

CLARINET COMPETITION SUMMARY OF EVENT

3rd Annual World Refugee Festival in Larnaka

The 3rd Annual World Refugee Festival in Larnaka was held on June 25th, 2019. The festival was organized by the Larnaka Municipality, Open Society and OASIS. In accordance to the purposes of the UNHCR, the festival honours the strength, resiliency and contributions of the refugees in Cyprus and promotes the solidarity and cooperation between the Cypriot and refugee communities in Larnaka.

The event took place in a populated touristic area of the city to maximize the exposure of the festival. Food tables representing 11 different countries from which the refugee population comes welcomed hundreds of tourists, Cypriots, and refugees to join the celebration. In addition to ethnic food, the contributions of refugees were showcased in various capacities: a beauty boutique which featured African and Middle Eastern women doing henna, braiding hair and threading, a talented line-up of performers sharing traditional dances, drama, and music, and tables of handmade jewelry, painted clothing, and bags crafted by refugees.

The response from the Cypriot community was also a key component to the success of the evening. A warm welcome speech by the mayor expressed the city's commitment to the refugee community: "Larnaca does not consist of locals and foreigners. Instead Larnaca comprises of people who willingly embrace others with open arms"

The majority of organizations that work with refugees in the country set up tables to educate the public and share how they are empowering refugees to thrive in their new home. Finally, a Cypriot dance troupe finished the evening off with a traditional dance, a symbolic gift of solidarity and acceptance.

More information:

Tel. 22875561-3 / 24816565

E-mail: administration@oasisprojectcy.com ,info@opensociety.com.cy

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