



## Who we are

Our group formed in September 2015, shocked by the terrible images of refugees drowning in the Mediterranean, including the young Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi. We have grown swiftly ever since, organised more than 50 activities and now have over 400 members, with more following us on Facebook and Twitter. Each event brings in new supporters.

“The events you arrange is like a light in our dark life” –A from Pakistan

“What you all do really makes a difference. The positive impact on our group, asylum seekers and refugees alike is immeasurable.” –Volunteer from Swansea

## Our aims

- We coordinate local support for people seeking asylum and refuge in the UK, Europe and the wider world.
- We try to show that, given the chance, the great majority of people will respond warmly and humanely to a crisis affecting others.
- We tell our elected representatives about this response and urge them to promote policies at local and national level to support sanctuary and refuge for those who need it.

**Respite work:** with only a handful of people seeking refuge or asylum within our area, we support those in the nearby Welsh cities by offering them respite visits to our peaceful and beautiful area. We are affiliated to City of Sanctuary (CoS), a broad social movement which now has over 80 local groups throughout the UK and Ireland. We work closely with CoS and similar refugee support groups in Swansea, Cardiff and Newport.

## What we do

- Organise Respite Days (more than 25 so far) for groups of up to 70 people of all ages who seek refuge or asylum and are based in South Wales cities. We provide transport, food, activities, sports and entertainment, but above all friendship and welcome.
- Arrange for individuals to spend a few days staying with group members or in holiday cottages in our area.
- Collect clothing, toiletries, foods and household goods, which are distributed in Swansea, any surplus being sent to people seeking refuge in Europe and the Middle East.

- Support ESL (English as a Second Language) courses in Cardiff and Swansea and collect donated computers and smartphones for use in English classes and to help individuals keep in touch with family and friends
- Work with local schools, encouraging them to raise awareness about people seeking asylum /refuge. Four schools have hosted respite days.
- Run an art project and collaborate with a writers’ group and PEN Cymru.
- Raise funds (over £25,000 so far) to pay for transport to Respite Days, to contribute to other groups and emergencies and to maintain a small Hardship Fund which helps individuals with urgent needs

“I sit in my room it’s like a prison of stress and worry. I’m very happy today, thank you so much” –Asylum seeker at a Respite Day

“It was heart-warming seeing the community coming together to give all the families such a warm welcome.” –Volunteer from Brecon

- Assist support groups for women asylum-seekers in Swansea and collect sewing machines and other donations for them.
- Work with Hay Literary Festival and several local choirs to raise funds, invite refugees and asylum seekers to events and involve them in volunteering opportunities.
- Petition and meet with our MP, AM and Powys county councillors.

## PLEASE JOIN US

**There’s so much more that we can do**  
**Hay, Brecon & Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees**

Website: <http://hbtsr.org.uk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1481176695519368/>

Email [hbts4refugees@gmail.com](mailto:hbts4refugees@gmail.com) Twitter: [@hbts4refugees](https://twitter.com/hbts4refugees)

**Donations (we are a registered charity No: 1173570) to:**  
Barclays Bank. *Sort code:* 20-39-64 *Account No:* 83085120  
Cheques payable to HBTSR please.

Address: Pavement House, Hay-on-Wye, HR3 5BU, Wales