



# City of Sanctuary

Annual Report 2014



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# City of Sanctuary

City of Sanctuary is a movement of local people and community groups in towns and cities across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. We are committed to creating a culture of welcome and safety, especially for refugees seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

We want to build this culture across every sphere and sector of society.

Wherever refugees go, we want them to feel safe and find people who welcome them.

## Network Coordinator's Report

2014 was a year of seismic changes in the world, Europe, the voluntary and refugee sector and the political backdrop. The centenary of World War 1 brought the inglorious statistic that the number of people forced to flee their homes across the world has exceeded 50 million, with bitter conflicts raging in Syria, Ukraine, Gaza, and Central Africa, and frightening numbers fleeing for safety being lost in the Mediterranean. While so many corners of the world face the daily dread of oppression, injustice and terror, European nations have responded by strengthening borders and raising walls, justifying their stance through the rhetoric of fear-driven xenophobia.

As an organisation built on networks, partnerships and relationships, City of Sanctuary has naturally been affected by these changes. The political backdrop to our core value of welcoming and including those seeking safety has never been more fractious; large sections of the refugee sector have suffered severe cutbacks as government contracts are shrunk and re-shaped. At the same time, this period has been one of growth, not just in the number and reach of local groups and streams, but in the visibility, impact, profile and effectiveness of City of Sanctuary within the national scene and beyond. Two years ago, we began to think in terms of being a growing movement, having recognised the signs of movement-building within our own groups and networks. 2014 was a year of recognising the

reach and potential of a much bigger 'sanctuary movement' and our role within that. Two events in particular stand out as moments when we were stretched and reshaped beyond our expectations, and when our wonderful network of local groups and volunteers up and down the country rose magnificently to the challenge. Sanctuary in Parliament and the Sanctuary Summit were watershed moments for us and form the backdrop to City of Sanctuary's story in 2014.

The future is as risky and unknown as ever but I am confident that with the fine teams we have in the trustees, staff and network, we will be able to meet whatever lies ahead. We hope you'll enjoy reading the whole report and that you will be energised and inspired for meeting the adventures and challenges that lie ahead.

Tiffany Allen



Representatives from some local groups on their way to Parliament



# Sanctuary in Parliament

In early summer, a meeting with Sarah Teather, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Refugees, led to the idea of showcasing our work in the Houses of Parliament. The opportunity to bring our local groups to Westminster and put on an event for MPs was a huge challenge, but a very quick consultation brought a really positive response. With less than two months to prepare, we began to work towards the first Sanctuary in Parliament event on 2nd September. This is a summary with some reactions, and pictures:



Many groups met with their MPs

Some wept silently in their seats. Others looked around in awe - that they could walk unchallenged, speak unpunished in this, the Mother of Parliaments. Here were people who had been forced to leave their countries because they dared to speak out against their own leaders. And now, politicians from a foreign country were stopping by to listen to them. The event was sponsored by Sarah Teather MP, with the aim of introducing City of Sanctuary to MPs and allowing the voice of refugees to be heard in Parliament. And that voice was heard, loud and clear. City of Sanctuary representatives from almost 20 cities attended. Many refugees spoke out from the front, while others had conversations with some of the 35 MPs who called in. They spoke of being persecuted, detained and stripped of their dignity - after they fled to the UK. In poetry, drama, and plain English they told how it felt to be at the sharp end of the asylum system - detained like criminals, banned from working, forced to live on charity, afraid that at any moment they could be detained and removed from the UK. By the end, strong new friendships had been forged, MPs had stayed longer than they meant and been visibly touched, and City of Sanctuary had grown in strength, confidence and unity, heartened that we have more supporters and friends than we ever thought possible, and determined to build on the energy, confidence and momentum created by this day.

"I will certainly go away and think about what you have told me today" - MP for High Peak

"I am excited about the next step forward, I have found hope" - Refugee CoS member, Leeds

"The experience of being in parliament will remain with me - I couldn't do this in my own country" - Refugee CoS Member, Bristol

"It was wonderful of my MP to come along to meet me, and he was incredibly supportive, offering any help he could give .... I feel incredibly proud to be part of such a fantastic community of people" - City of Sanctuary Exeter

# The Sanctuary Summit



Along with many partners in the refugee sector, we have been conscious of the need to work together across the refugee sector and be creative in our expression of unity. This came to fruition in 2014 with a series of meetings hosted by our Vice Chair, Jonathan Ellis at British Red Cross, leading to the Sanctuary Summit in Birmingham on 15th November 2014. This event, hosted and sponsored by a coalition of 22 refugee organisations, was a huge encouragement to the sector, and we were proud to be entrusted with the administration and organisation. Here is a news article about the event:

