



NOTTINGHAM  
CITY OF SANCTUARY



Nottinghamshire  
Community  
Foundation

*We are working towards making Nottingham a recognised City of Sanctuary. In the city and county, we already have flourishing but hard-pressed groups who help people seeking sanctuary to become part of the wider community. We want to help local groups and individuals to welcome and appreciate people seeking refuge and asylum more actively.*

## May 2011 Newsletter

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### NEWS

We welcome **Nottingham RC Diocese Justice and Peace Commission** as a new supporting organisation. For a full list of all 43 supporter groups, click [here](#)

We are still homeless, but have hopes that we will be able to share a building with one of our supporting groups. No names until we are certain!

Our own funding from **Notts Community Foundation** has ended, but we are able to continue to work with Leslie Ayoola as our consultant for a little more.

**Our promotional video** is available on [our website](#) and on Youtube. It will give you a clearer idea of what we are trying to do and how far we have got towards making Nottingham a more welcoming city.

We have expanded the [website](#) so have a look. It now includes an ideas page for how people can get involved, a new updated pledge form and more resources that will help people welcome asylum seekers and refugees into their communities. We also advertise volunteer positions on the website.

Our supporters, the [Rainbow Project](#), say  
*"We are running very short of supplies in our emergency food pantry for people seeking sanctuary, and so I'm making you aware just in case you are able to publicise this and help. We don't need pasta, red kidney beans or baked beans. Thanks very much, Julie*

They would like tins of tomatoes, soup, fish, meat, and vegetables, rice, maize meal, tea, coffee, sugar, lentils, breakfast cereals, HT milk, fruit juice, oil, sauces, toiletries, and treats.

### **Asylum seeker and refugee led groups**

The Nottingham African Women Empowerment Forum (NAWEF) are working on an Awards for All funded project to count the number of asylum seeker and refugee led groups across the region.

Add your group's details

at: <https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHpWRnlzOGp1NnEtVm5tZXNOa2FyQkE6MQ>

### [‘My Refuge’ Competition – where is your refuge?](#)

So what do you do when you’ve had a bad week, when things aren’t going to plan or are getting on top of you, when you need some time to yourself or to recharge your batteries?

Do you physically go somewhere, or just in your mind? Do you look for distraction, or a friendly face?

Take a walk in the countryside? Meet a friend for a chat over coffee? Lose yourself in a good book? Revisit the scene of a childhood holiday? Sit in a quiet corner of your garden? Visit the gym? Browse through old photos? Call your Mum? Play a round of golf?

We want to know what the word ‘refuge’ means for you – where is your refuge, your sanctuary, your retreat, your bolt-hole, your haven?

You can tell us – in a sentence, a poem, an audio clip ....

You can show us – in a photograph, a painting, a film clip, a drawing ....

And we will include your submission as part of an exhibition to be held during Refugee Week, with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize-winners chosen for various age categories!

The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 31st May 2011

Please contact Gill Buttery (Development Worker) on 0116 2616222 / 07716 073403

[leicester@cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:leicester@cityofsanctuary.org)

[leicestercityofsanctuary@gmail.com](mailto:leicestercityofsanctuary@gmail.com)

[www.cityofsanctuary.org/leicester](http://www.cityofsanctuary.org/leicester)

# Editorial

March, 2012 is our target date for achieving City of Sanctuary status. . We welcome suggestions of what we could be doing and who could do it. Come to our meeting on Wednesday, 4th of May, and see whether there is a way you could help us. There is a list of some of the roles we hope to fill on the [back page](#).

## Is the Big Society big enough to offer shelter to refugees?

*The Archbishop of York John Sentamu says in 1973 he was forced to flee Idi Amin's brutal regime in Uganda. He found compassion and care in Britain. Today, he wants to live in a society that holds out the same hope for people seeking sanctuary here.*

*This article was first published in The Independent and reprinted in HAT News ([Hatnews - Feeds](#) [editor@hatnews.org](mailto:editor@hatnews.org))*

In 1973 I was forced to flee Idi Amin's brutal regime. I found compassion and care in Britain. Today, I want to live in a society that holds out the same hope for fugitives

The events of the first Easter were told against a social backdrop of violence, injustice, migration, and the desperate search for safety. Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover that week, a festival that recalled their forebears' desperate flight from Egypt as refugees. Generations before, their ancestors had gone to Egypt as economic migrants. In the past weeks, as the turmoil in the Middle East has played out, Egypt has once again found itself a refuge for those seeking sanctuary. Having made historic changes in its own political settlement, it is admitting fugitives from the conflict in neighbouring Libya.

