

# British Eritrean Communities and Organisations Network

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شبكة الجاليات والمنظمات الارتريون البريطانيون

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## British Eritrean Council (BEC)

Date 14/7/2023

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **British Eritrean Communities and Organizations Disappointed and appalled by Harrow Council's Cancellation of Eritrean Festival UK 2023.**

The British Eritrean communities and organizations Network express their profound disappointment and frustration at the decision made by Harrow Council to cancel the eagerly anticipated Eritrean Festival UK 2023. The festival, which was scheduled to take place at the Harrow Leisure Centre on 15-16 July 2023, would have provided a unique opportunity for British Eritreans to come together and celebrate their rich culture, foster community bonds, and provide a platform for children to engage with their heritage.

This unjust decision has deprived British Eritrean families and children of a chance to gather and commemorate their traditions, hindering the promotion of cultural understanding and intergenerational connections. The cancellation has left British-born children unable to partake in the joys of their heritage, including relishing Eritrean cuisine and embracing their cultural roots.

The British Eritrean communities and organizations firmly believe that this cancellation infringes upon the fundamental right of British Eritreans to assemble and to come together from different parts of UK cities to build resilient communities. As such, we are left with no choice but to pursue legal action to address this matter and uphold our rights.

We want to assure our fellow community members that once our legal challenge is successful, we will proudly host the 20th Eritrean Festival UK in London. This milestone event will serve as a testament to the resilience and determination of the British Eritrean community in preserving and sharing our rich cultural heritage.

We call upon the Harrow Council to reconsider its decision and recognize the importance of supporting and embracing the diverse cultural fabric of the British society. It is through such celebrations that we contribute to the enrichment of our communities, fostering understanding, and strengthening social cohesion.

We extend our gratitude to our supporters, fellow organizations, and allies who have expressed solidarity during this difficult time. Together, we shall overcome this setback and continue to thrive as a united and vibrant community.

British Eritrean Communities and Organisations Network

#### **BECON members**

**Eritrean communities, women's groups, youth forums, Eritreans for Justice and Democracy, Eritrean Professionals, Investment Forum, and Eritrean Cultural Centre in East London, West London, South London, North London, Birmingham, Coventry, Leeds, Sheffield, Newcastle, and Northampton**