*City of Sanctuary was proud to be one of the key organisers of an unprecedented gathering of refugees, migrants, advocates and supporters from more than 100 civil society organisations across Britain, who voted unanimously to work to stop the tide of negativity facing those who come to our shores. 400 participants at the first ever national 'Sanctuary Summit' declared they could no longer watch in silence as thousands are left to drown while fleeing for their lives, and others find themselves warehoused in refugee camps, barred from travelling to safety in the West.*

*On the day that the England football squad included its first refugee player, the Summit, taking place in Saïdo Berahino's new home city of Birmingham, launched what organisers described as 'a powerful movement for positive change' in the national dialogue on immigration.*

*"Let's reclaim the centre ground of political debate with empathy, compassion and common sense," urged Refugee Council Chief Executive Maurice Wren. "Working together we'll drive those who denigrate and demonise migrants to the extremes where they belong."*



After hearing a message of support from the Archbishop of York, the Summit went on to commit itself to forming a broad alliance to protect those to whom the Right Reverend John Sentamu referred to as being among the most vulnerable in society. One of the highlights of the event was the appearance of the Glasgow Girls, whose feisty campaign to defend their refugee friends has been celebrated in a popular musical.

The Summit saw the launch of the "Birmingham Declaration", which is continuing to gather endorsement and support from all over the country.



400 people attended the first Sanctuary Summit in November



The launch of the Summit

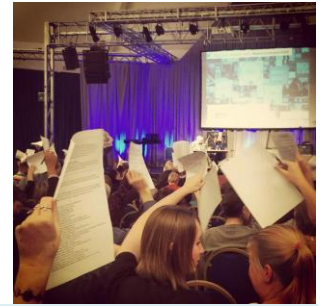


Delegates split into workshops, including this one on detention

# The Birmingham Declaration

The Birmingham Declaration was launched at the Sanctuary Summit 2014. It is a statement of principles and asks. Organisations are asked to sign up that they agree to these principles. Over 300 organisations from every part of UK have already signed, and, inspired by what they heard in Birmingham, our Waterford group has been working on an Irish Declaration.

To sign up to the Birmingham Declaration on behalf of your organisation, please contact [sanctuarysummit2014@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuarysummit2014@gmail.com)



Delegates at the Sanctuary Summit voting to support the Birmingham Declaration

## THE BIRMINGHAM DECLARATION

### **1. All asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be treated with dignity and respect.**

We ask that the debate on immigration is conducted with care for the dignity of people who are vulnerable, who do not have a voice in the public domain and who have to suffer the consequences of inaccurate and inflammatory language. We appeal to all politicians and to the media to conduct the pre-election debate responsibly, sticking to the facts and bearing these principles in mind.

### **2. A fair and effective process to decide whether people need protection should be in place.**

We ask for a high standard of decision making on refugee protection cases. After years of very public failure, we demand a system that is fair and efficient and ensures protection for those who need it. People should have access to good quality legal advice and representation during the process, publicly funded when they are unable to pay. Not everyone is entitled to refugee status in Britain, but they are entitled to a fair process to determine if they are in need of protection.

### **3. No one should be locked up indefinitely.**

We seek an end to the indefinite detention of asylum seekers and migrants. No one should be deprived of their liberty with no judicial oversight. Indefinite detention is unacceptable, costly and ineffective. We ask for a reasonable time limit to be introduced and other safeguards put in place to ensure the lawfulness and fairness within the system.

### **4. No one should be left sick or destitute in our society.**

It cannot be right that people are left destitute in modern Britain, banned from working but denied support. Until they are granted protection and can work, asylum seekers should receive sufficient support to meet their essential living needs while in the UK. We are asking that those whose cases have taken more than six months to resolve, or who have been refused but are unable to return home, should receive permission to work. All of them should be allowed free access to NHS services

### **5. We should welcome the stranger and help them to integrate.**

People should integrate, and we should help them to do so. We are asking for support for asylum seekers to be welcomed and befriended on arrival. To help them integrate and participate in the local community they should be able to learn English, with free tuition provided where needed.

We make a commitment to take action on these principles and asks together and translate them into collaborative actions in our organisations and communities locally and nationally in the run up to the next general elections and beyond.



# Other Highlights of the Year

City of Sanctuary local groups and the network team have had a really busy 2014. While the basic message and mission remains the same - creating, sustaining and promoting spaces of welcome and inclusion for refugees and asylum seekers – the context and environment are much more hostile, affecting refugees at all stages of the asylum process. Government funds for all areas of support including reception, advice and legal assistance have shrunk, with much of the work done over the phone by a single provider. These reductions impact on drop-ins and other places where volunteers have to fill gaps they are not trained, equipped or resourced for.



