



## Summary of activity in 2025

### *With your help we have:*

#### Welcomed

- more than 900 people to 7 Welcome Days across our area. This includes people seeking sanctuary in Swansea and Abergavenny, local Ukrainian residents and other people living locally;
- more than 60 people to 2 activity outings in Llangorse, one in conjunction with Newport Social services;
- assisted Ukrainians from all over Powys to have a day of fun together.

#### Supported

- many people with urgent needs for food, clothing including footwear, transport, course fees, electrical items, educational equipment, storage, and/or overnight accommodation - via our own Hardship fund and the delegated fund we have established with Swansea Asylum Seekers Support [SASS].

#### Provided access to legal help

- In partnership with Asylum Justice, a provider of free specialist immigration advice and representation to people seeking sanctuary in Wales, we enabled some people to obtain much needed documents to progress their asylum claims;
- we accompanied 3 people to Tribunals to give moral support at this time of great stress;
- we paid to secure legal advice after volunteers in Swansea have helped people to prepare coherent summaries of their cases.

#### Donated

- over 40 used bicycles to Newport to be refurbished and given away as a means of free transport – thanks to Drovers cycles and Vanessa for making this possible;
- 6 bicycles directly to Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children with help of Drovers Cycles and Miv;
- 36 sewing machines to Swansea via Tools for Self Reliance Cymru – a sanctuary seeking person has been identified in Swansea who can mend the machines;
- 20 laptops for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children via payment to Every Child Online;
- collections of household goods given by supporters to be shared out by Swansea drop-in centres;
- 500+ Christmas presents to Swansea given by supporters, local schools and churches.

#### Worked with schools

- who want to learn about seeking sanctuary by arranging talks and speakers so they can become recognised as Schools of Sanctuary – 4 schools were recognised as Schools of Sanctuary this year and 4 more are working towards this;
- donated books about sanctuary issues.

#### Raised awareness

*...of the needs of people seeking sanctuary by:-*

- running a competition for local schools on the theme of Safe Passage with a prize giving ceremony in Brecon Cathedral during Refugee Week in June;
- arranging exhibitions of prize-winning entries in Brecon Cathedral, Hay Castle, Ysgol Y Mynydd Du /Talgarth Library and St Catwg's church;

- highlighting petitions and causes advocating for a fairer and more just Asylum system by mailings and social media and via stalls at local fetes, shows and Hay Festival.
- holding a day of activity in Hay castle in February to support Together with Refugees campaign 'Fair begins here'.

#### Been awarded

- 'voluntary group/team of the year' by Heart of Brecon Awards
- generous grants from Bwyd Powys Food to help run Welcome days
- substantial grant from Gibbs Trust to help with purchase of laptops and to give prizes to winning entries at the schools competitions.

#### Held

- 11 monthly meetings via Zoom with one hybrid zoom and in-person meeting with plans for more;
- 3 trustee meetings.

*In 2025 with your support, we have continued to try to build a strong grassroots movement advocating for and welcoming people seeking sanctuary. We hope this may feed into a culture where everyone in our country can thrive regardless of where they come from or the papers that they hold.*

**None of this would have been possible without your support. Thanks so very much**