

# WE RESTART – Fatemeh Rezaeiolya

## Background, Aims and Objectives

Fatemeh Rezaeiolya, a 49-year-old woman from Iran, brings a rich background in Educational Science and a profound passion for traditional arts. In Iran, she pursued a career supporting children's psychological and educational needs and ran a company promoting traditional Iranian crafts. Forced to leave Iran due to unforeseen circumstances, Fatemeh sought asylum in the UK with hopes of continuing her contributions to art and education. Her aspirations in the UK include mastering English to potentially establish a tapestry business, reflecting her lifelong commitment to cultural preservation and education.

## How We Helped

Thanks to the Community Outreach Programme, WE RESTART recognised Fatemeh's unique skills and aspirations and provided her with essential support to navigate her new environment. We facilitated her enrolment in an ESOL class with Brent Start to improve her English, which is crucial for her integration and professional goals. Additionally, our Art Café at the hotel temporary accommodation offered her opportunities to engage in art activities like knitting, embroidery, and mandala sessions, which not only nurtured her artistic talents but also enhanced her numeracy skills, crucial for managing a business.

## Outcomes and Results

Through the Brent Start course, Fatemeh has gained a solid foundation in English, significantly boosting her confidence and communication skills, paving the way for her business aspirations and further studies at the College of North West London in Spring 2025. The art sessions have rekindled her passion for crafts, helping her maintain her cultural practices and consider new possibilities for a business in the UK. These activities have not only supported her in keeping her dreams alive but also provided a therapeutic outlet and a sense of community among fellow asylum seekers. Fatemeh's journey is a testament to the resilience and potential of displaced individuals when given appropriate support and opportunities.

“Through art, I hold onto my heritage and express my soul; learning English opens new doors and connects me with wonderful people; and math gives me the tools to one day manage my own business. These skills are weaving together the beautiful tapestry of my new life here in the UK.” – Fatemeh Rezaeiolya.

