

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a room. At the top, several colorful umbrellas in shades of green, red, and gold are hanging from the ceiling. Below them are vertical curtains in red and green. In the foreground, a green bicycle is partially visible, with a large green leafy plant in front of it. To the right, a colorful, ornate rickshaw is parked. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

HAWAA EMPOWER

BORTHHA PARTY REPORT

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WORKING IN
PARTNERSHIP
ACCM 

ABOUT US

Hawaa Empower is a Bedford based initiative supporting the BAME community through activities like hikes, self development workshops, and family events. Focused on reducing isolation and building unity, We provide safe spaces for growth, personal development, connection, and well-being, empowering individuals and families to thrive.



What is a Bortha Party?

The Bortha Party is a vibrant community event designed to bring women together in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. It focuses on empowering vulnerable women by providing a platform for them to socialise, showcase their skills, and enjoy a sense of belonging.

The event revolves around the preparation and enjoyment of traditional South Asian dishes, especially bortha—a flavorful, mashed dish made with vegetables, lentils, or fish.

Attendees not only share delicious food but also build connections, reduce isolation, and integrate with others in the community. The atmosphere is filled with warmth and joy, with women often wearing traditional attire, reflecting their cultural heritage while celebrating sisterhood.

The Bortha Party is more than just a meal; it's a meaningful experience that strengthens community bonds, uplifts vulnerable women, and creates lasting memories.

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ABOUT OUR PROJECT

The Bortha Party aimed to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for women to come together, socialise, and relax while enjoying good food and conversations. The goal was to create a safe and comfortable environment to reduce social isolation, create integration, and build stronger community connections.

PARTNERSHIP WITH ACCM (UK)

We extend our gratitude to ACCM (UK) for their invaluable partnership and support in providing the venue and a generous donation. This allowed us to hold the event in an accessible location, ensuring the wider community could easily participate and benefit from this initiative.

ATTENDANCE

The event was well-attended, with 120 women from various backgrounds coming together. This strong turnout highlights the need for more such community-focused gatherings.

We had a waitlist of 56 women wanting to attend but due to capacity of the venue we had to cap the number of attendees.

OUTCOME

- Attendees had the opportunity to meet new people and strengthen existing bonds, promoting a sense of belonging.
- 21 volunteers of vulnerable women had a chance to showcase and apply their talents, helping to boost their self-esteem and sense of purpose.
- The event provided a much-needed break for women to unwind in a welcoming and uplifting atmosphere.
- Many participants expressed gratitude for the chance to connect with others in a safe and supportive setting.
- By bringing together women from diverse backgrounds, the event successfully addressed feelings of loneliness and encouraged meaningful interactions.
- The gathering promoted cultural understanding and unity within the community, creating an inclusive space for all.



WHY THESE EVENTS ARE IMPORTANT

With the health disparities faced by Bangladeshi women, creating spaces where they can relax, socialise, and feel supported is critical for fostering both physical and mental well-being.

Given the economic challenges experienced by Bangladeshi women, events like these empower participants to develop and showcase skills, helping them gain confidence and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

The need for inclusive and empowering community events such as the Bortha Party is evident in the challenges faced by vulnerable Bangladeshi women in Bedford and across the UK. These challenges include health disparities, economic barriers, and social isolation, which create significant obstacles to their well-being and integration.

In response to the high rates of social isolation among Bangladeshi women, community events are essential for encouraging integration, reducing loneliness, and strengthening connections."

Celebrating cultural identity through community events helps to bridge gaps between communities and strengthen unity, building a stronger, more inclusive society.

SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS LIKE BORTHA PARTY IS VITAL FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

The prevalence of overcrowded housing among Bangladeshi families can lead to social isolation.

Community events like the Bortha Party provide a vital outlet for social interaction, helping to reduce feelings of isolation and improve mental well-being.

The significant economic inactivity rate among Bangladeshi women highlights the necessity for community initiatives like the Bortha Party, which provide opportunities for skill development and social engagement, fostering pathways into economic participation.

Given the elevated likelihood of self-reported poor health among Bangladeshi individuals, community events such as the Bortha Party play a crucial role in promoting well-being through social interaction and support networks.

The high incidence of overcrowded housing among Bangladeshi families can lead to social isolation. Events like the Bortha Party offer essential spaces for social interaction, helping to alleviate feelings of isolation and enhance community cohesion.

FEEDBACK

“The event was 10/10 in my opinion. It was cosy and intimate, there was music in the background but to a level where you can hear each other so well done to you guys for arranging. Food was just 🍷”

“Thank you for organising a beautiful traditional bangali bortha party and for all the effort and hard work you and your volunteers had put in to make it exceptionally special for us all i had a wonderful time, a day to remember Alhamdulilah ❤️”

“it brought women together who are very talented and often overlooked and haven't been given the opportunity to show what they are capable of doing.

The event was about bringing talent, passionate and compassion. Women that have been forgotten and made isolated from the community . The event made them live again”

“thank you for everything💕💕 thank you everyone.. it was amazing day in my life because first time I meet lovely sisters 💕”