

PRESS RELEASE

ART Exhibition Tackling Racism Against Migrants

An educational art installation promoting the positive impact migrants have had in Birmingham and around the world will be exhibited at the Library of Birmingham between 28 July and 30 September, 2107 - supported by Birmingham City Council.

"I think the issue around the integration of migrants, which Salma is highlighting in her project, is important and very powerful. I hope it opens some people's eyes about how tough it is moving from a completely different country, and that we all need to come together as a community and realise at the end of the day, as my late friend Jo [Cox] would say, that we have more in common than that which divides us", Jess Phillips Labour MP for Birmingham, Yardley said.

Birmingham humanitarian artist Salma Zulfiqar created the installation 'Building Peace Though the Oceans' and says the objective is to promote integration of migrants in communities, prevent hate crimes and prevent extremism.

Salma has witnessed the impact migration is having in different continents around the world through her humanitarian work with the United Nations and is using her artwork to highlight the importance of migrants in our communities.

Working closely with Arts in the Yard, debates will also be organised in Birmingham to promote integration of migrants as part of this art project.

'I come from a migrant family and I know the hardships faced by migrants here in the UK and abroad', she said.

"Migrants and refugees face huge challenges in moving from one country to the next. Their hunger for survival makes them strive and that's why they make important contributions in our societies, she added.

"For example, I've met Somalis who've lost their loved ones while crossing shark infested waters and migrants who've endured horrendous journeys in freezing conditions to cross borders. But once they arrive, they [work](#) hard and strive to succeed no matter what."

The artwork which contains six canvasses representing Asia, Africa, Middle East, North America and Latin America show the financial contribution migrants have made and was created and exhibited as part of the International SEAS conference at The Ionian Arts & Cultural Centre, Kefalonia in Greece.

Salma Zulfiqar has travelled to many countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Kenya, Chad, Cameroon, Egypt and Bangladesh to cover under reported humanitarian issues for the United Nations, which has greatly influenced her work as an artist.

The exhibition will be opened by Jess Phillips Labour MP for Birmingham, Yardley.

Date: 3PM - 28 July, 2017

Venue: Highlight Space 3 in the Library of Birmingham, Birmingham City Centre, UK