Regional meetings held in York and Birmingham proved very useful forums for sharing good practice and ideas for overcoming the fresh sets of challenges being thrown up in local areas.

Liverpool, Wakefield, Cardiff, Glasgow and Birmingham are all home to Initial Accommodation centres, and we have remained in touch with these centres, with some of our volunteers involved in welcome and befriending activities for newcomers. The map of dispersal cities put up in Wakefield is to be replicated in Liverpool and Cardiff in 2015. And the basic message about the importance of welcoming newcomers to their new city has been taken on by groups all over the country, often in very creative ways. Sheffield is working in partnership with the Mulberry Practice Medical Centre, with City of Sanctuary taking a team of volunteers to welcome new arrivals who are awaiting appointments and go with them to the Wednesday drop-in. Meet and Travel Together in Leeds services the entire region with the small but vital act of meeting asylum seekers at the station and travelling with them to their Home Office interview at Waterside Court.



This is the wall map at Urban House Initial Accommodation centre, Wakefield, which helps asylum seekers get a picture of their dispersal destination.

Meanwhile, the shared goal of informing and involving people and organisations from outside the sector has continued to draw out amazing creativity in many places. The play 'Refugee Boy', along with its 'wraparound' of awareness raising and refugee involvement, toured to nine cities, all with City of Sanctuary involvement. Two new one-act plays, 'Nine Lives' and 'Sanctum', have been very well received in mainstream circles, and Opera North has opened up the magical, mystical world of opera to hundreds of refugees and asylum seekers, not only through free tickets to the opera, but also through workshops run at refugee centres and drop-ins.

The City of Sanctuary network of local groups has continued to grow and we now have around 40 groups across the network. The network is supported by visits, consultations, the website and regular newsletters sharing good practice, new resources, new national reports, updates on figures and engagement in campaigns etc. across the network.

It is impossible to give a comprehensive overview in this report, but please do check our website and look out for the newsletters we produce, which will be showing snapshots of each region during the rest of this year. Here are a few highlights from some groups:



Ireland is now an established and important part of our network, with 2014 seeing Dublin and Causeway launched, Belfast and Derry building on the networks formed over the past two years, and Waterford making a great start. Other new groups include Reading, Loughborough, Gateshead and Barnsley. Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary has been revived – not least due to several women coming to together in response to a call through local networks to support a newly dispersed asylum seeker about to give birth. A steering group has formed and plans are underway to set up a weekly drop-in – a need identified by the local Refugee and Migrant Centre.

Other groups are basing activities and campaigns around reporting centres; these centres are often places where asylum seekers feel alone and vulnerable as they go to be interviewed or to sign. In Loughborough the newly formed group has launched a welcome project, with considerable local support, around the East Midlands Reporting Centre. They are meeting very isolated asylum seekers and have helped connect them to services in their “home” cities of Leicester, Derby and Nottingham. This reflects good regional cooperation and networking. Sunderland has established an annual walk of solidarity to the reporting centre in North Shields, and the Meet and Travel scheme in Leeds has been shared with Liverpool and Cardiff.

Newcastle and Cardiff both received national recognition as Cities of Sanctuary, testimony to great work done by the local steering groups and the wider sector. Newcastle celebrated the award with a well-attended gathering hosted by the council and entertained by schools and choirs of sanctuary, while Cardiff has built on its solid foundation, branching out into several new streams and recently, along with Swansea, winning a substantial lottery grant to help build Wales as a nation of sanctuary.

## Listening and Mapping Exercise

During 2014 we had an opportunity for an external review which pinpointed some areas we need to give priority to. One of these areas was communications across the network. We felt that in order to improve the way we work and serve our local groups, we need to have a clear picture of our local groups, presented in an accessible way so that all groups can benefit from this body of information.

With this in mind, the national staff team invited local groups to participate with us in a 'listening and mapping exercise'. This is a chance to hear what is working well and where groups need help or guidance. We began a series of phone calls and meetings with 6 broad headings for discussion:

