	Bolivia VS  Philippines
2	19:20	2	Peru VS  Bangladesh	2	19:20	1	Bolivia VS  Philippines	2	19:40	2	Bangladesh VS  USA
2	19:40	1	Qatar VS  Indonesia	2	19:40	2	Bangladesh VS  USA	2	20:10	1	Indonesia VS  Colombia
2	20:00	2	Mexico VS  India	2	20:10	1	Indonesia VS  Colombia	2	20:10	1	Brazil VS  Palestine
1	20:00	2	Zimbabwe VS  USA	1	20:10	1	Brazil VS  Palestine				
2	20:20	1	Bolivia VS  Brazil								
1	20:20	1	Colombia VS  Palestine								



Photo (top): The Road to Doha event at British Council with Deputy British High Commissioner  
Image (middle): group stage of the tournament  
Photo (below): Children arrive in Doha to a friendly reception

It was a great experience for the girls from Bangladesh to meet young people from many different countries who have survived on the streets, and to promote their message that children who are on the street should receive birth certificates and proper recognition as citizens of their country. During the tournament there was a cultural programme including dances and songs from the Bangladesh team and one of the girls in the team featured in a TV programme produced by the international channel Al Jazeera. It can be viewed by following this link: <https://youtu.be/R9xHs3pibmw>

In September 2023 Street Child United will again be organising a Street Child Cricket World Cup. This will be held in Delhi, with the earlier rounds in cities in other parts of India. A team from LEEDO will again be taking part. It is possible that some supporters from the UK may also join them. If you would be interested, then please let us know. Friends of Street Children Bangladesh will again be helping with fundraising and sponsorship for the team.

### What happens to the children when they move on from the school we support on the streets of Dhaka?

The street school at Rayer Bazar in Dhaka has been supported by Friends of Street Children Bangladesh for several years. Twenty-five children (seven boys and eighteen girls) currently attend the school five days a week.

There are two teachers, one of whom used to live at LEEDO's Peace Home and came to London as one of the LEEDO players in the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019.

Last year seventeen children from the street school were admitted to local primary schools, mainly the local Government School, to continue their education. I spoke to two children who previously attended the Rayer Bazar School.

Johir is 15 years old. He goes to school for 4 hours per day and works as a plumber for 5 hours per day. He started going to school after attending the Rayer Bazar street school. He has 3 older brothers who did not go to school.

Johir learnt a lot from the street school run by LEEDO including reading, writing and maths.

Mim is 15 years old. She attends a Government Primary School and is in Class 8. She was admitted to class one from the LEEDO street school. LEEDO's child sponsorship programme provides her with educational support.

Mim learnt a lot at the LEEDO street school. She wants to work for children in future and volunteer with LEEDO.



## Welcome to our new trustees

At our meeting in September, we were pleased to welcome two new trustees, **Momotaz Rahim** and **Rumana Yasmin** who have now both joined us. Momotaz has experience of raising funds and teaching. She has visited Bangladesh on many occasions. Rumana is the founder of Bok Bok Books and has experience of fundraising, mentoring and training.



Photos (above): Rayner Bazaar School



## A new initiative aiming to provide paid internships for young people from LEEDO's Peace Home

For some time, Friends of Street Children Bangladesh has been contacting people we know in Bangladesh and asking them to provide information and advice to young people at LEEDO's Peace Home who are interested in pursuing specific careers. We have run on-line sessions on becoming an artist, studying social work, and studying medicine. We were especially pleased when a young dentist who had organised dental health camps at LEEDO whilst a student approached us and proposed offering paid internships to 2 young people from LEEDO at his newly opened dental surgery located close to the LEEDO Peace Home.

Kashem, who lives at the Peace Home has now been an intern at the dental surgery for more than 3 months. He was born near Chittagong but came to Dhaka when he was about five years old. He spent much of his childhood at different stations and survived by begging and collecting and selling water bottles. He often stayed at shelters in Dhaka that gave him food and somewhere to sleep but did not arrange any education. Five years ago, he was admitted to LEEDO's Peace Home and started to attend school. At first, he struggled with the lessons but eventually he was one of the students achieving the highest marks in class exams. In 2019 he was one of the boys selected to come to London to take part in the Street Child Cricket World Cup.

