

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. We wish you and your students a happy holiday.

[Schools of Sanctuary](#) is a stream of [City of Sanctuary](#) aiming to:

- ◆ Promote positive attitudes within schools and their communities around people seeking sanctuary
- ◆ Support schools to take positive steps and to be proud of being places of safety and inclusion
- ◆ Recognise and celebrate schools that are welcoming and supporting people seeking sanctuary

In this newsletter you'll find many exciting news and opportunities to carry out our 3 values: **Learn** about asylum issues, **Embed** positive action in the life of your school and **Share** your good practice and ethos of welcome with others. We hope you enjoy reading it and invite you to share your stories with us. If your school hasn't signed up to join us and wants to become a school of sanctuary, or if you want to start a new group in your area, please [contact us!](#)

News [Schools of Sanctuary: Learning and Sharing conference](#)



Thanks to all the teachers and education professionals who joined us on a Saturday for the **Schools of Sanctuary: Learning and Sharing conference** at the West Yorkshire Playhouse (soon to be the first Theatre of Sanctuary) in Leeds. The successful conference included teachers, students of Education and young people from refugee and asylum seeker families. In addition there were representatives from The Children's Society, British Red Cross and RETAS (Refugee Education Training Advice Service) and from City of Sanctuary (Bradford, Wakefield, Sheffield, Bristol, Newcastle, Swansea, London and Leeds). The conference was the start of many positive developments here in Leeds and in other cities. Read the full report (in PDF format) [here](#).

City of Sanctuary AGM will be hosted in Leeds this year, on **January 27th!** Leeds schools of sanctuary are invited to share their good practice with delegates from all around the UK. Please [contact us](#) to arrange for you and your students to showcase what you've done!

Share

**Non Uniform Day for
Schools of Sanctuary!**

Embed

Leeds Schools of Sanctuary needs your support! Why not hold a Non Uniform day in your school and help us to continue our work!



West Yorkshire Playhouse

A Theatre of Sanctuary

WY PLAY
HOUSE

Our partners at the West Yorkshire Playhouse are delighted to announce the return of its much acclaimed production, **Refugee Boy**, in February 2014 before it embarks on an extensive UK tour. The playhouse offers many opportunities for teachers and students this winter.

Production dates: 06 - 08 February 2014

Matinee Performance: Friday 07 February, 1.00

For more information or to book please contact Elvi Piper on: elvi.piper@wyp.org.uk.

CPD: Promoting positivity and Inclusion in your school

Monday 20 January 4.15 - 6.00

With a talk from Jane Plastow, Professor of African studies from Leeds University with a unique insight into the context of the novel *Refugee Boy*; training to teachers from The Children's Society HEARTS team; and information and advice from our Schools of Sanctuary team.

Places are limited so hurry to book your place!

Seeking Sanctuary

Friday 07 February 11.00 - 12.00

The Children's Society HEARTS team offer pupils in KS2 and KS3 the opportunity to attend an awareness-raising session at WYP before watching the matinee performance of *Refugee Boy*

Cost: session is free of charge to attend.



Resource Guide

WYP, The Refugee Council, The Children's Society and Schools of Sanctuary have written a unique and insightful resource guide to accompany the production of **Refugee Boy**.

This guide can be downloaded from the WYP website by following this link (PDF):

http://www.wyp.org.uk/media/2699089/refugee_boy_resource_pack.pdf



HEARTS conference

12 March, St George's Church
Centre, LS1 2BR

The HEARTS project of The Children's Society LEAP programme, is holding an event to celebrate the project's achievements over the past 4 years and share good practice. Receive **invaluable resources** for educational support and the induction of migrant young people; **Hear directly from families and network.**

Save the date! More details to follow.

Holocaust Memorial Day

26 January, 2pm, Town Hall

Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the millions who were killed in the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in order to challenge hatred and persecution in the UK today.

contact us for more details, and to receive our resources for the day about seeking safety from genocide.

International Women's Day

Schools of Sanctuary Special programme for high schools

This year we offer a special programme for **high schools** for International Women's Day (March 8th).

