



## Rethinking Refugee Conference Outcomes and Issues

Key outcomes of the conference: setting priorities for action

Following a packed event of over 80 people at our #Rethinking Refugee Conference in Bristol on Monday 10th October 2016, a way ahead was agreed on this urgent matter.

Speakers included Fuad Mahamed, Chief Executive & Richard Thickpenny, Business Development Manager from Ashley Community Housing, Professor Monder Ram OBE, Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship, University of Birmingham Business School and a panel of experts including Adam Powell (Director of Skills, West of England Local Enterprise Partnership), Paul Jacobs (Service Director, Education & Skills, Bristol City Council), and Cllr Paul Smith (Cabinet Member for Homes & Communities, Bristol City Council), Cllr Ruth Pickersgill (Chair, Bristol Refugee Rights), chaired by David Jepson (Consultant, Ashley Community Housing).

The event was opened by award winning local writer Nathan Filer and his partner Emily Parker who have themselves invested to become ACH landlords and provide vital housing for refugees. Cllr Estella Tincknell, Deputy Mayor of Bristol, wrapped up the discussion and Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol sent a message of support:

"In Bristol we must see refugees as an asset, not as a problem. We need to make the best use of their skills and expertise. This is part of my vision of a Bristol that works for all its residents, not just the few. And this is why we need you, the stakeholders here today, to come together to make this happen."

To find out more about the outcomes of the discussions and the issues discussed on the day please read the roundup below and a link to the video and audio from the event.

