

Summary of ways to get involved in supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Lancaster and Morecambe district (last updated February 2019):

1. **Lancaster and Morecambe City of Sanctuary** is an umbrella body for the various groups working to support asylum seekers and refugees in the district. It has the following aims:



- To help provide a welcoming place of safety for people fleeing violence and persecution, building a culture of hospitality and inclusiveness within the city.
- To promote health and well-being by raising funds to support e.g. Welcome packs, grants, interpreters, social activities, bike accessories, extra free English lessons, school uniform...
- To liaise regularly with the network of partner organisations and relevant agencies, working collaborative to ensure holistic support for all our asylum seekers and refugees
- To work with councils, politicians, churches, schools, agencies and local authorities to raise awareness of the issues faced by those seeking sanctuary, and communicating and facilitating the exchange of information with the general public
- You can find out more info about the different groups and ways to get involved at: <https://lancasterandmorecambe.cityofsanctuary.org/getting-involved>
- Contact person is Elizabeth Roberts - admin@lancaster.cityofsanctuary.org
- Facebook: [fb.me/lamcityofsanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/lamcityofsanctuary)
- At Lancaster University the **Red Rose Refugees group** and the Integrate group are working alongside the Student Union and City of Sanctuary to support asylum seekers/refugees through fundraising activities and providing practical support. For more info contact: Lauren Stocks (l.stocks@lancaster.ac.uk), Sophie Guinard (soph.guinard@gmail.com), Holly Spence (h.spence@lancaster.ac.uk)

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/Redroserefugees/>

- **English Classes**, coordinated by Dorothea Williamson dorotheawilliamson@hotmail.com in cooperation with Lancaster and Morecambe College
 - 1) Assist in teaching English at the different classes.
 - 2) Opportunities to teach people at their home, apart from regular communal classes.
 - 3) Other ways to provide support – e.g. by providing extra input/have English conversation.
 - 4) Financial support for stationery, rent, resources for teaching English and sponsoring cinema or museum tickets etc.
 - 5) Providing simple reading books for children and adults, and magazines or providing monetary donations for this.
 - 6) Providing visual aids like posters, world maps etc. or providing monetary donations for this.

- Helen Roe – **Social events coordinator** - contact person for those people interested in initiating or running different social activities to support asylum seekers and refugees.
helenroe@gmail.com

2. **City and County Councils, contact person: Caroline Jackson**

If you would like to know more about what is being done by the City and County Councils to support asylum seekers and refugees, please contact –
caroline54jackson@gmail.com

3. **Global Link at the YMCA, New Rd, LA1 1EZ -** <http://www.globallink.org.uk/> , email g.renolds@globallink.org.uk



- Provides open Drop-ins for asylum seekers and refugees at the YMCA on
 - Mondays, 10am-12.00noon,
 - Tuesdays, 12-2.00pm lunch included
 - Tuesdays, 1-3pm
 - Thursdays, 10am-12noon,
- First Wednesday of each month: Law clinic with Primus solicitors, 10am-2pm. Appointments are essential
- Donations of good quality clothes or shoes are generally welcome to be dropped off at YMCA on weekdays between 9.00am and 5.00pm – but maybe check at reception beforehand whether they need some at present or not.
- Sara Nobili is the contact person in relation to finding volunteer and work opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers (AS can only volunteer for charitable organisations or not for profit). Do contact her if you know about any job or volunteering opportunity:
s.nobili@globallink.org.uk

4. **East meets West, Baptist Church LA1 1PT**

(cross-cultural group for women)

- They run a Drop-in for women and young families on Thursdays from 12 to 2 pm at Lancaster Baptist Church Robert Street entrance. To attend or get involved, contact Hilary Hopwood on
eastmeetswest6@gmail.com
- Other ways in which women can get involved - e.g through donating items for women and young families, providing storage space for items that have been donated, www.open.ac.uk or housing single women or those with young families for the short term.



5. **RAIS, Cornerstone LA1 1PX**, helpline: 07731552259, email Lizzy.hare45@gmail.com

- Drop-in Mon and Fri 3.00-5.00pm for advice and help with housing, practical issues, emergencies, etc. Volunteers will be allocated to families and individuals as contact person to help in all sorts of different areas, translators are available
- Law Clinics held between 1.30 and 3.30 pm on a Wednesday afternoon offered by a Law Professor and students from the Law Department Lancaster Uni. The clinics run for several weeks from Jan to March.
- RAIS operates a database for anyone who has items and furniture available as donations for refugees and asylum seekers. They can't store items, but if you let them know what you have, they will contact you once they know of a family or individual who is in need of furniture or other equipment. Contact details: laura@rais.org.uk



6. **Claver Hill Community Allotment, LA1 3JY** – supporting asylum seekers and refugees who



want to volunteer at the community allotment near Central School, Sun 1-5pm. To find out ways to get involved contact - kathybarton54@yahoo.com

7. **Bike Group:** repairing sessions at Old Vic on first and third Wed of the month.

Bikes - as everyone knows - are a brilliant way of getting around our district cheaply. They also provide a way to exercise and the independence to, for example, take a trip to the seaside, or to access less expensive shops. Our informal team of volunteer's services donated bikes to make them useable and then loans them to houses to use. City of Sanctuary funds the purchase of spare parts and accessories (helmets, lights etc). Our ongoing work includes fixing mechanical problems as they arise and replacing stolen bikes. We would also like to run workshops to teach basic maintenance skills, and to teach people who want to learn how to ride. Contact: Sue Holden: holdensue@gmail.com



Ways to get involved:

- doing bike fixing and servicing (in your own premises)
- teaching people who cannot ride how to do so
- accompanying asylum seekers on bike rides (for leisure, or to show them key safe routes)
- donating bikes of reasonable quality which you no longer need

8. **The Sewing Café: The Herbarium Bar, 5-7 Great John St, Tue 1.30-3.30pm**



Uses creative ways of engaging with asylum seekers and supporting them - through sewing gatherings, also free clothes, shoes, bedding available and opportunity to mend clothes. Contact Victoria Frausin for more info sewingcafelancaster@gmail.com

9. **Tara Centre, The Storey LA1 1TH, Wellbeing,**

contact elhamkashefi2@gmail.com to find out more about what they offer in terms of wellbeing for asylum seekers and refugees.

10. Other ways in which you can engage:

- Translating - looking for Arabic, Kurdish Sorani and Farsi speakers.
- Providing Storage Space for items that have been donated
- Do you have skills in repairing household items, DIY or decorating? Help is much appreciated on a one-off or regular basis.
- Become part of St Thomas church Asylum Seeker and Refugee support email data base, and we will inform you of any events or requests for items/help needed in relation to asylum seekers or refugees living in our city. Contact Maja Moller on stlancaster@websuite.co.uk

Compiled by St Thomas Church, Lancaster