

VOICE OF AROHA

IMPACT REPORT 2023









“I like how inclusive Voice of Aroha is with its team members, guests, community etc. I feel heard and appreciated in the team. Our ideas and inputs are valued and put into action, which I really appreciate. I love the team dynamic and the friendly and welcoming environment, definitely an organization I want to continue supporting even when I start working full-time. Furthermore, I enjoy the interviews, talking to many different people from different backgrounds about their works and experiences. They were very educating and motivating for me”.

Rem Thatkhup

Volunteer- Co-Host





VOICE OF AROHA

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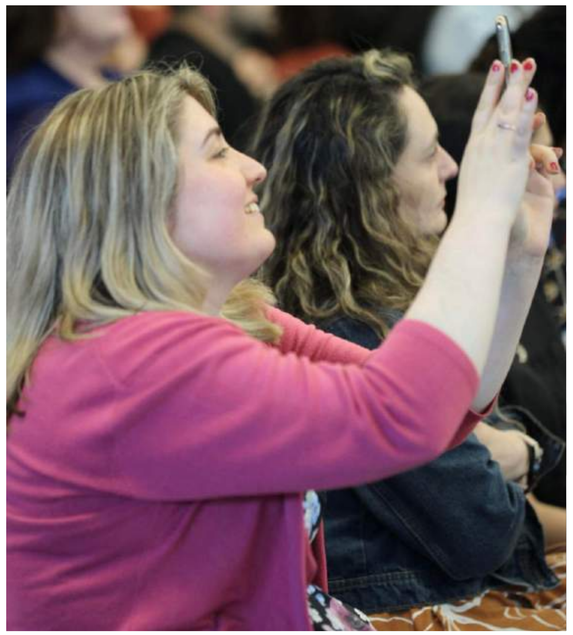












Thank you so much for the opportunity to be part of this podcast”

Scarlet Shannon
Guest Speaker

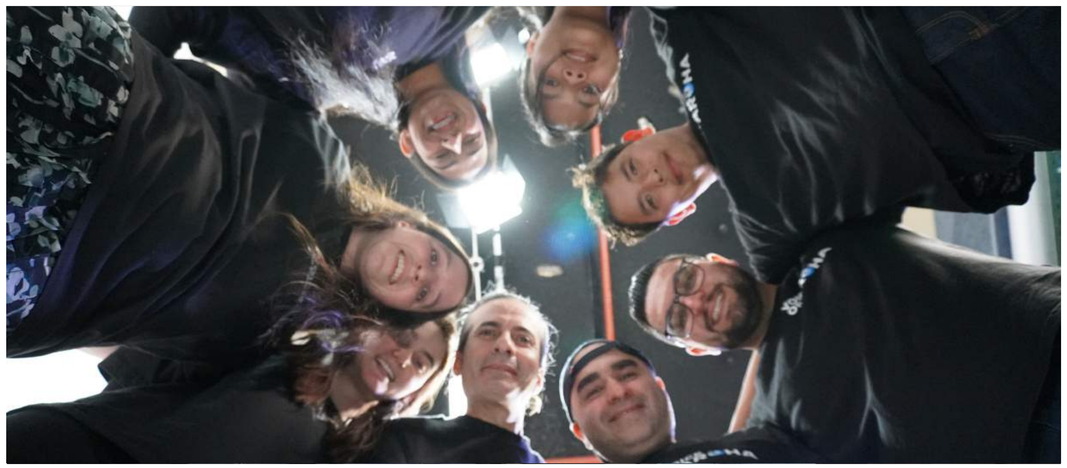
“Thank you so much for sharing my story”

Deeia Awad
Guest Speaker

“WOW! This is so impressive, thank you so much for doing my podcast, I really appreciate it”

Gargi Vaidya
Guest Speaker





VOICE OF ARO HA

OUR INITIATIVES 2023



Climate Action Awareness Project



Social Cohesion



Storytelling



Community Events



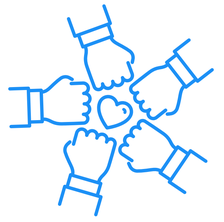
Community Workshops



Ethnic Youth Hub



Cultural Celebrations



Team Wellbeing

A year full of excitement, loads of learning, and many accomplishments

VISION STATEMENT

Voice of Aroha's vision is to empower and amplify the voices of marginalised communities in Aotearoa New Zealand by sharing their untold stories and bringing difficult conversations to the table. We aim to foster a sense of community and create an inclusive safe space for changing the narrative and unifying communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

