



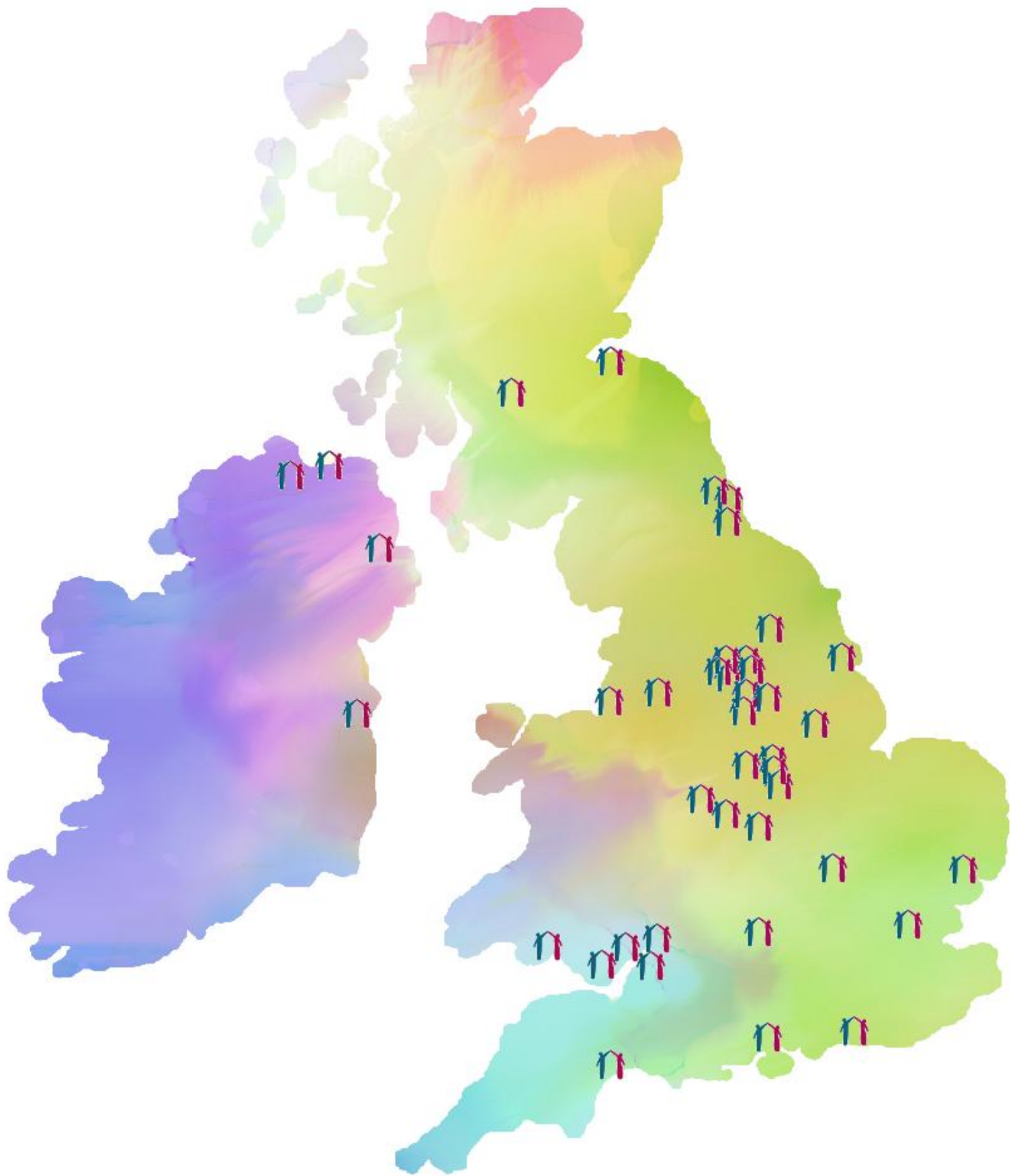
City of Sanctuary

Annual Report 2013



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List of groups May 2014

Bedford	Hull
Belfast	Ipswich
Birmingham	Leeds
Bradford	Leicester
Brighton	Lincoln
Bristol	Liverpool
Cardiff	Loughborough
Coleraine / Causeway	Manchester
Coventry	Newcastle
Derby	Nottingham
Derry	Oxford
Doncaster	Sheffield
Dublin	Southampton
Edinburgh	Sunderland
Exeter	Swansea
Glasgow	Tees Valley
Gloucester	Wakefield
Hackney	Wolverhampton
Huddersfield	York

National Co-ordinator's Report 2013

2013 was a year marked nationally and internationally by crisis, upheaval and human rights abuses, with images of the man-made atrocities of Syria, Central Africa and the Westgate Shopping Centre attack in Nairobi, mixed with local and global storms, typhoons and hurricanes. In a world where stories of tragedy and gloom shake and threaten us, it was the legacy and inspiration re-awakened by the passing of Nelson Mandela that brought much needed hope and positivity as the year drew to a close.

