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E - NEWS APRIL 2012

**City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. In Leeds, we are proud to extend the welcome of our city to people who come here seeking safety and are committed to making our city a haven for anyone who needs its protection. Leeds City of Sanctuary provides encouragement and support to enable you to embrace these values and see them permeate the communities and areas you live, work and play in.**

## Sanctuary News....



### Sanctuary promoted on campus...

In February, the University of Leeds Students' Union passed a proposal to make Leeds a better place by signing the City of Sanctuary pledge. On 22nd February, a large group of students gathered to sleep on the concrete area outside the Leeds University Students' Union. Over 60 members of the Student Action for Refugees and Amnesty International student groups slept out, raising awareness of destitution caused by the asylum process in the UK. Read more about the national campaign they were promoting, at [stillhumanstillhere.wordpress.com](http://stillhumanstillhere.wordpress.com)

## City of Sanctuary embraced across the ages in Leeds...

*Some of the organisations & groups that have signed a Leeds City of Sanctuary promise:*



NCT Antenatal group at Choto Moni Children's Centre



Shire Oak Primary School



Department of French, University of Leeds



Onside Sports



Do you know any older people's groups that would like to know more?

## New opportunities to get involved:



The Leeds Schools of Sanctuary initiative is growing, with more and more schools registering to become a School of Sanctuary. These are schools wanting to promote positive attitudes within their community around people seeking sanctuary. They want to be proud of being a place of safety and inclusion for all. We need a core team of volunteers to enable this initiative to meet its current demand. Would you like to be involved in speaking to schools about becoming a School of Sanctuary? For more information visit [www.cityofsanctuary.org/leeds/schools](http://www.cityofsanctuary.org/leeds/schools)



### Handyperson needed:

When someone is granted legal permission to remain in the UK for their safety, they must leave their temporary accommodation and find a place to live. At this stage, most will have no furniture, and may not have the local knowledge or friendship base to call upon for help with plumbing, decorating or DIY. Are you qualified in any of these areas? Could you volunteer for us from time to time as these needs arise?



### Refugee Week: 18th—24th June 2012

Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities. Every year during Refugee Week hundreds of events are organised across the UK, ranging from music festivals and art exhibitions to political debates, sports and community events etc. There will be daily events in Leeds— if you would like to host anything during Refugee Week, you can find inspiration and support at Leeds Refugee Forum, 0113 2449600.



Freedom from Torture are seeking to recruit an experienced part time Administrator to work alongside their Psychological Therapist to co-ordinate and develop the office. (Based in Leeds) . For further details about this post visit [www.freedomfromtorture.org](http://www.freedomfromtorture.org) where you can download an application pack. Closing date: Friday 20 April at 4pm. Interview date: Wednesday 9 May.



Do you have promotional skills?  
 Would you like to be involved in representing and promoting City of Sanctuary at local and regional events?  
 Would you like to be involved in maintaining our website and social media networks?  
 Are you motivated to spread the values of the City of Sanctuary movement into new areas of Leeds?  
 Please get in touch with our communications man at [Chrisbrooks@retasleeds.org.uk](mailto:Chrisbrooks@retasleeds.org.uk)

**Join us for an event!**

One easy way to get involved is to come along to this fun event on Saturday, for all ages. All money raised will go towards helping destitute clients with money for food and travel expenses to come for advice sessions.

**AN EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA**  
 In aid of the Refugee Council

Featuring The Marvellous Tea Dance Company  
 Serving Tea & Cake all afternoon!

Bingo! Musical Entertainment! Raffle!  
 Free Kids Crafting! Face Painting!

Heart Centre, Headingley  
 Sat 7th April 12pm – 4pm

**Live music night to support 'Partners' Thurs 19th April 7.30pm**  
 Partners Relief & Development is a registered charity, working with communities impacted by war in Burma. Ben Howcroft from Leeds has been to visit a refugee camp in Thailand, which is home to families who have been forced to flee from their homes. A live music night in Leeds will be raising funds for the work with these refugees. Santiago Bar, Grand Arcade, Leeds.



Sanctuary Weekend update...

**Sanctuary Weekend** is running Fri 27-Sun 29 April 2012 and is already gathering momentum across the city. A number of faith groups across Leeds have decided to include the theme of 'sanctuary' into their gatherings or services on that weekend. **There is now a resource pack available under 'useful downloads' on our website, to help you plan for your service.**

**Sanctuary Shabbat Sat 5th May**

Sinai Synagogue has chosen Saturday 5th May as their Sanctuary Shabbat. Within the Shabbat they will be reflecting on how to contribute to creating a culture of welcome and hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees in their community.

Sinai will welcome asylum seekers and refugees to the service and afterwards for a light snack lunch. They are also launching a toy give away, encouraging young members of the synagogue to donate a loved toy or game, for a child that is seeking sanctuary in Leeds. For more information please contact Pippa at:

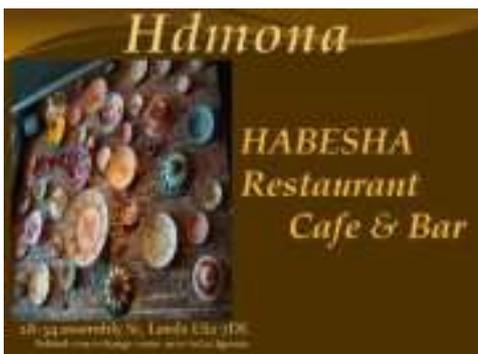
[pippa@leeds.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:pippa@leeds.cityofsanctuary.org).



**Changes to housing for asylum seekers – how would a city of sanctuary respond?**

You may have heard or read in the press news of the change of management of housing that people live in while they are waiting to hear from the Home Office whether their application to remain in the UK for their safety is accepted or not. In Leeds, the council must hand over the management to G4S, "The world's leading international security solutions group." Their website states this new contract, to provide "accommodation of Asylum Seekers" is a win for them. There is a lot of discussion at the moment about how this will be affecting families who are staying in such accommodation in Leeds and it looks certain that most will be forced to move to a new property, with less opportunity for face to face support. If you would like to support anyone in this situation, or to offer the support of your service to those affected by this transition, please do get in touch. Watch this space for future updates.

**And finally...**



A wholehearted thank you to all of you who have taken steps to welcome and celebrate families and individuals who have arrived in Leeds seeking safety in recent months. From donating toys to children who have arrived with nothing, to eating at Hdmona-Habesha, a delicious new East African restaurant opened as a partnership between Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees– helping to diffuse community tensions through food. Together we will see Leeds become a City of Sanctuary.

