



# CITY OF SANCTUARY

City of Sanctuary Bradford, c/o Touchstone, 32 Merton Rd, Bradford, BD7 1RE  
Visit us on <http://www.cityofsanctuary.com/bradford> or on our new Facebook Page.  
[info@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:info@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org) or call on 07572956109.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

\* **Recognition** of Bradford as a City of Sanctuary by the National Movement on 18th November 2010.

\* **Increase** of Resolution of Support signatories to 142.

\* A number of **well attended events** - participation in the 2010 MELA and Refugee Week, a Stories of Sanctuary Evening and an Asylum Dialogues Performance.

\* **Refugee Voices** - performance of real stories by children in school (cf article).

\* A new **Development Worker** has been appointed in April.

\* **Good media coverage** in the Telegraph and Argus and on Bradford Community Broadcasting.

**City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Our goal is to create a network of towns and cities throughout the country which are proud to be places of safety, and which include people seeking sanctuary fully in the life of their communities.**

**A City of Sanctuary is a place of safety and welcome for people whose lives are in danger in their own countries.**

\* **Representation** at strategic level on New Arrivals Operations Group.

\* **Funding:** Three grants have been received from Lush (Soaps) Charity Pot; 2.28 and Bradford Anglican Diocese. A contribution was also received from the BIASAN Benefit Gig.

## BRADFORD CITY OF SANCTUARY STATUS AND MANIFESTO

We are thrilled to announce the wonderful news that, at a National Network meeting of the City of Sanctuary movement on 18th November, Bradford was officially recognised as a 'City of Sanctuary': "a place where a broad range of local organisations, community groups and faith communities, as well as local government, are publicly committed to welcoming and including people seeking sanctuary".

It is fantastic that both the hard work of so

many in this city to welcome and include those seeking sanctuary and the sanctuary seekers' contributions have been officially recognised.

Bradford City of Sanctuary is also working with the Council and local organisations to make Bradford a city where all those seeking sanctuary are *encouraged and enabled to participate fully* in the life of the city and where *their contributions are recognised and valued*.

Bradford City of Sanctuary Manifesto aims to focus on these main objectives:

- Consultation and Involvement
- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Housing
- Health
- Education
- Community



*Masoumeh, Iranian refugee, serving food...*

## BRADFORD CITY OF SANCTUARY CELEBRATED THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFUGEES TO THE CITY IN MARCH 2011!

Asylum seekers, refugees and supporters came together to celebrate Bradford's recent award of official 'City of Sanctuary' status and to pay tribute to the contributions of refugees in Bradford. It also tied in with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Convention. Over 100 people attended the event at Kala Sangam on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011. It was a very inspiring and informative evening.

Indeed, after a wonderful meal prepared by Masoumeh, an Iranian lady recently awarded refugee status with her 2 sons after a 10 year battle, the Deputy Mayor opened the evening, followed by several speakers. The first focused on 60 years of refugee migration to the city, then four refugees told of their

incredible achievements despite destitution and other obstacles since arriving in the UK. We finished off with music and dance from various refugee musicians and a Zimbabwean choir.

We regularly have these types of events to bring understanding by sharing true stories as well as providing a safe space for informal dialogue and thus challenging.

*The crowd, listening to Akli's story.*



## REFUGEES VOICES SCHOOL DRAMA

From Apeles Onyango and Kongosi Mussanzi

Refugees Voices School Drama is a project pioneered by Bradford City of Sanctuary, Bradford Action For Refugees, Zephaniah Trust and Grange Technology College to build a culture of hospitality for refugees and asylum seekers children in schools.

Currently, we are working with the Year 7 children at Grange Technology College as a pilot.

The stories are True stories and are told to the children by the Refugees themselves; these are recorded as they are being told.

The stories are then scripted by a script writer to be performed by the children as a drama during school assemblies.

The future plan is to work in other schools within Bradford District.



*The children performing the Refugees Voices Drama*

The drama mainly captures what happened in the country of origin; the reasons why the refugee had to flee from his/her country; how he/she fled; what happened on his/her arrival at UKBA; hurdles of the asylum process and the support received from different organisations in Bradford.

**“If you have a story to tell or you would like the project to be implemented in your school, youth club or business, you can contact us on [info@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org](mailto:info@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org)”**

The students took the stories very seriously and put themselves in the person’s situation when acting.

The response received from the first performance in this school was great and inspiring.

One of the children was so moved by the story that he requested if he could meet and learn more from one of the story teller who was of his age.

The teachers who attended the performance also expressed the need to have such performances organised for teachers as well, as most of them didn’t know what it takes to be a Refugee and Asylum Seeker.

One teacher said , “ It has broadened my mind and now my perceptions about these children who come with No English at all and yet do so well in arithmetic, has been transformed. “

### Window Stickers

Imagine the impact of the message ***'We Welcome Asylum Seekers and Refugees'***

appearing across the city. - Could you display a 30cm x 8cm (approx) window sticker in your workplace, home or car? If so, send a cheque for £1.50 to City of Sanctuary Bradford’s office, or call us on 07572956109.



## WHAT IS REFUGEE WEEK?

Refugee Week is a UK-wide program of arts, cultural and educational events that celebrate the contribution of refugees to the UK, and encourages a better understanding between communities.

Refugee Week 2011 takes place from 20 - 26 June 2011.

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the refugee convention, and we'll be focusing on the theme of 60 years of Contribution for Refugee Week 2011.

There is so much misinformation circulating about refugees and asylum seekers in the media that it is sometimes hard to work out what is reality and what is myth. This year's program is packed with information from personal testimonies that can help you to figure out the facts from the fibs.

Find out the full program on <http://www.refugeeweekbradford.org.uk/>

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Ask your organisation to pass a resolution of support for City of Sanctuary Bradford
2. Invite a refugee or asylum-seeker to speak to your community about their experiences.
3. Publicise City of Sanctuary, Refugee Week and other refugee events within your community.
4. Offer volunteer placements for suitably skilled asylum-seekers or refugees with your organisation
5. Offer befriending or advocacy to asylum-seekers in your area.

*"Small actions have big impacts."*

### SUPPORTER'S HIGHLIGHT

#### Support from Rotary Club in Bradford.

Our Chair, Will, and William Musafiri, a refugee from DR Congo, received a very warm welcome from the Rotary Club of Bradford Bronte on their 14th April meeting.

Members showed genuine interest in City of Sanctuary and were clearly moved by William's powerful personal story.

In consequence, we received more signed Resolutions of Support, and we have been offered very practical help.

See more information on [www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs](http://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs)

### THANK YOU

City of Sanctuary Bradford wishes to thank all our funders and supporters for their support.