



Summer Trip Report: Brighton, June 2019

On 15th June 2019, we organised a trip to the seaside, in Brighton. Approximately 40 refugees and asylum-seekers came along to this outing. We had several mothers with their children amongst us, as well as a dozen unaccompanied minors, all of whom live in Greater London. Amongst our coordination team, we had British volunteers, cultural mediators and speakers of refugees' native languages, charity managers and our very own qualified teachers.





Brighton pier and sightseeing

Upon arrival, one of our volunteers, Jay, guided the group through the picturesque streets of Brighton. Our mini tour, which for most participants was the first time they saw this British coastal town, took us down to the famous Brighton pier where we walked through the arcades and took photos of the stunning beach landscape.

Picnic on the beach

As lunch time approached, we joined our Brighton-based colleague Susie and her family further down the beach for a delicious picnic with falafel, hummus, sandwiches, salads, couscous and plenty of sweet desserts, fruit and drinks.



Afternoon tea and coffee away from the rain

It sadly started to rain in the afternoon, but we did not let this ruin the lovely trip. We resorted to our back-up plan and relocated to Susie's lovely Brighton home where we served up tea, coffee and more food for those who had worked up an appetite again. Our participants were enjoying themselves and had time to create new friendships. Some of the youths created a new WhatsApp group and made plans to meet up together again after the trip, and some even spoke of organising their own Brighton outing again with more friends!



Thank you!

We are incredibly grateful to the Sheldon Trust Holiday Fund and Donate4Refugees for making this wonderful trip possible. It is invaluable for a small community-based group like Hopetowns to be able to access financial support for mini holiday escapes like this, which allows our participants to get away from the everyday stresses and strains of their ongoing asylum processes or other, and provides a space for new friendships, support networks and empowerment to take root.