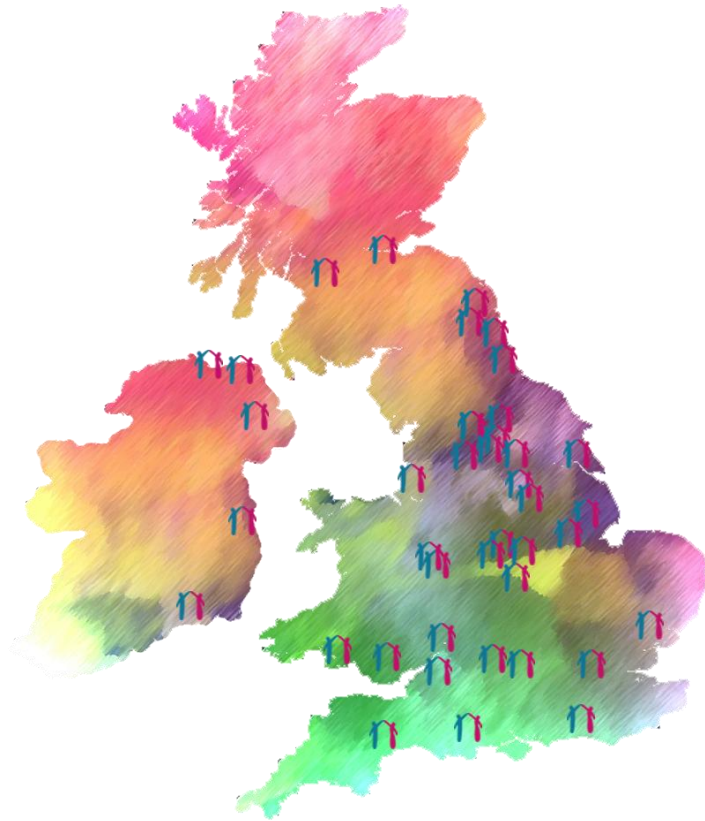
1. Vision, aims and activities of the group
2. Local group history, structure and governance
3. Finance, paid staff and volunteers
4. National network and organisation
5. Website, social media and communications
6. Streams of Sanctuary and awards

The exercise is about half way through at the time of writing, and we're hopeful it will help local groups, which remain the life-blood of City of Sanctuary. The listening will be continuing through shared discussions and reflection at the AGM.



Participants of the walk from Sunderland Minster to the North Shields reporting centre during Refugee Week

# Map of Local Groups



## Local Groups

Birmingham, Bradford,  
Brighton, Bristol, Belfast,  
Barnsley, Causeway,  
Coventry, Cardiff, Derby,  
Derry, Doncaster, Dublin,  
Edinburgh, Exeter,  
Gloucester, Glasgow,  
Hackney, Huddersfield,  
Hull, Ipswich, Leeds,  
Leicester, Lincoln,  
Liverpool, Loughborough,  
Manchester, Newcastle,  
Nottingham, Oxford,  
Reading, Sheffield,  
Southampton, Sunderland,  
Swansea, Tees Valley,  
Wakefield, Waterford,  
Wolverhampton, York

## The Wider Picture and City of Sanctuary's Role in Campaigning

Statistics and superlatives have a short life span when it comes to refugees. The 'worst refugee crisis since World War 2' – the conflict in Syria – has continued to dominate the headlines, with solutions seeming less visible than ever and the number of people who have had to flee their homes estimated at 10 million. The global and European response to World War 2 was the Geneva Refugee Convention; in 2014, however, the current crisis on the doorstep of Europe is evoking a much more mixed and muted response.

The numbers of refugees accepted annually in the UK under the UNHCR resettlement scheme has stood at 750 for some years now; the Syria crisis led to an urgent appeal for the developed world to accept small numbers of the most vulnerable from the bulging refugee camps in the Middle East. The UK government initially refused to take part in this scheme, but at the start of 2014 we were proud to be part of a broad coalition which successfully campaigned for a reversal of that decision, and so the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme was introduced with the assurance that UK cities would allocate resettlement places to 'several hundred' over a few years. The tangible results in 2014 were small, with just over 150 resettled in a few places. However, we have been working with Refugee Council, Amnesty International, Citizens UK and many other groups to keep the agenda alive and as 2015 begins, we are seeing local groups work with local councils to send a simple message to the Home Office: we want to welcome a group of resettled Syrians here. This is a campaign that has reached far beyond the 'usual suspects' and we are confident that it will be something that grows in support and reach during the months and years ahead as local communities see beyond austerity and respond to a deep sense of common humanity. We are very proud to be connected with Coventry, Bradford, Sheffield, Hull, Glasgow and Manchester – all involved with resettlement of



refugees, some under the Syrian VPR scheme, and we are encouraged about progress for future schemes in several other locations.

This Syria campaign is one of several we have been involved in – some local, some national. These include our support for the detention inquiry, the right to work campaign, end asylum destitution, and protection of rights for healthcare and ESOL. Local groups are often involved in campaigns to support individual asylum seekers. We believe it is important for us to be involved in these campaigns and, especially through our National Communications Officer, hope to be able to resource and support local groups. Nationally our preference is to support and promote campaigns started by other organisations such as Refugee Action, Red Cross, Refugee Council.

National trustees have come up with a statement aiming to encapsulate our position regarding campaigns:

“City of Sanctuary does not lead on single issue campaigns but we convene and collate nationally, via and with other agencies, and will seek to respond appropriately to requests for help, advice or publicity from local groups involved in campaigns.”