Many of us recall anti-apartheid protests as our introduction to a life of activism and defending Human Rights. As we reflect on the change in public attitudes to this amazing man and how his spirit of reconciliation, justice and humanity won the hearts of the whole world, we can gain hope for our struggle to seek fairness and recognition for our friends who have had to flee to seek safety on our shores.

We are struggling daily with the double tragedy of forced migration – first that we are living in an era where more and more people have to leave their homes and flee for their lives, and second that they are so often misrepresented, misunderstood and mistreated when they finally arrive here. Reflections on Mandela's legacy have offered us an opportunity to look back on apartheid as a scar in history, thanks to the resilience, sacrifice and persistence of this great man and countless others. The City of Sanctuary movement lives and breathes through a shared belief that barriers can be overcome, justice can be won, and fears and hostilities can be changed into welcome and inclusion. Mandela's story helps that belief on the dark days when everything seems to fail.



“Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”
(Nelson Mandela)

This statue honouring Mandela in Westminster's heartland is a visual encouragement that we can make a difference.

With the legacy, the promise and the challenge before us, we are continuing to create and protect expressions of sanctuary in all spheres of life and all circumstances. I hope you will find this report of the year past helpful and inspiring.

Tiffy Allen

“City of Sanctuary is a lifeline.” (Sanctuary seeker in Leicester)

Sanctuary in the Regions - Growth in 2013

Once again, we are looking back on a year of tremendous growth within City of Sanctuary. The basic message we offer of embedding welcome into the spaces where we live, work and spend time is attracting interest from all around UK and beyond. From the three regions we identified in 2012, we have seen the springing up of new regions, new groups and new streams.

Wales

The Cardiff and Swansea groups are well established. Cardiff hosted the first Welsh conference in June, and interest has been sparked in other cities and towns, including Newport and Wrexham. Cardiff is set to become the first recognised capital City of Sanctuary during 2014.

The North East

Our Newcastle group has gone from strength to strength this year, with a high profile event where the City Council proudly added its name to the growing list of supporters, and plans in place for Newcastle to be recognised as a City of Sanctuary during 2014. We now have two new groups in the North East: Sunderland was officially launched during Refugee Week, and Stockton and Middlesbrough (one of the highest dispersal areas in the country) have decided to combine their energies in the Tees Valley of Sanctuary group. The three groups are currently planning their third regional gathering where they can share ideas, network, and encourage each other.

The Midlands

Colleen, our newly appointed Regional Development Coordinator, is based in Leicester and the Midlands groups are benefitting from the fresh energy she brings. There is new interest in Loughborough and Derby, and the Midlands regional conference in January had representation from 8 cities and towns.

Ireland

The first group to be formed in Ireland was Belfast, which was launched during Refugee Week and has been supported by a wide range of community groups. A group has also been set up in Derry/Londonderry, where the movement was given fresh impetus with the touring of the play 'Sanctuary'. Meanwhile talks have begun about forming a City of Sanctuary group in Dublin and the Coleraine area has begun to work on the idea of Causeway Borough of Sanctuary. The first regional meeting for Ireland was held in October and we look forward to seeing representatives at the AGM and Birmingham conferences.

The South of England

City of Sanctuary has officially reached the South coast! May saw initial meetings in Brighton and Southampton, with interest also being expressed in Exeter and Plymouth. Steering groups have now been formed, and we are looking forward to setting up a regional gathering in Spring 2014.

Streams of Sanctuary

Streams of Sanctuary is an expression we use to describe sanctuary activities in particular sectors which transcend local boundaries, rather like streams connecting several places. 2013 saw tremendous growth in the streams, and you may have noticed that they have dedicated and fast-growing web pages. The key principles of all streams are **LEARN**, **EMBED** and **SHARE**. Each stream offers guidelines and examples as to how these principles can be put into practice.

The 'Developing a Culture of Welcome' paper was launched this year, outlining the key components for forming a City of Sanctuary group or stream, gaining a Sanctuary Award, and becoming a recognised City of Sanctuary. This paper has been a vital tool for the streams, as the locally managed concept of Sanctuary Awards can be an important incentive and motivation for sharing good practice and maintaining a culture of sanctuary beyond one-off events. We now have churches, newspapers, opera companies and sports teams considering Sanctuary Awards, with huge scope for creativity and innovation.

