

ETHNIC MINORITY/FAITH GROUPS

Somerset Black Development Agency is an umbrella organisation for all black and minority ethnic groups in the county.

Contact Tel no: 01935 414911.

Click here for further information. <http://www.sbda.org.uk/index.php>

It serves as a link to the following groups:

African Caribbean Cultural Council African Cultural Council aim to promote and protect the shared values and culture of the African and Caribbean peoples in Somerset.

Bangladesh Association supports the cultural, social and religious needs of the members.

BMEEN (for staff employed by Somerset County Council)

BMEEN is not a professional counselling service, but it provides its members with:-

- ❑ informal support and advice in a safe environment where they can discuss racial issues and share experiences
- ❑ signposting to where further help can be found (internal/external support groups and policies etc)
- ❑ opportunities for informal networking and, from time to time, social events outside of work.

BMEEN meetings are generally held on a 4–6 weekly basis and at present take place mainly in Taunton.

Click here for further information.

<http://enterprise.somerset.gov.uk/personnel/personnelgroup/bmeen.asp>

BME Health Sector Group (Musgrove Park Hospital)

A Network group for staff at MPH.

Equality and Diversity Forum (Yeovil District Hospital)

The Forum consists of a wide range of professions and grades of staff. Meetings are held quarterly, giving members an opportunity to meet and discuss a range of topics and issues around the Trust and NHS policies, eg bullying and harassment, disability, racial harassment and equal opportunities.

Hidden Voices

This project aims to meet the learning needs of adults from Ethnic Minorities, particularly those who are new to the area, who may be learning English for the first time. The classes are available throughout Somerset and are similar to those described on this weblink.

[Click here](#) for further information or contact Lata Walter 07921949205, Ruki Khan 07921949203 or Miriam Robertson 07921949204.

Portuguese Association

The Somerset Portuguese Association has been established to help Portuguese language speakers coming from different countries to integrate into the British way of life.

- It gives help and support to complete forms and obtain benefits
- It advises people about various sporting, cultural and educational events
- It helps people to be aware of discrimination.

Racial Inclusion Project

The Racial Inclusion Project provide advice and support to children aged 5 - 13 and families from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, who have been subjected to racial harassment in schools or local community.

Romany Gypsy Council

The Romany Gypsy Council provides support and advocate for gypsy families, mainly around issues of planning and consultation with statutory bodies

Somerset Chinese Association was established in 1999 to work for the relief of Chinese people facing difficult circumstances, to advance education in Chinese culture and language and organise the Chinese community to be more aware of each other.

Their services include:

- The provision of an advice bureau – interpretation, representative advocacy and case referral.
- Arrangement of social activities, seminars, health talks, training courses and exhibitions.
- Services for older people – visiting at home, social events and home scheming.
- Services for youth – Chinese school and leisure activities.
- They plan to organize a library of Chinese literature in the near future.

Meetings take place at Six Acres, Roman Road, Taunton.

A helpline is available which gives help on health care, social problems and housing issues. Contact 01823 283986 or 01823 338100 on Tuesdays 10 am – 4 pm or Sundays 12 noon – 3 pm.

South Somerset Muslim Association

The South Somerset Muslim Cultural Association supports Muslims from a variety of countries. It provides teaching of Arabic for children and is involved with increasing the knowledge and understanding of the Muslim faith and culture, in schools and the community.

Contact: 16 Gordon Road, Yeovil BA21 4JJ.

South Somerset Filipino and Friends Association has formed to generate solidarity, foster camaraderie, mutual support and co-operation among Filipinos and the host community
Contact David Chrisfield, Petters House, Yeovil. Tel no: 01935 462956.

Faith Groups

Click here to find out if there is a church in the area you require.

Once into the website:

- ❑ select the town you require
- ❑ select 'Places of Worship'.

This takes you to a comprehensive list of churches with their addresses and telephone numbers.

<http://www.townpages.com/somerset/>

Click here for information about the mosque in Exeter.

<http://www.exetermosque.org.uk/index.php>

South Somerset

Yeovil Community Church - Ladies Group are a friendly group of around 25, mainly older ladies, who find help by meeting with others who care and will talk with them. Also spiritual input as they enjoy a short bible based talk and singing favourite hymns etc. They meet on Thursday afternoons. CVS provide limited transport service and also private cars are used. They have one wheelchair (space limited). Disabled access.
Contact Mary Walker Tel no: 01935 433146.

Click here for information about South Somerset humanists

http://www.foursite.somerset.gov.uk/cgi-bin/civis_server.sh?session_no=104963&enqtype=SECOND&enqpara1=RESULT&rcn=101546&media_code=&sec_code=&page=0&no_of_results=14&type=PHRASE

Taunton

Taunton & Somerset Islamic Cultural Centre. This is an Islamic group (men only) that meets at Taunton YMCA, Lisieux Way Taunton every Friday 12.30 – 2.00pm.

Contact Helel Thafeder, 17 Valley Road, Taunton TA1 2DQ or contact YMCA Tel no. 01823 274667.

Website Information

Click here for a selection of websites giving further information on black and ethnic minority groups.

<http://www.ageconcern.org.uk/AgeConcern/D1BA75F13F1A49FBB372B20C1D94C193.asp>

Information Projects Officer
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