

East European SP family members contributing to the community

In a time when the News is dominated by new communities from East European countries either trying to cross over into the UK or already here and according to certain members of the community, taking our jobs and sponging off the Government, **Salaam Peace can show that our East European SP Family members contribute so much to the London Borough of Waltham Forest.** The staff/volunteers team also know as Community Champions is built from developing participants through a teacher-pupil/mentor-mentee relationship into leaders in their community.

————— **Our current team of Community Champions include:** —————



**Agne
Daunoraviciute**

Lammas Student, aged 16
from Lithuania



**Iga
Janczalik**

Kelmscott Student, aged 16
from Poland



**Ausine
Sauklyte**

Lammas Student, aged 16
from Lithuania



**Halime
Kamber**

Lammas student, aged 16
from Bulgaria



**Karina
Putina**

Lammas Student, aged 16
from Romania



**Ari
Bekker**

International handball player and
volunteer from Hungary

————— The above have and continue to contribute so much to the local area. —————

On a Sunday morning, Agne and Iga support the delivery of the SP Multi-sports session at Walthamstow Leisure Centre engaging a core group of 50 4-11 year olds in sport and healthy lifestyles.

Ausrine and Halime help out at the successful Friday Youth Night @ Leyton Jubilee Park which sees an average of 85 young ladies and young men take part in NU/Hit 4 Six, Basketball, fitness, football and workshops on issues such as Community Cohesion and Presentation skills.



"I think it's incredible what Salaam Peace are doing in bringing the community together through it's fantastic Community Engagement programme. All are welcome, regardless of what background they are from. We hear a lot, in the news, about the need for communities to find ways to integrate with one another but Salaam Peace are finding ways for communities to do just that and have actually been doing it for years.

We don't hear many positive news stories about residents, originally from Eastern Europe, living in this country. In fact, much of what the national media does is just irresponsibly promote xenophobia. It must be difficult for young people of Eastern European heritage growing up in the UK hearing these awful things pretty much on a daily basis.

Thank goodness for Salaam Peace and its initiatives - such as the 'Community Champions' mentoring programme - which supports a number of young people of Eastern European descent (as well as those from other ethnic backgrounds) to become active role models for other young people.

This is the right way to tackle issues around integration and the need for different communities to work together, so that we can proudly say that we are all part of one whole community - the Waltham Forest community. I'm very grateful that such initiative exists in Waltham Forest and I wholeheartedly support this fantastic programme of engagement"

Cllr Saima Mahmud

"these young ladies have been in the country for less than 5 years. All have assimilated into our SP family and now contribute so much to the community and it's members. We still have the same old targets of cohesion between Muslims and Law Enforcement and the BAME communities with the White British Community. Our mission was always to engage all sections of the communities we support, these young ladies have added a freshness, energy and also helped others access our provisions. The SP family is built on people who want to BE THE CHANGE in the community they want to see, regardless of gender, faith, religious beliefs or countries of origin. Our forefathers and foremothers at some point have faced similar prejudices and we need to use those negative experiences to ensure we embrace the vibrant society we live and work in." **Sab Bham**

"Thank you Sab, for everything, this organisation has changed my life for life. It's really amazing how a group of people can make a person so different. Salaam Peace proved to all of us that we need to enjoy every moment of it, sometimes its hard work, but it always pays of :) Eid Cup was a perfect and amazing event." **Ausrine after Eid Cup**



Salaam Peace is a community organisation based in East and North London that uses sports, media and education to engage children, young people and adults. We work in the heart of the community developing local residents into positive role models and leaders who design, develop and drive our projects forward. Mission Statement: **"Be the change in the community you want to see."**

www.salaampeace.org