The rapid growth of streams and the dedication of hundreds of volunteers and practitioners required a higher level of networking, coordination and resourcing, and we are delighted to welcome Rose McCarthy as our new Streams of Sanctuary Coordinator. Rose will be supporting streams initiatives all over the country and collating feedback to refine and update 'Developing a Culture of Welcome.' Here are some highlights from streams during 2013.

Schools of Sanctuary

Schools of Sanctuary was the first stream and has groups in around 12 cities. We believe that a well coordinated programme of awareness raising tools for young people can be one of the cornerstones of changing the hearts and minds of the nation towards a better understanding of refugees.



Delegates from nine cities, schools, universities and community groups attended the first Schools Conference in October, where practical workshops on Learn, Embed and Share were mixed with keynote speeches and lively interaction. Many agreed that the highlight was the moving testimonies shared by five young refugees from The Children's Society, all aged between 13 and 15. They explained the ways that welcome and understanding in their schools helped them to rebuild their lives and confidence. They pleaded with the delegates to build this culture of support. These courageous youngsters were worthy spokespeople not just for refugees but for their own generation, and their work earned them a nomination for a national Young Refugee Award.

Here is a practical example of 'learn' in a school being translated into 'embed' and 'share'. Students at two Sheffield schools raised nearly £1500 to help asylum seekers and refugees in the city. Pupils had the idea of holding 'no uniform' days to support a local destitution charity after listening to talks about asylum. Sheffield City of Sanctuary Awareness Co-ordinator Rodrigo Edema and asylum seeking volunteers attended classes at both schools, where they talked to students about why they had to flee their countries and about life as a refugee. The pupils were inspired to do something to help and came up with the idea of the fund-raising days, asking fellow students to pay £1 not to wear uniform. Volunteers at one school also baked cakes which they sold between lessons.

"Let me know if you get thrown out of your house. Let me know and I will ask my mum and dad if you can come and live with us." (Child in Sheffield after a schools talk)

Theatres of Sanctuary

We believe that the Arts offer immense scope for expressions of sanctuary, awareness raising, support and lobbying and we're excited about ways this stream may develop through all forms of the Arts. In 2013, it was Theatres of Sanctuary which deservedly stole the limelight. Here are just two examples:

West Yorkshire Playhouse is now the first ever Theatre of Sanctuary. This impressive achievement comes on the back of Benjamin Zephaniah's 'Refugee Boy' running for three successful weeks at the Playhouse – an event skillfully transformed into a sanctuary experience including refugee choirs, awareness raising events, celebrating sanctuary, schools work and much more. The Theatre is working with a group of refugees to ensure that the sanctuary message is continued and extended through and beyond the life of the play through initiatives such as voice and presentation training for refugee schools teams, hosting a Refugee Week women's party, and a scheme of free tickets for refugees. We worked with the Playhouse as the play and the package toured nine more cities this spring, resulting in more theatres going for the Sanctuary Award.

Meanwhile, the Theatre of Witness in Derry created a new vision of performance where art and social justice meet in 'Sanctuary,' a dramatic performance illuminating the stories of those in exile, those seeking safe haven and those who have created oases of peace and healing in Northern Ireland. The performers included refugees and asylum seekers as well as those who seek or offer refuge following violence, mental health issues, forced exile, poverty and/or sectarianism. 'Sanctuary' had a deep impact on all who viewed it as it toured Northern Ireland, as well as on the lives and friendships of those taking part.

Our work in the Arts is underpinned by an important relationship with Counterpoint Arts, and we look forward to working with them more around Refugee Week and a whole vista of sanctuary artistic expressions.

"I enjoy going to the group meetings and being part of it. As an asylum-seeker myself, it gives me purpose and direction. In particular, I have been involved with the Theatre of Sanctuary initiative. I went to theatre for the first time a year ago. Even back in my country, I never imagined I would have had a chance to visit or experience what theatres can offer. The staff have been very supportive in building my confidence and I really feel at home there." (Sanctuary seeker in Leeds)

Sanctuary in Health

On Friday 20th September, City of Sanctuary held the first Sanctuary in Health conference in Bradford, bringing together over 100 people including NHS commissioning officers, a wide range of health practitioners and voluntary sector workers to discuss key issues in overcoming health inequalities for sanctuary seekers.

