

Parasol - new Research Initiative

Parasol invites GMPA members to participate in new research backed by the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioners (GMPCC) Office and the NGO Response Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery of which they are a member. They are investigating the challenges facing young European nationals in Greater Manchester who are aged 13 -25 years and are at risk of serious exploitation, discrimination, abuse and homelessness.



There are 3 main areas for their research: domestic abuse and violence; labour exploitation and discrimination (including Gang -masters); and the impact of criminal and other exploitative networks - including human trafficking, modern slavery, the drugs and sex trades.

The research is commissioned by the GMPCC Office under its Youth Aspirations Fund. They recognise the increasing impact of European migration in local communities in recent years and approved a skilled team of community researchers who are all European migrants to analyse each of these challenges in depth, all of which are tied up in the causes and consequences of poverty for one reason or another.

As well as gathering evidence and making recommendations to the GMPCC and local policy-makers, they also hope that Parasol can become a viable community project that can fill some of the gaps in existing service provision. The research therefore has a very practical side to it. Parasol expects it to generate some innovative solutions and a team able to convince local practitioners that they can put these into practice in co-operation with front-line agencies. The distinctive character of Parasol is that it is led by European nationals and ensures that their insight and perspective can contribute to local initiatives in a positive way.

There are 4 ways in which Parasol would like to work the GM Poverty Action network:

- by referring European nationals aged under 26 years to be interviewed by Parasol's Community Researchers - either in English or their own language. Their research team is fluent in Polish, Slovak, Romanian, Bulgarian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Romany.
- by enabling any of your staff or volunteers who are European nationals to either join Parasol as Community Researchers or to assist in interpreting with their clients. In this way they could interview people who they have already supported in some way.
- by agreeing for any managers, staff and volunteers working with young European nationals to be interviewed by the Project team and providing any relevant information or recommendations to include in their research findings.
- by hosting a focus group with a small number of its migrant service-users to explore one or more of their research themes. Each focus group will be facilitated by our Head of Research, Alina Rzepnikowska, an experienced researcher based at the University of Manchester, assisted by Tom Griffiths, a community development worker.

They will publish their Final Report in July and therefore hope to complete interviews and focus groups in May. That means that they have to arrange to interview people quickly and possibly recruit some extra community researchers or interpreters into their team, especially if they are from a migrant background themselves. They would be pleased to co-operate with any members of the network but realise that there is little time to arrange interviews in their initial research phase. However, they would welcome any supportive feedback from potential allies dealing with migrant issues during the next stage of their project as they develop and start to put their recommendations into practice.

Parasol is administered by Manchester BME Network and will run until Autumn 2016. If you would like to know more about Parasol or have any relevant information to share then please get in touch by [email](#)

EU Referendum Debate Monday June 6th in Manchester

The GMPA community have been offered the opportunity to take part in a BBC EU Referendum audience debate which is taking place in Manchester city centre on the morning of Monday June 6th.

The BBC are keen to invite a wide range of people to take part.

Victoria Derbyshire will host the debate which will broadcast from 9am-11am on BBC Two, the BBC News Channel and BBC Online. Audience members will get the chance to share their views, debate the issues that matter to them when it comes to the EU, and to quiz prominent members of the Leave and Remain campaigns.



If you would like to apply to take part in the debate – please email [Monica](#). More information is available [HERE](#)



We are pleased to invite you to the launch of the Poverty Monitor 2016.

On Monday May 9th 2016 at 12 noon for 12.30pm

In Meeting Room 3 at Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD.

At the launch we will be hearing from speakers including Professor Ruth Lupton, from the University of Manchester, Ivan Lewis MP and Mayor Tony Lloyd, commenting not only on the Poverty Monitor but also on the challenges of poverty and inequality in Greater Manchester from their own perspectives.

This project is designed to help people concerned about poverty in Greater Manchester to monitor the level of poverty and its distribution across the city. Indicators include child poverty, benefits, housing and unemployment. It has been developed jointly by the University of Manchester's Inclusive Growth Analysis Unit (IGAU) and Greater Manchester Poverty Action.

