



Hay, Brecon & Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees

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 just wanted to show that we cared. We have grown ever since, organised many activities and have over 450 members, with more following us on Facebook and Twitter. HBTSR exists to show and promote support for people forced to seek sanctuary by offering time out to people in need, raising money to help people and other groups who assist and support and by asking for more humane policies for people seeking sanctuary.

Our aims

- We coordinate local support for people seeking Sanctuary [asylum/ 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 sanctuary within our area, we support those in the nearby Welsh cities by offering them welcoming visits to our peaceful and beautiful area. We are affiliated to City of Sanctuary (CoS), a broad social movement which now has over 100 local groups throughout the UK and Ireland. We work closely with refugee support groups in Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. All aim to be welcoming places of safety for everyone and are proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.

What we do

- Organise welcome days out (more than 40 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 in holiday cottages in our area.
- Collect clothing, toiletries, dried foods and household goods, which are distributed in Swansea and Newport, any surplus being sent to people seeking refuge in Europe and the Middle East.

- Support ESL (English as a Second Language) courses 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. Five schools have hosted welcome days. And we have run 2 weekends of leadership activities for both asylum seeking and local teenagers .

“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

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

- Collaborate with many other groups to assist in welcoming eg football tickets, sportswear, pool table, pizza oven etc.
- Raise funds to pay for transport for Welcome Days, to contribute to other like-minded groups eg Drop-in centres and to maintain a small Hardship Fund which helps individuals with urgent needs.
- Assist support groups for women asylum-seekers in Swansea and collect sewing machines and other donations for them.
- Work with Hay Literary Festival and other events/groups to raise funds, invite people seeking sanctuary and involve them in volunteering opportunities locally.
- Petition and meet with our MP, AM and Powys county councillors .
- Updated December 2019

PLEASE JOIN US

There’s so much more that we can do

Hay, Brecon & Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees 1173570

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

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

Email 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