Key conference highlights were the valued contributions by sanctuary seekers themselves who told their stories both in the main sessions and at each workshop: powerful tales that raised awareness of who sanctuary seekers really are; stories that drew attention to unnecessary pain and suffering in mental health, pregnancy and birth, diabetes and epilepsy, surgery and cancer; stories of neglect, misunderstandings and even death.

In December an equally inspiring Health Conference was hosted in Bristol, with an emphasis on the needs of sanctuary seekers and the disastrous implications of government proposals to deny vital healthcare to many. Again, the impassioned testimonies of new Bristolians formed a key part of the event.



Meanwhile, the Maternity stream has received a grant to create two films, one for women seeking sanctuary about how and why they should access maternity care in the UK and the second for those supporting pregnant refugees and asylum seekers about their needs and experiences. The films should be available at the end of summer 2014. The Sanctuary in Health stream has also been developing a set of guidelines and examples of good practice which can be seen on the website.

Sanctuary in Action: the Heart of the Movement

So what exactly do we mean by ‘sanctuary’? It’s about reimagining life and culture through the warm lens of welcome, inclusiveness and belonging. It’s about making room in our hearts, organisations and activities for people who need to feel safe and rebuild their lives. It’s about ordinary people taking extraordinary steps to open the spaces where they live and work to becoming places of sanctuary. We have over 30 local groups and several Streams of Sanctuary all the way up and down the country and each one is totally unique, shaped by the circumstances and people of that place. The following examples illustrate some of the amazing things that have happened this year.

“I used to live in a white middle class bubble but since making friends with people seeking sanctuary that bubble has been well and truly popped. My friends make me laugh, cry and sometimes angry at the way they are treated. Above all I have been touched and inspired by their ability to reach out and help their peers. The women I have worked with are the most inspirational women I have ever met.” (Maternity stream volunteer)

Wakefield

Angel Lodge in Wakefield, the large building opposite the prison, is one of five national Initial Accommodation Centres, housing up to 250 newly arrived asylum seekers for three or four weeks before they are dispersed to 17 towns and cities in the North East and Yorkshire. The accommodation contract does not include any kind of activity and capacity for offering advice and signposting has been shrinking dramatically. In practice this means that people – including up to 50 children – sit in Angel Lodge with nothing to do except wait for appointments and wonder where they will go next. Asylum seekers often arrive without adequate clothing for the cold weather and there is no provision for clothing.

Wakefield District City of Sanctuary group was keen to extend welcome to these new arrivals and to explore ways of making this time of anxiety and waiting more bearable. A small group with limited resources and no paid workers, they have been working constantly with a network of partnerships across the city and beyond to find ways of bringing sanctuary into Angel Lodge.

Wakefield volunteers organise and coordinate sessions for children, English conversation classes and women’s classes at the centre, with volunteers coming from nearby Leeds as well as Wakefield. Additional sessions have included art and crafts, gym sessions for young people, sessions on how to access health, family relationships and first aid, with partnerships such as Red Cross, local charities and faith groups getting involved. Wakefield City of Sanctuary has worked very hard with local churches, drop-ins and charities to put together a system for getting essential clothing to needy residents in Angel Lodge.

Meanwhile, the Wakefield group is working with all partners to ensure that information around dispersals is clear, joined-up and coordinated. Welcome projects have been set up in around 8 dispersal cities and towns, and Angel Lodge has been the hub for regional City of Sanctuary groups and others to meet, plan and coordinate activities. The model of Angel Lodge has attracted the interest of the other four Initial Accommodation centres and pilot Welcome projects have begun in Leicester and Swansea. A related project, Meet and Travel Together, has begun in Leeds to help new asylum seekers around the region to find their way to the all important Home Office initial interview.

The changes continue, with contracts for IA and one stop services changing in April 2014 and further reductions of services inevitable. However, the group has won respect and cooperation from all involved parties, and we believe their experience provides a strong model of volunteer-led response, cooperative working and a platform for strong grass-roots advocacy that will weather storms ahead.

Sunderland

If you want to find anyone involved in Sunderland City of Sanctuary, go to the drop-in by the bridge. It’s one of the liveliest you’re likely to see, and that’s where many of the newly dispersed asylum seekers find support and encouragement.

Several Olympians, fearing the repressive regimes in their home countries, claimed asylum and were dispersed to Sunderland. Helped by the Sunderland drop-in and the newly formed City of Sanctuary group, they have connected with a boxing club that is working with the boxers; a weightlifting club that is working with the weightlifter; a running club that is working with runners; and a small football team that is working with some of the footballers - all for free! The boxing club in particular reports to us that the attitudes to race and asylum of the youngsters who talk to and mix with the boxers have changed significantly in favour of asylum seekers. The Sunderland Olympians all now have their status and they are all keen to use their considerable skills to help budding athletes and the development of sport in this country.