OUR STORY



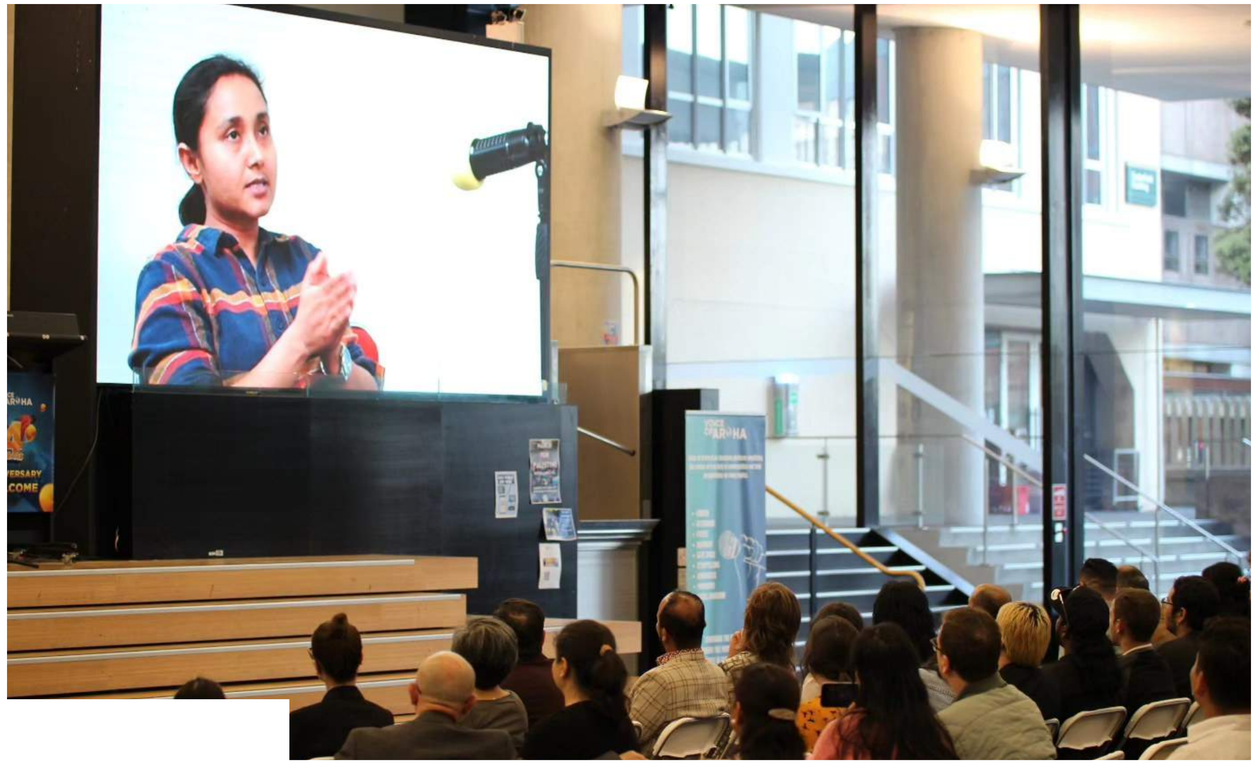


Voice of Aroha is a group of former refugee youth and members of the local community from migrant backgrounds, who have come together to establish a radio show and multimedia platform. Formed in 2019, Voice of Aroha aims to provide a platform for refugees and migrants to share their stories from their perspectives, and change the narrative surrounding these communities. With their radio show airing fortnightly on Wellington Access Radio 106.1FM, as well as podcasts on their YouTube channel, this provides an inclusive space for their voices to be amplified on a range of issues and events affecting Aotearoa. This is done through the delivery of regular podcast and radio show episodes, the organisation of community events, training new speakers and engaging in kōrero on difficult topics relevant to Aotearoa.

Voice of Aroha aims to connect people to organisations and government agencies to ensure the voices of all communities are heard. By choosing to broadcast in English, this allows all New Zealanders to connect with the stories shared by guests, further building understanding, social cohesion, empathy and connections between communities. Sharing unheard stories of refugees and migrants on Voice of Aroha humanises the underrepresented experiences of these individuals and provides them with a platform to make their voices heard.

