



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]. Details in main report.

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.
- Money to Monmouthshire Muslim Community Association for EID Gifts.

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.
- substantial amounts of money raised by Fundraising with the local Gurkha community, an Indian Restaurant, by an Art Exhibition and even a sponsored haircut.
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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