Sunderland is also a great example of involving every sector of society in the sanctuary idea. One of the hairdressing teachers at the local college decided to check out the drop-in and he was so impressed he decided to invite his students to see what they could do to help. Quite a few students were sceptical, having 'read all about asylum seekers in the tabloid press.' But the teacher challenged them to find out for themselves, resulting in a big change of heart. So, one of the new specialities at this unique drop-in is that you can get your hair cut there!

"We'll support him as long as he's here. We make sure he's got enough food and vitamins - it's full support from the club... You can see sometimes he's thinking about home, and it's those situations he's got to manage, but it's very difficult." (Sunderland running club chairman talking about Weyney who competed in the Steeplechase at the 2012 Olympics and claimed asylum from Eritrea, quoted by the BBC)

Making Scotland Home

The City of Sanctuary movement now has a presence in Scotland, with both Glasgow and Edinburgh groups keen to make their cities places of welcome and integration. As Scotland prepares for the independence referendum in 2014, we hope to take the opportunity to challenge politicians and the general public alike to re-define Scotland as a "Nation of Sanctuary."

'Making it Home' is an exciting project co-ordinated in Scotland by the Refugee Survival Trust, which is providing a link between the two contrasting cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. It has used poetry and short film to build bridges between two very different groups of women: local women from Pilton in Edinburgh, and women who are refugees and asylum seekers, based around Maryhill in Glasgow. The project set out to meet two of RST's aims: to increase public awareness of issues affecting refugees and asylum seekers, and to promote the integration of refugees and asylum seekers as active participants in Scottish society.

The two groups then split into 2 film-making teams, chose one poem per team, and have produced a total of 4 short films (3 minutes in length) based on participants' personal reactions to the poetry.

The project's aims have been met and exceeded: participants from both groups have met several times, discovering shared stories and unsuspected common ground around the theme of "Home", particularly regarding issues surrounding homelessness, destitution and disempowerment. They have also shared stories of hope and resilience, made each other "welcome" cards and expressed satisfaction at making their voices heard so creatively.



The films were launched in Glasgow and Edinburgh as part of Refugee Week Scotland and can be viewed here: <http://makingithome.net/then-films/>

The Bigger Picture – Sanctuary under Trial

While we are committed to our main emphasis of local expressions and awareness-raising from person to person, group to group, we realise that we are part of a much bigger movement and that sanctuary is more needed and more contested than ever before in the fractured global village we belong to. As such, we deeply value the partnerships we have with much larger organisations nationally and internationally and we believe that part of our commitment to our local groups must be to be well-informed and ready to join in discussions around these all important issues. We are in the midst of plans for a Sanctuary Summit in Birmingham in November 2014, in partnership with all the major refugee organisations. At the same time we are working hard to develop the best infrastructure to manage growth and maintain relationships and information on behalf of the network we represent.

A National Consultation

The catalogue of mistakes, lost files, poor decisions and misunderstandings within the asylum system finally led to a public enquiry in 2013. When Leicester MP Keith Vaz was appointed to chair the Home Office Affairs consultation and report on asylum, Leicester City of Sanctuary agreed to co-ordinate responses and reports sent in by our supporters and local groups. We await the final outcome of these recommendations, conscious that as in all such matters, the urgent need for awareness-raising, myth busting and positive stories remain a priority. Meanwhile, Leicester has launched a new initiative, 'What's Going On' to gather evidence and case studies of poor practice and submit to the authorities. Details are on our website (www.cityofsanctuary.org)

Cities Taking a Stand against Destitution

We have all been encouraged to see the increasing number of city councils following the lead of Glasgow and signing up to the Still Human Still Here campaign against destitution. We believe there is a real momentum in this important stand being taken by cities, and we're encouraged that many of the big and influential cities have either signed this document or a similar anti-destitution motion. Here is a reminder of the key issues taken from the SHSH website:

The coalition believes that the current policy is inhumane and ineffective and is urging the Government to:

- Provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with sufficient support so that they can meet their essential living needs until they are returned to their country of origin or are given permission to stay in the UK;
- Provide free access to healthcare for all asylum seekers while they are in the UK;
- Grant asylum seekers permission to work if their case has not been resolved within six months or they have been refused, but temporarily cannot be returned through no fault of their own ;
- Improve decision making and ensure that all those in need of protection receive it.

