

Newsletter

Our latest news, updates and announcements

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Contact Friends of Street Children Bangladesh

e. friendsofscbd@gmail.com

w. www.friendsofscbd.wordpress.com

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



Photo (above): FSCBD Trustees at the Hason Raja Centre, London

UK launch of our book: 'The Street is Not a Home'

Firstly, thank you to everybody who supported our crowdfunding campaign, which has enabled us to publish the book 'The Street is not a Home'. The campaign, including Gift Aid on donations, raised over £6,000.

The book was successfully launched in Dhaka at the Dhaka Lit Fest. Children from LEEDO read from the book and performed a play and sang songs. The book was publicised in the Bangladesh media including Prothom Alo and ETV.

In London the book was launched at the Hason Raja Centre in Tower Hamlets with coverage on

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Photos (top-bottom): Visitors at our book launch, children singing during the opening (online) and the Bangladeshi launch at the Dhaka Lit Fest in January

Bangla channel NTV. Over 30 people attended and heard from the children at LEEDO Peace Home and from a panel including the author, Mike Sherriff; illustrator, Saif Osmani; publisher (Bok Bok books), Rumana Yasmin; Chief Executive of the Consortium for Street Children, Pia MacRae; author of Nobody's Children, Rubaiya Murshed; former teacher, Truss Jansen; and Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets Maium Talukdar. The panel was chaired by our long-term supporter and former Camden Councillor Abdul Hai OBE.

The Street is Not a Home is a book for children and about children. It includes four short stories about children who go to live at LEEDO Peace Home after surviving on the streets of Dhaka. It was created with children at the LEEDO projects and is for children aged nine plus. We are now keen that the book should be made available in libraries and used in schools. It can be purchased at our on-line shop:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/shop/the-street-is-not-a-home#purchase> for £20

including postage and packing. Ideas about using the book with children can be found on our web site:

<https://friendsofscbd.wordpress.com/educationpack/>

We welcome your feedback about the book and any proposals for promoting and using it. Please email friendsofscbd@gmail.com

Please support our Annual Meeting, Summer Lunch and Fundraising Appeal on Sunday 2 July, 1pm

Every summer we have a fundraising appeal and a lunch where we discuss with our supporters our past achievements and future plans. This year the lunch will be held at **Havin Turkish Kitchen, 13 High Street, St Albans AL3 4ED** from 1pm. Supporters are asked to order and pay for their lunch at the restaurant (there will be a 10% discount) and to make their donation at <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh>

Please let us know that we should expect you on 2nd July by emailing friendsofscbd@gmail.com

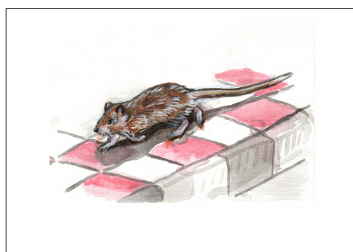
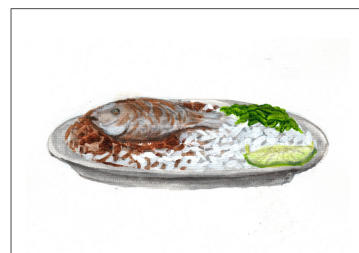


Prints available to buy

Following the successful launch of *The Street is Not a Home*, limited edition prints are now available to purchase at A4 (£15) and A3 sizes (£20). They can be sent out in the post or you can choose to collect them at upcoming events.

All profits from prints go to educational projects at LEEDO.

Call/ message Saif on 07915 234 404 or email friendsofscbd@gmail.com to purchase a print.



Images (above): A selection of limited edition printed illustrations from the book *'The Street is Not a Home'* are now available to purchase

Support the Bangladesh team at the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023

The Street Child Cricket World cup is organised by UK charity Street Child United. (<https://streetchildunited.org/cricket-worldcup>) This year it will be held in Chennai, India from 21st September to 1st October 2023. Teams of 4 boys and 4 girls aged 14-18 from 15 countries will take part. We supported the successful visit of the team from Bangladesh when they took part in the 2019 Street Child Cricket World Cup in London and plan to support the team again this year. We will be helping with the organisation of a reception for the team at the British High Commission in Dhaka at the end of August and we are also looking for organisations and individuals willing to sponsor or support the team. If you can visit Chennai at the time of the tournament and want to watch the team and take part in the events that will be open to the public/supporters do let us know and we will let you have further details.



Photo (above): The Bangladesh Team in 2019

For those children who took part in the cricket world cup 2019 it was a transformative experience. Most are now helping regularly at LEEDO projects, especially the schools organised by LEEDO. They have taken part in plays performed at various venues in

Dhaka to raise the issue of children surviving on the streets. One is doing an internship at a dental chamber, one is studying to be a nurse and one was a volunteer fire fighter at the huge fire in Dhaka close to New Market.



