

RECENT EVENTS

STORIES OF SANCTUARY 4.2.09



120 people from almost every corner of the globe came together on a very snowy February evening to share wonderful food, witness inspiring music and exchange life stories—in the heart of Bradford.



www.bradfordmela.org.uk/

For the first time a large 'Sanctuary' tent was included at the Bradford Mela weekend 13-14th June. City of Sanctuary had a prominent display at the Mela. Several thousand people in all must have attended the tent and everyone commented on the tremendous sense of warmth, unity and fun. It was a taste of heaven on earth to see people from a dozen different countries dancing together at the Mela and at least six different nationalities performing together.



Refugee Week Monday 15th - Friday 19th

June: Opening Lord Mayor, keynote speaker Alan Thornton from Church Action on Poverty. The Launch on 15th June at Carlisle Business Centre and the Finale event on 19th in Centenary Square made many useful new contacts as well as raising the profile of the campaign.

Finale Event in Centenary Square: Live music, dance, and poetry from members of the refugee community, stalls from refugee communities and from local organisations working with asylum seekers and great food was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by thousands.

There was dancing in the square!



Advance notice:

1st Anniversary event 14.10.09

Following the huge successes of the launch last October, and 'Stories of Sanctuary' in February, we are planning a first anniversary event for 14th October. The focus will be on good news (yes, Good News!): the many and diverse contributions of those seeking sanctuary to the life of the city, the work of the fantastic organisations working with them and the progress made so far on making Bradford a City of Sanctuary. Keep this evening free in your diary!



CITY OF SANCTUARY

CITY COUNCIL BACKS CAMPAIGN!

On 24th March Bradford Council passed the following motion, supporting Bradford's bid to become a recognized 'City of Sanctuary':

“This Council recognises the contribution of asylum-seekers and refugees to the City of Bradford and is committed to welcoming and including them in our activities and supports Bradford becoming a recognised ‘City of Sanctuary’ for refugees and asylum-seekers.”

The Council also recognised “that a comprehensive, co-ordinated and forward-looking approach is needed if City of Sanctuary and the management of other groups of people moving to the District are to be delivered effectively and appropriate support provided to new and existing communities.” The Council therefore requested the Executive to produce and adopt a formal strategy for New Arrivals into the District as a matter of urgency.

**Please keep encouraging
signatures for**

**“Resolution of
Support”**

see website:

www.cityofsanctuary.com/node/271

Manifesto

At the Mela we gathered recommendations from those attending for inclusion in the manifesto which we will shortly be drafting. This will specify clear, measurable changes that people wish to see to enable Bradford to truly become a city that 'welcomes and includes' those seeking sanctuary here. We are canvassing widely for further recommendations: if you want yours to be included, please email them to cofsbradford@googlemail.com by **14th July** at the latest. We will then produce a draft document, following which there will be an event in early September for key partners to discuss it before it is formally presented to the Council. **Watch this space!**

Window Stickers

Imagine the impact of the message '**We Welcome Asylum Seekers and Refugees**' appearing across the city. - Could you display a 30cm x 8cm (approx) window sticker in your workplace, home or car? If so, send a cheque for £1.50 to City of Sanctuary Bradford to the address below, or call in between 10.00 and 4pm Mon-Fri.

Contact details

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