City of Sanctuary, with its commitment to engaging right across civic society, can have a key role in influencing cities to take a stand on a core human rights issue such as destitution, and we encourage you to get in touch with Mike Kaye if you would like to know more: mike.kaye@amnesty.org.uk. It is our privilege to be part of this campaign and we really appreciate the support and flow of information we have from Mike.



At the time of writing, anti-destitution motions have been passed by the following councils: Glasgow, Bristol, Oxford, Liverpool, Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds, Kirklees, Swansea, Leicester, Manchester.

Here are members of Bristol City of Sanctuary celebrating the passing of the motion. Could your city be next?

Syria and the Global Refugee Reality

The ongoing crisis in Syria has brought the plight of refugees worldwide right into public attention this year, with the tragedies of overloaded boats in the Mediterranean sparking anger, confusion and widespread European debate. However, there is still a lot of ignorance about resettlement programmes and their interface with the asylum system. The workshop at our conference about resettlement was very well attended. City of Sanctuary is now an associate partner of the SHARE network which works across Europe to promote understanding of resettlement and to encourage more cities to receive resettled refugees from UNHCR camps. I was given an opportunity this year to speak about our work in three international conferences concerned with resettlement and human rights protection. The Syrian crisis has been a catalyst for debate around an ongoing and much more long-term global situation, and I was shocked when presented with the facts:

- There are over 12 million refugees in the world with only 1% submitted for resettlement
- Currently, the USA takes around 70,000 resettled refugees per year, while EU countries combined take less than 5,000, of which the UK takes 750
- The places in the UK with resettlement programmes are Manchester, Sheffield, Hull and Bradford (all of which have a City of Sanctuary presence)

With the Syrian crisis deepening, UNHCR have called on Western nations to provide 30,000 emergency resettlement places. While 16 countries have responded positively, the UK held back. City of Sanctuary promoted and joined the campaign led by Refugee Council and Amnesty International to ask the government to include emergency resettlement in their response to this refugee crisis, and we were delighted when the government decided to open its doors to 'hundreds.'

Here are the key messages being shared by Refugee Council on this crucial issue:

- There is an urgent need for a global resettlement programme to help the most vulnerable find safety outside of the region.
- Only a resettlement programme will offer a durable solution to the most vulnerable, including women at risk, those with disabilities and vulnerable older adults.
- If Syria's neighbours close their borders the consequences will be catastrophic. Western countries have a moral imperative to show solidarity with Syria's neighbours by sharing the responsibility of protecting some of the people fleeing Syria.
- The UK has a proud tradition of protecting refugees. We must play our part in providing a safe haven to those who will struggle to survive in the region.

City of Sanctuary is involved in talks around the placement of this new group of resettled Syrians and we have been very pleased to see local groups initiating welcome plans as well as petitioning their councils to become resettlement cities.

Looking Ahead - Plans for 2014

Our plans for the year ahead are very exciting and we recommend you keep an eye on the website and monthly bulletins for more details. For now, here are a few:

- New cities, beginning with Newcastle and Cardiff, being recognised as Cities of Sanctuary, with awards in new areas such as Maternity services and Churches of Sanctuary
- 'Refugee Boy' showing in London, Glasgow, Nottingham, Newcastle, Leeds, Hull, Birmingham, Oxford and Manchester
- Regional Conferences in all regions
- A Sanctuary Summit on November 15th in Birmingham, with support and involvement from all major refugee charities
- More cities signing the anti-destitution resolution
- A host of regional and national conferences around streams, including a high profile schools conference in Bristol

"In Newcastle everybody has time for each other, people have made me feel so welcome - for me, Newcastle is home now." (Congloese refugee from Newcastle, awarded as a 'City of Sanctuary' in 2014)

Chair's Report

2013 was a year of turmoil in the UK refugee sector but a year of considerable development for City of Sanctuary. Following the last AGM in January, we started the year with an excellent group of ten continuing and four newly elected trustees, including four refugees.

Development & Fund-raising

An Action Plan had been worked out in consultation with regional meetings, and was presented at the 2013 AGM, which has been the basis for our fund-raising efforts. Based on this plan we aim to obtain three new major funding grants as well as a continuation grant from our main funder, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, whose current three-year grant expires at the end of April 2014. During the year we succeeded in obtaining one major core grant of £40,000 per year for three years, from the Tudor Trust, which we took up from September, and have passed the first stage of the application process for a repeat grant from Esmée Fairbairn. We were invited to apply to Unbound Philanthropy for project funding of £30,000 per year for two years, which we did successfully in December, and we also obtained a small grant for the Maternity Stream. We feel we are on track to obtain resources to cover the whole envisaged increase in core work by the end of 2014.

