



# City of Sanctuary

**Welcome to the 2019 South-East Regional Gathering!**





**Sian Summers-Rees:** Chief Officer

**Colleen Molloy:** National Development Officer

**Ben Margolis:** Deputy Director and regional coordinator

**Forward Maisokwadzo:** Communications officer

**Nawal Careem:** Web site and communications officer

**Joanna Spooner:** Finance and Administration officer

**Sara Trehwitt:** Yorkshire and Humber coordinator

**Sam Slatcher:** North-East Coordinator

**Nicola Walters:** South-West Coordinator

**Gün Orgun:** Scotland Coordinator

**Jeff Morgan:** North-West Coordinator



## **Growing network:**

More than 115 City of Sanctuary groups all over the UK with new groups forming and joining

## **Groups in the South-East:**

Brent, Brighton&Hove, Croydon, Crystal Palace, East Hoathly and Halland, East Kent, Elmbridge, Epsom, Hastings, Lewisham, Medway, Oxford, Reading, Southwark, Sutton, St Albans

Camden, Greenwich, Hackney, Wandsworth

# City of Sanctuary charter



## Values

▮ Inclusiveness

▮ Openness

▮ Participation

▮ Inspiring

▮ Integrity

## Principles

▮ Culture of welcome for all

▮ Relationships of friendship and solidarity

▮ Working in partnership

▮ Turning empathy into action

▮ Engage people seeking sanctuary in decision-making at all levels

## Turning principles into action

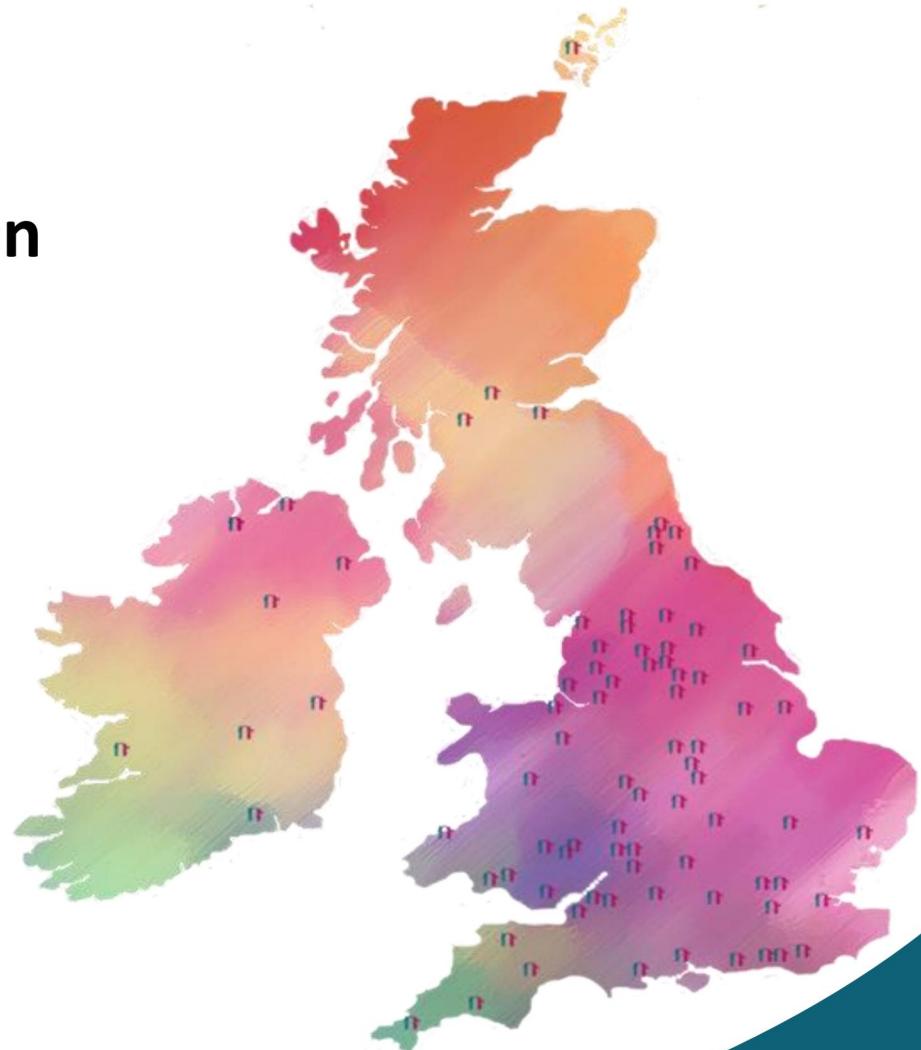
Network Voice

Sanctuary in Politics

AGM and conference 2019

Streams update

Campaigning



## Network Voice

• 2018 AGM

• Commitment to increase the meaningful participation and decision-making of people seeking sanctuary in the CoS network

• Bristol meeting in April 2019

• Established the Operational Advisory Group

• Input to our Theory of Change



# THEORY OF CHANGE - Social Contact → Movement Building

We maintain that in order to achieve our vision and realise the change needed to make the UK more welcoming we contribute to building the movement by encouraging and inspiring more new people to become involved in promoting welcome.

## Micro level - Social Contact Theory

- How we create change at a local or regional level?

### WHO:

CoS UK through providing support for the network and the network itself:-

1. CoS groups (and then their local network of pledged supporters - both individuals and organisations)
2. Streams of Sanctuary e.g. schools, universities

## Macro level - Movement Building

- How we create change at a UK level?

### WHO:

CoS UK working with:-

1. CoS groups
2. Streams (see separate strategy for details)
3. Partnerships including mass membership organisations
