



**Reading**  
City of Sanctuary



Reading City of Sanctuary has partnered with refugee support organisations to deliver a Coffee Bank Scheme which offers those seeking sanctuary in Reading the opportunity to access a drink and a light snack for free at participating cafes. With Global café and Shed Café already running successful Coffee Banks, we would like to expand the scheme to offer more choice of venues.

By providing a hot drink pre-purchased by coffee shop customers, the scheme encourages newcomers to become a part of their host communities' coffee culture. It is a win-win scheme where support is channeled directly into the local community whilst helping independent coffee shops generate more business. Participating coffee shops can also be used as venues for befriending initiatives or for informal one-to-one English conversation sessions (also facilitated by Reading City of Sanctuary and participating refugee supporting organisations), which seek to promote greater integration and prevent isolation.

# Coffee Bank Info Sheet



## Reading City of Sanctuary

### How does it work?

When a customer walks into a coffee shop instead of buying just one cup of coffee, they buy two or more. One for themselves and one for someone in need. The barista places a token representing the free coffee(s) in a container on the counter. The coffee can then be redeemed by beneficiaries of refugee support organisations by displaying a card issued by RRSg, Red Cross, RCLC and others.

### Why does it matter to refugees?

Refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants are particularly vulnerable to isolation and loneliness. This is because in addition to economic hardship, they face barriers of language and culture, which may prevent them from taking part in social activities outside their home and/or community. Having the opportunity to access a free coffee provides an incentive and opportunity for newcomers to step outside of their comfort zone. Access to a coffee shop also provides clients with a place to study, meet new people and access free wireless connection.

### How does the scheme benefit participating coffee shops?

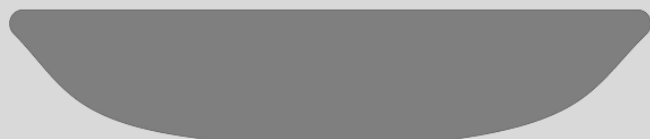
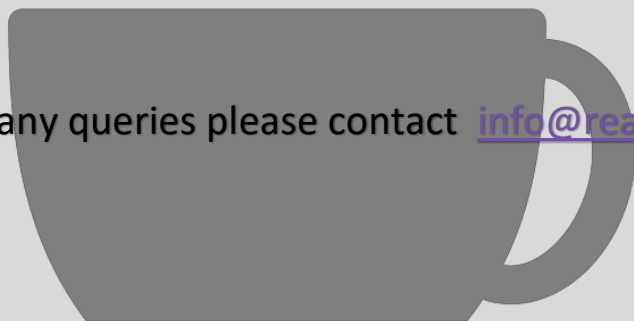
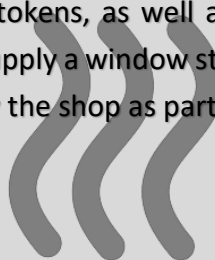
Participating coffee shops have the opportunity to demonstrate social responsibility by making their premises a sanctuary for those seeking safety from war, persecution or poverty. They will also benefit from having all refugee support organisations advertising the venue to their supporters, providing extra



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How will Reading City of sanctuary support participating coffee shops?

Reading City of Sanctuary will offer to brief staff about the scheme and how to make the best of it. We will provide a jar and tokens, as well as an info sheet which can be presented to interested customers. In addition, we will supply a window sticker which can be displayed on the shop front to help both supporters and clients identify the shop as participating venue. We will also keep in regular contact to ensure there is take up.



For any queries please contact [info@reading.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:info@reading.cityofsanctuary.org)