The IGAU is an independent analytic resource set up in January 2016 to help make poverty reduction central to processes of economic growth and devolution in Greater Manchester, and to provide research, analysis and insight on inclusive growth in other UK cities.

We will be finishing just before 2pm to allow those who are attending the launch of the Manchester Homelessness Charter to get across the road.

We hope that you will be available to attend. Please reserve your place by sending an email to [Chris](#) by 12 noon on May 3rd.

Who's you?



If you haven't already been contacted about sending us your details for the Who's Who page then an email will be coming your way very soon or you could pre-empt that by sending in your profiles! We are asking for 1) a head and shoulders photo of you with approximately 40 words about who you are and what you do and 2) a slightly longer piece about the work of your organisation and how important its contribution is to the community and the region. We also need your logo. These profiles not only go in to the newsletter but are also added to our website and Facebook page. Please email this information to [Chris](#) Thanks ☺

Greater Manchester Housing Providers Quarterly Anti-Poverty Newsletter



For anyone who hasn't yet come across this newsletter or isn't on its mailing list we would heartily recommend that you change that. It may seem a bit overwhelming at 33 pages but they are crammed with news about the great work that is going on in Greater Manchester. In 2014 the GMHP group signed up to a set of pledges that set out what they intended to do individually and collectively to tackle poverty in their communities.

In this newsletter you can read about Bolton at Home's grow your own food projects now working with 25 families; 2nd Generation Furnishings' recycling that helps families in need and reduces land fill; tackling door step loan sharks; promoting energy switching services; cookery classes; Stockport Homes' Pantries; 'Click in the Community' helping mainly senior people get online and stay there safely; food clubs; a pop-up shop; benefit advice; . . . We've almost run out of space to tell you more but there's lots more to tell.

View the latest issue [HERE](#) or email [Julie](#) to get your name on the mailing list.

Wandering through the web

Do you ever have one of those days when you do a quick google search for a simple fact and find yourself still riveted to a string of loosely linked searches an hour later? Here are a few things picked up on my last wanderings through the web....

So one of the world's richest countries is reckoned to be Norway. The population of Norway is 5.2 million people but despite the wealth of the country due to oil commodities, poverty still exists. In the capital, Oslo, according to the Borgen Project in 2015, 8.3% of the population suffered from poverty. The populations that are affected the most are immigrants, families with children, single parents and those who are on social security. In Norway, a long standing and successful social welfare system exists.



As of 2014, child poverty was on the rise in Norway with 3.4% of children living in a state of 'relative' poverty and in Norway, that is defined as households with an income below 50% of the national median.



Myanmar on the other hand is one of the poorest countries in Asia; ranked 149th among 186 nations rated in the 2013 Human Development Report of the UN Development Programme. Estimates put 37% of the population living in poverty with many unemployed and yet those with jobs working very long hours - population distribution is seen as a major problem.

However, in the Charities Aid Foundation's World Giving Index 2014 Myanmar is ranked No 1 just above the USA, mainly due to an extraordinarily high incidence (91% of the population) of donating money. If you are interested, in the same report the UK came joint 7th. Other countries in the top ten included Ireland, Canada, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. Each country is rated on helping a stranger, volunteering time and donating money.

Across the world is Trinidad and Tobago, another nation that scores highly in CAF's Giving Index coming in at No.10 and listed in the top 40 richest countries (based on GDP) in the world due mainly to its gas and oil industries. But they report 20% living below the poverty line with about 9% under-nourished and a 24% infant mortality rate, according to recent figures. Their CAF score is largely attributable to the 'helping a stranger' score which is the second highest in the world.



Let's skip back to Brunei Darussalam where the Sultan lives in a palace with 257 bathrooms. That might sound outrageous but the palace has 1788 rooms in total so the ratio of rooms to bathrooms is probably about the same as your house. With a population of only just over 400,000 and despite government assistance and welfare benefits such as free education and healthcare, pension schemes, allowances and subsidies, there is poverty. In a recent study of a poor 'water village' region, 46% earned less than \$1,000 and 43% had no fixed income but 60% owned their own home, had good living conditions and were considered healthy.

