

University of Sanctuary Steering Group

Terms of Reference

The University of Sanctuary Steering Group provides a strategic oversight of all activities across Sheffield Hallam University in relation to refugees and asylum seekers with the aim of:

- achieving an organisational culture and practice which are genuinely inclusive and welcoming to sanctuary seekers; and
- attaining the status of University of Sanctuary.

The University of Sanctuary Steering Group reports to the University's Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and the University Leadership Team.

Responsibilities

Learn

- To promote understanding of refugee and asylum seeker needs across the University.
- To increase the number of refugees and asylum seekers offered the opportunity to engage with the University.
- To engage with external stakeholders and partners who offer financial or other assistance to help refugees and asylum seekers back into education.
- To encourage the inclusion of material related to refugee and asylum seeker issues in the academic curriculum where possible.
- To ensure appropriate training is available to staff working with refugees and asylum seekers.

Embed

- To develop a University-wide strategy of approach toward refugees and asylum seekers.
- To foster initiatives for greater intercultural dialogue among staff and students, and with the wider community.
- To provide strategic oversight and steer of existing and new work and good practice in relation to providing sanctuary across Sheffield Hallam University.
- To consider the needs of refugees and asylum seekers and ensure that they are met by the University.
- To actively seek opportunities to involve refugees and asylum seekers in the University community.
- To advocate for refugees and asylum seekers' access to appropriate University facilities and services

Share

- To oversee existing activities across the University where departments and individuals work with refugees and asylum seekers.
- To develop new opportunities across the University to engage with refugees and asylum seekers.

- To publicise the University's involvement with supporting refugees and asylum seekers within the organisation and externally.
- To engage and support local community organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers.
- To work with other universities to enhance opportunities across the sector and to promote best practice.
- To collaborate with wider sanctuary-providing universities, networks and organisations, for example Student Action for Refugees (STAR), and the Council for Academics at Risk (CARA).

Constitution and Membership

Academic and professional service departments across the University, The Students' Union, and a student from a refugee or asylum seeker background are members of the University of Sanctuary Steering Group.

The Group meets four times each academic year to discuss new ideas and link-up existing activities and provide a strategic steer for further policy developments. These are then implemented by functional task-and-finish groups, led of Steering Group members.

Membership

- Dr Sally Jackson – Chief Peoples Officer – chair of the steering group
- Prof. Sital Dhilon - Head of Department of Law & Criminology, Director of the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice
- Dr Craig Paterson – Co-chair of the Migration, Refuge and the University Hallam Guild Group
- Dr Geff Green - Deputy Head of Department - Media Arts and Communication
- Dr Shqiperim Reka – Lecturer in Tourism Management
- Prof. Hora Soltani - Professor in Maternal and Infant Health within Health and Social Care Research
- Neil McKay – Dean of Students or nominee
- James Johnston – Head of Development and Alumni Relations or nominee
- Phil Bloor – Head of Admissions
- Matt Parkin – Head of Student Funding
- Krassimira Teneva – Head of International Experience, Co-chair of the Migration, Refuge and the University Hallam Guild Group
- Helen Paskins – Named student support adviser for refugee and asylum seeker students
- Claire Walsh – Head of Academic Development and Inclusivity
- Sarah Akhtar – HROD Head of Organisational Performance and Culture or a nominee
- Anna Toyne – Head of Widening Participation or a nominee
- Bob Gilbert - President of the Student Action for Refugees Society in Hallam SU
- A Sanctuary scholar student
- Tom Martin – Director, Sheffield City of Sanctuary

Two members of the Steering Group come from a background of forced migration.