We aim for us all to collectively contribute by learning from each other about the issues affecting our communities. We aim to bring communities together while creating a safe space where former refugees can share their perspectives and take control of the narratives that concern us, and contribute our opinions for a more progressive New Zealand." - Kodrean Eashae, founding member and CEO of Voice of Aroha





VOICE OF AROHA





Message from the Chair

Dear Voice of Aroha Community,

It is with great joy that I write to you as we reflect on the remarkable growth and achievements of Season 4. Our journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, and together, we have made significant strides towards empowering the voice of diverse communities in Aotearoa. I am thrilled to announce that our team has expanded to include 15 dedicated members, comprising both staff and volunteers. This growth is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity, as we embrace the strength and power that stems from our diverse backgrounds. Each member brings a unique perspective, enabling us to walk the talk and foster a truly inclusive environment.

Our projects have encompassed a wide range of initiatives, from promoting social cohesion and showcasing cultural and people stories to supporting local businesses owned by refugees and migrants. We have also focused on sharing role model stories, connecting people within our communities, and providing essential information and news. Through our efforts, we have nurtured heroes and champions, empowering them with public speaking skills, and supported young individuals in achieving their NCEA goals. Our success is not measured solely by the projects we undertake, but also by the relationships we have cultivated. We have forged strong partnerships with numerous government agencies, non-profit organizations, and our local communities. These collaborations have allowed us to amplify our impact and create meaningful change together.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of Season 4, we acknowledge that our journey has been a continuous learning experience. We have encountered both opportunities and challenges, and with each step, we have grown wiser and more resilient. Our ability to adapt and embrace new opportunities has been a testament to our commitment to our promise and strategy. The impact we have made is truly remarkable. We have garnered an impressive following, with over 2500 loyal supporters across various platforms. Our content has reached the lives of more than 50,880 individuals, leaving a lasting impression on their hearts and minds. The captivating podcasts, engaging reels, thought-provoking posts, and intriguing stories we have shared have sparked conversations and fostered a deeper understanding within our community. In addition to our online presence, our in-person events, workshops, and activities have engaged and connected with more than 300 individuals. These face-to-face interactions have allowed us to create meaningful experiences and forge personal connections that transcend the digital realm.

Together, let us continue to empower the voice of diverse communities, celebrate cultures, and create a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.



Luis Perez



From The Chief Executive Officer



Kodrean Eashae

Kia ora koutou katoa, Shlama, Salam and Hello, warm greetings to all our Voice of Aroha Whanau supporters, partners, funders, and our communities.

It's a great honor to reflect on the mahi of Voice of Aroha over season Four in 2023. It is with great gratitude and pride that I present to you the Impact report of Voice of Aroha. This has been a year filled with growth, celebration and challenges, but these have only strengthened our commitment to fostering understanding, promoting dialogue, changing narratives, building social cohesion and amplifying diverse voices. Thanks to our Board Chair Luis Perez, the Board of trustees, staff, volunteers, funders, advisors, and community Partners and all those who continue to support and uphold our VOA mission and vision.

This was the first year for Voice of Aroha to operate and transition officially to a registered charitable trust. With opportunity to have staff and volunteers, we saw the growth in our teams. With the challenges of starting up and setting up the organizational functions, we were glad to build a team of passionate youth eager to amplify voices and create impact at all levels in our communities. Our mission to create a platform for positive conversations remains unwavering, and this year, we've embraced new opportunities to connect and engage with our community.

Our programs and initiatives have continued to empower voices that often go unheard. From thought-provoking discussions to impactful community projects, the stories we've shared have inspired change and sparked conversations that matter. We believe in the power of dialogue to bridge gaps and build bridges of understanding. Through multiple activities we have launched this year, we saw a great response from our communities, such as storytelling, social cohesion, climate action awareness, Ethnic Youth Hub, supporting local businesses, panel discussion with candidates and many more. Moreover, diversity is at the core of what we do. This year, we've celebrated the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences, and perspectives that make up our community. We've strived to build unity and appreciation for the beautiful diversity surrounding us through events, workshops, and engaging content.



None of our achievements would be possible without our incredible team's dedication, our partners's support, and our community's engagement. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you who has contributed to the success of Voice of Aroha. A huge thanks to all our volunteers, members, youth, diverse community supporters, and partners and generous funders. We are extraordinarily grateful for all the relationships we have built with organisations and communities.