4. Refugee Sector partnerships/coalition campaigns

**HOW: Through the practical application of our network principles\***

### Turning empathy into action i.e. relationships of solidarity

**Connecting people** through welcoming activities and streams of sanctuary. This encourages friendships, changes attitudes and motivates action for positive change.



### Involving people in campaigning and advocacy

**Movement building** by engaging the mainstream through streams activities and **Sanctuary Awards** and mobilising the network behind campaigning and advocacy initiatives.

#### Micro level examples



Mrs Y (a destitute asylum seeker) meets Mrs B at a knitting club (a welcoming activity). As Mrs B learns from Mrs Y about her journey and unmet need for protection she becomes inspired to get involved in campaigning activities.

A teacher/librarian/nurse (streams work) meets Abdul at an awareness session and learns more about the asylum system, and is motivated to stand in solidarity for a humane asylum process.

Mr A who fled persecution befriends Mr B at a local community centre. When Mr A is refused asylum and detained, Mr B is so outraged, that he writes to his MP.

#### Macro level examples

In 2015, after much public pressure, the UK Government agreed to implement a resettlement programme for Syrian refugees allowing 20,000 to be located in the UK by 2020. The Syrian situation also led to a large grassroots response across the UK and as a result of this 'revolution of generosity' our network has grown considerably.



The public response to the Windrush scandal forced the government to re-examine its Home Office policies and procedures.



# City of Sanctuary

# Schools of Sanctuary

- National Steering Group
- Over 250 schools listed on the CoS website
- New resource pack to be ready by the end of 2020 including minimum criteria and guidelines
- SoS workshops and consultations run in Yorkshire, Liverpool, Birmingham and soon in London and the SW



## Universities of Sanctuary

- Currently 14 Universities of Sanctuary with many more in the process of applying
- First Universities of Sanctuary conference held in York on September 4
- National Steering Group to develop the strategy, build partnership and support appraisals
- Updated resource pack printed and distributed
- Article 26 legacy and updated website

## Shops of Sanctuary

- Pilot run with Oxfam in Yorkshire which is now going to be rolled out nationally
- Working on materials with the Oxfam Trading division which will be ready soon
- Not limited to Oxfam – which other shops should we be working with?