The programme includes **talks** and **workshops** on various human rights violations which bring women to escape to safety, and how it is like to seek sanctuary here in Leeds. We also offer a **resource** for teachers with relevant background information, films and books. [Contact us](#) for more information, to book a workshop and to receive the resource. **More details to come!**



In collaboration with:



Teachers:

Join the **Schools of Sanctuary discussion group!**

Following our successful conference we've opened a national discussion list for anyone interested in Schools of Sanctuary, promoting the sanctuary award and awareness to schools, and wishing to share useful resources. We'd love to hear what you have to say!

To subscribe, please visit

<https://lists.cityofsanctuary.org/mailman/listinfo/schools-discuss>

Share

Leeds Schools of Sanctuary steering group now open for teenagers!

We are excited to open this opportunity for young people (year 9 and over) to be their school's ambassador in the Schools of Sanctuary steering group, gain invaluable voluntary experience and have their voice heard.

The steering group meets once a month and is happy to meet in a school to make it more accessible for young people. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to keep in touch with you, so please let us know if your school is willing to host one of our meetings in 2014.

We encourage high schools to offer this opportunity to their students. If you wish to learn more and receive information and the relevant forms, get in touch with Yael:

schools@leeds.cityofsanctuary.org

Embed

News

Welcome! We were happy to welcome three new schools who signed up our initial agreement since our previous issue:

Bracken Edge Primary, The Co-operative Academy and New Beverley community school!

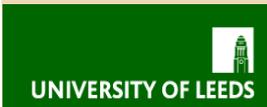
Beeston Primary's Garden of Sanctuary

Beeston Primary worked in partnership with **Leeds Metropolitan University** on a themed project about displacement. The objective of the project was to raise aspirations, resilience and develop empathy within communities about refugee experience. The children used drama as a means of exploring the idea of creating a Garden of Sanctuary. They planned a Sanctuary Garden in which they hung peace words, started raising money to buy a fountain and have bought outdoor lights to create a space which could be used as a safe haven for all within the school.



Menu of Services

New initiative: “Departments of Sanctuary” to work together with Schools of Sanctuary



The **Leeds University School of English** is keen to work with schools to help them achieve the School of Sanctuary Award through delivering workshops on refugee and asylum seeker issues. Please contact Dr Sam Durrant, who currently coordinates two weekly reading groups for refugees in Leeds, at: s.r.durrant@leeds.ac.uk.



In **Leeds Metropolitan University**, initial teacher training courses invite teachers in Schools of Sanctuary to share their experience and good practice with teaching students. Your opportunity to **share** what you've done with a new generation of teachers. Please contact us for more details.

Refugee Council Talks team



The Refugee Council is the largest charity working with asylum seekers and refugees across the UK. The Talks Team offers talks to dispel some of the myths around refugees and asylum seekers and support refugees to recount their own story.

Please contact:

Lesley Dean-Stewart:
lesley@retasleeds.org.uk.



The British Red Cross offers **FREE** Humanitarian Education to schools, academies and youth groups in **Bradford and Leeds**.

Complementing the PSHE curriculum, Stephen Lawrence Standard and Schools of Sanctuary Award, our programme is specifically designed to engage young people in KS 2, 3 and 4.

Presented as an assembly, a workshop, or a combination of the two, we aim to develop further young people's sense of citizenship, and their critical thinking on a variety of issues.

For more information please contact:

Brogan Sohanpaul, Service Co-ordinator Youth & Schools
by email: Bsohanpaul@redcross.org.uk, or
by telephone: 0113 201 5270.

The Children's Society HEARTS Service

The Children's Society HEARTS team offer **refugee awareness raising sessions in primary and high schools**. The sessions are interactive and engaging and feature the young person's perspective throughout. They also allow for pupils to reflect on and identify what they can do differently to ensure their school is welcoming and inclusive towards young refugees.

The HEARTS team also offer **refugee awareness raising training to professionals**, to build a deeper understanding of what young refugees experience and how best to support them settle and rebuild their lives in the UK.

For more information please contact: Nola Pugh: Nola.Pugh@childrenssociety.org.uk.