Photo (left): Participant in Cricket world Cup 2019 helps to put out fire

Our Annual Report and Accounts

Our annual return to the Charity Commission and our annual accounts for 2022-23 will soon be available on the Charity Commission web site. You can view them at: <https://tinyurl.com/d56nca8b> The current balance of our funds is £11,627 and next year we are committed to providing £2,550 to support the team participating in the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023; £1,500 to support the street school at Rayer Bazar; and £6,500.00 to support work with children at the station, including work at the LEEDO shelter near the station.

This year our income was greater than our expenditure and we finished the year with a surplus of £2,235.28. During the year income was £10,178.28. This included £5,889.31 from our crowd funding campaign related to the publication of the book “The Street is Not a Home”. Our remaining income was from donations and fundraising meals. We held 3 fundraising meals, including one where a Bengali film was shown. At Christmas we piloted the “Christmas Pound” scheme and raised funds from one restaurant using this approach, based on an initiative by Give One Back in Germany.

This year we sent 1 grant to LEEDO: £7,850.00 to support the school at Rayer Bazar and the Street Child Football World Cup (the latter relates to funds received from the University of West England specifically for this purpose). Our only other expenditure was for transfer of funds (bank charges) and printing publicity.

Our main project was the publication of a book based on the experiences of children who have used the services of LEEDO. We have opened an on-line shop to sell the book in the UK. It can be found at: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/shop/the-street-is-not-a-home#purchase>

This year we supported LEEDO's successful participation in the Street Child Football World Cup 2022 and held 3 online events with supporters and the team, before during and after the tournament.

During the year we produced two issues of our newsletter, which is circulated to over 200 supporters. We have 1,331 Facebook followers and a YouTube channel.

We have provided some mentoring to children at the LEEDO Peace Home and assisted one girl to apply for a scholarship for street connected children that is being provided by the University of West England. We have assisted one boy to obtain an internship assisting in a dental chamber.

During the coming year we will consider how we can provide future support for the work of LEEDO at Dhaka railway station, develop use of the book published by Bok Bok books to raise awareness and funds to support the work of LEEDO and support the children from LEEDO Peace Home taking part in the Street Child Cricket World Cup in Chennai, India.

Please consider making an online donation at our People's Fundraising page. <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh> The continuation of our support for LEEDO's work with children on the streets depends on these donations. Thanks to all our supporters over the past year.

Update from Rayer Bazar School

For several years Friends of Street Children Bangladesh has supported a school for children from the slums, which meets at the memorial to the martyred intellectuals at Rayer Bazar. The school is open on four afternoons a week and is attended by about 28 children. At the end of December 10 children were admitted to primary schools and 10 new students started to attend the

school. The school teaches basic Bangla, English and Maths as well as songs, art and human values. Sometimes students from local universities attend and provide the children with food.



Photo (left): Rayer Bazar with students distributing food parcels

LEEDO Peace Home

School for children with disabilities

Many children abandoned on the streets of Dhaka have disabilities, including many with learning disabilities. Out of the 70 children at the LEEDO Peace Home at least 24 have learning disabilities and these children were not being accepted into local schools. In August 2022 LEEDO therefore took the initiative to set up a school for the children from Peace Home with disabilities.

There are two teachers at the school- a special educator and an assistant. 24 children attend on 5 days a week. Alongside Bangla, Maths and English the curriculum includes weekly sessions to support the development of children's speech, psycho-social support, music, and dance. There are three sessions of play each week where the children play games such as skipping, puzzles and Karam. Once a week they learn life skills such as washing, cooking, and cleaning. They also have a class where they discuss morals and behaviour. Twice a week the children take a vocational class where they learn skills such as embroidery and weaving.



Photo (above): Vocational class at special school include weaving and sewing skills



Photo (left): LEEDO Special School teachers

LEEDO opens four schools at KFC restaurants



Photo (above): Teaching classes at KFC, Dhaka

In January this year LEEDO opened four schools at restaurants run by KFC in Dhaka. The classes at the restaurants run from 8.30am to 10am, before the restaurants open. Each school opens for three mornings a week and is attended by about 30 children who all live in the slums of Dhaka or who are from families who have no home and live on the streets of Dhaka. All the schools have books and games, and the teachers are older children living at LEEDO Peace Home and staff from LEEDO. KFC provide the space for the children to meet and LEEDO provide a breakfast. The children also have access to the washrooms at the restaurant to use the toilets and wash themselves and their clothes.

Lipa is 8 years old and her sister, Aiysha, is 3 years old. They have lived in Dhaka a long time and Aiysha was born in Dhaka. Lipa was born in Bhola, a river island in the south of Bangladesh and remembers travelling to Dhaka by launch. In Bhola she had many friends and enjoyed the natural beauty there. Lipa's family now live in one room in one of the slums of Dhaka. Her father is a garments worker, and her mother is a domestic servant.

Her only education is from the school at KFC and when she is not at school she plays amongst the dirt and rubbish of the slum and helps with housework at home. Lipa especially enjoys reading in Bangla and would like to join the police when she is older.

Sabir is nine years old and has been attending the school at KFC since it opened. He does not attend any other school. He lives with his mother and two older sisters. His father married again and does not live with them. Sabir lives in one of the slums. He likes everything about the school including the food that is provided.



Photo (above): Sabir at the class



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