City of Sanctuary UK will be holding an exciting Sanctuary in Maternity Course for people who have sought sanctuary (as refugees or asylum-seekers) and have experience accessing maternity services in the UK. Over the course of 6 weeks, we will hold one 2.5 hour session per week online every Wednesday from 10am. This training is completely FREE, with support for digital devices, mobile data and childcare available*. Join the Maternity Stream of Sanctuary team for a fun, inspiring and energising programme to develop your skills and confidence to advocate for yourself and other people seeking sanctuary in the UK as they navigate the maternity system.

What is the Sanctuary in Maternity Course?
This is the first Sanctuary in Maternity Course. It has been designed to be an interactive training course that supports people seeking sanctuary to develop their skills, raise their voices, speak in public and engage with policy makers. The training covers:

- UK Politics and Health Policy-making
- An introduction to the UK maternity system, entitlements to care and ways of political engagement
- Campaigning and advocacy techniques
- Working with the media to promote stories of Sanctuary in Maternity

After completing the training sessions, participants will be expected to complete a final project to demonstrate their learning. This typically revolves around an individual project relating to either public speaking on issues relating to maternity care, or taking action to support people seeking sanctuary as they access care. This project will be developed with the support of a mentor and guidance from the course organisers, with the nature and result of these projects reported in a short summary in advance of the final graduation ceremony.

Why should I apply?
- You will learn about the UK maternity system and ways of political engagement, advocacy and campaigning.
- You will develop confidence in public speaking through expert training and practical exercises; you will better understand how to effectively share your story and advocate for your cause.
- You will be encouraged to become involved with the Maternity Stream of Sanctuary and take an active role in shaping the stream’s direction and activities.
- You will network and build connections with people from across the UK who are also passionate about the rights of people seeking sanctuary accessing maternity care.

City of Sanctuary UK would like to build a network of ‘Sanctuary in Maternity Ambassadors’ who can speak out at public events and in the media about their experiences of accessing maternity care and how care provision can be improved. The Sanctuary in Maternity Course intends to empower people with lived experience to do this. Therefore, we are asking participants not just to attend a one-off training, but to commit to a more long-term engagement with the Maternity Stream of Sanctuary.
This is a unique opportunity to develop skills and confidence to network proactively within a maternity setting. The long term goal is that UK maternity services become more welcoming and holistically safe for people seeking sanctuary.

Who should apply?

- People with experience accessing maternity services in the UK as a person seeking sanctuary. This can include partners and doulas.
- People who are passionate about improving maternity services for people seeking sanctuary.
- People from across the UK - we are keen to have a broad scope of applicants from all areas of the country.
- People with a good level of English.
- City of Sanctuary is dedicated to promoting equality and diversity and will not discriminate amongst applicants on the basis of pregnancy, age, gender, sexuality, race, disability or religion.

Interested in applying? Want to learn more?

You can apply by completing this online application form. If you need help completing the application form, please contact Megan Greenwood at megan@uk.cityofsanctuary.org.

*Data top ups to access sessions can be provided. Barriers such as childcare and access to electronic devices will be discussed on an individual basis with successful applicants.