

Sanctuary Awards minimum criteria

Any organisations, business or institution is welcome to apply for a Sanctuary Award which recognises a commitment to our values and vision and helps to demonstrate the culture of welcome that is growing across the UK.

For some streams¹ we have developed specific minimum criteria which an applicant must demonstrate to receive the award. If you are applying for the following streams please use the minimum criteria set out in the following resource packs:

- [Universities of Sanctuary](#)
- [Gardens of Sanctuary](#)
- [Arts stream of Sanctuary](#)
- Schools of Sanctuary (coming soon)
- Libraries of Sanctuary (coming soon)

For other awards (for example for a café, health practice, museum or any other) the following minimum criteria should be used alongside evidence of Learning, Embedding and Sharing as [outlined on these pages](#).

The following minimum criteria are based on the **network principles** set out in the [City of Sanctuary charter](#). All Sanctuary Award applicants must sign up to the charter as part of the application process.

Principle: Offer a positive vision of a culture of welcome and hospitality to all
Minimum Criteria:

- Make a public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision through endorsing the charter, becoming a supporting organisation and signing the local group pledge where relevant
- A dedicated member of staff/team member as a contact point for sanctuary queries/people seeking sanctuary. This should be clearly communicated and be easily accessible and the individual(s) must be appropriately trained.

¹ A '[Stream of Sanctuary](#)' encourages professionals or practitioners within communities of practice or interest to come to together to embed the concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within their profession, sector and organisations

Principle: Create opportunities for relationships of friendship and solidarity between local people and those seeking sanctuary

Minimum Criteria: Demonstrate active engagement with refugee support networks and others in the local community and, where relevant, create opportunities for people to come together

Principle: Recognise and encourage partnership working and network development across localities

Minimum Criteria: Demonstrate a commitment to sharing learning with other similar organisations in your area and around the UK

Principle: Identify opportunities for practical action and working on common cause issues to effect change within and across communities

Minimum Criteria:

- Demonstrate active involvement with your local City of Sanctuary group and/or other refugee support networks
- Where appropriate support relevant campaigns and work to minimise barriers to people seeking sanctuary accessing your services

Principle: Celebrate and promote the welcome and contribution of people seeking sanctuary

Minimum criteria: Use your website, social media or other channels to celebrate your sanctuary initiatives and commitment to a culture of welcome

Principle: Engage people seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities

Minimum criteria: Wherever possible ensure that people seeking sanctuary are involved in the development of your plans and action and on relevant committees

Principle: Promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling sanctuary seekers voices to be heard directly

Minimum criteria: Demonstrate a whole organisation approach to staff awareness including involving sanctuary seekers in training and wider awareness-raising