Today, no country should have to act alone, and those states affected by recent political upheaval are assisted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. International arrangements are in place to ensure that victims of violence and torture, and any in need of international protection, are given a chance both of surviving immediate crises and of finding security for the future.

The persistence of violence and injustice anywhere is regrettable but the international agreements to protect refugees are a mark of human progress, and indeed arise from a virtue common to many religions – the virtue of hospitality to the stranger and the alien.

In stretching economic times, it is not surprising that those who foot the bill for humanitarian provision should, along with others, have to find ways of increasing efficiency and cutting costs. But I hope that, as a nation, we are as committed as ever, even now, to those values which have made Britain great, among them a firm conviction that it is our duty to come to the aid of the oppressed, and to offer protection where it is needed.

Immigration and asylum is an area of moral debate where there is often more heat than light. This week, for example, we have seen France closing its border with Italy to prevent desperate new migrants fleeing unrest in North Africa reaching its territory.

**But to assess whether there really is a refugee or migration "crisis" we must consider the evidence carefully. And one key area of research must surely be into what happens to "failed" asylum-seekers who are returned to their country of origin. More notice needs to be taken, I believe, of increasingly unpalatable evidence from countries like Congo and Cameroon that some returnees from the UK, including those with young children, are subjected to imprisonment, torture, abuse and starvation. By the time we learn of their appalling fate, it is too late to say, "we got it wrong".**

The UNHCR recently released a report which found that during 2010 some 358,800 asylum applications were made in the 44 industrialised countries. The US, France, Germany, Sweden and Canada were the largest asylum recipients in 2010 and accounted for more than half of all asylum applications received by these 44 states.

But applications for asylum in industrialised countries are more than 40 per cent lower than they were 10 years ago and many have raised concerns that this is partly due to tighter immigration controls which are stopping refugees from seeking protection in these countries. The fact is that globally there are no fewer refugees than before: it is just that most refugees continue to be assisted in poor countries.

Tunisia and Egypt, for example, despite the turbulence of recent weeks, have both recently pledged to allow the thousands of Libyans fleeing the escalating conflict to enter their territory. Meanwhile, some hundreds of thousands of Ivorians fleeing the recent violence in Cote d'Ivoire have received assistance in eight West African countries. Let us hope that the conflict there is truly coming to an end now, but for the time being the number of people who have become refugees as a result of these conflicts in West Africa alone is equivalent to the total number of asylum applications that the UK has received in the last five years. In 2010, the UK received its lowest number of asylum applications since 1989.

Given that the number of asylum-seekers and refugees who end up in the European Union is now relatively small, it is particularly important that we respond to individuals who do seek sanctuary in our countries in a principled and compassionate way. This should include providing protection to all those fleeing persecution or escaping situations of conflict and widespread human rights violations, and providing adequate support to those in the asylum system so that they can meet their essential living needs.

When the public-spending cuts bite, it should not be the most vulnerable of all who suffer. It usually falls to local refugee groups, and often to churches, like many I visit in the north of England, to support those who are struggling to live on the meagre levels of support offered to asylum-seekers. How "Big" is our "Big Society" in relation to these people? There will always be those who need our protection and our support – are we big-hearted enough to accept this? It would be tragic if, because of misplaced fears over immigration numbers, we shut our doors to those seeking sanctuary from persecution.

In 1973, I myself was a refugee who had to escape Idi Amin's brutal regime in Uganda. Many of my contemporaries were not so lucky. I was received in Britain with great compassion and care – it was almost a home from home. Yes, one room in a communal house sufficed for me, my wife and daughter. However, I recall the struggles of surviving on the very limited financial support available at the time, and I also recall the generosity of those who went out of their way to make us welcome. I would like to think that those

genuinely needing protection today find that Britain is no less committed to help than its partners in the international community.

