**Football Club of Sanctuary Awards**

**Minimum Criteria**

**Introduction to City of Sanctuary UK**

City of Sanctuary UK holds 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. In order to realise this vision, City of Sanctuary UK supports a [network of groups](https://cityofsanctuary.org/groups/), which includes cities, towns, villages, boroughs and regions across the UK, and others engaged in Streams of Sanctuary, Sanctuary Awards and activities intended to welcome people seeking sanctuary. For more information see our [Charter.](https://cityofsanctuary.org/about/)

**What are Sanctuary Awards?**

Sanctuary Awards are provided by the network of local groups and City of Sanctuary UK to recognise and celebrate mainstream organisations’ commitment to our values and vision of welcome and inclusivity and enabling them to become active participants in the City of Sanctuary network.

**Why apply to become a Football Club of Sanctuary?**

City of Sanctuary UK is promoting the Football Club of Sanctuary Award as it offers an opportunity to educate people about the right to sanctuary and to further engage with people seeking sanctuary and their families in their local communities. The aim of becoming a Football Club of Sanctuary is to create a safe environment that welcomes people seeking sanctuary. Football has the power to bring diverse communities together. Football clubs that are committed to welcome and inclusion are encouraged to apply for an award.

City of Sanctuary UK recognises that football clubs vary in their contexts; there is no expectation that every club will follow the exact same path to embedding the ethos of welcome to all and achieving an award. The club, location and size will necessarily influence the way it develops a culture of welcome; places will demonstrate sanctuary differently based on their location and demographics.

**The procedure**

Award applications usually start with a conversation with your [local City of Sanctuary group](https://cityofsanctuary.org/groups/) or a City of Sanctuary UK [officer](https://cityofsanctuary.org/about/contact-us/)if no local group is available.

Here is a step by step guide:-

**Step 1** – Contact your local group to pledge support and connect with their / your shared vision

**Step 2** – Pledge your organisation to work towards a culture of welcome through endorsing the [City of Sanctuary Charter](https://cityofsanctuary.org/about/) and [sign the Organisation pledge.](https://cityofsanctuary.org/get-involved/sign-an-organisation-pledge/)

**Step 3** - Produce a plan (you can contact your local group or City of Sanctuary UK for support to develop a plan if required) using ‘LEARN, EMBED, SHARE’.

Include how you will meet the City of Sanctuary UK minimum criteria within the plan and what can be appropriately embedded within your context. We suggest that you consider the creation of a portfolio of activities to evidence progress as you work towards an award.

**Step 4** – Then when you feel you are ready, you can apply for recognition as a Football Club of Sanctuary. You can submit a written application for an award using the generic [Awards Application form](https://cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Sanctuary-Award-application-template-March-2019.docx).

**Step 5** – The nomination will be appraised by a Sanctuary Recognition panel which will normally include as a minimum, a local member of City of Sanctuary, someone who has experience of seeking sanctuary and an expert in the field. The panel may request a visit to the nominated organisation during the appraisal, and will usually involve a conversation between key members of staff, members of the club and the panel.

**Step 6** – Once the award is agreed, a plan should to be made for its presentation to include a celebratory event/ media statements etc. You are making a public declaration of support for people seeking sanctuary and City of Sanctuary.

**Step 7** –The conversations begun during appraisal will continue throughout the three year award period and will inform a review at the end of the three years, when an updated certificate of recognition can be issued.

**What are the criteria to become a Football Club of Sanctuary?**

This guidance document aims to outline the minimum criteria required for the award. We would encourage clubs to build on the minimum criteria in a way that best reflects their unique situation and aim to get everyone involved.

**The Process: Learn, Embed & Share**

Any club contributing towards the vision of welcome can apply for the award by signing up to our charter, values and principles and demonstrating their commitment by providing evidence that they have integrated our three core processes:

* **Learn:** learning about what it means to be seeking sanctuary, both in general, and specifically.
* **Embed:** taking positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion for people seeking sanctuary. To take steps to ensure this progress remains sustainable.
* **Share:** sharing your vision, achievements, what you have learned, and good practice with other clubs, the local community and beyond.

The Football Club of Sanctuary criteria has been structured to fit into the three overarching processes of Learn, Embed, and Share, and our network principles, which are used for all sanctuary awards. Please provide evidence of meeting each of the criteria in the relevant section of the generic award application.

