

Cultures and communities unite in Wales' first Festival of Communities

Wales prepares to celebrate unity and diversity in what promises to be a spectacular Festival of Communities.

Communities across Cardiff are buzzing with excitement as they prepare to host the much-anticipated Festival of Communities this weekend. Organized by EMWWAA (Ethnic Minority Welsh Women Achievement Association), Race Equality First, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and a group of volunteers, with support from the Welsh Government, this remarkable and historic event promises to be a vibrant celebration of unity, diversity, and cultural exchange, bringing together people from all walks of life.

On 2 July 2023, Cardiff City's Hall will be transformed into a kaleidoscope of colours, sounds, and flavours, providing an immersive experience for visitors of all ages. With a rich tapestry of traditions, cuisines, performances, and workshops, this festival hopes to truly reflect the essence of our diverse community. Organisers hope that the Festival of Communities will become a staple in the Welsh calendar.

"Our Festival of Communities will provide a perfect platform here in Wales for us to talk about cohesion within and across groups," said Professor Meena Upadhyaya OBE, the organiser and founder of EMWWAA and Trustee of Race Equality First. "Our differences are our strengths, and I hope the festival will provide opportunities to share and celebrate our differences".

Professor Meena continued, "Our aim with the Festival of Communities is to foster harmony and strengthen the bonds within Wales. We believe that by showcasing and embracing our differences, we can promote understanding, appreciation, and friendship among all residents of Cardiff and Wales".

The event is kindly sponsored by the Welsh Government and looking forward to attending the event is the Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip, Jane Hutt, she said, "Wales is a Nation of Sanctuary. We strongly believe in bringing communities together to share and celebrate our unique cultures, histories and heritages.

"It's vitally important for our future that we harness the ability of all that call Wales home. At a time where unity is very much needed, I'm grateful to the organisations and volunteers who have brought this event together.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, celebrate our differences and discuss how we can build a Wales of cohesive communities."

Highlights of the Festival of Communities include:

- **Performances:** Experience captivating multicultural performances from around the world, featuring traditional dances and music. Immerse yourself in the mesmerizing rhythms and melodies that transcend borders.
- **The Delights of Dinner:** Delight your taste buds with handpicked favourites from different cuisines.

- **Workshops and showcase:** Engage in workshops that offer a glimpse into our different cultures.
- **Community Showcase:** Local organizations, community groups, and businesses will come together to display their contributions to the tapestry of Wales. Engage with community leaders, learn about local initiatives, and explore opportunities for involvement.

NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Festival of Communities represents a collaborative effort between Race Equality First, EMWWAA and a group of volunteers, made possible by the generous support of the Welsh Government.
- Admission is free, and all are welcome to participate in this celebration. However, prior registration is required.
- The event will start at 14:00.
- For more information and to stay updated on festival activities, please visit EMWWAA's [website](#), or follow us on and join the conversation using the hashtag #FestivalofCommunities.

REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEW

- Please contact via the details below.
- Organiser of the Festival, Professor Meena Upadhyaya OBE is available for interviews. Professor Meena's biography can be found [here](#).
- More spokespeople available for interview upon request.
- Media are invited to attend the event; however, prior registration is needed.