

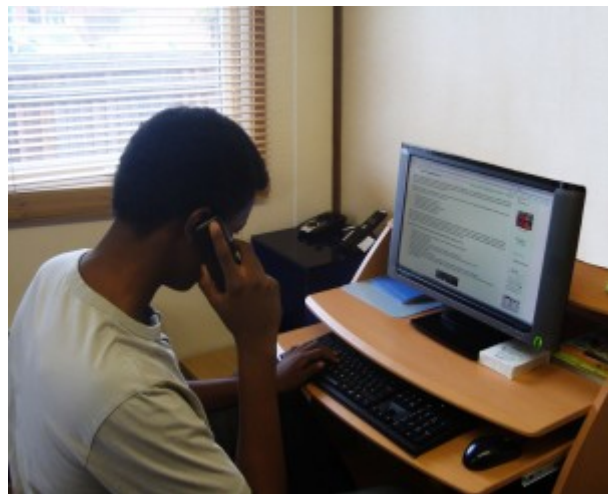


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Somali Youth Helpline: Free Confidential Advice and support for young Somalis

Young Somalis living in the United Kingdom face a host of problems that are unique to them; an alarmingly high proportion of young people in our community experience; family conflict and homelessness, high drop out rate from school, substance abuse with many entering into anti-social behaviour and criminal offences.

There is a clear pattern of disengagement amongst Somali youth, not only from education and employment but also from the core values and expectations of their community. This disenchantment in some cases leads a significant number of young Somalis to make choices that have a lasting negative impact on their lives. It is at this vital point in their lives that many young Somalis find themselves at cross-roads and could benefit from a free confidential helpline set up to meet their specific needs.



Somali Youth Helpline is a registered charity (charity Number 1125393). We are the first free, confidential and bilingual helpline for young people of Somali origin aged 12-29. We support disadvantaged and vulnerable Somali youth to access culturally sensitive helpline for counselling and confidential support. Our core service is a free and confidential telephone service 0800 542 6855 run by trained Somali helpline workers and an online support forum <http://syhelpline.proboards.com>.

Whether the problems are bullying, family conflict, drugs abuse, relationships, crime or mental health issues, our state registered professionals are here to help. We seek to empower young Somalis by providing them with a safe and secure environment where they call in to talk about any issue that may be of concern by helping them to make informed choices. Our helpline workers will endeavour to help young Somalis by listening to their problems without judging and offering them support and guidance. Our service is completely confidential, when a young person calls the helpline their number is not visible and we have no way of tracing their call which ensures total anonymity.

The aim of the helpline is to enable young Somalis attain a better perspective on their lives. We encourage young Somalis to increase their life chances by fostering positive self image and high self esteem, which will encourage them to take up opportunities for education, training and employment to mark their place in the community.