Human Relations & Employment

Due to the success in raising funds we have been able to increase our staffing, though we are still very small as an organisation. We increased the National Co-ordinator post from 25 hours per week to full-time at the beginning of the year and have been able to maintain it at this level. We set up a recruitment procedure and interview panel for a part-time Regional Development Officer, initially for one year, and appointed Colleen Molloy, who started in September. Rose McCarthy was recruited as part-time 'Streams Co-ordinator' to work on the Unbound Philanthropy project for two years in early 2014 and we have also recruited Shelley King to work one day a week on the Maternity Stream. Mark Nielsen continues with increased hours as Web Developer.

We agreed the principle of being a network-based organisation and relying on partnership, rather than trying to set up our own centralised office base as we expand. Hence we are open to new workers being based anywhere in the country, either with a partner organisation or working from home. We have reached an agreement with Northern Refugee Centre for them to act as formal employer for the two above workers and to second them back to us. We have instigated a supervision procedure and appraisals process.

National Appraisal Committee (Sanctuary Awards & Criteria)

The 'Developing a Culture of Welcome' paper, launched this year, outlines the process for gaining a Sanctuary Award and becoming a recognised City of Sanctuary. By the end of 2013, two of the five recognised cities had successfully completed reviews (Bradford and Swansea) and three new cities had begun the process of applying to be recognised as Cities of Sanctuary (Newcastle, Cardiff and Leeds). Several other cities and towns have indicated they will be following this trend very soon.



While most of these awards are made by local groups, some are of national importance – for example, the national conference in January 2014 was used to highlight West Yorkshire Playhouse as the first Theatre of Sanctuary and REACHE in Manchester as the first Health Service of Sanctuary.

"I feel part of the community. I do not experience hostility and my children can play outside safely." (Sanctuary seeker from Bradford, a city recently reviewed as a 'City of Sanctuary')

Constitution & Membership

At the AGM in January we adopted constitutional amendments to differentiate between voting members (both group/organisational members and individual members) and non-voting members; and also to require one-third of trustees to stand down each year and limit their term of office to three years, with the proviso that they can stand for re-election. We are still considering more constitutional amendments, though at present we are seeking to increase the numbers and geographical representation of trustees and improve gender/ethnic/age balance.

Towards the end of the year we launched a 'national associate membership' scheme which is aimed at generating support for our vision of a welcoming culture among national organisations. So far two organisations have signed up: NCT (National Childbirth Trust) and NACCOM (the UK's national No Accommodation Network). We are expecting more, such as Counterpoint Arts, Stop Hate, Churches Refugee Network and others.

Sanctuary Summit

It has been a major insight for us to think in terms of movement building, not only growing the size and capacity of our own network but also playing a role in a broader national sanctuary movement.

As a result we have started a new area of work, to bring together all the main organisations involved at national level and facilitate the process of forming a sanctuary alliance. We have formed a steering group including some of our trustees and members of some of the national campaigning organisations to work towards a 'Sanctuary Summit' in November 2014. With our partner organisations, we will be participating in other national meetings and using our own regional meetings to build up to this 'summit' and to cascade the results of it to our local groups and supporters throughout the country.

Trustees

2013

Alan Thomas (chair) - Swansea
Ann Bettys (retired during 2013) - Huddersfield
David Wilkes (retired at 2014 AGM) - York
Diana Stubbs (retired during 2013)
Eddie Ralston (co-opted July 2013) – London / Schools
Faith Gakanje (retired during 2013) - Nottingham
Forward Maisokwadzo (retired at 2014 AGM) – Bristol
Gary Shaw (treasurer)
Jeff Morgan - Manchester
Jeni Vine (secretary) – Sheffield
Jonathan Ellis – London
Justin Nsengiyumva – Manchester
Michael Walker – Leicester
Rachel Farrier – Edinburgh
Roger Nyantou – Leeds
Rose McCarthy – Leeds / Maternity

Continuing 2014

Alan Thomas (chair) - Swansea
Eddie Ralston (co-opted July 2013) – London / Schools
Gary Shaw (treasurer)
Jeff Morgan - Manchester
Jeni Vine (secretary) – Sheffield
Jonathan Ellis – London
Justin Nsengiyumva – Manchester
Michael Walker – Leicester
Rachel Farrier – Edinburgh
Roger Nyantou – Leeds
Rose McCarthy – Leeds / Maternity (retired at beginning of 2014 due to employment with City of Sanctuary)

