



NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF STREET CHILDREN BANGLADESH



COMING UP

“Recycled polyester is our preferred choice” say well-known brand Marks and Spencer – a choice of raw material some of which is collected by homeless children surviving on the streets.

The Chair of Friends of Street Children Bangladesh has written a report about the work that children surviving on the streets of Dhaka do selling bottled water and collecting the waste bottles. The report is available in pdf form on our website at:

<https://streetchildrenbd.uk/Publications/> It can be purchased in paper form at:

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

You can also pick up a copy and hear more about work done by children on the streets at our report launch event **9.45am to 11.30am on 14th July at Voluntary Action Islington** 200a Pentonville Road, London N1. Book your place by emailing friendsofscdb@gmail.com or get a ticket at: <https://buytickets.at/friendsofstreetchildrenbangladesh1/2256944>

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Photo (above): M&S is a major high street brand

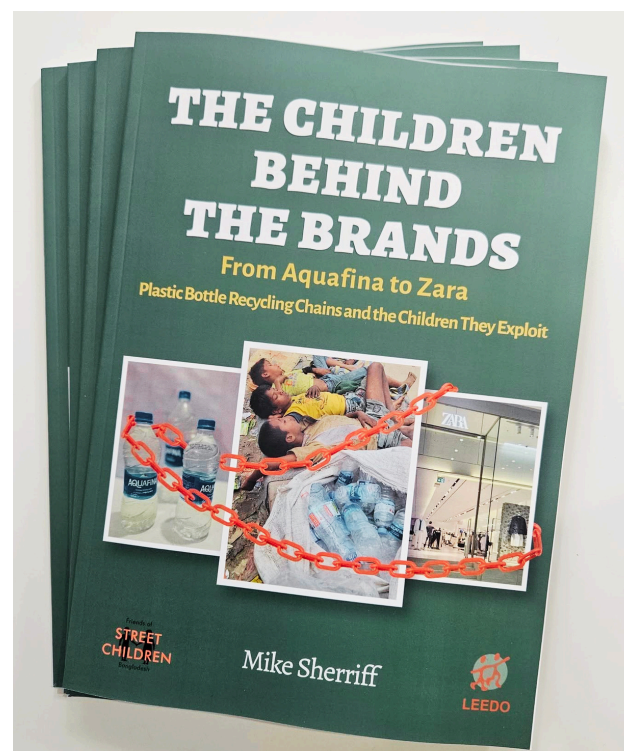


Photo (above): Launch event of the new report on Tuesday 14 July at Voluntary Action Islington

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Whilst the report was being produced unsuccessful efforts were made to get information from the headquarters of various brands. After it was written the report was sent to high-profile brands known to source products from Bangladesh and to use raw materials such as polyester made from recycled materials. No specific brand was highlighted in the report because the r-PET flakes used by all brands come from the same waste sources. The factories producing r-PET flakes from waste bottles in Bangladesh get the original bottles from multiple sources, including bottles that are collected by children to enable them to survive on the streets. Many of the flakes are exported to countries such as Vietnam where High Street brands purchase their products. Some flakes are used in Bangladesh to produce products for the brands.

After receiving our report Marks and Spencer, who source products from Bangladesh and from many of the countries to which Bangladesh export flakes made from plastic bottles, contacted us to say that they were not directly referred to in the report. Generally the companies producing garments do not disclose the brands to which they supply. However, they do sometimes mention brands on their web sites. Marks and Spencer are also one of the brands that disclose their garment suppliers. One Polyester Staple Fibre producer in Bangladesh we interviewed (who said none of their suppliers of flakes were accredited under any of the recycling standards) specifically said that they provided raw materials to Square Fashions, Viyellatex Ltd and Zaber and Zaber, all of whom are listed by Marks and Spencer as producing products for them.

Story continues overleaf...



Photo (above): Plastic bottles from all over Dhaka before being made into r-PET flakes that are used by brands such as Marks and Spencer in their products.

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Marks and Spencer specifically state that certified post-consumer man-made materials from sources such as PET bottles are an acceptable source of raw materials - visit:

[https://corporate.marksandspencer.com/sites/marksandspencer/files/marks-spencer/polyster/m-and-s-recycled-material-sourcing-policy%20\(2\).pdf](https://corporate.marksandspencer.com/sites/marksandspencer/files/marks-spencer/polyster/m-and-s-recycled-material-sourcing-policy%20(2).pdf)

They rely on GRS (Global Recycled Standard) and RCS (Recycled Claim Standard) certification to demonstrate that their use of recycled materials is both ethically sourced and transparently verified across the entire supply chain. However, of these only GRS has social requirements (such as restrictions on child labour). Neither standard goes back to the initial collection of the waste that is used in the product and one of the main findings of the report we produced is that factories that produce r-PET flakes which are used to produce goods at GRS/RCS certified factories are rarely certified themselves.