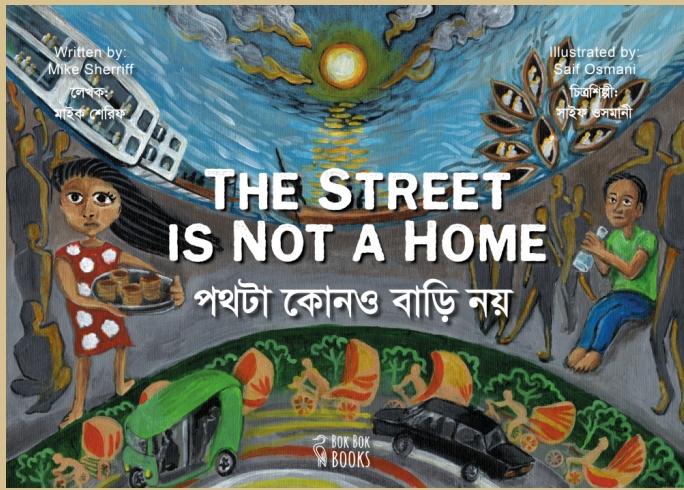
After studying during the day Kashem now cycles to the dental chamber in Mohammadpur where he works in the evening as a receptionist. He has also started to assist the dentist who is seeing patients. LEEDO have helped him to open a bank account and he is earning money that he will be able to use to help him with his education and to ensure that he has a better future when he is too old to continue living at Peace Home.

We are now hoping that other businesses will make a commitment to recruit young people who have stayed at Peace Home, ensuring that they do not have to return to a life surviving on the streets.



Photo (above): Kashem at the dental surgery





## New children's book

*The Street is Not a Home* is a book for children and about children. It has been written by Mike Sherriff, and illustrated by Saif Osmani, both trustees of Friends of Street Children, Bangladesh. It is for children aged nine plus and about children who have survived on the streets of Dhaka.

A unique feature of the book is that it was written and illustrated with the children. Eighteen children told their stories to Mike who then created four fictional characters. Children from LEEDO's projects then provided feedback and made suggestions after discussing the draft stories. Saif used materials from online art workshops and some drawings produced by the children when creating the illustrations.

The book is being published using bi-lingual text for children of Bangladeshi heritage. It introduces children to Bangladesh through the experiences of children who have survived on the streets. It aims to portray children not as they are frequently portrayed by charities as only victims or heroes, but as children with hopes and fears that are like those of all children. The author and illustrator are not taking royalties from the sale of the book and the publisher is not making a profit. After covering publication costs all funds from selling the book will be donated to Friends of Street Children Bangladesh to pay for work with children on the streets of Dhaka.

To raise the funds to cover initial publication costs we are organising a crowd funder. Please go to <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/thestreetisnotahome> where you can order and pay for your signed copy of the book before it is published. You can also order an invitation to the book launch, a limited edition of an illustration from the book, and a presentation or workshop by the author or illustrator for your organisation.

We hope that you will support this project which aims to change the way in which children on the street are understood and raise funds for our charity.

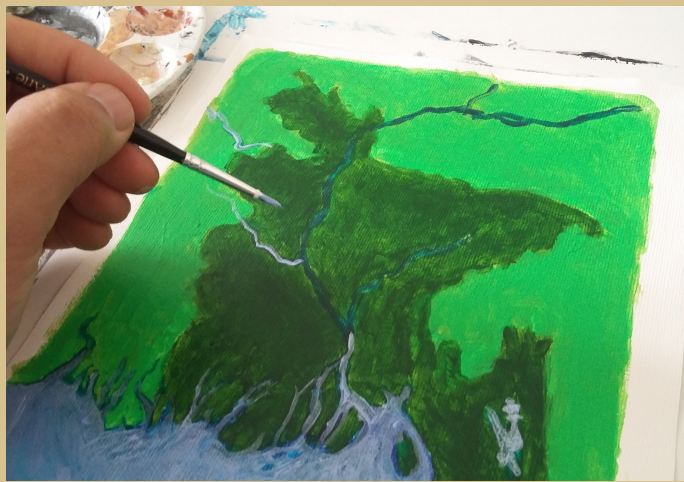


Photo (top): preview of the front cover of our book  
Image (middle): Artist Saif Osmani painting  
Photo (below): Online workshops with children who shared their experiences and drawings that inspired the upcoming book