

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR VISION: SOCIAL CONTACT → MOVEMENT BUILDING

To achieve our vision we contribute to building a strong and widespread movement of welcome

How do we create change at a micro level?

City of Sanctuary UK and its networks are building a culture of welcome and facilitating friendship and solidarity.

How do we create change at a macro level?

City of Sanctuary UK and its networks are working collaboratively with mainstream organisations and migration sector partnerships to build the movement.

We achieve this by practically applying our network principles *

Turning compassion into action:

Facilitating connections to build friendships, solidarity, inspiring people to take action.



Mobilising behind campaigns:

Facilitating and inspiring more people to become involved in promoting welcome, which builds public support for policy and practice changes.

Micro level example

Macro level example



When hundreds of people seeking asylum were housed in Penally barracks, Pembrokeshire, the community came together to offer support and friendship. The government wanted hostility, but this community made sure that love won.

In 2015 after much public pressure, the government agreed to implement a resettlement scheme for Syrian refugees. The Syrian conflict also led to a huge grassroots response across the UK, a 'revolution of generosity', that saw our networks grow considerably.



NETWORK PRINCIPLES*



THE CHANGES WE WANT TO SEE

1. Create opportunities for friendship and solidarity between people living in receiving communities and people seeking sanctuary
2. Communicate a positive vision of welcome by promoting the counter-narrative to negative rhetoric whilst celebrating the contribution of people seeking sanctuary
3. Work with people seeking sanctuary ensuring that they are not just active participants but are part of all decision making processes
4. Promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling the voices of people seeking to be heard directly
5. When possible mobilise support for campaigns which aim to make a difference to the lives of people seeking sanctuary
6. Facilitate partnership working and network development across places of sanctuary and collaborate on common cause issues.

As part of our commitment to building a movement, City of Sanctuary UK aims to mobilise supporters and work with others to build a united voice to advocate for change.

We are a member of the Together With Refugees coalition which is calling for a more effective, fair and humane approach to supporting people seeking sanctuary. The changes we want to see:

1. People can seek safety in the UK, no matter how they came here
2. People can live in dignity while they wait to hear if they can stay
3. A fairer, faster and more efficient system to decide whether people will be granted protection
4. People seeking sanctuary and their local communities can build better futures together. Local councils that host refugees should be adequately supported.