We look forward to continuing to make an impact together for a better fututure.

Goals & Objectives

GOAL 1:
CREATE PARTNERSHIPS

TO CONNECT AND CREATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH DIVERSE SECTIONS OF NZ SOCIETY, TO BUILD BRIDGES OF UNDERSTANDING SO THAT SOLUTIONS CAN BE FOUND TAKING EMPATHY, UNDERSTANDING AND INSPIRATION FROM OUR COLLECTIVE LEARNINGS, WISDOM AND TIKANGA.



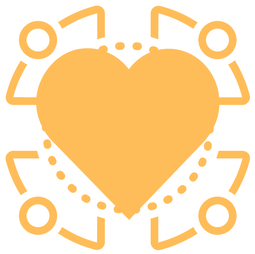
GOAL 2:
HIGHLIGHT REFUGEE AND MIGRANT STORIES

TO HIGHLIGHT AND INSPIRE STORIES OF PEOPLE FROM REFUGEE AND MIGRANT BACKGROUNDS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW ZEALAND.



GOAL 3:
AMPLIFY DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

TO AMPLIFY THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES OF THE COMMUNITIES LIVING IN THE WELLINGTON REGION AND A CROSS NEW ZEALAND AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES.



GOAL 4:
INCLUSIVITY AND RESPECT

TO PROVIDE A SPACE THAT IS SAFE, INCLUSIVE AND CAN PROVIDE A PLATFORM OF BELONGING TO ANYONE WHO CALLS AOTEAROA HOME, ENCOURAGING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND RESPECTFUL SOCIETY IN AOTEAROA AS WELL.



GOAL 5:
SHOWCASE SUCCESS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

BY PROVIDING EXAMPLES OF PRESENT-DAY LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITY WE INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF YOUTH TO LOOK TO NEW HORIZONS, REACH EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS AND ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS. WE PUT THEM IN TOUCH WITH LEADERS, MENTORS AND EXAMPLES OF ALL THEY CAN BE.

GOAL 6:
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TO ENCOURAGE AND EMPOWER OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES BY ENGAGING WITH DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS HAPPENING AT BOTH THE LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL.



GOAL 7:
INSPIRE SOLUTIONS

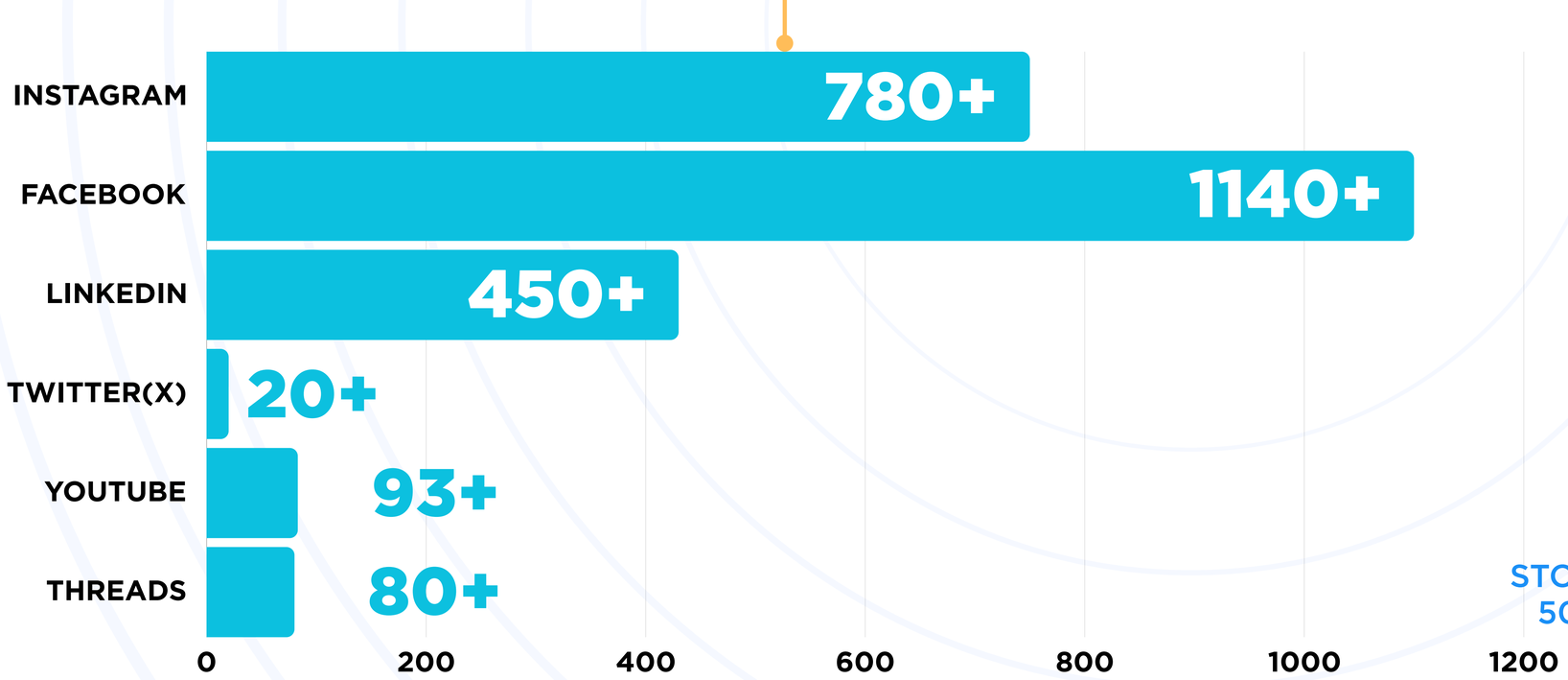
TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT TOPICS THAT AREN'T COVERED IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA AND OPEN A DIALOGUE TO CREATE SOLUTIONS.