## Our National Team

City of Sanctuary is enormously grateful to its supporters and funders, without whom we would be unable to do this important work. We now have new national staff on the team: Joanna, who is providing much needed administrative back-up to all we do, and Rose, who is focusing on Streams of Sanctuary. Our team of volunteers has been enhanced by Nawal, who created the Sanctuary Summit website and helps with communications. The trustee group has grown and several trustees are now giving significant hours every week, working alongside staff and other volunteers. We are very excited about welcoming Forward Maisokwadzo, one of the key architects of Bristol City of Sanctuary, to the national team in April 2015, when he will begin as National Communications Officer. The staff team will look like this from April 2015:

Tiffany Allen – Network Coordinator

Colleen Molloy – National Development Officer

Joanna Spooner – Administration and Finance Officer

Rose McCarthy - National Streams of Sanctuary Coordinator

Forward Maisokwadzo – National Communications Officer

Mina Nielsen – Website Developer

Nawal Careem- Volunteer: Communications, Summit Website and Administration

# Streams of Sanctuary

'Streams of Sanctuary' is the name we have been using to describe sanctuary activities in particular sectors which transcend local boundaries, rather like streams connecting several places, and it is also used by some groups simply to describe subgroups in a particular activity. It is now the basis of a national project which aims to facilitate, catalyse and promote these activities, while recognising the initiatives that will arise from local groups.

Through the Streams of Sanctuary, we hope that local groups will be able to establish awareness raising and welcome in the wider community, sometimes using awards as an incentive and benchmark to make these values embedded and sustainable within the organisation or institute involved. We are in the process of evaluating the success of awards, but whether streams use awards or not, it is uplifting to find groups which do not normally engage with the refugee sector reaching out to be welcoming and inclusive. Here are some highlights from streams during 2014:

## Schools of Sanctuary

We believe that a well-coordinated programme of awareness raising tools for young people can be one of the cornerstones of changing the hearts and minds of the nation towards a better understanding of refugees. Schools of Sanctuary was the first stream and there are groups in 14 cities, with 9 others interested in setting up a group. 20 schools and 2 colleges have been officially awarded as 'Schools of Sanctuary,' and over 30 schools are working towards an award. Students at Lawnswood Secondary school in Leeds have made two short films which can be seen on the website. In Bristol, a schools conference was linked with the religious education curriculum and focused on how faith sustains people.

One of the major successes of the schools stream has been the production of and interest shown in the good quality national schools resource pack, available from the website. This pack has attracted interest as far away as Sweden. With Schools of

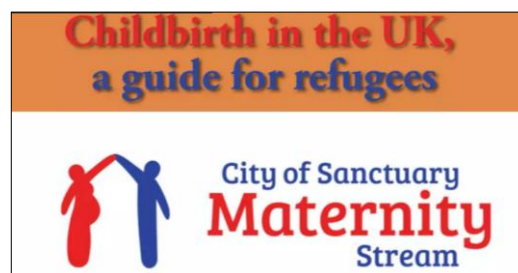


Sanctuary highlighted in Parliament, we are seeing an increase in the call to be welcoming and inclusive coming from children through Schools of Sanctuary.

## Maternity and Health Streams

At our AGM this year we were very proud to present REACHE from Salford with the first Health Service of Sanctuary award, in recognition of their work with refugee doctors to equip them to practice in the UK. Other service providers in health and maternity are now working toward the award and improving their services as a result.

The Maternity Stream launched two films this year, at the first Excellence in Maternity Care Conference, hosted by Bradford University. The Maternity Group also won an impressive international award recognizing their excellent practice of empowering women to tell their own stories. The films are available on our website and have been sent to schools of midwifery and medical schools.



The Maternity stream videos are available on our website



## Arts Stream

We believe that the Arts offer immense scope for expressions of sanctuary, awareness raising, support and lobbying and we're excited about ways this stream may develop through all forms of the Arts. Different ideas are springing up in different cities and for different age groups such as Sanctuary choirs, Songs for Sanctuary, Musicians for Sanctuary, dance and drama sanctuary workshops, photographic and art displays, as well as books on sanctuary. Some groups have a volunteer to coordinate the various activities in a city and to ensure that free tickets to shows or operas are available to refugees.

Building on from their award as the first Theatre of Sanctuary, we have been working with the West Yorkshire Playhouse (WYP) to roll out the play 'Refugee Boy' to nine theatres, with City of Sanctuary providing awareness raising to audiences in the local area. WYP also commissioned the play 'Nine Lives,' the moving story of an asylum seeker in Leeds. We are currently working on promoting this play in several other cities, beginning with London and Liverpool.



