

Making York a



We want York to become a City of Sanctuary, like many other cities in the UK. This will depend on local people and community groups working to make York a place of welcome, safety, and security for all who need to claim sanctuary here.

The City of Sanctuary Movement

City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Many towns and cities are seeking recognition as places of safety and welcome. Sheffield, Bradford, Coventry, Bristol, and Swansea already have that status; others like Hull and Oxford are working to attain recognition.

The movement is intended to be from the ground upwards, not something imposed by Government or Local Authority. Therefore, support from individuals, local community groups, schools, universities, sporting organizations, voluntary and statutory bodies is not only welcome but essential.

We aim to gather pledges of support from all sectors of society. The City of York Council will be asked to seek recognition from the national organizers of City of Sanctuary, so that York may officially receive that status.

Why a City of Sanctuary in York?

We want to celebrate the contribution of many people from across the world that bring their skills, cultures, and experiences to enrich our city's culture. Some have come here to escape danger or threats to their lives. They offer their work to assist the building of our local economy.

Many who make the journey here feel isolated and fearful on their arrival in York. We want to spread the culture of hospitality and support throughout the whole of the city, so that welcome and support can more easily be found.

York: A Long History of Providing Sanctuary

In the late 1930s the York Refugee Committee found work, housing, and school places for Jewish families fleeing persecution in Europe.

In the 1970s and 1980s, some of the Asian families expelled from Kenya and Uganda found refuge in York. Many now play a significant part in local business and commerce.

In the 1990s, York provided accommodation for refugees from the atrocities unfolding in Bosnia and the surrounding Balkan States.

Currently, Refugee Action York (RAY) mainly provides support to refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants from the Turkish speaking community, including Kurdish people. The problems they face are those encountered by refugees across the UK and Europe.

Vision Statement

Our vision is of York as a nationally recognized place of physical safety and security, in which people are free to live without fear of hostility, persecution, hatred, oppression or exclusion.

Many of those seeking sanctuary are refugees and asylum seekers. However, these are not the only people seeking to find protection and safety within the city. The vision is inclusive of all who need to claim sanctuary. We celebrate the contribution of people seeking sanctuary. We affirm the positive values of hospitality and friendship by welcoming, supporting and assisting them wherever they go.

Our vision is of York as part of a movement spreading across the cities of the UK.

Resolution of Support

I/We (Name of organization where applicable)
recognize the contribution of refugees and all who seek sanctuary to the City of York.

I/We resolve to welcome and include them in my/our activities.

I/We support York seeking recognized status as a City of Sanctuary.

Optional: The specific actions* which I/ our organization will take to make my/our activities more inclusive for those seeking sanctuary is:

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Signed.....Date.....

(Position within organization).....

email address.....

Postal address.....

Tel:

Return to: YCoS, St. Michael's Chambers, 24-26 Spurriergate, York YO1 9QR

Email: co-ordinator@yorkcityofsanctuary.org.uk

Website: www.yorkcityofsanctuary.org.uk

*See <http://www.cityofsanctuary.org/suggestions> for ideas