***Learn Criteria***

In this section of the application, we will be looking for examples of work which signals the commitment of your club to learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary. It is also important that you include people seeking sanctuary in those learning opportunities if at all possible. We recognize that this may be challenging in certain locations and situations, and City of Sanctuary UK, the local CoS group or other refugee supporting organisation could help with this. To receive an award, a club must meet the following minimum criteria:

* Criterion 1: **Awareness raising opportunities** are provided and a whole organisation approach to awareness raising is undertaken, including involving sanctuary seekers in training for staff and wider awareness-raising, for example using website, social media or other channels to celebrate your sanctuary initiatives and commitment to a culture of welcome.
* Criterion 2: **Evidence of refugee/asylum/migration awareness raising** is included into everyday life of the club e.g. Show films/sound bites at football grounds with simple messages as to why people seek sanctuary and the contributions they make to the UK.
* Criterion 3:Commitment to supporting **the voices of people seeking sanctuary to be heard** within the club e.g. using website, social media etc
* Criterion 4: **Engaging people seeking sanctuary in decision making processes**, for example wherever possible ensure that people seeking sanctuary are involved in the development of plans and actions.

***Embed Criteria***

The second process used by City of Sanctuary UK for its awards is Embed. For City of Sanctuary UK, embedding means that the football club istaking positive action to implement welcome, safety and inclusion. The application will need to provide details on how the club will ensure a continuation of support for sanctuary on an ongoing basis e.g. how sanctuary can be embedded within policies and procedures.

To receive an award, the club must meet the following minimum criteria:

* Criterion 5: The football club **must demonstrate how it has embedded** the concept of welcome and inclusion. This should show how the club will continue to develop and sustain a culture of welcome beyond the award. And promote racial equality and kick out racism
* Criterion 6: **Recognition of/participation in the annual** [**Refugee Week event**](https://refugeeweek.org.uk/) **and/or** [**Football Welcomes Refugees (Amnesty led initiative)**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/football-welcomes-refugees?utm_source=google&utm_medium=grant&utm_campaign=BRD_AWA_GEN_dynamic-search-ads&utm_content=)**,**
* Criterion 7:Partnerships projects (which are not just limited to participatory football activities) with refugee support organisations/networks **to create opportunities for relationships of friendship and solidarity between local people and those seeking sanctuary,** some examples:-

- Partnerships with refugee organisations/networks to run football activities/events

- Visits to refugee support groups (e.g. drop-in centres, conversation clubs) as part of players’ charitable work.

- Working with refugee organisations to provide free or reduced tickets

- Provide community spaces for people to watch football with others in order to create friendships.

- Facilitating a supporter ‘befriending’ scheme[[1]](#endnote-1) e.g. dedicated club supporters could be rewarded with tickets each month for ‘befriending’ refugees and taking them to matches as part of their regular attendance.

- General solidarity and support for people seeking sanctuary players e.g. Tongwynlais FC supported their players in many different ways, including attending their appeal hearings.

- Financial donations and or fundraising for your local City of Sanctuary group or refugee agency.

***Share Criteria***

The third and final process in the City of Sanctuary UK model is Share.City of Sanctuary UK will be seeking evidence that the place is seeking to share its experience of sanctuary and welcome with the wider community, local organisations and spreading the word about their welcoming efforts.

To receive an award, the club must meet the following minimum criteria:

* Criterion 8: A public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome including the endorsement of the [**City of Sanctuary charter**](https://cityofsanctuary.org/2017/05/16/city-of-sanctuary-conference-and-agm-2017/) **through signing the** [**Organisation Pledge**](https://cityofsanctuary.org/get-involved/sign-an-organisation-pledge/)**, and if applicable the signing of a local groups pledge.**
* Criterion 9: The **club publicly highlights its activities** in support of welcome and inclusion by making it visible on social media, signage and websites, banner; share in newsletters to supporters*.*
* Criterion 10:Commitment to **on-going engagement, partnership working and City of Sanctuary network development**. This may include sharing resources, learning and achievements with other clubs via the website or the City of Sanctuary UK website, and/or with other networks.
* Criterion 11: Where appropriate **supporting relevant campaigns** e.g. Kick It Out; FA Refugees Football Network

1. The draft ‘Stadia of Sanctuary’ paper produced by Kevin Coleman, Diversity & Inclusion Manager  
   The Football Association outlines this project idea in more detail. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)