



November 2021 Online Conference

We are delighted to welcome you to the University of Sanctuary 2021 Conference webinar series. This event is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

23 universities in the UK have been recognised as Universities of Sanctuary over the last few years for their commitment to creating a culture and a practice of welcome. Many more are working towards recognition. Join us to explore what universities are already doing, how this could be developed, and how they can become a vital part of making the UK a welcoming place for people seeking sanctuary.

Please share the full [registration and programme link](#) with your networks, and stay connected with us on Twitter @UniofSanctuary and @CityofSanctuary (#UoSConf2021) to be notified of conference updates and additional events.

Joining the programme

All sessions can be joined using the same Zoom link

<https://zoom.us/j/2400423905>
Meeting ID: 240 042 3905

except:

- Training taster sessions by the Scottish Refugee Council (which can be joined by [registering](#))
- Open University webinar (which is hosted separately and a link will be sent very soon)

Security

Please ensure that you register before joining the Zoom session, and that your name is the same name you join the Zoom meeting with. You can change your name on Zoom by hovering your mouse over your name in the 'Participants' list on the right side of the zoom window and clicking on 'rename'.

As with any publicly available Zoom session, certain precautions will be made to ensure the security and privacy of attendees.

- We will be disabling some of the features that Zoom has – such as screen sharing for non-hosts, annotations, or file sharing.
- All participants will be asked to have their video on, real name at the bottom of the screen and will be automatically muted. If you do not use your real name you may be removed from the session by the moderator.
- We ask all participants to respect the privacy of other participants and not to share personal details of what is discussed with anyone outside of the conference or on social media.

Video

We would strongly encourage you to have your video on for security reasons and to feel part of the community. Please note the conference sessions will be recorded to save the presentations as future resource. If you do not want to be recorded, you can turn off your camera during the meeting and/or change your name after joining.

The above measures will hopefully allow for the smooth running of the webinars. In the event of a disruption, it will be swiftly dealt with by the moderator.

Conference Programme

Week 1

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Speaker(s)/joining link</i>
Monday 15th 4.00-5.00 pm	<p align="center">Welcome Presentation</p> <p>We are delighted to welcome you to this year's conference with opening speeches from three University representatives and a refugee campaigner who will offer a perspective on sanctuary in higher education and how they expand a culture of welcome at their institutions.</p>	<p>Gulwali Passarly, Refugee Campaigner and Activist</p> <p>Rachel Sandison, Vice-Principal , External Relations, University of Glasgow</p> <p>Dr Mike Chick, Senior lecturer TESOL / Refugee Champion, University of South Wales</p> <p>Dr Linda Morrice, Reader in Education and Migration at the University of Sussex</p>
Tuesday 16th 2.00-3.00pm	<p align="center">Scottish Refugee Council: Training for HE Practitioners – a Taster Session for staff (1st session)</p> <p>Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) have partnered with Universities of Sanctuary (UoS) and Student Action for Refugees (STAR) to produce training. The suite of specialist training courses are designed to support Higher Education Institutions to become places of sanctuary, and work towards the Universities of Sanctuary Award</p> <p>We are delighted to soft-launch the training suite. This is the first of 4 free training ‘tasters’ during the conference. The tasters will be hour-long, and an additional 30 minutes to answer any questions about the training suite.</p>	<p>Martha Harding and Shohana Shabnam , Scottish Refugee Council</p> <p>Click here to register</p>
Wednesday 17th 10.00am-12.00pm	<p align="center">Sanctuary Scholarships – How HE institutions can foster inclusivity</p> <p>This workshop is an opportunity to reflect on the success of sanctuary scholarships and on the development of solutions to issues concerning inclusivity within offers. There will be emphasis on different immigration statuses, highlighting the differences in complex eligibility criteria and looking into what universities can do to foster a collective culture of inclusivity.</p>	<p>Kimberly Garande, We Belong Outreach Officer</p> <p>Siobhan Coskera, