

Press Release: Embargoed for: 24th March 2010

NHS uses social entrepreneur's approach to fight TB in London!

Photo opportunity: Brent Council, ARCHIVE Institute and Brent Refugee Forum address members of various community based organisations to communicate methods of combating TB in Brent.

- 9.45-11.30am 30th March 2010
- National Suite, Wembley Plaza Hotel, Empire Way, Wembley, London, HA9 8DS
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24th March 2010 is World TB day and marks the launch of ARCHIVE's Tuberculosis and housing community engagement project in Brent for refugee and migrant communities. It's alarming that even in a cosmopolitan and booming city like London, there were 1109 new cases of Tuberculosis in North West London boroughs in 2008, the highest number coming from Brent. Yet ARCHIVE is breaking new ground in using cost-effective, low-tech architectural responses to prevent TB across the world. The ultimate goal of this project is to raise awareness of adverse health outcomes that can result from inadequate housing conditions – particularly among refugee and migrant communities in Brent.

The Happy Healthy Household Partnership focuses on using housing as a process for inhibiting TB transmission. This project will see both parties, along with other community based organisations, host a number of interactive community workshops that encourage participants to explore and understand the ways in which housing implicates their health. Outputs from workshops such as leaflets and other communication materials will detail the TB risk associated with inadequate housing and will be distributed to local GP's. The first of these events takes place on 30th March at the national suite, Wembley plaza hotel. Here, community based organisations will discuss the TB and Housing problem that Brent faces, whilst also being challenged to debate how they and ARCHIVE will communicate these issues to the Brent community. Individuals speaking on the 30th will be Peter Williams – Executive Director of ARCHIVE, Laurence Coater – Brent Council, and Amna Mahmoud – Greater London Authority.

The threat of TB in the UK is very real and in fact, research has proven that TB cases are on the rise here. Every year, over 8,000 new cases of TB are reported in the UK, and in 2008 nearly 40% of these cases were right here in London. Ethnic minorities, excluded and hard-to-reach groups of society are the most vulnerable to TB, and this is why ARCHIVE and NHS Brent have solicited the help of Brent Refugee and Migrant Forum (BRMF) and other locally based community organisations.

Peter Williams, Founder (ARCHIVE) – *“Globally, there are 9 million new cases of TB and nearly 2 million deaths from TB each year. In the UK alone, there are approximately 9000 new cases annually and almost 500 people died from the disease in 2007. Combating poor housing and living conditions can be a discrete but highly effective way of tackling this disease particularly among vulnerable and hard to reach groups who are often victims of endemic TB-related stigmatisation”.*

On the evening of the 24th ARCHIVE will host a fundraiser at Shoreditch's Bar Music Hall, which will launch the charity's first UK project and raise awareness for World TB Day. 'Charity Jam' as it has been named, will entertain attendees with performances from up and coming top bands and DJ's.

Notes for Editor - Additional Information is attached:

- TB fact sheet (concerning TB and TB in the UK)
- A press package detailing global past, current and future work
- A summary of the Happy Healthy Households Brent Project

The ARCHIVE Institute
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