Easter for Christians is a time of rebirth, resurrection and good news. I would like to see that message transformed into something very practical, human and down-to-earth. I want to belong to a society that treats its vulnerable people with respect, and which holds out the hope of a new life for those who have been battered, bruised and abused. This is a desire I share with many fellow travellers, those with and without belief in God. Let Easter be a time of hope for everyone – but especially the broken, the homeless, the fugitive and the destitute.

## EVENTS

*(Let us know your events in good time and we are happy to publish them here.)*

### **Tuesday, May 3rd**

Tuesday Night Project at Refugee Forum - NAWROZ 2010, the Movie  
The Square Centre  
Alfred Street North  
Nottingham

This Tuesday we are showing for the first time the DVD of Nawroz 2010. The film shows many of the Tuesday Night Project people including Salar, Geoff, Adam, Azad, Yasar, Moustapha and many more.

### **Wednesday, May 4th**

Meeting of the City of Sanctuary group at 5.30 and finishing by 7 pm. All are invited and travel expenses can be paid. We meet at The Vine Community Centre (part of St Stephen's Church), Bobbers Mill Road, Hyson Green. Refreshments are provided.

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011 Sponsored Legal Walk**

**Join the Forum's team of walkers on the Nottingham Legal Walk and raise money for NNRF.**

The Midland Legal Support Trust has organised a 10k sponsored walk in Nottingham and the Forum is getting a team together to take part.

Any money that we raise through sponsorship will be matched by MLST (e.g. if we raise £200, MLST will give us another £200). The money we raise will fund our legal project.

**When:** Meet at 4.45pm, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**Where:** Meet at Nottingham Magistrate Court.

The 10km will take in the Canal, The Park, Cemetery, The Arboretum and will end by the canal-side.

If you want to get involved or if you would like more information, **let me know asap and definitely by 3rd May 2011.**

Phone: 0115 9415599 / Email: [tina@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk](mailto:tina@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk)

**If you're unable to make the walk but would like to donate to the legal fund, go to:**  
<http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/NottsRefugeeForum>

**19 May • 19:00 - 22:00 Small World Cafe- Zimbabwean Night**

NNRF, The Square Centre, Alfred Street North, Nottingham

Come and join members of the Nottingham Zimbabwe community network for a Small World Cafe night, doors open at 7pm pm, film "Yellow Card" at 8.0pm. Members from Nottingham Zimbabwean Community Network will update the current situation in Zimbabwe after the film. Refreshments and food available for donations.

**Sunday 15 May,**

Ecoworks, STAA and Urban Nature will throw open the gates of the most magical allotments in the world for a big party - and best of all it's right in the heart of the city!

Everybody is welcome to enjoy the beauty of Nottingham's most wonderful green space, with loads to see and do for the little ones and the big ones too.

The allotment's famous community orchard will be showing off its range of fruit trees, whilst Urban Nature will give people the chance to explore a wildlife haven like they've never seen before! Ecoworks will have the wonderful Harvest Cafe with its range of delicious local food, a plant sale for all those gardeners (young and old), tours of its state-of-the art straw bale house (complete with living roof), craft activities and even folk music from local musicians.

**SOAK UP THE  
ATMOSPHERE OF THE  
GARDENS IN SPRING**

**And enjoy...**

- Fun & inspirational activities for kids & adults
- tours of the St. Anns Heritage Gardens,  
the world's oldest allotment site
- music from local folk bands
- Great food from the Harvest Cafe
- A plant sale for gardeners
- A special opening of the community orchard

All in the heart of the city, 5 minutes bus from town (40, 41 and 42 bus pass nearby). Access via orchard on Ransom Rd., St. Anns.

Part of the **St. Ann's Allotments Spring Open Day** with  
Ecoworks, Urban Nature & the St. Anns Allotments Association

  

**STAA Ltd**  
Promoting and enhancing the  
historic allotment gardens

## Opportunities

Did you know that Nottingham City Library Service runs English Conversation groups for people who want to improve their confidence in speaking English? The groups are a great way for people to get to know their community and find out about services.