Our aim in producing The Children Behind the Brands is to galvanise action to improve the situation of street connected children based on the recommendations at the end of the report. We call on Marks and Spencer, whose adjusted profit before tax was £875.5m in 2024-25 to join this endeavour. As a company they provide significant funds annually to support communities where the consumers of their products live, However, they are not assisting the children who collect the raw materials for producers of their products. By ignoring these children, and our report which highlights their circumstances, Marks and Spencer are choosing to exploit the children behind their brand.



OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY



Friends of Street Children Bangladesh was established as a charity in January 2017 and so in January 2027 we will be ten years old. We are going to celebrate with a Zoom event on 9th January 2027 2pm UK time. This should enable our many supporters from different parts of the world to join us. We are asking those who have been part of our journey over the past ten years to share their memories and highlights about the work of our charity. If you are willing to join and share your memories, then please email us at friendsofscbd@gmail.com

The next issue of our newsletter will be a special 10th anniversary edition with a spotlight on our main achievements over the past ten years. We will also be launching our 10th anniversary appeal based on the theme of ten. Current ideas include asking supporters to donate £10 each, a small exhibition of 10 photos portraying our activities that can be borrowed by community organisations who would be asked to collect donations, and a Ten Kilometre Challenge where supporters run, walk, cycle, or swim 10 km and ask for sponsorship. Further details will be included in the next issue of our newsletter but in the meantime please let us know about ideas that you could help to organise.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE SPORTS FUND

On **Saturday afternoon 11th July 2pm-4pm** we are launching our Make a Difference Sports Fund at the Hason Raja Centre, 117 Vallance Road, London E1.

We are launching the fund because we have seen what a huge difference sport can make to the lives of children who have survived on the streets. Opportunities to take part in sport can help rebuild the children's confidence and aspirations. Our new fund will pay for essentials for the children to take part in sport including food, equipment, training and opportunities to take part in local, national and international tournaments.

The launch of the fund will be held during the visit of Forhad, the Executive Director of LEEDO, to the UK. We are pleased that we will be joined at the event by celebrity **Konnie Huq**, former presenter of the BBC children's programme Blue Peter. We are also expecting a message of support from Hamza Choudhury our patron and an ambassador for LEEDO. Young people from LEEDO will be joining us virtually to talk about the difference that sport has made in their lives. We are collaborating with local sports organisation Vallance Community Trust to organise this event - creating stronger links between young people involved in sport in Bangladesh and Britain.

We hope that UK sports clubs, sports goods manufacturers and retailers, and sports personalities will support the fund, enabling the sports provision for children using LEEDO projects to be transformed.



Please consider donating yourself and asking people you know involved in sport to do the same. You can do so at: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/donation/make-a-difference-sports-fund>



Photo (above): British-Bangladeshi presenter Konnie Huq will launch the Sports Fund on Saturday 14 July 2026 at the Hason Raja Centre



**Scan the QR code
to make a
donation to the
Sports Fund**



Photo (above): Our patron Hamza Choudhury playing football with the street children

VISIT BY FORHAD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LEEDO, TO THE UK

On Monday 6th July the Executive Director of LEEDO, Forhad Hussain, will be coming to the UK to work with Friends of Street Children Bangladesh to raise awareness about the position of street connected children in Bangladesh and increase support for the work of LEEDO in the UK.

During the visit there will be a meeting in parliament, with a supportive MP, to discuss how the issues facing children on the street in Dhaka can be addressed in the UK, especially how British firms that rely on child labour can be persuaded to take more responsibility for the situation facing the children they exploit. There will also be discussions with the Consortium for Street Children about similarities and differences between the position facing children in Dhaka and those facing children in other parts of the world.

We will be meeting with Team Wass who represent our patron and the ambassador for LEEDO, Hamza Choudhury, to consider how his fantastic support to date can be developed in future. We will also explore other ways in which team Wass might be involved with the work of LEEDO.

There will be a meeting with West Ham in the Community to discuss how LEEDO might seek more support from professional football clubs in Bangladesh and to see if they have advice about getting support for our Make a Difference Sports Fund, which will be launched with supporters on Saturday afternoon 11th July.



Photo (above): Children from LEEDO learning and making arts and crafts

Visits to West England University in Bristol and Goldsmiths in London will aim to build on past support from these institutions and seek to engage a wider group of students and staff with the issues faced by street connected children in Dhaka.