An extract of 'Nine Lives' was shown at the Sanctuary in Parliament event (picture credit: Zodwa Nyoni)

'Sanctuary' was the name of a theatre piece created in Northern Ireland which toured 6 venues, reaching and touching many audiences completely new to the concept. Half the cast had been through the asylum process. Our Northern Ireland groups were involved in hosting and promoting the event.

In Leicester, The Journeys Festival, celebrating refugee artists and telling stories of journeys to sanctuary is now an established part of the city's annual August festival season.

Our work in the Arts is underpinned by an important relationship with Counterpoint Arts, and we look forward to working with them more around Refugee Week and a whole vista of sanctuary artistic expressions.

## Faiths Stream

City of Sanctuary was promoted by Helen, one of our trustees, at a Cathedrals conference in September, paving the way for Derby to become the first Cathedral of Sanctuary. The cathedral is one of eight local churches which, through Churches Together, raise £70,000 a year, have over 250 volunteers from a variety of faiths and provide a night shelter, hot meal, English classes and games for the homeless in Derby. As a result, 2014 was the first year no one died homeless on the streets of Derby.



Derby Cathedral was awarded as the first Cathedral of Sanctuary in 2014

Several of our groups have hosted a 'Help there is an asylum seeker in my church' conference, a programme being run by The Boaz Trust. We also attended the Churches Refugee Network conference and are pleased to be linked to this key national group. Meanwhile we are filling our Faiths Stream page with resources for all faith groups.

## Other Streams, Themes and Campaigns

We are currently working on a web page which will list resources and connections for all the identified streams and campaigns that are of interest to our groups, with new titles emerging around Destitution, Detention, the Syria campaign, LGBT and much more.

## Chair's Report

2014 was perhaps the most exciting year for City of Sanctuary yet. Our network of local groups continues to expand, together with our work on 'Streams of Sanctuary', while we have been catapulted into the public eye with the first 'Sanctuary in Parliament' event in September and as the facilitator of the national 'sanctuary alliance' which promoted the very successful 'Sanctuary Summit' in Birmingham in November.

At the last AGM in January we elected new trustees to give us an even more strengthened board, from 13 different cities and including people with special interests in the schools, maternity, faith and arts streams, and an increase in the number of refugees to five. During the year five trustees retired (Jim Stewart, Mick Walker, Forward Maisokwadzo, Justin Nsengiyumva and Rose McCarthy). We were able to co-opt three new trustees: Melanie Cooper from Bradford, thus maintaining the special interest in maternity previously covered by Rose; Carolyn Beatty from Bristol, thus continuing representation from that city; and Rodrigo Edema from Sheffield, reaffirming our strong links with the birthplace of City of Sanctuary and also keeping up the number of refugees on the Board.

During 2014 we held three face-to-face trustee meetings after the AGM; a residential away day in Derbyshire, and two all-day meetings in Leeds and Birmingham. We also used a great deal of phone, Skype and email consultation. We instituted an Executive Committee whose membership comprised our four officers (Alan Thomas – Chair; Jonathan Ellis – Vice-Chair; Gary Shaw – Treasurer; and Jeni Vine – Secretary) plus the Network Coordinator, Tiffy Allen, which held regular formally minuted meetings by telephone conference, reducing the need for formal eMeetings of all Trustees.

## Trustee Sub-Groups

### Development & Fundraising

Throughout the year we continued to use the Action Plan first presented at the 2012 AGM as the basis for our fund-raising efforts. This conceptualised our work as:

**Core ('movement building')** including:

- continuing to support and develop our network of local groups to cover a large proportion of UK towns and cities
- communicating our vision of a culture of welcome at a national level
- Streams of Sanctuary

We started the year having already obtained two new grants: one for project funds from Unbound Philanthropy for two years' work on Streams of Sanctuary, starting in January 2014; the other a three year grant of £40,000 per year from Tudor Trust which started in September 2013. During the year we were successful in obtaining a second small grant of £10,000 over two years from Allen Lane Foundation, following a previous grant over the period 2011-12, and a second major grant from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, of £30,000 per year from three years, following the previous three-year grant which expired in March 2014. The new grant from Esmée Fairbairn included funds for a part-time National Communications Officer and was to start early in 2015, as soon as we had recruited to this post. In addition we had other



minor sources of income, including a continuing small fund for the Maternity Stream of Sanctuary and several small contributions to the costs of the Sanctuary Summit. Overall, we have been successful in increasing our annual budget from what had been £48,000 in 2012 to almost £100,000 by the end of 2014.

We are planning to produce a new Action Plan for the next three years and to check priorities for future fund-raising with the broad City of Sanctuary network at the 2015 AGM. In addition to seeking further major grant funding, and continuation funding from current funders, we are looking at ways of increasing unrestricted income.