What can be drawn from all this, I suppose, is that not surprisingly nowhere in the world is completely poverty-free. That every country, no matter how wealthy, struggles to ensure that all its citizens never go without and that many country's citizens no matter how poor, can be amazingly generous with what little they have.

Within Greater Manchester, like all of us, I have seen great wealth and unacceptable poverty but I have also witnessed great generosity both from those who can afford it and from those who can't.

Forthcoming Events:

Launch of the Manchester Homelessness Charter

On Monday 9th May, from 2 - 4pm.

At the Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, M2 5NS.

The Homelessness Charter's vision is to see an end to homelessness in Manchester, and it outlines a set of values for working together to this end. The Launch will be an opportunity to hear from various partners, including local businesses and those who have experienced homelessness themselves.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP to [Lynsey Madden](#) stating who will be attending. Places are limited to two per organisation. If you are working directly with homeless people, and want to know how to be more involved or how to involve your service users, please contact [Jez Green](#).

Greater Manchester Living Wage Campaign



Tuesday May 17th, 2016 from 2—4pm at Unison, Arena Point, 1 Hunts Bank, Manchester M3 1UN

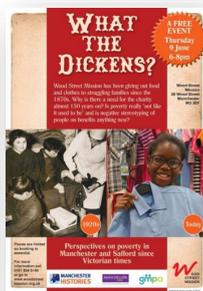
Please join us for our next meeting to discuss how we encourage more employers to pay the Living wage.

We hope to see you there. Why not in the meantime keep 'liking' and sharing our [Facebook page](#) to show your support.

What the Dickens?

Thursday, 9 June 2016 from 6.00 to 8.00pm at Wood Street Mission - 26 Wood St, Manchester M3 3EF

This event, in association with the University of Manchester and GMPA, explores how poverty, and perceptions of poverty and inequality, have changed over the years. Is it really 'not like it used to be'? And is negative stereotyping of people on benefits anything new? A lively, interactive discussion chaired by Julie-Marie Strange from the University of Manchester with drinks and nibbles.



Please go to the [website](#) or email [Sophie](#) for further information. Click here to [book your place](#)

Wood Street Mission building will be open from 5pm for a tour and talk about their work prior to the main event.

Making Dumplings and Sharing Stories

From April, Europaia will be starting an exciting new project in Salford called 'Making Dumplings and Sharing Stories'.

This will be a series of events especially for Central and Eastern European residents of Salford, who are over 55 years old. This project will be all about valuing our heritage and it will be a space for you to come and share your Baltic and Slavic stories, whilst making dumplings! If you think you might be interested, you can register by [sending an email](#) in your native language.



Why GM Poverty Action?

In the Recommendations Report of the GM Poverty Commission, 2.4 *Maintaining Momentum on Poverty* called for the formation of a Poverty Action Group to help take forward the work of the Commission.

A small number of public, private and civic sector individuals came together to form GMPA - a 'coalition of the willing'. This group has since grown to nearly 90 organisations and individuals.

GMPA is based upon principles of cooperation between organisations.

For more information about Greater Manchester Poverty Action

please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or visit our [Facebook](#) page.

All these platforms are there to share news and opinion from our readers, from GM Poverty Action and from our community.

We want to celebrate our successes, find new ways of working together and provide a voice for the people living in poverty in our region. But we can only do this with your help and support.

For more information or to share your news please contact [Chris](#) or [Peter](#).

Copies of previous newsletters are available on our [website](#)

If you would like to contact us or submit an article for inclusion in a newsletter please get in touch in one of the following ways:

Post: c/o 5th Floor Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

Or contact our Communications Manager: Chris Bagley T: 07419 774537 [Email](#) and we will reply as soon as possible.

NB GMPA does not have full-time dedicated administrative support so please do not expect an immediate response.