OUR SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS

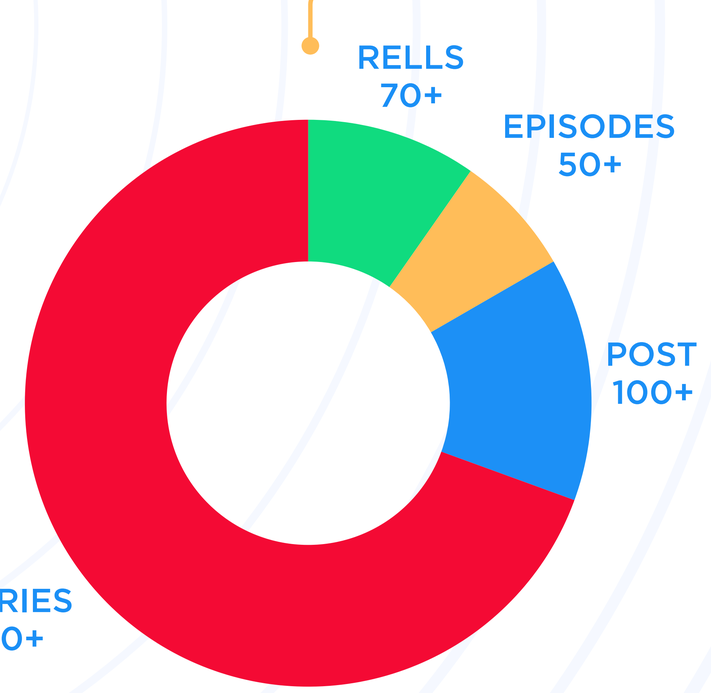
FOLLOWERS

2550 +





CONTENTS ONE YEAR 700+



REACH	FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM	LINKEDIN	YOUTUBE	IMPRESSIONS
50,880	23,744	9,304	11,085	6,740	70,000


VOICE
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Voice of Aroha is an inclusive pl
the voices of a variety of comm
perspectives on mar
SPACE
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RENESS
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From left to right: Batool Arif, Hafsar Tameesuddin, Daniel Gamboa Salazar, Kodrean Eashae and Facilitator, Sakher Munassar

World Refugee Day Festival

WORLD REFUGEE DAY FESTIVAL

In a celebration of unity, empowerment, and the richness of diversity of our refugee background communities, Voice of Aroha, in collaboration with Aroha Afternoons and the New Zealand Refugee Youth Council, organized a remarkable event to celebrate the World Refugee Day Festival. This year, the festival was held in Seatoun, Wellington, generously hosted at Ruth Prentice's house, the founder of Aroha Afternoons. The festival brought together diverse communities in a heartwarming and impactful gathering that highlighted the strength and resilience of those with refugee backgrounds. The day started with a panel discussion, before poetry and short story sharing, ending with fresh kai being cooked and served at the event by a refugee background chef who recently opened a business in Newtown Wellington.

