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Genre: POP FUNK

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"Refugee - the Album", described in the industry as a "pop perfect summer album" with its topical single "Refugee", is the opening gambit of Hookstick pop funk band on the British music scene. Two years in the making, and recorded against all the odds by some amazing individuals with producer Philip Lane of the Beehouse Recording Studio, this unique album can be downloaded and streamed in all the usual places.

Better still, come and see them for real at their gig on **May 27th** at the **Darwin Shopping Centre, Shrewsbury** in support of AOH.

The band were drawn together by their common interest in contributing to tracks written and developed by Jane and Philip Lane and have recorded and worked professionally on the album in the face of an unbelievable variety of personal challenges. Every member of Hookstick has a story to tell.

The Midlands-based band takes no hostages, and with a stream of Zeitgeist tracks inspired by the disco generation, presents an exciting British fusion of retro and current styles, being described by an American fan as "awesome disco funk UK style!" Fronted by the fabulous Kes C and with stunning musicianship, the band's catchy but original tracks emanate not only a great feelgood party vibe and current social messages, but also celebrate the return of the grown-up musician to pop.

### **Hookstick Musicians**

With uniquely powerful and passionate vocals from singer **Kes C**, funky grooves and splashes of brilliance from world class guitarist **Tom Stedman**, punchy virtuoso basslines from **Rachael Townend**, warm, tasty backup vocals and amazing drumming by **Jonny Welburn** and keyboards/piano by **Lane and Lane**, the band is preparing for 2017 mini-tour, to coincide with the album release.

### **Style and Inspiration**

None of the Hookstick musicians started in the world of funky music or anything like it, the blend is surprising. You won't know the genre, but it feels familiar, with songs which take on the protest power of soul and with a set geared to create reaction and a fun and potent vibe for all sorts of events. "Think Mike Post meets Shakatak with a touch of Miami Sound Machine" (Mike Kennedy, Oystermouth Radio) and you'll have an idea. Taking its cues from icons such as Maurice White of Earth, Wind and Fire, Aretha Franklin, Rod Temperton of Heatwave and Nile Rodgers, as well as Amy Winehouse and Mark Ronson, Hookstick music is essentially pop combined with the upbeat soul, funk and disco, and taps into their ability to promote good feeling in the real world.