

„Step Across the Border“ London 11.10 2018 & 12.10 2018

Extra information about Shaan Surat Knan at the public event "Activisms of Connection" and experts meeting "Diversity Building Solidarity Symposium"

Activisms of Connection was held at [New River Studios](#) and the focus was on collective and individual well-being, celebrating the psychosocial impact of connection through music, herbal medicine, discussion and film. The event included guest speakers (listed below) The aim of the event was to promote the SATB project, encourage networking, and also help build solidarity and promote the benefits of social psycho immune boosting health. There were approximately 150 guests in attendance and proceeds from the event went to support [Refugee Community Kitchen](#) and [African Rainbow Family](#).

Shaan Surat Knan is the creator and organiser of the landmark project [Rainbow Pilgrims](#) <https://www.rainbowpilgrims.com> which examines the hidden history of LGBTQ+ migrants to the UK, documenting the interconnection between faith, sexuality, gender and ethnicity through oral history, film and photography. Shaan is a Jewish male transactivist (please see biography for more infos) and he presented the work of his organisation to the audience, as well as joining the panel discussion together with Rainbow Pilgrims collaborators and contributors Monica and Rakel (as their involvement is case sensitive , surnames have been withheld).

The two women presented testimonies to the descrimination and hardships they have undergone as LGBTQ women, both in Africa, and also through UK Home Office interrogations. Their harrowing stories can also be seen here:

Monica <https://rainbowpilgrims.atavist.com/community#chapter-3414091>

Rakel <https://rainbowpilgrims.atavist.com/faith#chapter-3388109>

Shaans speech, his specialised experience and the testimonies of his invited witnesses were essential for the SATB team in better understanding the plight of LGBTQ+ migrants and refugees as well as providing a privileged opportunity for the other panel members as well as the audience.

Other Participants and Panelists at Activisms of Connection

Magdi Reichi theater director from SATB partner [Compagnie Peanuts](#) (lEmbobineuse, Marseille) together with his Marseille colleagues **Ana Servo** (pressworker) and **Elsa Gobert** (lEmbobineuse coordinator)

Rasheeqa Ahmad (True North Health / Herbalists Without Borders)
<http://herbalistswithoutborders.co.uk/>

Victor Paes / Westminster Herbalists Without Borders Student Society

<https://www.uwsu.com/society/8918/>

Nina Alonso / Yellow Days Organisation grassroots work helping to integrate refugees within local communities in Greece info@yellowprojects.org

Steve Bedlam co-founder Refugee Community Kitchen

<https://www.refugeecommunitykitchen.com/>

Lucy van de Viel / True North Health and researcher at Cambridge University

Caroline Smart /Director at True North Health

John Moulden /SATB project Coordinator

Shaan, who is also from the Jewish Liberal Movement, is active on many levels and also facilitated the SATB invitation to the following days event "[Diversity Building Solidarity Symposium](#)" The event was presented by the HEAR Equality and Human Rights Network which „connects and supports equalities specialists across all equality characteristics and across London to get their voices heard and to influence policy and the environment within which people work for human rights“ and was co-produced by [Intersex UK](#), Rainbow Pilgrims, Regard DDPO, Twilight People and other user-led projects. Event Link <https://hearequality.org.uk>

This was an important LGBTQ+ awareness event that highlighted the many sides of London's diverse LGBTQ+ community and, for the SATB group, it was an important resource for our understanding of current issues as well as an opportunity to look for shared goals, solidarity building and to be a part of raising the voices of the most excluded within the rainbow community.

The SATB group were fortunate to hear Shaan speak for a second time, alongside other experts and organisational representatives:

Dr Ju Gosling / Regard (LGBTQ+ who self identify as Disabled)

Abigail Kay /Bi Pride UK (support group for Bi-Sexual, and any others who experience attraction beyond gender)

Holly Greenberry /Intersex UK (organisation by and for Intersex people)

UK Black Pride (LGBTQ+ People of Colour)

Ash Kotak / AIDS Memory UK activist for AIDS awareness, curator, playwright, filmmaker and executive film producer.

For more detailed informations please refer to SATB website article:

<http://stepacrosstheborder.eu/article/satb-report-queer-punk-health-creation-week-london-9-13-october-2018>