The focal point of the festival was a thought-provoking panel discussion featuring four incredible individuals with lived experiences of the challenges that come from being from a refugee background. The panel: from left to right (See photo above), Batool Arif, Hafsar Tameesuddin, Daniel Gamboa Salazar, Kodrean Eashae and facilitated by Sakher Munassar. The panel delved into crucial topics such as education, youth perspectives, resettlement challenges, representation, empowerment and employment and climate change. The insightful conversations provided a platform for advocacy and shed light on the experiences and aspirations of former refugees in New Zealand.

The festival continued to captivate hearts with a moving poetry recitation by Abdulsamad Haidari, an Afghan writer who recently resettled in wellington. The event, held in a home environment, fostered a sense of friendship and connection among the attendees. More than 100 people came together to participate in the festivities, creating an atmosphere of warmth and understanding. The diverse audience reflected the collaborative spirit that defines the ethos of Voice of Aroha.

The World Refugee Day Festival was a great success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Voice of Aroha, Aroha Afternoons, the New Zealand Refugee Youth Council, and all the dedicated individuals involved. The event not only celebrated the contributions of refugees but also served as a platform for dialogue, awareness, and community building. As we reflect on this memorable occasion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended, participated, and supported the festival. Together, we are creating a space where every voice is heard, and every story is valued.

Voice of Aroha remains committed to amplify voices of members of communities usually are unheard, bring untold stories to the table, fostering positive conversations, promoting understanding, and amplifying the voices of our diverse community.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

We're absolutely thrilled about the awesome community events we've put together all year long, each one dedicated to celebrating special days and events within our diverse communities. While we're always there to support our communities, we go the extra mile by building partnerships and connections. Our goal is to make sure that the stories and celebrations from each community don't just stay local—they get to shine for everyone to see. It's all about sharing the incredible flavors and beauty of different cultures, spreading joy and understanding throughout our wider community. To mention simply one, we collaborated with Victoria University of Wellington to support the graduation ceremony for former refugee background students and their families. As a proud sponsor, Voice of Aroha had the privilege of amplifying the highlights and success stories emerging from our diverse communities whilst helping our students recognise their achievement and feel connected to the Te Whanganui-a-Tara community.

Moreover, we had the privilege of capturing a myriad of community events, spotlighting their crucial moments and engaging in insightful interviews with the dedicated organizers. One of those events was TEDxYouth@Paparangi, where we had the chance to attend and support, delighted both to be one of the sponsors and to set up a booth to capture a multitude of fascinating conversations with our dynamic youth, making these publicly accessible. These wonderful events not only served as platforms for recognition but also enabled us to share the inspiring stories and achievements within our lively and diverse community.







