



Our Vision for a Nation of Sanctuary

At Sanctuary Coalition Cymru, we believe that Wales must be a true Nation of Sanctuary—one where refugees and people seeking asylum are not only welcomed but are empowered to rebuild their lives with dignity and opportunity. This vision is not just a policy; it is a collective ambition shaped by those with lived experience, community organisations, and advocates working to make Wales a place of safety and inclusion.

The concept of a Nation of Sanctuary came from within the refugee and asylum sector itself. It is grounded in the principles of compassion, solidarity, and justice—values that should guide every decision made by government and institutions. Wales was the first nation to embrace this vision, setting a powerful example in the face of a hostile migration climate. But a vision alone is not enough; it must be realised in practice.

Realising this vision means breaking down barriers to inclusion, ensuring equitable access to essential services, and placing the voices of refugees and migrants at the heart of decision-making. It means moving beyond rhetoric to real, measurable change.

We welcome the Cabinet Secretary's reaffirmation of Wales' commitment to this vision. But words must come with accountability. We call on the Welsh Government to ensure that the Nation of Sanctuary is not just an aspiration, but a lived reality for all who seek safety in Wales.

Sanctuary Coalition Cymru

[Nation of Sanctuary statement from Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip](#)