More information on the conversation groups and other services of interest to people from the new arrival, refugee and asylum seeking communities can be found [here](#) and on Nottingham City Libraries [Facebook page](#).

Meadows Library: Tuesdays 11 am - 1245 pm

Aspley Library: Wednesdays 1 pm - 3 pm

Central Library: Thursdays, 3 - 5 pm

Hyson Greem Library: Fridays, 10.30 am - 12

### Language Café project

A fun and informal way to learn new languages, practice your teaching skills and meet people from all over the world. Come along and get involved!

Nottingham City Libraries and Culturebox have teamed up with the Refugee Forum to bring back the Language Cafe project! At the Square Centre, Alfred St North, NG3 1AA. Every Saturday 2:30-4:30pm.

Libraries are at the heart of your community For more information contact Juliet Line on 01159151180 or Diane at culturebox@hotmail.co.uk

### *InTraining* jobseeker sessions

Nottingham City Libraries are hosting *InTraining* sessions, offering work & training to jobseekers. They are based on floor 2 of Central Library on Wednesday afternoons between 12.30 and 4.30.

*InTraining* provide free training and job help to all jobseekers who are aged 19 or over (anyone under this age will be able to access the same help from Connexions). *InTraining* are happy for staff to signpost anyone to them who needs work & training help. They perform an initial assessment of the jobseeker, which takes up to an hour, and from this they work out how best to help them. This might be C.V. writing, interview techniques, jobsearching or training. If they have a group of people all needing the same help, they will organise a group session e.g. a group session on C.V. writing.

## Resources

As part of their Social Sciences course, the Open University has produced two podcasts about City of Sanctuary. The "[Seeking Sanctuary](#)" podcast has a video and "Taking Sanctuary" has no visuals but goes into more detail. Both are available on the Open University site and free to [download on iTunes](#).

### FREE Family Sessions at Nottingham Contemporary Gallery

Every weekend. Make, create, draw, dance, play games, tell stories - and explore the exhibitions together with our Play and Learn cards.

11am - 3pm - no need to book. Weekday Cross, Nottingham, NG1 2GB. Tel: 0115 948 9750

You can also see more details on their [website](#)

### Become a City of Sanctuary supporting group

We are continually seeking statements of support from all **organisations** across Nottingham. We are working towards building a network of organisations that recognise the contribution of asylum seekers and refugees and are committed to welcoming and including them in their activities.

We also ask our supporting organisations to decide on a practical action that they can implement to help make their activities or services more inclusive of those seeking sanctuary.

If this sounds like something that your organisation could do go to the [website](#) for more details. Please sign and return our pledge form to either [coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org), or to Nottingham City of Sanctuary, 10 Lime Grove Avenue, Beeston, NG9 4AR.

The form will also give you useful ideas for how to make your activities more inclusive of those seeking sanctuary.

You can also register your support as an **individual** by signing up to receive our newsletter and information on City of Sanctuary events. Email [coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:coordinator@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org)

## Volunteering Opportunities

Do you need volunteers? (We do! -see last page) We will feature you here each month, especially if you would welcome volunteers who happen to be refugees. There are many projects across Nottingham that support refugees and asylum seekers, and most would welcome new volunteers. Many of our supporter organisations also require volunteers.

Please feel free to contact these organisations but if you do secure a position, please contact us and let us know about it so we can share the success stories of volunteers with others (and gain brownie points with our funders!)

## Mentoring and Befriending Volunteers needed!

**Nottingham Arimathea Trust (NAT)** is looking for mentors and befrienders for residents in our asylum houses. Your role will primarily be to offer a supportive relationship and practical assistance where appropriate, and can take the form of a variety of activities such as helping residents with English, accompanying them to various events around Nottingham, helping them get to a doctor's appointment, or simply chatting to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Mentoring and Befriending training will be provided!

No specific qualifications are required although an understanding of the issues facing asylum seekers is desirable and a positive and respectful attitude is essential!

