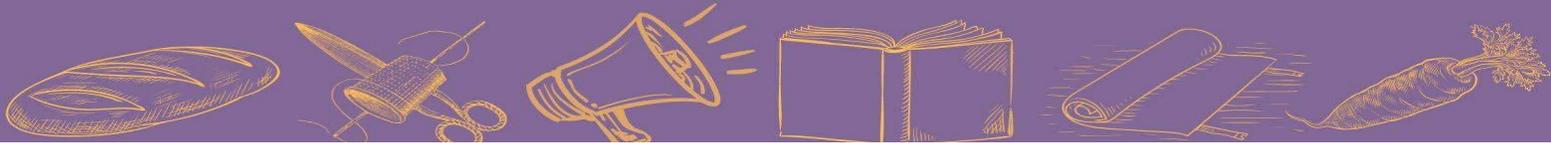


# ANAKA Women's Collective

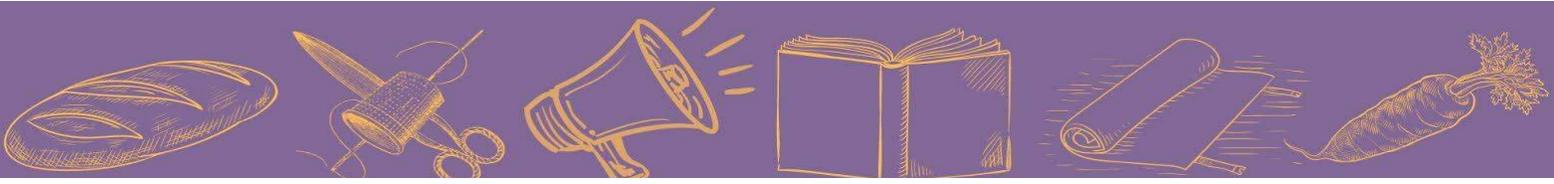
## ANAKA Newsletter

April - August 2023



**ANAKA** is a collective of people, not a charity or service organisation, we are led by volunteers and we rely on the skills of our members to make the work possible. We run a variety of different workshops, activities and events depending on the needs and interests of our members and their families. We also are a space where people come to socialize and support each other. All activities will be advertised in the WhatsApp Group.

Our collective is about women with the shared experience of being from a minority ethnic background creating community, providing safe, mutually supportive spaces where women can organize, share and learn skills and celebrate all that they have to offer.



## ANAKA Activities

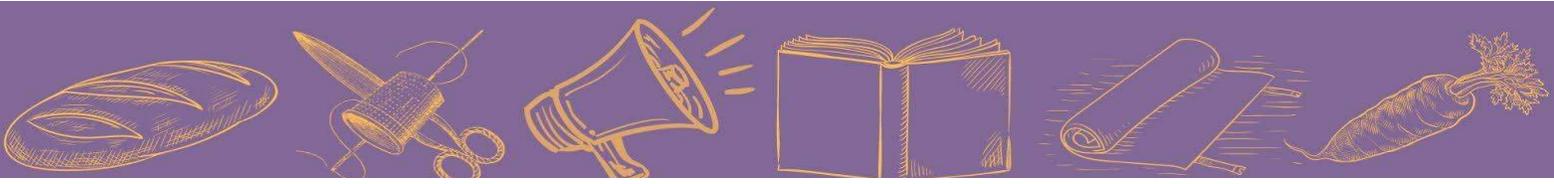


***Hair and Beauty*** Three sessions took place between April and July. Together they achieved more skills and trained others in braids, brow tinting, eyelash application, nail application techniques, hairstyling and makeup training. Thank you ***Kehinde Ahmed*** for sharing your skills and making us all feel good!

***Arts and Crafts*** Thank you to all the art facilitators who held sessions at ANAKA. With the onset of the spring season, the colourful flowers inspired participants to make beautiful earrings with their own designs. There was also a tutorial to make glass jars with fabric. Thank you ***Mah Mahe*** for a great job and artists ***Melav*** and ***Omima***, who taught us how to make festive lanterns and book stands using recycled cardboard. Thank you to them both for a great job!



During the last workshop on ***crochet***, participants created wonderful crocheted scrunchies. The participants enjoyed and were excited for the next session. Thank you ***Sahar Zeinolebadi*** for your wonderful work.

