



City of Sanctuary



### The Asylum Rights Programme.

The Asylum Rights Programme, a partnership of seven Welsh organisations, aims to promote and ensure the rights of people seeking asylum and living in Wales in three ways:

- Ensuring that people seeking asylum know their rights and have support, where and when needed, to claim them.
- Ensuring that professionals working with people seeking asylum understand the needs of the people they are supporting, as well as their role in contributing to a Wales where rights are enjoyed.
- Informing and influencing public understanding about the right to asylum and the benefits of welcoming people in need to Wales.

### Ensuring that people seeking asylum know their rights and have support, where and when needed, to claim them.

The Asylum Rights Programme will offer one-to-one information, advice and casework support to people seeking asylum across Wales from Spring 2017 until March 2020. All services will be culturally and linguistically accessible, either through bilingual workers or through interpreters. Where practical, people will have access to advisors in person, though services will also be available via telephone and internet.

The casework provision is a partnership between five experienced organisations in Wales, each bringing specialist expertise and experience to the Programme:

- Welsh Refugee Council, EYST & BAWSO will have caseworkers in Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and Wrexham to provide specialist knowledge on asylum support, housing, health, social services, education, employment, finance, bullying, hate crime, discrimination and destitution.

**Welsh Refugee Council**  
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UK Registered Charity No: 1102449  
Company Number: 4818136





- Casework provision in Wrexham provided by BAWSO will be complemented by specialist one-to-one support casework for women who are at risk of or have experienced any form of gender based violence, including Modern Day Slavery.
- Tros Gynnal Plant will support young unaccompanied asylum seeking children who dispute their attributed age through the dispute process and assist them to access appropriate support across Wales.
- Asylum Justice will provide a Legal Caseworker (OISC Level 3) to provide specialist legal advice and representation to people in relation to their application for asylum in the UK. They will add a Swansea based drop-in to their existing Cardiff drop-in and will offer outreach from these bases via the internet.

**Ensuring that professionals working with people seeking asylum understand the needs of the people they are supporting, as well as their role in contributing to a Wales where rights are enjoyed.**

Work undertaken to improve understanding of professionals starts by providing opportunities for people seeking asylum to prioritise what is meaningful to them and then uses these issues and voices to work directly with service providers:

- City of Sanctuary and Displaced People in Action will host an Advocacy Forum which will provide opportunities for people seeking to identify issues of concern to them, followed by invites to relevant service providers to discuss the issues and seek change.
- BAWSO will offer training and workshops to professionals on Female Genital Mutilation & Modern Day Slavery.
- In addition to this specialist support, the partnership will develop a training and awareness-raising programme on asylum and refugee issues to key Public Sector Bodies including the police, social services and schools. The intention is that we create the conditions where the needs and rights of asylum seekers and refugees are understood, mainstreamed and responded to appropriately across public services.
- Welsh Refugee Council will build upon its work with Local Authorities to promote the benefits of local migration strategies as an aid for integration and community cohesion.

**Informing and influencing public understanding about the right to asylum and the benefits of welcoming people in need to Wales.**

Commitments to raise public awareness also draw on the lived experiences of people who have sought sanctuary in Wales:

- City of Sanctuary and Displaced People in Action will host Sanctuary Speakers Groups with people who wish to share their experiences of sanctuary seeking in Wales with public audiences and in the media.
- The partnership of all seven organisations will use Refugee Week and national days of interest (e.g. St David's Day, Human Rights Day), to highlight the contributions made to Wales by people seeking asylum.
- All partners will offer and expand volunteering opportunities for people seeking asylum, seeking to increase contact and relationships between newcomers and established community members.



For more information or to register your interest in the Asylum Rights Programme, please contact Holly Taylor

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