

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF STREET CHILDREN BANGLADESH

COMING UP

Our Annual Summer Fundraiser

This year our annual summer appeal is to raise funds for the work that LEEDO do at the railway station in Dhaka. This is where most of the children from different parts of Bangladesh arrive when they first come to the capital city. The outreach team from LEEDO are very active finding the new arrivals and encouraging them to take a place at the LEEDO transitional shelter. If possible, children are re-united with their families. For those children who sleep at the station there is an open-air school and training in skills including sewing and mobile phone servicing.

Our summer appeal will be launched with a fundraising lunch. This will be held at the Tavah restaurant at 187 Hatfield Road St Albans. The restaurant serves Asian cuisine, and the meal will be held on **Sunday 13th July from 1pm**. The cost is £22 including a £10 donation to Friends of Street Children Bangladesh. It is important to get your ticket in advance, by 11th July, using this link: www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/summer-fundraiser-meal or using the QR code

We look forward to seeing you on 13th July. If you unable to come along to the meal on 13th, please remember that you can still contribute to the summer appeal at: www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh

Thank you for your support.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALLER HAMZA CHOUDHURY VISITS THE LEEDO PEACE HOME



Photo (above): Hamza greets the street children.

Hamza is a professional footballer who was born in Loughborough in 1997. He joined the Leicester City football academy at the age of seven and went on to play for Leicester City. He is now on loan to Sheffield United and has opted to play internationally for Bangladesh where he is hugely popular, and recently scored his first goal for the team in the game against Bhutan on 4 June.

Hamza's maternal ancestral home is in Hobiganj, Sylhet.

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On 7th June LEEDO Peace Home were pleased to welcome Hamza to share in their Eid celebrations. Having been welcomed by **Forhad, the Executive Director of LEEDO**, Hamza sat with the children and then toured the Peace Home facilities and watched a film about the work of LEEDO. Finally, he joined a game of football with the LEEDO girl's football team.

At the conclusion of the visit Hamza expressed his desire to visit again with his family and to support the work of LEEDO in future, especially work to empower children who have survived on the streets using football and the international tournaments organised by Street Child United.



Photo (above): The children were very happy to meet and pick up football tips with international footballer Hamza Choudhury.

FILMS RAISE FUNDS AND AWARENESS



To raise funds to support the work of LEEDO in Dhaka and to raise awareness about the situation facing street connected children we have arranged two successful and well-attended programmes where we have shown recently produced films on-line.

The first was in February where we showed the film “Green Foot Soldiers” This powerful documentary highlights the incredible life challenges and remarkable environmental contributions of street-connected children known as “Tokai” (waste collectors). The film follows their daily lives and reveals the hazardous conditions they face from an early age. It is a story rarely told.

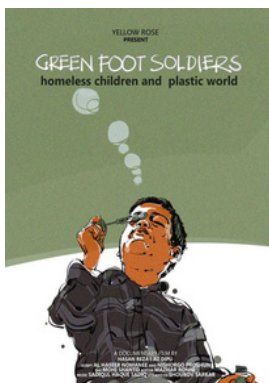
Filmmaker Dr. Hasan Reza, an Associate Professor at Indiana University School of Social Work (IUSSW) in the USA joined us for discussion after the film. The trailer for the film can be viewed online at:

https://iu.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_gqfo7q6s

To mark the International Day for Street Children on 12th April we hosted a special online screening of the powerful documentary **Where the Kids Have No Name**, which provides a unique insight into the lives of children on the streets of Dhaka and the work of LEEDO. The film was launched at Dhaka International Film Festival and has been shown at several film festivals including Berlin and Belgrade. Following the screening, **Director Jamillah van der Hulst** and **Director of Photography Conrad Alleblas** from Jaja Films joined us for discussion about the making of the film. The trailer for the film can be viewed online at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p8_ITJ_dUt0

If you would like to show either film to a group that you are part of and raise funds to support the work of LEEDO then please contact us at friendsofscbd@gmail.com and we will be pleased to support you.

Photos overleaf...



Photos (above): 'Green Foot Soldiers' and 'Where The Kids Have No Name' were shown online, with a live directors talk and Q&A.

INTRODUCING YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN THE SKILLS TRAINING PROJECT NEAR THE RAILWAY STATION

At Kamlapur railway station in Dhaka are children who have been staying there for many months. Some have been there for several years and are not interested in staying at shelters provided by government or non-government organisations. Some have previously used these facilities and had a bad experience. A pilot initiative by LEEDO has been providing training for older children, some of whom are staying at the shelter and some who visit the centre daily from the station. The aim of the training is to teach skills that the children can use to earn money. The training includes tailoring and

mobile phone repair. It happens on 5 days per week with 2 teachers – one for sewing and one for mobile repair. The courses are 6 months in length.