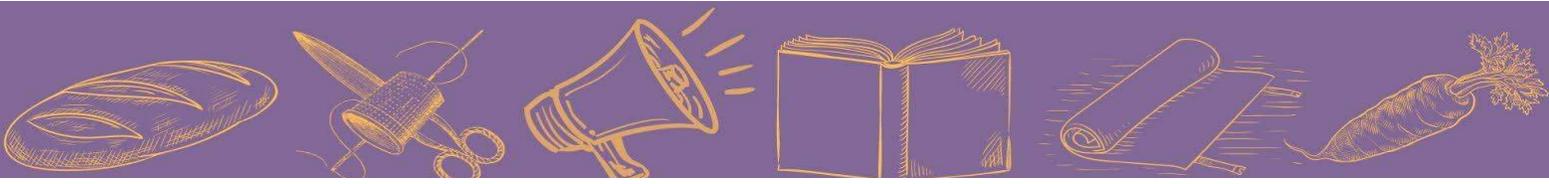


**ANAKA Art Group** has, over the last 3 months, run three sessions. The future promise of an exhibition and the structure that has been created around our pottery workshops are great. The ladies and children feel excited and that their work will be valued. We have a number of participants that have been in attendance from the beginning and it's great to witness the positive impact that art has had on their mental wellbeing and sense of belonging. The classes are facilitated through a participant led practice which has been essential in terms of advocating towards empowerment and autonomy. Thank you **Ruth Sturdy** for an amazing job.

### ***Other amazing ANAKA Arts Collective workshops and events***

The artists would love to improve their skills by attending art workshops or courses, sessions, etc. The artists had participated in the many mentioned exhibitions/workshops below and, during this limited time, did one after another with some in the same duration of time. It was challenging for the group and intense work. We did a great job, thank you **Omaia, Raha, Mah Mahe, Sahar, Anfal, Omima, Eiman, Melav and Salwa**.

- Mental Health Art Festival Exhibition was held on 13 -21 May 2023, with 9 participants at Royal Avenue.
- Fashion Project / At The Table was held 12 May - 12 June (Launch day), featuring 7 artists from ANAKA art group, and 4 from asylum seekers at the MAC Belfast.
- UU Pop Up Exhibition The Shop, held 6<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- Omima and Eiman also delivered an Acrylic Workshop on Monday 26th June 2023, at the Mac.



## Waterworks community Garden



ANAKA Women's Collective has a partnership with Grow NI's Waterworks Community Garden. We meet every Wednesday morning. We are sowing, seeding, planting, weeding and harvesting. We also organize workshops and events during the year, such as Christmas, Halloween and birthdays for members and summer activities during school holidays. In the garden we learn new skills, have time for relaxation, share lunch, and find new friends among the women of this community. This great work is coordinated by **Reshma** from ANAKA and **Pauline** and **Craig** from the Waterworks Community Garden. Thank you for an amazing Job .

## Education Projects

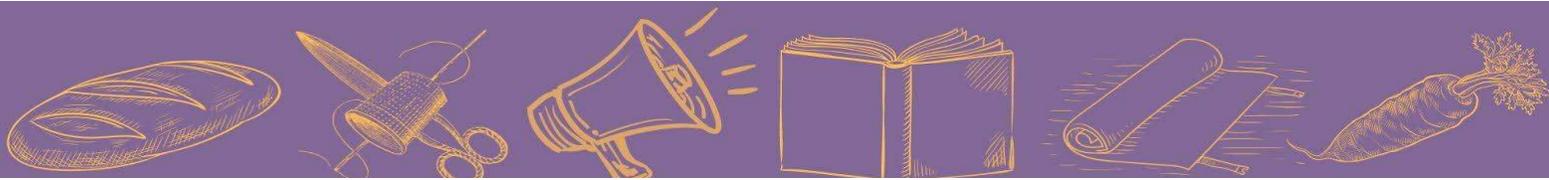
The educational organisers **Areeg** and **Sahar** create learning opportunities for all. Working with an adult group, homework club, and a youth group of more than 40 young people between the ages of 15 and 25 who have not been able to access full-time education or training. In cooperation with some parties, we organised the following workshops.

### Adult Education

- People First - workshops in the field of training and employability
- Belfast City Council – Gateway to Choices – One workshop in ANAKA. We then facilitated individual counseling sessions with translation.
- Childcare Employers – Full-day workshop with 1-1 appointments for women about state benefits and childcare allowances.
- Law Centre - Legal information session in ANAKA about work permit for asylum
- Mary Ann McCracken - Creative and artistic writing workshop with the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation
- Mental Health NI – We are planning and preparing for ten sessions of mental health awareness, coping techniques and art therapy workshops.

