

## **ISRAAC Somali Community and Cultural Association**

ISRAAC Somali Community and Cultural Association (ISRAAC) was established in 1981 by a group of Somali seamen, at that time working in the steel industry, and their families. The aim was to assist the Somali community in gaining access to a wide range of services in local society.

### **The main aims of ISRAAC are to:**

1. Improve the education of all Somalis, especially the youth, by encouraging creative thinking for active learning and by disseminating information about the performance of Somali children in schools.
2. Raise the skills and confidence of individuals to attain their full potential by creating opportunities in the field of employment, training and education.
3. Promote positive integration and foster ways of social cohesiveness among members of the Somali community by raising and broadening involvement in society in general.
4. Develop and maintain a strong cultural identity at the same time as respecting the cultural, religious and political beliefs of others.
5. Establish a resource centre of information about services, projects and opportunities in order to inform the community about education, training, employment and childcare on offer.
6. Improve its capacity building role by improving management styles and skills and by enabling community participation in all aspects of social and economic regeneration in the city.

### **Activities**

ISRAAC offers English classes, IT courses, health awareness courses and cooking classes. The association also has a lunch club where Somalis can have their lunch in the company of other Somalis.

ISRAAC provides general advice on all issues to Somalis, many of whom are dependent on the Somali translation they can get in the association.

ISRAAC works closely with the police in order for the police and the Somalis to obtain mutual knowledge about each other. ISRAAC is going to train newly recruited policemen in Somali culture and language. Conversely, the police have involved a Somali youth worker in their project, "Life style" which aims to encourage children in Sheffield to become socially active.

The association also provides social and cultural events for the Somali community in Sheffield.

### **Contact details:**

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