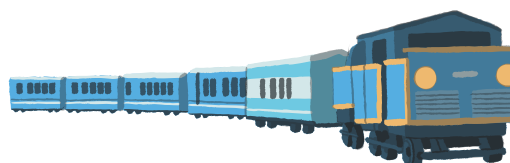
One boy receiving training is 14 years old. He was born in Rangpur District (in the Northwest of Bangladesh). He has been in Dhaka for more than 3 years. He came to Dhaka alone by train. He has one sister in Rangpur who studies in a Madrasa. He had arguments with his parents and left them because they thought he was a burden. His father died two years ago. He studied to class 4 in Rangpur then came to Dhaka. At first, he was at Tongi station in Dhaka and stayed at a night shelter run by a private organisation. He was there for 6 months. He then stayed in shelters run by various organisations and travelled alone to over 14 districts in Bangladesh on the roof of trains,

He is now learning mobile servicing. He has wanted to do this since he was young. He has been doing the course for 4 months and has another two months before completion. Eventually he wants to work in a shop. He hopes to find a good job.

“

He had arguments with his parents and left them because they thought he was a burden.

”



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One girl taking part in the sewing training is 16 years old. She has been staying at the shelter near the station for about one year.

She has no mother and father and has stayed on the street at the station and at the ferry terminal in Dhaka.

She likes the games, studying, and food at the shelter. She enjoys learning sewing and in future wants to work in a garments factory but has not yet found one that will recruit her.

“

She has been staying at the shelter near the station for about one year. She has no mother and father...

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Another boy receiving training is 16 years old. He has been staying at Kamlapur Railway station for seven years and from where he previously attended a madrasa and studied to class 5. He once tried to go to India, but the police would not let him cross the border. At the station he sleeps on the roof with his friends. He does not want to stay there in winter because it is too cold.

As a child he was fascinated by switches and light and so joined the LEEDO electrical training course.

He now wants to work in a shop. He is going from shop to shop to try to find work and if he does so will then try to find his own place to live.

“

At the station he sleeps on the roof with his friends. He does not want to stay there in winter because it is too cold.

”



Photos (above): The children undertaking electrical training at the station shelter, and on receiving certificates for completing the courses.

OUR ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Our annual report and accounts for 2024-5 can be found on the Charity commission website at: <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/en/charity-search/-/charity-details/5091110/accounts-and-annual-returns>

This year we sent four grants to LEEDO totalling £15,551. The grants were for continuation of the work of Rayer Bazar school with children living in the nearby slums, continuation of work with children at the Dhaka railway station, a project to provide food, medicine and training for children with funds raised by NgO3 and a project supported and funded by Street Child United following LEEDO's participation in the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2023.

This year we also successfully bid to run a workshop as part of the Newham Festival of stories. This was based on our book "The Street is Not a Home" and all participants received a copy of this bi-lingual book. This type of event helps to raise awareness about the situation facing street connected children, which is one of our aims

During the year we raised £3,800 from fundraising events and donations, including screening of two films (one online and one in- person event), a fundraising meal and a zoom meeting with supporters and children from projects run by LEEDO.

We successfully applied for two small grants from charitable Trusts to support aspects of LEEDO's work at the railway station in Dhaka.

This year we upgraded our web site and increased the number of people making regular donations to support our work using the People's Fundraising on-line giving platform.

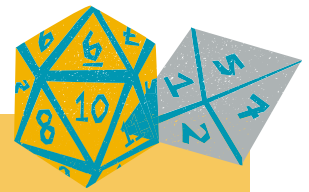
During the year we recruited one new trustee, and we are keen to recruit more trustees so please get in touch if you are interested in joining us in this important role.

This year our total income was £13,615 and our expenditure was £15,766. We spent more than our income this year as we used some of the reserves accumulated from previous years to send more money to LEEDO, especially for their work at the station, where the need is urgent and there are very limited funds available from other sources.



Photo (above): Your funds and support enables the street-connected children to live a more fulfilled life.





RAYER BAZAR SCHOOL START USING NEW GAMES TO TEACH THE CHILDREN

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh has been sending funds to support the Rayer Bazar School in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, for over five years. The school helps children, most of whom recently arrived in Dhaka from more remote parts of Bangladesh and who live in slum housing in the area. The children do not attend the schools in the area and many work to earn some money for their families. This street school run by LEEDO helps to ensure that they can develop the skills to read and write. It also supports the children to get entry to local primary schools. One of the teachers is a former beneficiary and as a youngster lived at the LEEDO Peace Home.