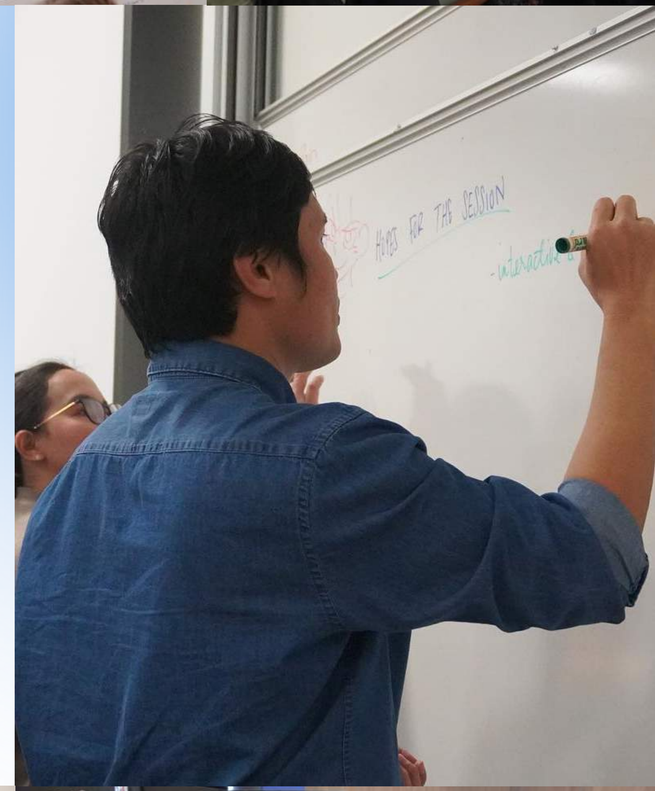




CLIMATE ACTION AWARENESS PROJECT

Voice of Aroha completed a groundbreaking one-of-a-kind initiative with support from both the Wellington City Council and the Wellington Community Fund to increase climate awareness among refugee and migrant background communities in Wellington. This backing underscores the significance of our work and strengthens our commitment to creating a more environmentally conscious and inclusive community. As result which we have delivered three workshops in Wellington Central and Porirua, an educational tour, a 10-day online campaign, and over 20 podcasts stories and actions related to climate change. Through this we have been able to capture valuable insights and stories from former refugee and migrant communities regarding climate action. We have seen an increase in our community's concern for the climate, asking questions and changing behaviours, thus equipping and amplifying emerging climate champions within our communities. The success of the project had resulted in an invitation to attend the UNHCR conference on climate mobility actions in Fiji and as well as our volunteers taking an active role in other local climate action initiatives, fostering partnerships with numerous climate and youth organisations in Wellington and beyond.













SOCIAL COHESION

In everything we do, we're all about bringing people together. Social cohesion isn't just a fancy term for us; it's like the beating heart of our mahi at Voice of Aroha. Whether we're chatting with folks through our podcasts, sharing stories, or putting on events, our goal is to make everyone feel connected and understood. Our team's well-being and the art of building connections are like weaving together the fabric of an Aroha Community. It's about each person becoming a passionate ambassador for our mission, spreading positive change wherever they go. By providing a platform for many voices to be heard and creating a space for belonging and a community full of support we have embraced the core value of Aroha throughout all our projects. It's akin to creating a big inclusive whānau where each unique story adds to the beautiful tapestry of our community.

Furthermore, we've successfully facilitated, organized, and conducted workshops on social cohesion through our diverse array of activities. Whether it's sparking conversations, fostering a sense of collective identity in Aotearoa, or serving as role models, our initiatives aim to spread positive vibes, enhance resilience, and strengthen community bonds. We provide the space through our workshops and platforms to create dialogues of empathy and understanding between Pākehā, Māori, Pasifika, ethnic communities and all who make Aotearoa home.



























VOICE FAROHA

ETHNIC YOUTH HUB

ETHNIC YOUTH HUB

Over a 10-week period, our Ethnic Youth Hub initiative was launched dedicated to supporting young individuals from refugee and migrant backgrounds in the Wellington region. The programme was specially crafted to provide assistance in preparation for NCEA exams as well as for fostering overall well-being. Through a combination of academic resources, mentorship, and activities promoting mental health, we aimed to create a supportive space where these bright minds could thrive. It's not just about passing exams; it's about upskilling these young students and ensuring they feel confident, heard, and ready to take on the next steps in their educational journeys.

A huge shout-out to our incredible team of teachers, teacher aides, facilitators, and community organizations – you've been the backbone of our success. A special thanks goes out to all the families for placing their trust in us and allowing their kids to be part of this programme. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to the Ministry of Education for the funding and unwavering support that has turned this initiative into a reality.









INTERVIEWS & STORYTELLING

At the core of our endeavours lies our storytelling initiative, which unfolds through our podcast and people-and-culture program. This initiative encapsulates the essence of our mission. With aroha and a friendly conversation, we delve into inspiring stories and uncover distinctive aspects that make each culture unique, beautiful and worth celebrating. We encourage empowering multicultural narratives through reducing the sense of foreignness and strangeness associated with cultures in Aotearoa. Moreover, we learn from the experiences of community leaders and members, gaining insights into their resettlement journeys. We aim to create a more inclusive society where everyone's unique heritage and story is celebrated and valued. It's a cozy space filled with insights and shared experiences. Whether you're tuning into our podcast or joining our people-and-culture program, it's a chance to connect, be inspired, and celebrate the unique stories that make our community so vibrant.



Understanding more about the practices and traditions of ramadan.



The story behind a small business owner from a refugee background.



The story of a young and inspiring individual serving as a role model, crafting motivation, and fostering positive vibes.



