



Eastern Sudan Community Association - ESCA

What Does ESCA Do?

Eastern Sudan Community Association (ESCA) is one of the Sudanese communities Association, in the UK

in 2021, established as a (non-profit) as a charitable, in July 2024 registered in the Charity Commission No. 1208905

ESCA is a specialist charity focused on serving the East Sudan community in the UK. It is a diverse group of individuals passionate about promoting social inclusion, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering mutual understanding within the wider community. The Association is committed to meeting the unique needs of the Eastern Sudan community and ensuring their inclusion.

Our commitment to upholding the principles set out in the Charity Act is integral to our operations. We take proactive measures to ensure that any benefits provided to our activity providers are for the charitable purposes of our community.

The trustees have decided on specific activities based on a needs assessment within the community,

This assessment involved engaging with community members and stakeholders to understand their unique challenges and needs. The activities were selected to address these specific needs and include establishing local network groups, facilitating engagement with service providers, offering educational programs, promoting cultural awareness, and fostering cross-cultural collaborations. For example, local network groups will foster social

About ESCA:

The **Eastern Sudan Community Association (ESCA)** is a UK-registered charity founded by individuals from Eastern Sudan. It supports and empowers Sudanese and East African refugees, migrants, and long-term residents in the UK. While deeply rooted in the Beja and Eastern Sudanese identity, ESCA also serves communities from Darfur, Nubia, East African, and other Sudanese.

Mission:

- Reduce social isolation and exclusion
- Preserve cultural identity, especially Beja heritage
- Promote inclusion and integration into British society

Core Values:

- Inclusivity
- Respect
- Cultural pride
- Opportunity for all

Strategic Focus: Four Key Pillars

1. Education & Training

- ESOL (English) classes
- Employment readiness workshops
- Digital literacy training
- Homework clubs and GCSE preparation
- Adult learning opportunities
- Free education for families receiving Free School Meals

2. Community & Culture

- Beja language and cultural heritage events
- Storytelling and intergenerational gatherings
- Women's and men's empowerment groups
- Mixed-gender events to promote equality

3. Sports & Youth Development

- Football leagues for boys and girls aged 5–25
- Leadership and mentorship programs
- Safe recreational and after-school activities
- Youth-centred approach shaped by community feedback

4. Mental Health & Wellbeing

- Regular workshops with Healthy Mind Clinic
- Culturally sensitive trauma support for refugees
- Mental health initiatives for women and teens
- Support groups and substance misuse prevention

Who We Support

- **Children & Teens:** Education, recreation, mentoring
- **Refugee Families:** Orientation, integration, housing and employment support
- **Elderly:** Social inclusion, home visits, wellbeing care
- **Women in Need:** Safety, empowerment, leadership training
- **New Migrants:** Immigration, employment, and benefits assistance

Key Community Support Areas

- Mental and physical health support, especially for youth and elderly
- Preservation of Beja cultural identity (language, music, customs)
- Education access for low-income families
- Employment and financial independence training to reduce welfare reliance
- Social integration for refugees

Mental Health as a Core Priority

- Mental health is central to ESCA's mission
- Observed widespread trauma during World Refugee Day (June 2025)
- Weekly culturally sensitive sessions in partnership with Healthy Mind Clinic
- Filling a vital gap left by other community groups

Youth & Children's Recreational Space

Planned resources include:

- PlayStation consoles, table tennis, billiards, computers
- Musical instruments (organ, piano)
- Reading library, puppet theatre, art workshops
- Educational trips, competitions, youth discussion forums

Weekend School and Education Services

- GCSE tutoring in English, Maths, Science
- Adult ESOL classes
- Free for qualifying families
- Urgently seeking space and support to expand services

Training Programme (Annual Plan)

Location: ESCA Community Training Hall

Purpose: Equip volunteers, improve employability, ensure safety

A. Community Safety & Legal Compliance

- First Aid
- Safeguarding (children & adults)
- Fire Safety
- Health & Safety Adviser Training
- Risk Assessment & Duty of Care
- Accident Reporting

B. Inclusion, Health & Empowerment

- Medication awareness for carers
- Mental health & wellbeing for women
- Confidence building and public speaking
- Equality, diversity, and youth healthcare sessions

C. Organisational Development

- GDPR compliance
- Anti-money laundering
- Corporate social responsibility (CSR)
- Banksman & Security guard training

(Vocational training provides job opportunities for unemployed people with UK work permits.)

Partnerships & Recognition

- Trusted by local authorities and funders
- Strong partnerships with charities, clinics, and councils
- Responsive to community feedback
- Proudly diverse and inclusive membership

Looking Ahead: ESCA's Priorities

1. Expand outreach to underserved communities
2. Strengthen funding and government partnerships
3. Grow community-led programming
4. Secure sustainable venues and resources