In 2024 LEEDO started to work with the Swiss organisation Pernova to

introduce educational games into the curriculum at all their schools. Staff were trained in using the new approach at a residential training camp. The games are based on the “KRAFT” model using sport and play to teach social values and life skills that promote personal development and physical and mental well-being.

KRAFT stands for K- Body; R- Rules; A- Acceptance; F – Fairness; and T- Team. After each game there are discussions with the children covering social issues and conflicts relevant to their lives.

At Rayer Bazar school I observed one of the games being used to develop teamwork. Two groups formed a circle and then every child in the circles was given a piece of paper with a word such as dance, song, smile and angry. They then had to do a performance based on the words they were given. This was followed with discussion about what the children liked and disliked about the experience.



Photo (above): The Rayer Bazar KRAFT 1 and KRAFT 2 sessions helped to better understand what the children experience daily surviving on the streets of Dhaka.



SLEEP OUT AT THE FERRY TERMINAL IN DHAKA

In the past the Executive Director of LEEDO, Forhad Hossain, and the Chair of Friends of Street Children Bangladesh, Mike Sherriff, have both taken part in “sleep outs” to raise funds to support the work of LEEDO. Forhad first slept out at Lords Cricket Ground in a programme organised with the charity Street Child United. Forhad, Mike and other supporters of LEEDO then slept out at the station in Dhaka. This was a great opportunity to have discussions with the children who sleep there every night.

This year our plan is to sleep out again to raise money to support the work of LEEDO. We aim to do this at the end of the year and this time our plan is to join the children at the ferry terminal in Dhaka. We hope that others in Bangladesh might join us and that supporters in the UK might consider having their own sleep out to raise funds.

To support this initiative a donation page has been set up and we encourage you to consider sponsoring us. More details about the exact date will be available later in the year. This is the page for donations:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/sleep-out>



Photos (above): Fundraising sleep outs have helped participants better understand the harsh living conditions faced by the children, while raising vital funds for food distribution and educational projects.



Friends of
**STREET
CHILDREN**
Bangladesh



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

SUMMER FUNDRAISER

— MEAL —



2025
SUNDAY | **13** | JULY
1pm - 3pm



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ABOVE

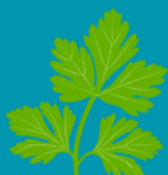
TAVAH (ASIAN CUISINE)
187 HATFIELD RD, ST ALBANS AL1 4LG

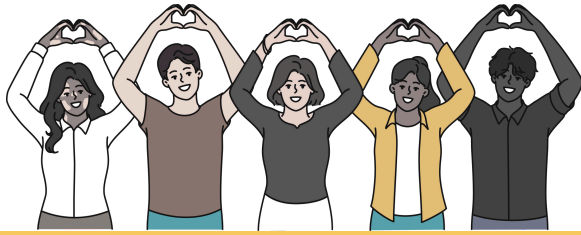
WE HAVE A 2-COURSE SET LUNCHTIME MEAL: VEG AND NON-VEG +
BOTTLED STILL WATER - £22.00 (£10.00 WILL GO TO THE CHARITY)

TO BOOK IN ADVANCE, MAKE PAYMENT VIA:
[HTTPS://WWW.PEOPLESFUNDRAISING.COM/EVENT/
SUMMER-FUNDRAISER-MEAL](https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/event/summer-fundraiser-meal)

ANY QUERIES, PLEASE CALL MOMOTAZ ON
07402 442 888 OR EMAIL FRIENDSOFS CBD@GMAIL.COM

WWW.STREETCHILDRENBD.UK





COULD YOU JOIN US AS A TRUSTEE?

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh have a vacancy for a trustee. This is an unpaid position helping to run this small charity. It involves attending about 4 meetings per year, mainly by Zoom and helping to raise funds and awareness to support the work of LEEDO with children surviving on the streets of Dhaka. If you are passionate about changing the life opportunities for street connected children and committed to developing and sustaining a genuine partnership relationship with LEEDO, the organisation who do the face to face work with the children in Dhaka, then we would like to hear from you.

A full description of the duties of a trustee can be found on the Charity Commission web site at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>

If this role is of interest to you or you know somebody who might be interested, then please contact our chair initially for an informal discussion. The chair can be contacted using our email address: friendsofscbd@gmail.com



For more information, visit our website:

www.streetchildrenbd.uk

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