### Under 16 years old

The online homework club for under 16s is aimed at newcomers and those who do not receive sufficient support from school.



### **16+ Education Initiative (intensive family support for hotel resident's Equal Access to Education)**

This initiative supports those aged 16 to 25 years old. This group consists of 40 young people, most of whom live in hotels and do not have access to suitable full-time educational programmers. Education Project Coordinators met with Belfast City Council, Clare Hanna, Education Panel, a roundtable of other youth organizations, Kate Nicholl, Executive Office, Equalities Commission, Belfast Metropolitan College, Children's Law Centre and Ulster University. They also met with Youth Action, Start 360, Oh Yes Music Centre and Conway Education Centre who listened to the group's needs and have since registered members for training courses.

#### **Among the successes of the education project:**

- Was the completion of an evaluation with UNISON, who committed to implementing basic skills in mathematics and English for the group.
- Employs three qualified English teachers who run classes in ANAKA every week. In addition to recruiting volunteer teachers, who are currently in the asylum system and therefore prohibited from working and have a background in teaching, they run mathematics and computer science lessons for the group.

Thank you, **Areeg** and **Sahar**, for your effort and wonderful work.

## **ANAKA Classes**



English conversation online with *Fionnuala*.  
every Thursday from 10:30 am to 11:30 am



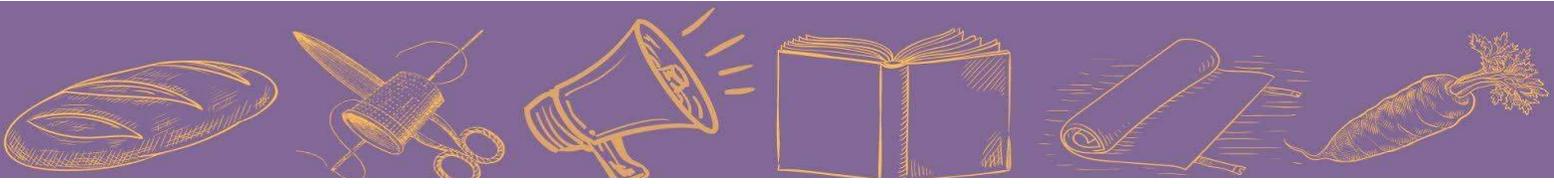
English Classes with *Rosemary and Morgan*.  
every Tuesday from 12pm to 1 pm



Computer Skills lesson with *Afraa*.  
Tuesday



Yoga lessons with *Maggie*.



## Summer Activities



Bug walk 1st Aug 23 - Anaka

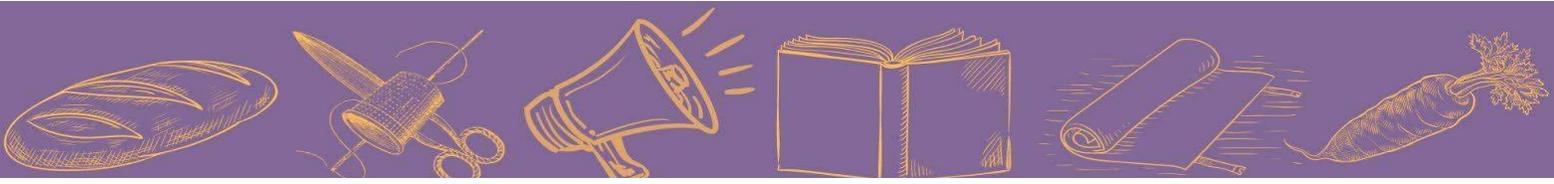
Ulster Folk & Coast Walk  
25th July 23- Anaka



Glenariff Hike 14th Aug 23- 16+ G

Canoeing Trip & Shaws Bridge Walk  
10 Aug 23 - 16+ G





***ANAKA Women's Collective*** gives thanks to all volunteers, teachers of the English classes, computer class, yoga, childcare, and everyone who provided assistance, support and donations during this period. We appreciate all the effort and the wonderful, impactful work.

## **How to Help:**

ANAKA Women's Collective invites volunteers and anyone able to offer assistance to email: [anakacollective@gmail.com](mailto:anakacollective@gmail.com)

Ways to help:

- Childcare ( requires an Access NI check first)
- English Classes
- Monetary Support
- Other ways