## Human Resources and Employment

This group works with the Network Coordinator to recruit, support and line manage staff and volunteers. The small group has been increased this year and ensures that policies and practice are in accordance with legal requirements. The group is enhanced by Jeff Morgan who, with his background in Occupational Health, offers regular occupational health checks to all team members, including trustees.

We are moving towards an Executive Chair and clear management roles for some trustees. We also want to develop the idea of mentoring, especially for newer and/or refugee trustees.

## National Appraisal Committee (Sanctuary Awards & Criteria)

We have continued with the three-part framework described in the January 2013 paper *Developing a Culture of Welcome*, which:

- (i) provided for Sanctuary Awards for all kinds of institutions such as schools, health providers, theatres, museums etc.;
- (ii) laid out revised formal criteria and the process for becoming recognised as a City of Sanctuary and then periodically undertaking a review;
- (iii) outlined the baseline commitment expected of all groups.



Cardiff was one of the cities recognised as a City of Sanctuary in 2014

There continues to be discussion about the sanctuary awards system within the City of Sanctuary network and the extent to which there should be national oversight and standards, as opposed to local award-making, using locally appropriate criteria. This is another area where we will consult the whole City of Sanctuary network at the 2015 AGM.

## List of trustees continuing into 2015

Alan Thomas (Chair) - Swansea  
Andrew White (Treasurer) – Southampton  
Caroline Beatty – Bristol  
Dennis Minnis – Birmingham  
Eddie Ralston – London / Schools  
Gary Shaw (Treasurer) – resigned 1 March 2015  
Helen Moore – York / Faith  
Herbert Dirahu – Newcastle  
Jeff Morgan – Manchester / Health  
Jeni Vine (Secretary) - Sheffield

John Mellor – Ripon  
Jonathan Ellis (Vice Chair) – London  
Mel Cooper – Bradford / Maternity  
Nacera Harkati – Sheffield  
Rachel Farrier - Edinburgh  
Rodrigo Edema – Sheffield  
Roger Nyantou – Leeds

# Financial Report

<b>Cash brought forward</b> Including £30,000 grant from Unbound Philanthropy for 2014 and £5,000 held for the Maternity Stream <sup>2</sup>	<b>£72,938</b>
<b>Income</b> Grant from Tudor Trust Grant from Allen Lane Foundation Summit contributions <sup>1</sup> Funds received from local groups and other sources Maternity Stream <sup>2</sup> <b>Total</b>	£40,000 £5,000 £1,537 £2,706 £782 <b>£50,025</b>
<b>Expenditure</b> Salary costs Other costs (website development, travel and related expenditure, other project expenditure) Sanctuary Summit Maternity Stream <sup>2</sup> <b>Total</b>	£66,323 £13,475 £6,121 £3,266 <b>£89,185</b>
<b>Cash carried forward</b> Including £30,000 of restricted income for use in 2015 and £2,516 held for the Maternity Stream. Unrestricted reserves at year end £1,262	<b>£33,778</b>

<sup>1</sup> This total does not include a grant of £3,000 from the Barrow Cadbury Trust, received in 2015, towards the Sanctuary Summit

<sup>2</sup> City of Sanctuary is currently holding funds for the Maternity Stream, pending the set-up of their own bank account