New, elected at 2014 AGM

Dennis Minnis – Birmingham
Helen Moore – York
Herbert Dirahu – Newcastle
John Mellor – Ripon
Nacera Harkati – Sheffield

Alan Thomas

Regional Development Officer's Report

I took up my post as Regional Development Officer in September with great excitement and enthusiasm. I have worked mainly in the Midlands region, visiting groups and learning about and sharing all the excellent and diverse work that goes on in the different cities. The groundwork was laid for a Midlands regional conference in January, a new group in Loughborough (the home of the East Midlands UKBA Reporting Centre), the consolidation of the group in Derby and efforts at resurrecting the network in Nottingham. Birmingham is developing apace with new pledges from key groups and city leaders. The network in Coventry began preparing for the peer review and Leicester planned for a new Welcome project. Discussions have taken place with key contacts in Ipswich, Bedford and Luton.



A meeting for the new Loughborough group was well attended.

In addition, I have been posting on the City of Sanctuary Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/cityofsanctuary>) and gathering stories for our website (www.cityofsanctuary.org). New pages on the website have been set up to support the newly developing streams which include Health, Arts, 'Welcome to My City' and the 'What's Going On' project and a page for awareness raising, with links to useful resources. I have started a monthly newsletter, which gathers together the news stories from around the network so that we can share in our successes and celebrations and access new ideas and resources. This still has potential for being a useful tool to share good practice, keep us up-to-date and connect us together in the network.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to learn about the network, to meet people from a variety of organisations, to support the Trustee Development sub group and to get to know the Midlands region in particular.

Colleen Molloy

Web Developer's Report

From my perspective, with my head in the website, it is very clear that our movement is in a period of significant growth and change. New groups are coming online every month, with Streams of Sanctuary becoming a major theme.

The City of Sanctuary website has been showing its age for some time, and is struggling to keep up with us. Because of this, we've been preparing a project to improve and expand our website and the website-management tools we provide for groups big and small. We have decided to adopt the popular WordPress software for our website, and use it in such a way that each group will be able to have its own website with as much flexibility as they need.

Between February and April 2014, our work on this has been largely a feasibility study - exploring what's possible with WordPress, and making sure it will be very easy for people to use, and an improvement on our existing facilities. I'm being helped with the transition to the new system by Katelyn McKeown. We expect to be in a position to launch the fully upgraded website by the end of July 2014.

The new website will be easier for everybody to use, but especially newcomers, and we hope to see an upsurge in people posting news, pictures and events.

For me, this is a very exciting time. It feels to me like we're really starting to go places, and that the technology we use is maturing to a point where we'll be able to do amazing things without similarly amazing budgets!

Mark Nielsen

Accounts Summary for year ending December 2013

Income	
Grant from Esmee Fairburn	£20,000
Grant from Tudor Trust	£40,000
Grant from Funderbirds for Maternity Stream	£5,000
Funds received from local groups and other sources	£2,000
TOTAL	£67,000
Expenditure	
Salary Costs	£39,000
Other Costs (website development, travel and related expenditure, other project expenditure)	£9,000
TOTAL	£48,000
Surplus	£19,000
Cash at 31 December 2013 (including a £30,000 grant from Unbound Philanthropy for 2014 activities which has not been included in income above)	£73,000

The income for the year includes grant income from Esmee Fairburn (£20,000), Tudor Trust (£40,000) and income received from Funderbirds to fund the Maternity Stream of Sanctuary (£5,000). The remaining income comprises funds received from local groups and other sources.

The main item of expenditure in the year is salary costs which totalled £39,000. Salary costs include the costs of our full-time National Co-ordinator and (from September 2013) the costs of our part-time Regional Development Officer.

Other costs incurred include website development, travel and related expenditure and other project expenditure. Costs of overheads (for example rent and utility costs) are minimal.

The surplus for the year reflects the timing of our funding with grant income being received during 2013 but where costs are still to be incurred in 2014.

The year-end cash balance includes £30,000 received from Unbound Philanthropy in respect of funding for the Streams of Sanctuary activities. This income relates to 2014 and therefore has not been included in the income for the year.

City of Sanctuary is a national movement of local people and community groups committed to creating a culture of welcome and safety, especially for refugees seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

With thanks to our funders



Seedbed Trust



The Allen Lane Foundation

Front cover main image: performance of 'Refugee Boy' at West Yorkshire Playhouse (image credit: Keith Pattison)

Other images: City of Sanctuary local groups

City of Sanctuary is a registered charity (No 1124921).

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