



City of Sanctuary

Creating a culture of **welcome** and **belonging**



City of Sanctuary UK supports a widespread network of over 100 towns, cities, villages and local communities committed to the vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all, and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

The network is spread across the UK and is actively working towards this vision through every sphere and sector of society including schools and colleges, faith groups, sports and arts centres, community and political groups, businesses and health centres. We know that refugees have a lot to offer and a desire to contribute to society, and we want to help realise that potential for the good of all.



www.cityofsanctuary.org

The network is made up of groups and organisations with supporters from all walks of life, including many asylum seekers and refugees, who share the **City of Sanctuary network principles** which are to:

- 🚪 Offer a positive vision of a culture of welcome and hospitality to all;
- 🚪 Create opportunities for relationships of friendship and solidarity between local people and those seeking sanctuary;
- 🚪 Recognise and encourage partnership working and network development;
- 🚪 Identify opportunities for working on common cause issues within and across communities;
- 🚪 Celebrate and promote the welcome and contribution of people seeking sanctuary;
- 🚪 Engage people seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities;
- 🚪 Promote understanding of asylum and refugee issues, especially by enabling refugee voices to be heard directly.

We aim to contribute to building an ever broader social movement to ensure that all people seeking sanctuary within the UK are made welcome in our countries and that the aspirations of the **Birmingham Declaration** become a reality. The core principles in the Declaration are:

- 🚪 All asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be treated with dignity and respect.
- 🚪 A fair and effective process to decide whether people need protection should be in place.
- 🚪 No one should be locked up indefinitely.
- 🚪 No one should be left sick or destitute in our society.
- 🚪 We should welcome the stranger and help them to integrate

If you are passionate about creating welcoming communities built on fairness and equality, we'd love you to join us.

To Get Involved in Winchester City of Sanctuary or to find out more:

Contact Us at:

<https://cityofsanctuary.org/about/groups> or via info@winchester.cityofsanctuary.org

Find out more:

www.facebook.com/cityofsanctuary

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Winchester recognized as a University of Sanctuary. Image courtesy University of Winchester