

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 must contribute to building the movement through encouraging and inspiring the involvement of more people 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.

Social Contact

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

*Network Principles

- 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 across localities;
- Identify opportunities for practical action and work on common cause issues to effect change within and across communities (turning empathy into action);
- 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 sanctuary seekers voices to be heard directly.



City of Sanctuary contributes 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 Birmingham Declaration was launched at the first Sanctuary Summit in 2014 and has since been endorsed by more than 320 organisations.

The Birmingham Declaration

- Core Principles:

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



City of Sanctuary

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