For further details please visit the Do-it website: <http://www.do-it.org.uk/oppdetails.do?id=1626060> or contact NAT's Support Facilitator, Wesal on 07771803752 or [wesal@nottinghamarimathea.org.uk](mailto:wesal@nottinghamarimathea.org.uk)

## Women volunteers wanted to run workshops/activities for Women's Friendship Group

Women with skills in arts, crafts, keep fit / exercise classes, IT (+ any other suggestions) **WANTED** to run workshops / activities for the Women's Friendship Group that meets at the Vine Community Centre, Hyson Green every Monday during term time from 12.30 - 2pm.

The Women's Friendship Group is specifically for asylum seeker and refugee women and has been running for the past 5 years. Up to 18 women and children attend the sessions which start at 10am for a 2 hour ESOL class. This is followed by a coffee / lunch break **and a 1.5 hour activity from 12.30 - 2pm**. Not all the women stay for these activities. A creche is available from 10am - 2pm.

The group are very open to new ideas / suggestions for activities. The group is run by volunteers and there is no money to pay anyone to run the activities / workshops although material / art costs can be reimbursed (depending on the cost!)

If you would like to volunteer or know more about the project then please contact:

Helena Badoo, E: [bandoohelena@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bandoohelena@yahoo.co.uk), M: 07753 421463 (Wednesdays only)

Elector Zvorwadza, E: [zvorwadzaelector@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zvorwadzaelector@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum**

Nottingham and Notts Refugee Forum (NNRF) is an independent, voluntary organisation set up to work with and for asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Volunteer positions include a vacancy for Honorary Treasurer and General Advisors.

Website: <http://www.nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk/>

Email: [volunteer@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk)

Telephone: 0115 941 5599

## **Forestry Commission, Sherwood District**

The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible for trees, woods and forests in the East Midlands Region. They manage the forest estate in the region and create sustainable and attractive woodlands that are rich in biodiversity and accessible to as many people as possible.

They offer volunteer opportunities in Practical Conservation, Trail Building or Shadow Ranger Voluntary Work Placement. For more information on volunteer opportunities please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/eastmidlandsvolunteering).

Website: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/> Email: [enquiries.sherwood@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.sherwood@forestry.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01623 822 447

## **Oxfam**

The Oxfam 'Books and Music Shop' in Beeston and the Oxfam 'General Shop' in Beeston have both signed up as supporters of the City of Sanctuary and are willing to offer volunteer placements for suitable refugees and asylum seekers. If you want to apply, or need support, contact: [communications@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:communications@nottingham.cityofsanctuary.org)



### **Administrator**

Mail outs to potential members and follow up calls, publicity, keeping a record of members, agendas for meetings and minutes, booking speakers. Organising meetings.

*Skills needed: good organisation skills. Access to a computer and phone (cost of calls need to be reimbursed).*

### **Publicity / PR / Media volunteer**

Writing press releases; writing positive stories for local press on people seeking sanctuary locally. Work with Website Manager (or be Website Manager too)

*Skills needed: some experience of working with media and writing press releases, or willing to learn, good English writing skills.*

### **Community Networks**

Volunteers to attend community events – designing and setting up a stall, speaking to other organisations at events, networking etc.

*Skills needed: good communication skills, willing to travel locally, organise own time, and able to find out about events to attend.*

### **Newsletter**

To produce a monthly newsletter

*Skills: Ability to write in a way that engages existing supporter groups and new readers. Ability to cut and paste from certain websites. Keep a look out for local events. Ability to make it look attractive on screen and on paper (on screen is more important).*

### **Website Manager**

Keeping the website up to date with info on news, meetings and events. Writing stories / blog for website. Will need to coordinate with working group to agree content, coordinate contributions from members etc. Work with Media volunteer (or this could be part of the same role). Build up Facebook, Twitter, etc links.

*Skills: Good IT skills. The [website](#) is already up and running, just needs updating from time to time.*

### **Speaker / trainer**

To give presentations to other organisations in Nottingham encouraging them to sign up in support and to decide how to action their support.

*Skills: Would suit someone with experience of asylum system and good presentation / facilitation skills. Speaker's materials are available.*