



## **CARDIFF REFUGEES TO SPEAK OUT IN PARLIAMENT ON THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM**

On Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 12:00 - 15:30pm, UK MPs will have a unique opportunity to come face to face with some of the 'mother of parliaments' greatest admirers – refugees, who have made long and hazardous journeys to seek sanctuary in Britain. Many have fled reprisals because they spoke out against their own leaders. The event, which will include hearing refugee testimonies, music and poetry, coincides with a Parliamentary [debate on refugee family reunion](#) taking place later on that day at Westminster Hall.

Cardiff City of Sanctuary is sending volunteers and refugees and they who will contribute by sharing their experiences about seeking sanctuary and the role of asylum seekers and refugees in the contribution of life in Britain.

Refugees are people like us who have been forced to flee their homes and leave everything behind for fear of persecution. We believe in the human instinct of ordinary people to be hospitable and sympathetic towards them, especially if they meet face to face. Our local groups create opportunities for refugees and local people to meet and share life, in activities ranging from friends and neighbours group, to sports, music, the arts and theatre while improving the welcome in health, education and civic society."

Hosted by [Bristol West MP Thangam Debbonaire](#), Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees (APPGR), the annual event promotes the work of the [City of Sanctuary movement](#) to remind the public about Britain's proud history of providing welcome and safety to those fleeing persecution.

Ms Debbonaire said: "Sanctuary in Parliament gives us the opportunity to learn about the refugee crisis from the perspective of people who are living in the midst of it. It's an honour to have the chance to hear about people's stories, struggles, and hopes for the future. Thank you to everyone who has come to share their testimonies with us.

"I've been taking evidence from refugees about their experiences in this country, as part of a public inquiry I initiated called 'Refugees Welcome?'. Many people and communities are welcoming refugees, but I'm concerned that the processes of applying and settling here are still so full of problems, often causing destitution or periods of homelessness. This needs sorting out."

The multi media event has drawn over 150 refugees and their supporters from over 70 City of Sanctuary groups across UK and Ireland. They are all keen to share their local experience in the City of Sanctuary movement with their local MPs.

For an interview or answers to questions contact Althea Collymore on 07896 690 070 or email [althea@wrc.wales](mailto:althea@wrc.wales)

For more information on [Cardiff City of Sanctuary](https://cardiff.cityofsanctuary.org/) please visit our website <https://cardiff.cityofsanctuary.org/> <http://www.cityofsanctuary.org>

#### Notes to Editors:

- The [City of Sanctuary](https://www.cityofsanctuary.org/) network encourages practical ways for ordinary citizens to demonstrate solidarity with, and support for refugees in their own communities. It promotes a grassroots “culture of hospitality”, through local voluntary music, sports, education, health and arts initiatives. It has grown since it began in Sheffield in 2005, and now has groups established or starting up in almost 80 cities, towns and villages across the UK and beyond.
- Briefing paper about the Sanctuary in Parliament III event  
<https://cityofsanctuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Briefing-Paper-for-MPs-final-copy-2016.pdf>
- When tweeting about this event use #sanctuaryinparliament  
<https://twitter.com/search?q=%23sanctuaryinparliament&src=typd>
- To know how to urge your MP to attend go here  
<https://cityofsanctuary.org/events/sanctuary-in-parliament-standing-up-for-the-right-to-asylum/>



Dinas Noddfa Caerdydd  
Cardiff City of Sanctuary