



COMMUNITY
LIFE

NEWS LETTER

The ACSONI Newsletter highlights the cultural and social involvement of the African and Caribbean community in Northern Ireland.
June 2017

ACSONI ON THE MOVE

ACSONI

Student Placement 2017: St. Roses Dominican College students gain work experience at ACSONI



At ACSONI for student placement for about two months were two young ladies: Chichi Matinisi and Esther Adeyemi from St. Roses Dominican College who completed work experience. The ladies gained valuable experience in administrative and clerical duties. They also participated in a photography workshop hosted by Belfast Exposed in March.



Intern Europe is an organisation which coordinates internships with organisations in Belfast and throughout Europe.



Pictured: Joseph Ricketts ACSONI Programme Manager, Nattassa Latcham ACSONI Communications & Media person with Patrycja Szelawa of Poland interning as part of Intern Europe.

With over a decade of experience, Intern Europe helps to bring students, graduates, and young professionals to Belfast for work placement opportunities as part of an enriched cultural, work and language experience.

Intern Europe placement student Patrycja Szelawa of Poland was on a three week internship with ACSONI in May. While with the organization, she assisted with administrative duties and had the opportunity to attend and participate in events such as the Belfast Exposed Photo Exhibit at the Linen Hall Library, ACSONI's Darfur Project, BBC NI Youth Debate on Top Table and Stronger Together's "State of the Sector" conference.

ACSONI welcomes current **Intern Europe** placement student: Goncalo Sousa of Portugal.



Goncalo is an ICT major and is assisting ACSONI in an ICT based capacity.

Members of ACSONI Participate in Top Table: Youth Debate on BBCNI hosted by Stephen Nolan ~ May 2017

BBC Youth Debate May 2017

On Tuesday, 9th May, the BBC held a Youth Debate



Top Table is a topical youth debate show which aims to give young people a platform to discuss the big issues that matter to them, talking directly to politicians and decision makers in front of a live studio audience.

Some of ACSONI's youth members from the U-Turn project attended the BBC NI Youth Debate on Top Table. The debate was hosted by Steve Nolan and featured a panel of politicians and young people with a vested interest in knowing what various party policies were on given issues.

It was an session with members as Top Table

in a number events and of particular younger Northern



interactive audience well as the panelists participating of current issues that are interest to the population in Ireland.

Pictured below: Blessing Matinisi, Host: Steve Nolan, Steffon Brown, Patrycja Szelawa and Chichi Matinisi



The Darfur Project: A Partnership Initiative

In April, 2017 ACSONI along with the Association of Darfur Northern Ireland (ADNI) came together to form a partnership focusing on integration of Darfur nationals into the wider Northern Ireland society.

As a part of the initiative some members of the Darfur community in Northern Ireland were taken to various sites of local and historical significance in order for them to gain a better sense of the culture and gain a feeling of belonging in the community.

ACSONI has been working along with ADNI to create a publication which will feature articles, photographs such as the ones from this excursion as well as other aspects of the integration process and life styles of their members within their communities.





Stronger Together: State of the Sector Conference.
Wednesday, 17th May, 2017.

‘State of The Sector’ Working Conference



The initiative for the conference was explained in the background statement made by Stronger Together in support of the State of the Sector Conference:

“Over the last year, we witnessed a number of developments which changed both the global and local political landscapes leaving organizations and individuals uncertain of the future. The BME/diversity sector has also seen



unexpected changes which resulted in yet more uncertainty in terms of sustainability, security, leadership, future planning and way of working. Drawing on the feedback and suggestions gathered at our Annual Conference, Stronger Together Consortium concluded that an opportunity was needed for as many BME organizations as possible to have conversations about their goals, projects, strengths, needs, and collaborations.”

The conference was aimed at:

- People working/volunteering with Black and Minority Ethnic communities across NI
- Minority Ethnic group representatives and individuals
- The current 200+ members of the Stronger Together Network
- Staff representing government and statutory bodies
- People with an interest in human rights and anti-racism



The hope is that the event will provide a platform for the sector to help identify common issues and formulate a shared vision for working collaboratively to address them.

AFRICA DAY CELEBRATION: 25TH May, 2017

May 25th, 2017 was Africa Day and as is customary ACSONI held an event to commemorate the day. With NVTV collaboration, ACSONI hosted a programme dubbed Africa Now which served to highlight the diverse cultures and countries of this great continent.

The organization reached out to members of some of the most represented African countries in Northern Ireland to make their cultural contribution to the programme. There were participants from Darfur, Ghana, Nigeria and Zimbabwe and they shared aspects of their indigenous culture with the viewers such as:

- Arts & Crafts
- Traditional Food
- Fashion/Traditional Wear/Head Wraps
- Music



Host: Nattassa Latcham with Adenike Yisa of Nigeria



Members of Association of Darfur Northern Ireland (ADNI)



Jordan Adetunji (Nigerian descent) and Grace Abosi (Ghana)



Wilson Magwere (Zimbabwe) of the Wilson Magwere Band

Belfast Book Festival & Book Launch by Dr. Livingstone Thompson

“Optimising cultural diversity while appreciating individual differences” is the name of the book launched on Sunday, 11th June, 2017 by Dr. Livingstone Thompson during the annual Belfast Book Festival.

Dr. Thompson is an Intercultural Trainer, Theologian and Religion Specialist who travels and lectures extensively in the aforementioned areas.



Dr. Thompson signs a copy of his book for a patron.



A cross section of the audience at Dr. Livingstone Thompson's Book Launch – Belfast Book Festival

UPCOMING ACSONI -ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- ❖ World Sickle Day Commemoration: Hosted by ACSONI in partnership with Tunmicro SF – 17th June, 2017 at Stranmillis University College- Main Hall at 2:00pm – 5:00pm.



Nattassa Latcham is a Media & Communications Consultant who also volunteers as the Communications & Cultural/Arts Officer for ACSONI.