

RAPAR

(the Manchester based human rights organisation working with displaced people)
with

The Welcome Centre, Hazara Community and Greater Manchester Stop the War Coalition

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, June 9th 2011

BRITISH MUSEUM EXHIBITION CURATOR SPEAKS AT MANCHESTER'S "AFGHANISTAN IN REALITY" EVENT

Constance Wyndham, one of the curators of the British Museum's popular exhibition "Afghanistan: Crossroads of the Ancient World", will be speaking at a special event in Manchester profiling traditional Afghan culture, food and music.

"Afghanistan in Reality", an event being organised for Refugee Month, will also feature a discussion based around the current political situation in the country and the response to people from Afghanistan who are seeking asylum in the UK.

The event is being held at the Welcome Centre, Greenhill Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, from 6pm until 9pm on Saturday, June 18th. Proceeds raised from the evening will go to the Gool Ahmed Belongs to Manchester campaign which is being run from the RAPAR office.

Other speakers at the event will be Rohullah Yakobi, a political activist and student; Nahella Ashraf, from Greater Manchester Stop the War Coalition; and local councillor Dr Aftab Ahmed. There will also be a display of books about Afghanistan from Manchester Libraries.

The British Museum exhibition has been extended until July 17th due to popular demand. At the Manchester event on June 18th, Constance Wyndham will be speaking about some of the important archaeological objects which are on loan from the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul.

Many archaeological treasures were lost during the period of the Soviet invasion, the civil war which followed, and the Taliban period of rule in Afghanistan - but other objects were rescued and concealed by Afghan officials. These include a gold crown, dated 1st century AD, from the tomb of a Nomadic woman, and the Begram ivories, which were excavated in the 1930s, went missing for some time but re-emerged in 2010.

A RAPAR spokesperson said: "This event creates an opportunity for Manchester to acknowledge that the Afghan people who are here seeking asylum come from an ancient, intensely cultured and deeply historical part of the world. The event offers a very different perspective from the usual stereotypes about Afghan asylum seekers and it is long overdue."

The British Museum exhibition also includes a display of contemporary images by photographer Fardin Waezi.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT RAPAR PRESS OFFICER KATH GRANT ON
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