

How you can help

- I would like to receive a quarterly newsletter about the project
- I would like to find out more about volunteering at the project
- I would like to support the project financially by giving £ each month by Direct Debit (Please complete separate form)
- I would like to make a one-off donation of £*

Your details

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

If you are a UK tax payer, you can increase your gift by 25% through gift aid at no cost to yourself.

- Please tick if you would like to gift aid your donation

The Sanctuary depends on financial donations and volunteers to provide its services.

Contact us

The Sanctuary
The Gap Centre
40/42 Stow Hill
Newport
NP20 1JG

Email: sanctuary@bethelnewport.co.uk

Tel: 01633 212327

* Bank details
Lloyds Bank Plc
Bethel Community Church
Sort Code: 30-84-59
Account No: 53366660

Registered charity no: 1088725



*Restoring a Sense
of Community and
Belonging to Refugees
in Newport.*

What is a Refugee

Refugees and asylum seekers are people that have fled for their lives from war or persecution in their own country. Many have left family, friends, homes, jobs and careers behind as they fled in fear of their own safety. Forced to leave their home, they face challenges as displaced people in a foreign land. Many face isolation and suffer from mental health issues brought on by the trauma of dislocation, separation from family, torture or physical, sexual, mental and emotional abuse that they may have suffered.

The project supports people of all faiths and none, from a wide range of ethnic and religious backgrounds, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Jordan, Congo, China, North Korea, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka and many others. It aims to demonstrate the values of the Christian faith through offering practical support and friendship to asylum seekers and refugees, restoring a sense of community and belonging.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission has identified refugees as one of the foremost marginalised groups in Wales.

How it Began

In 2004, Asylum seekers were dispersed to Newport for the first time. Some Christian asylum seekers, fleeing religious persecution in their own country of Eritrea, began attending Bethel Community Church, Newport. A small group of women began to meet weekly for coffee, which grew into a weekly group.

The Sanctuary Project was formally launched in April 2008 and has continued to grow since.

The Project Aims are

To reduce social exclusion and raise the self esteem of asylum seekers and refugees in Newport by:

- ◆ **Providing** support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers to access mainstream services
- ◆ **Developing** and utilising the skills of Refugees and Asylum Seekers through volunteering
- ◆ **Promoting** social inclusion and emotional well being through social activities.

What does the Project do?

The project aims to rebuild a sense of belonging and community for asylum seekers and refugees. It also supports refugees in integrating into their new community by offering English classes and other social activities. The project is based at the Gap Centre on Stow Hill, Newport.

Weekly activities for refugees include :

- ◆ English classes
- ◆ Women's drop-in
- ◆ Mums and toddlers
- ◆ Men's games night
- ◆ Regular trips and social events

The project is staffed by volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds and is funded by donations.

The project works in partnership and receives referrals from a wide range of agencies, including Welsh Refugee Council, Clearsprings, Newport City Council, NHS, British Red Cross, Displaced People in Action, Asylum Help, Oxfam Cymru, Tros Gynall, Newport Community Counselling Service, South Wales Churches Refugee Network amongst others.