

READ ON & FIND YOUR ROLE

FLATLAND PROJECTS 2025 BANNER COMMISSION

SUSTENANCE

https://sustenance.org.uk/

From the website: 'Sustenance provides nutritious food for people experiencing food poverty, by repurposing surplus produce. We are committed to addressing food inequalities and championing climate-friendly food preservation.'

A staggering 40% of food we produce ends up in landfill, while 14% of adults in Hastings have to worry about whether they will have enough food to last the week.¹

Sustenance does not consider itself a food bank, but a food club, where members make a £2 donation and get a say in how the organisation is run. There is an emphasis on fresh fruit and vegetables in every meal and in every shopping bag provided through Sustenance.

Sustenance also organises cookery classes to teach important skills for a healthy diet and reducing waste, such as preserving foods and cooking with a rich variety of fruit and veg. Volunteers benefit from time spent in community with others, often making lasting friendships that grow beyond Sustenance.

More donations and behind the scenes volunteers are needed. Support is required with fundraising, social media management, accounts, and other essential tasks that allow the charity to run smoothly.





TRANS PRIDE HASTINGS

https://transpridehastings.uk/

From the website: 'Trans Pride Hastings came into being in February 2023. Victoria and Zed are the company co-directors and co-organisers and in July they worked with a team of volunteers to deliver 15 events across 8 days focusing on community building, support and celebration.'

In June 2025, the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention and Human Security published a red flag alert on anti-trans and intersex rights in the UK. They cited recent events including the Cass Report (criticised by doctors and experts around the world for its methodological flaws) and the following ban on puberty blockers for trans youth; the recent Supreme Court ruling, making it nearly impossible for trans people to use either male or female public toilet facilities in peace, regardless of identity; the current legality of genital mutilation on intersex babies; and more. Now more than ever, it is so important to openly love and support trans people.

Trans Pride Hastings organises yearly events to celebrate trans people, bringing much needed joy and respite to trans folks and their families. These events include club nights, family friendly markets, concerts, simple get-togethers, and more. It is the first organisation of its kind in Hastings.

You can support Trans Pride Hastings year-round by donating and organising fundraisers, and by volunteering for events. Cis people in particular are encouraged to volunteer as a meaningful show of support.

Lemkin Institute (2025), Red Flag Alert on Anti-Trans and Intersex Rights in the UK, lemkininstitute.com

STAND UP TO RACISM (SUTR) HASTINGS & BEXHILL

https://standuptoracism.org.uk/facebook

Stand Up To Racism is a UK-wide movement campaigning against racism, fascism, Islamophobia and antisemitism. Locally, they played a major part in the decision to shelve the Northeye detention centre in Bexhill, a former prison which would have had asylum-seekers living in appalling conditions.

The far right is experiencing undeniable growth in England, which can be felt in our own East Sussex towns and villages. We have all witnessed increasing attacks on hotels housing asylum seekers, both this year and last year. Retaliation against the far right is a major focus for SUTR today.

The cost of living crisis, austerity, poverty and desperation make it easy for Reform to sweep in and convince people that asylum seekers are our enemies. SUTR Hastings puts an emphasis on connecting with regular people who are not malicious, just living in the same difficult times as the rest of us and looking for someone to blame. A big part of SUTR's work is reaching out to people who are being swayed by racist propaganda.

More than anything, SUTR Hastings needs active volunteers who are willing to take responsibility for background work – the dull admin tasks, organising and promotion, and the unglamorous side of combatting racism.







HASTINGS & DISTRICT PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN (PSC)

&

HASTINGS FRIENDS OF AL-MAWASI (HFOAM)

https://www.hastingspalestinecampaign.org

Hastings & District PSC has been active since January 2014, thoug its activity has had a recent spike since the beginning of the genocide by Israel in October 2023. There is some overlap between Hastings & District PSC and Hastings Friends of Al-Mawasi (Al-Mawasi is a town in Gaza with friendship connections to Hastings).

Recently, Hastings & District PSC secured an historic motion from Hastings Council to back an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, an end to all arms sales to Israel, and to support the link between Hastings and Al-Mawasi.¹

Hastings & District PSC and HFOAM organise regular protests and events in support of Gaza. Now more than ever, they need community support and solidarity. There has been a recent escalation of Zionist and far right activity in Hastings, with a recent family-friendly sponsored walk for Gaza being targeted for abuse by Zionists. In turning up and showing solidarity, we can make everyone safer.

You can always find Hastings & District PSC in Hastings town centre on a Saturday, where they've been running an information stall every week for nearly 11 years.

¹ The Canary (2025), Hastings Council passes Gaza ceasefire motion – but without backing of Labour, thecanary.co

WARMING UP THE HOMELESS

https://wuth.org

From the website: 'Warming up the Homeless is an award-winning, registered frontline charity supporting homeless people on the South East Coast from Hastings to Eastbourne and surrounding areas. The charity has been operating since 2015, acting as a conduit between the raw edge of homelessness and statutory agencies: providing daily outreach support, food banks and welfare advocacy.'

A statement by Shelter in December 2024 shared that homelessness is rising by 14% a year, with 1 in 160 people in England currently homeless. In Hastings, this number rises to 1 in 64 people. In 2024, Hastings Borough Council estimated 1400 people were homeless and/or living in temporary accommodation in Hastings, with 665 of those being children. The cost of living crisis and a lack of affordable housing no doubt contributes to this horrifying statistic.

Warming Up The Homeless provides washing facilities, clothes, food, and more to homeless people along the coast. You can support them by fundraising and donating as the number of people requiring their service continues to increase. They also have an Inclusive Volunteering Programme, which is set up to give disadvantaged people (e.g. neurodivergent people, homeless people, and those with learning disabilities) opportunties to volunteer – supporting their work while learning new skills.

^{1 &}lt;u>Shelter (2024), At least 354,000 people homeless in England today,</u> <u>shelter.org.uk</u>

THANK YOU

To the charities and grassroots groups who agreed to being included in this project, and to those who aren't mentioned here. Your work makes Hastings and Bexhill better places to be.

To Rima from Sustenance and Jenny from SUTR Hastings for speaking with me about your work.

To Flatland Projects for trusting me with this commission.

To everyone who reads this booklet, and who makes a donation of any size and form to any of the organisations mentioned here, or to a different organisation you believe in.