## Gardens of Sanctuary

- Partnership with Social Farms & Gardens and the Permaculture Association
- Interest from gardens all over the UK
- Ran a training session in Northern Ireland and potentially one in Birmingham



## Sanctuary in the Arts

- New resource pack
- Margaret Fingerhut concert series
- Awards for a growing number of theatres, theatre companies, museums and many others. Interest from festivals including Hay-on-Wye.
- Updating the website



## Libraries of Sanctuary

- Resource pack to be ready by the end of 2019
- Working with the West Midlands and Greater Manchester library services and potential to roll out to all libraries in the UK
- Jiscmail e-mail list for communications
- Focus on creating safe spaces, awareness-raising and service provision

## Faith stream of Sanctuary

- Now being led by Sian Summers-Rees
- Meetings with senior leaders in the Church of England, Misorti Jewish community, inter-faith groups and others
- Involvement with the Churches of Sanctuary conference
- Putting together a steering group
- Plan to update the website

## Local Authorities

- ▮ Paper being developed by Ben and Sara Trewhitt – welcome your contributions
- ▮ What is a ‘City of Sanctuary?’
- ▮ Wider and deeper engagement from Local Authorities – exciting but a challenge

# Campaigning priorities

How do we counter the hostile environment?

- ▮ Asylum Matters
- ▮ What can CoS groups do to put the pressure on local and national government for our key campaigning priorities?
- ▮ Sanctuary in Parliament (2018 event there were 45+ MPs engaged including Ministers)



## Sanctuary in Politics Courses

- Courses run in Preston, Bristol and Durham
- The aim is to raise the voices of people seeking sanctuary and support them with the tools to create change in their own communities and further afield
- Each participant has a follow-on project...in some cases this has involved starting new CoS groups!
- Fantastic feedback and hoping to run further courses in 2020



## And finally...



- Database and online award applications
- Solidarity and joint actions with the 'climate movement'
- Course development with 'The Forgiveness Project'
- Input to the Global Refugee Forum

■ Any questions?

Time	Activity	Speaker / facilitator
10:00	Registration	
<b>LEARN: Welcome and Experts by Experience</b>		
10:30	Welcome to Hastings	Jane Grimshaw (Hastings CoS)
	Regional coordinator update	Ben Margolis (CoS UK)
	Keynote speaker	Alex Ntung
11:15	Panel of experts by experience: What does effective engagement and meaningful participation look like?	Rossana Leal (Hastings Buddy Project), Oscar Serrano, Olivia Namutebi (Women for Refugee Women)
11:45	Roundtables: Learning and sharing discussion	
12:30	Lunch	[Social media and photographs]
<b>EMBED: Local Authorities, Streams and Awards, Campaigning</b>		
13:20	Overview of the session	Ben Margolis (CoS UK)
	Using Sanctuary Streams and Awards	Frederika Treeby (East Kent Schools of Sanctuary); Susan Grace & John Roche (Newman Catholic College)
	Working with Local Authorities	Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Lewisham Borough Council); Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network
	Running the Lift the Ban campaign	Alex Kempton & Jay Kramer (Hastings CoS)
14:00	Group discussions (World Cafe format)	
15:00	Break	
<b>SHARE: Think like a Network; Act like a Movement</b>		
15:20	Video & Feedback	
	Group photo	
15:30	Mapping the network and small group discussions	
16:00	Close and networking	



# Experts by Experience: What does effective and meaningful participation look like?

↳ **Rossana Leal:** Hastings Buddy Project

↳ **Oscar Serrano**

↳ **Olivia Namutebi:** Women for Refugee Women

[Surviving to Thriving Film](#)

# Embedding Sanctuary

- )n Overview of the session: Ben Margolis (CoS UK)
- )n Using Sanctuary Streams and Awards: Frederika Treeby (East Kent Schools of Sanctuary); Susan Grance (Newman Catholic College)
- )n Working with Local Authorities: Cllr Kevin Bonavia (Lewisham Borough Council); Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network
- )n Campaigning: Alex Kempton & Jay Kramer (Hastings CoS)

