



ANNUAL REPORT 2011- 2012

Sangini – *a friend*

Registered Charity number 1124769

December 2012

Sangini

Sangini in Hindi means 'a friend'. It is a women led, multi-cultural organisation with a focus to

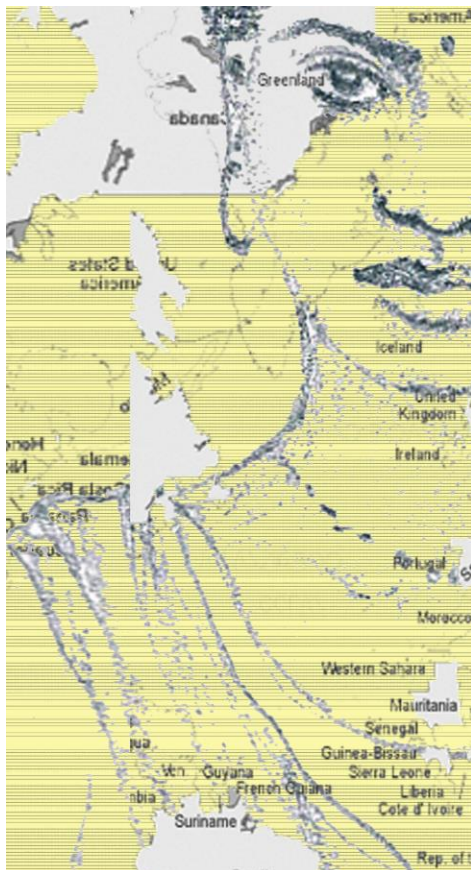
Improve the quality of women's lives by increasing their physical, mental and spiritual health and well-being, through artistic, educational, cultural and recreational activities that also celebrate cultural diversity'.

Background

2002: A group of women met regularly to support each other through sharing, talking and listening to each others experiences. Very soon they realised that this had a positive affect on them and the idea was borne to take this experience to women more widely in Sunderland. That was when Sangini came into being.

Ten years on, today Sangini has evolved into an organisation with credibility, vision and capacity to deliver its work to highest professional standards.

About us



Our Vision:

There will be increasing number of empowered BME (Black and minority ethnic) women and other currently excluded women involved in all aspects of civil and civic life, they will be influencing policies and recognized as decision makers in the mainstream.

By the year 2015 BME women and currently excluded women in Sunderland and wider will be healthier and have more confidence in expressing their identity



Our Values:

- The well being and health of all women
- Empowering and uplifting minority women and excluded women
- Learning, enjoyment, creativity and development through the arts
- Promoting inclusion, integration and participation through the arts
- Challenging the inequality and invisibility of women
- Making a difference

Governance and Delivery

Sangini's governance is led by diverse group of leading women from different social, cultural, ethnic and professional backgrounds who provide the forward direction for the overall work. The membership draws on the range of expertise that varies from the community development, mainstream healthcare provision, the cultural sector to sustainable development. The level of experience represented includes high-level project management, strategic planning, financial management, business planning, fundraising and policy advocacy. It is this collective experience that we aim to draw upon when we develop and deliver our activity.

The **effectiveness of delivery** is maintained by monitoring and evaluating all the projects, and provides essential lessons learnt for the next phase of the development.

All the work is designed and delivered in partnership with its users, stakeholders and wider community groups, thus harnessing good working relationship across the sector.

Volunteers are the life-line of this organisation and they provide crucial support to ensure that the organisation's work carries on with equal effectiveness. In turn, they gain valuable work based experience that has often contributed towards their employment.

"Sangini provided a great learning environment for me as a volunteer. I worked on various projects that helped to build my confidence and enhance my entrepreneurial skills." Divya Meher

Chair's Summary

The past year has been the year of significant achievements in Sangini's calendar, providing grounds for testing its reliance against the challenges that came its way. The achievements of the past year stand as a testament to what Sangini believes in and what it stands for, which is to tackle the invisibility of the women, especially from the minority ethnic sector, increase their participation, provide learning opportunities and promote their diversity.

The year focussed on two major projects:

- a) Melting Pot
- b) Stories from Our Sisters of Sunderland

Melting Pot brought together a diverse group of women who shared traditional recipes from their countries, which are now published as a collection to be shared with the wider public, thus providing us with valuable experience in printing and publishing. We worked with over 50 women through out this project and some of them generated the art-work for the book. This project allowed us to find new partnerships and work with women that we have not engaged with before.

As an unexpected outcome, we delivered one Indian cookery workshop for a young girls project in Southwick that was highly appreciated by them. This project has provided a long-term vision for the Sangini Indian Cookery workshops as an educational tool for healthy eating, raising awareness about the health benefits of the spices and building basic cooking skills among young generation.

Our major focus remained on securing funding for the flagship project 'Stories from Our Sisters of Sunderland'. This required listening to what women wanted to gain from this project, meticulous planning and organising. Over the coming months we aim to record women's stories, highlighting their contribution to the society and celebrating their lives through artistic means. We aim to secure women's contribution by involving them as volunteers and building their skills around conservation and oral history recording.

In addition to the above, we delivered participatory workshops in schools, and various community centres to more than 100 young people. We aim to build on this over the coming months by keeping a focussed approach to engaging with young girls groups.

Looking to future, we aim to build on our success so far and one of the objectives for the future is to develop a business plan for next three years. Building self-sustainability is important in this current economic climate and we aim to explore the possibilities of setting up a sales arm to our work.

It is important to recognise that as an all women organisation, personal responsibilities often compete with professional commitments. Whilst the two projects provided a point of consolidation, last year was equally challenging

for some of the members to participate fully, thus resulting in somewhat depleted capacity to oversee strategic management. These experiences are necessary to ensure that the organisation is building appropriate mechanisms to support its workers as well as the trustees in the future.

Sangini has played a significant part in the Sunderland voluntary sector and we remain indebted to our partners for their support and belief in our work. The women of Sunderland have remained our true friends and without them we would not be here doing what we are.

We look forward another year and another decade of meaningful and exciting service that makes a difference in women's lives.

Our achievements in 2011 to 2012

- Securing funding for Stories from Our Sisters of Sunderland
- Securing funding for Melting Pot
- Engaging with more than 100 women in participatory activities
- Delivering workshops to 100 young people

Trustees

Padma Rao	Chair
Margaret Dobson	Vice-Chair
Sreeleka Reddy	Treasurer
Carole Grimshaw Nissen	Board member
Asma Begum	Board member
Munmun KC	Board member
Pat Wallace	Co-treasurer
Swadesh Bansal	Advisor

Maggie Perry	Project Coordinator
Divya Meher	Volunteer
Chaitanya Priya	Volunteer

Contact Details

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