# Preview of 2015

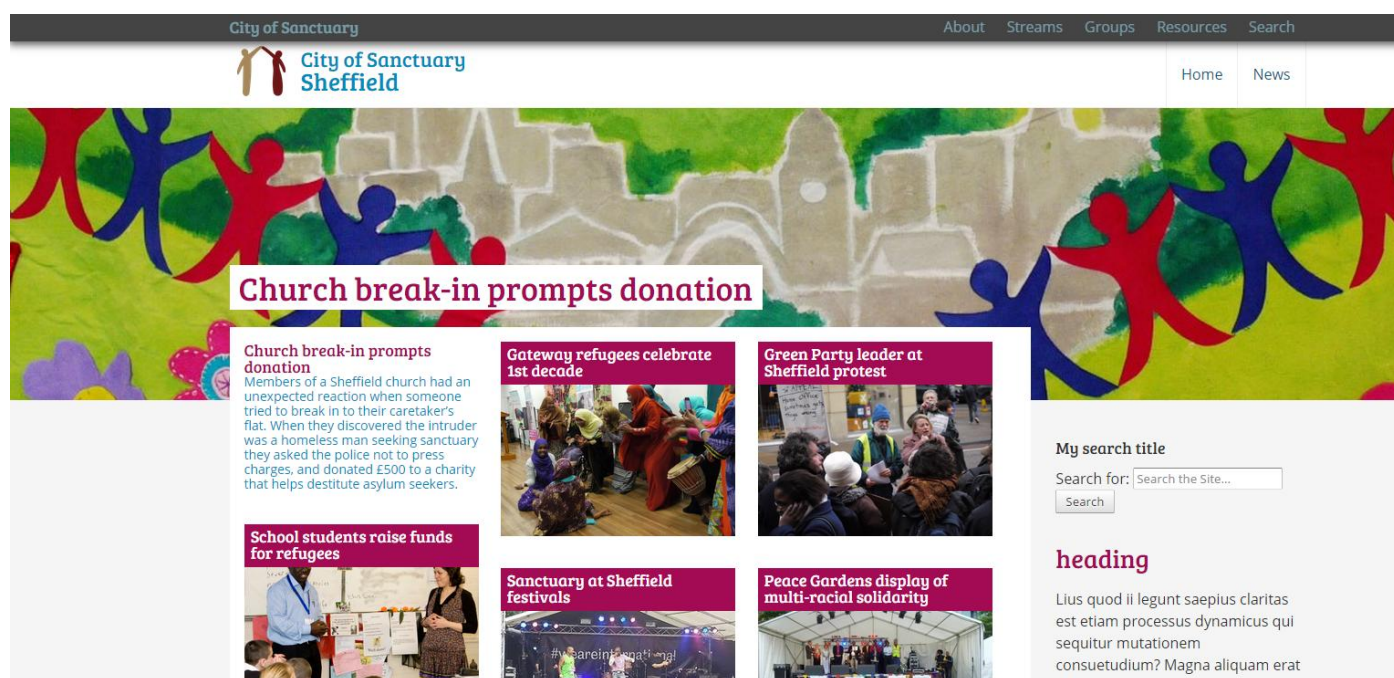
Although this is a report about 2014, as it is due for circulation in April 2015, we thought we'd give you a little preview of some of the exciting highlights ahead. If you can't wait for the details, which will be in the 2015 annual report, please do check out our monthly newsletters and the website.

## Our New Website

April 2015 will see the launch of the new-look City of Sanctuary website. After a year of research and development, our City of Sanctuary website, home to many local group pages, is being upgraded and re-launched in time for the 2015 AGM.

The new website is superficially similar to what we already have: clear, unfussy and accessible. But there is now greater flexibility for local groups to customise their website pages, greater integration of shared topics and streams between our pages, and much greater potential to expand further.

We aim to showcase the new website at the 2015 AGM. There will be plenty of help available in using your website: by phone and email, and through re-written documentation. Here's a sneak preview of the improved design:



## Ending Asylum Destitution Conference, 6th March



Father Richard McKay, Bristol City of Sanctuary Chair, looks on while Alan endorses the commitment to action on behalf of City of Sanctuary and Tiffy calls the assembled delegates to voice their support.

The national conference 'End Asylum Destitution,' on 6 March 2015, was hosted and organised by Bristol City of Sanctuary with full support from the Mayor, George Ferguson and Council. It sprang out of the signing, by 14 cities of anti-destitution resolutions and drew delegates from Councils and voluntary bodies up and down the UK. Here is one delegate's impression:

*A beautiful sunny spring day in the wonderful water world of Bristol, the perfect setting for this coming together of 200 concerned citizens from 30 towns and cities across the UK, united by one cause: the ending of the government-enforced policy of destitution for failed asylum seekers.*

*Under the banner of City of Sanctuary, and in partnership with Bristol City Council and Still Human Still Here, delegates from across the City of Sanctuary and Refugee Support network came to listen, and later to share their ideas. After introductions by the Chair, Rev Richard McKay, Chair of Bristol City of Sanctuary, and a Key Note speech by George Ferguson, the elected Mayor of Bristol, five destitute asylum seekers spoke movingly about their lives and the parlous situation they now find themselves in. I was one of those who did not have a dry eye from beginning to end of these stories. This was setting the scene, this brought home to us all, as nothing else could, the terrible situation, the inhumane treatment that is meted out by official government policy, and this is being done in our name. An inspiring speech by Sarah Teather and several practical workshops followed, in what was an inspiring day for all.*

**Read more in the website and newsletter!**



City of Sanctuary is a movement of local people and community groups in towns and cities across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. We are committed to creating a culture of welcome and safety, especially for refugees seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

We want to build this culture across every sphere and sector of society.

Wherever refugees go, we want them to feel safe and find people who welcome them.

With thanks to our funders

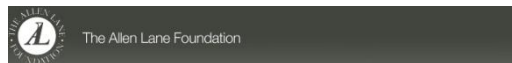


Image credits:

Sanctuary Summit photographs – Ambrose Musiyiwa

Other photos – City of Sanctuary groups

City of Sanctuary is a registered charity (No 1124921).

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