Talking about Christmas traditions from the Christian communities from the Middle East.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

We have teamed up with other local organisations and delivered four panel discussions "Meet the candidates" events across Wellington region electorates, all focused on the New Zealand general election. It was a fantastic chance for our ethnic communities to meet the candidates, and bring civics to the forefront for our communities. These events were more than just political discussions; they were opportunities for us to amplify the stories and needs of our ethnic communities, ensuring that our voices are heard by the politicians who represent us. It's all about making sure our communities' concerns and perspectives are front and center in the political conversation.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL





RONGOTAI













Hutt South







MANA

VOICE OF AROHA

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

We are proud to shine a spotlight on o work in sharing the stories of local businesses owned by individuals from refugee and migrant backgrounds. This initiative focuses on highlighting the personal stories of these entrepreneurs. Through this mahi, we've been able to amplify the unique journeys, challenges, and successes of these businesses, and we are seeing positive contributions are already being made. By sharing these stories, we aim to foster understanding, support, and appreciation for the varied contributions that these businesses make to our neighbourhood. This has been done by conducting interviews, creating videos, and promoting businesses at no cost, significantly providing support for these startup ventures.

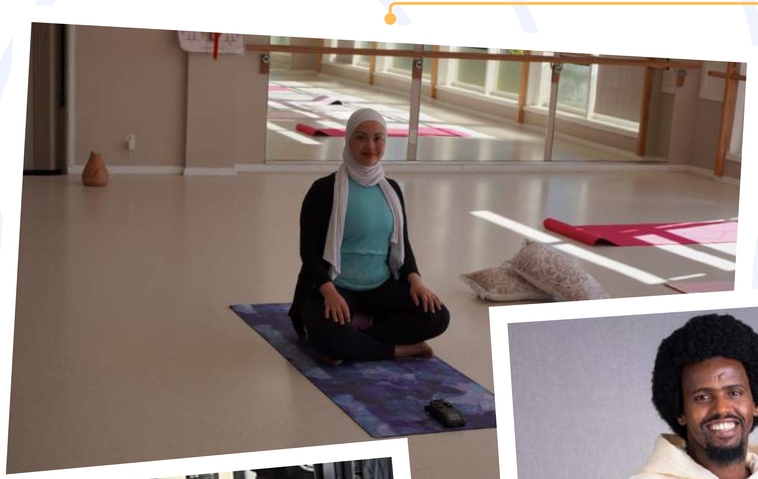
Supporting local businesses provides a sense of belonging and empowers the success of resettlement in a new home.

ALI BABA
157 Riddiford Street,
Newtown,Wellington 6021



MID NIGHT Barbershop
11/22 Bay road Kilbirnie,
Wellington 6022, New Zealand

VOICE OF AROHA





LIVINGYOGA
24 Woodmancote Road,
Khandallah, Wellington 6035

JirtuWear
Online @jirtuwear



OUR TEAM


VOICE OF AROHA
R E M
THATKHUP
VOLUNTEER - CO- HOST


VOICE OF AROHA
CAROLINA
FLORA DIAZ
VIDEOGRAPHER , EDITOR


VOICE OF AROHA
LUIS
PEREZ
CHAIR


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ANDREW
IUPATI
EDITOR


VOICE OF AROHA
ZARA
JAYMIN ZAFAR
LAWYER - VOA ADVISER VOLUNTEER

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS FUNDERS

Absolutely Positively **Wellington** City Council

Me Heke Ki Pōneke

Wellington Community Fund

Te Upoko o te Ika

Supported by Lotto New Zealand

Funded by NZ Lottery Grants Board

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Te Mahau

Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga

Ministry of Education

Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Te Tari Mātāwaka

VOICE OF AROHA

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

AOTEAROA REFUGEE AND MIGRANT SUPPORT SERVICES

ALL FORMER REFUGEE COMMUNITIES IN WELLINGTON REGION

AROHA AFTERNOON

BOYS AND GIRLS INSTITUTE WELLINGTON (BGI)

COLOMBIAN YOUTH NEW ZEALAND

EKTA NEW ZEALAND

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN WELLINGTON

GENRATION ZERO WELLINGTON

HUTT MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

HUIE E!

IGNITE SPORT CENTER

IGNITE WELLINGTON

INSPIRING STORIES

LEARN AND INNOVATE WITH NEW KIWIS

LOWER HUTT CITY COUNCIL

NEW ZEALAND REFUGEE YOUTH COUNCIL

PARENT FOR CLIMATE AOTEAROA

PORIRUA MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

WELLINGTON ACCESS RADIO

VOICE OF AROHA

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