

# THE FACTS ABOUT Wales + Sanctuary



There's a lot of talk about sanctuary - here's what it really means.

## What is the Nation of Sanctuary Plan?

Created by the Welsh Government, it focuses on how people are supported once they are here - helping them learn the languages, understand local rules, and contribute to their new communities.

It's about fairness, responsibility and helping people stand on their own feet.

## Seeking Sanctuary in Wales

Wales supports around 5% of people seeking asylum in the UK - about 3,500 people. The annual amount of people who are supported in Wales would only fill 3% of the Principality Stadium.

## Wales and the UK

Decisions about who is supported in Wales are made by the UK Government, not the Welsh Government. Immigration is not a devolved power.

**The goal is simple:** Stronger communities where everyone can play their part through a warm Welsh croeso and welcome.

## Why it works for Wales

Early access to Cymraeg and English classes helps people find work faster. Clear guidance about rights and responsibilities helps people integrate and avoid isolation. When people can contribute, communities are more stable and cohesive. Integration from day one benefits everyone.

## The cost - in context

Over six years, around 0.05% of the Welsh Government budget has supported the Nation of Sanctuary approach.

That's a small investment aimed at reducing long-term costs linked to isolation, homelessness and crisis services.

## Help at the right time

People seeking asylum do not get priority access to social housing or NHS services. Many have experienced trauma before arriving, and early support helps prevent bigger problems later.

Early support reduces costs and pressure in the long run.

## What needs to change

When times are hard, frustration is understandable. But lasting solutions lie in fixing housing, wages and public services - challenges that affect us all.

A fair Wales means investing in all communities, new and old, so everyone can thrive.

We want to live in a community based on fairness, not fear.