City of Sanctuary
Strategy Development
2022 - 2025

Contributing to the movement by promoting a culture of welcome

https://cityofsanctuary.org/
Where are we now?

- 115+ local **City of Sanctuary groups** across the UK
- Streams of Sanctuary - Schools, Universities, Colleges, Libraries, Theatres etc of Sanctuary
- Local Authority Network
- Sanctuary Ambassador Network
Vision - ‘The UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution’
How can we bring about the changes we want to see?

- Contact theory - building relationships of solidarity
- Turning ‘Empathy into Action’
- Movement Building
The Movement

Aim: Mobilise supporters and work with others to build a united voice to advocate for people seeking sanctuary across the UK.

The changes we want to see:

- People can seek safety in the UK, no matter how they came here
- People can live in dignity while they wait to hear if they can stay
- A fairer, faster and more efficient system to decide whether people will be granted protection
- Refugees and their local communities can build better futures together. Local councils in areas where refugees are dispersed to should be adequately supported
Network Principles

- Create opportunities for relationships of friendship and solidarity between people living in receiving communities and people seeking sanctuary;

- Communicate a positive vision of welcome by promoting the counter-narrative to negative rhetoric and celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary;

- Work with people seeking sanctuary, ensuring that they are not just active participants but are empowered to be part of decision-making processes at all levels and in all activities;

- Promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling the voices of people seeking to be heard directly;

- When possible (if your context allows) mobilise support for campaigns which aim to make a difference to the lives of people seeking sanctuary;

- Facilitate partnership working and network development across places of sanctuary and support collaboration on common cause issues.
Charter – 2022-205

- Vision & Values remain the same
- Network principles - more specific about mobilising and promoting the counter-narrative
- Recognition of the ‘networks’
- Included a summary of our theory of change
- Clarity of terminology
- Clear on the organisations strategic objective
- Included the newer networks – Sanctuary Ambassadors & Local Authority
City of Sanctuary UK Strategic Objectives

- Provide network coordination and support to the City of Sanctuary network of groups in order to increase the number of groups, bring about an expansion in the activities undertaken and improve the engagement and participation of people seeking sanctuary;
- Facilitate communications across City of Sanctuary networks to share information, promote a positive message of welcome for people seeking sanctuary and enable the voices of people seeking sanctuary to be heard directly;
- Develop and promote Streams of Sanctuary and awards work in order to embed the message of welcome within mainstream spheres of society and ensure that people seeking sanctuary are engaged, and can participate, in streams and awards initiatives;
- Contribute towards movement building through building partnerships, ensuring the participation of people seeking sanctuary and mobilising support for advocacy and campaigning initiatives.
Reflections ...

What is our future story?
What do we achieve the change we want to see?
Where should City of Sanctuary UK focus their efforts and their resources?
Thank you – Solidarity with People Seeking Sanctuary