

# Theory of Change



**Bridges**  
for Communities

## The Problem

Our society is fractured and divided. Political views are polarised, hate crime is on the rise, government policies towards refugees and immigrants are hardening, and our asylum system is widely acknowledged to be broken.

The latest census figures show Britain to be increasingly diverse, and yet diversity is seen by some to be a problem rather than something to be celebrated.

In Bristol, where we are based, systemic inequalities exist along lines of race and class, reinforcing the perception that this is a segregated city.

And yet there is hope.

## The Solution

Much of the mistrust and division is caused by stereotypes and misperceptions that are rooted more in the distance between people (the fact that they don't know one another or interact meaningfully) than in the differences between them.

By connecting people of different cultures and faiths, we can enable them to understand one another better and recognise their shared humanity.

By celebrating what we have in common and by working together to make our communities more welcoming for people who have fled war and persecution, we can build bridges and enable people of different backgrounds to live well together.

## We do this by:

### 1 **Connecting & Inspiring local people & communities in Bristol**

**Growing our understanding and empathy for one another, reducing fear and intolerance, and influencing action.**

**Peace Feast** – gathering people around food and stories

**School Linking** – bringing children together through classroom connections

**Listening Spaces** – facilitating dialogue and learning between people

### 2 **Welcoming & Enabling refugees & asylum seekers in Bristol**

**Creating a hospitable city that connects people into local communities, improves confidence and wellbeing, and enables people to use their skills.**

**B.friend** – one-to-one support for asylum seekers & refugees

**Resettlement** – welcoming families who have fled war & persecution

**RefuLingua** – language & culture classes taught by people of refugee and migrant backgrounds

**Stitching Together** – welcoming spaces where refugee women sew together

**Walk With Me** – on-to-one and group walks to improve people's wellbeing

### 3 **Resourcing & Equipping individuals & organisations in Bristol & beyond**

**Helping people to understand other cultures and traditions, and to feel more hopeful and confident so they can take action to build more welcoming communities.**

**Cultural Awareness Training** – equipping people to thrive in an interconnected world

**Volunteer & Digital Resources** – tips, tools and inspiration for bridge builders

**Replicable Models** – enabling others to do what we do where they live

**Learning Intensives** – Immersive experiences that provide in-depth learning opportunities

**Creating kinder, fairer and more welcoming communities where people of different cultures, races and faiths live well together.**