Forhad will be attending the annual meeting of the Daneford Trust, a long-standing partner and supporter of LEEDO. There will be a presentation to their volunteers and supporters and discussion about opportunities for young volunteers from London to work with LEEDO in Dhaka.

Finally the report *The Children Behind the Brands* will be launched at Voluntary Action Islington on Tuesday morning 14th July. All supporters of Friends of Street Children Bangladesh are invited to two events during the visit. Saturday 11th July 2pm-4pm at Hason Raja Centre, 117 Vallance Road London where we will show the award-winning film *Where the Kids Have No Name* and launch the Make A Difference Sports Fund. At this event crafts and paintings produced by children at LEEDO will be available for sale. Tickets at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofstreetchildrenbangladesh1/2240692> Obtain your ticket using the links above or email friendsofscbd@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

OUR NEW TRUSTEES

We are pleased to introduce four new trustees who have joined us this year.

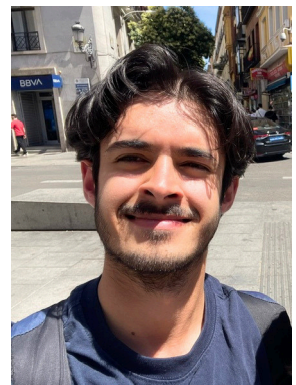
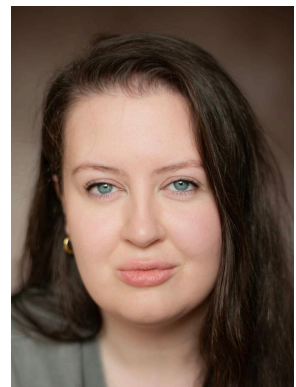
Auvee Rahman is a Barrister-at-Law and an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He also serves as the Head of Compliance (Asia-Pacific) and Country Manager for Bangladesh and Mauritius at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, where he oversees student recruitment, strategic partnerships development and regulatory compliance across the Asia-Pacific region. A long-standing supporter of Friends of Street Children Bangladesh, Auvee secured UWE's support for the LEEDO cricket team during their 2019 UK tour. He now works closely with LEEDO in Dhaka, coordinating joint fundraising initiatives between Bangladesh and the UK while encouraging greater engagement and support from students in both countries.

Sophie Doran is a civil servant currently working for the UK Covid-19 Inquiry. She previously volunteered for several years with a charity supporting street sex workers, working directly with beneficiaries to access healthcare, food, accommodation, and wider support services. She will be the trustee lead for fundraising and is also working on the development of partnerships with universities.

Isaac Chorlton is a student who has been part of a project offering pro bono consulting services to local community groups. He also has experience raising money to support asylum seekers in Greece. He has become our Assistant Treasurer and will also be joint lead on safeguarding.

Aaron Rohimun joined us more recently. He has experience of volunteer work with children and young people. He has also been part of a project offering pro-bono help to community groups. With Isaac he will be our joint lead on safeguarding and is also developing our social media policy.

Thanks to the Young Trustee Movement, through whom we recruited two of our new trustees.



Photos (above): (Top L-R) Auvee and Sophie, (below L-R) Isaac and Aaron.



OUR ANNUAL REPORT - 2025/26



In our latest annual report, we welcome new trustees and say farewell to Natasha, who we thank for her fundraising and enthusiastic support for Friends of Street Children Bangladesh over the past year.

The report highlights our fundraising successes, which included a fundraising meal, a sleep out, an online screening of the film “Where the Kids Have No Name” and an online reunion with young people who took part in the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019. Through donations and fundraising events, we raised over £6,500 last year. We also received a grant of £3,500 from a charitable trust. Our total income was £10,040.80 and this enabled us to continue to support the street school at Rayer Bazar and make a substantial

contribution to supporting the work of the shelter at Kamalapur Railway Station. Our total grants to LEEDO were £9,000 in 25/26.

During the year we amended our constitution so that we can recruit new trustees and we were successful, welcoming four new trustees. During the coming year we will be reviewing our policies and reallocating responsibilities amongst trustees. We will continue with our programme of face to face and on-line fundraising and we will celebrate our ten years of existence as a charity. We also hope to develop partnerships with universities to support the work of LEEDO. We are launching the Make a Difference Sports Fund and highlighting the role of children in plastic bottle recycling.



Photos (above): (Left) Our Chair Mike Sherriff with LEEDO's Forhad Hussain and supporters on the fundraising sleep out. (Right) Drawings and paintings by the street children at LEEDO Peace Home.



For more information, visit our website:
www.streetchildrenbd.uk

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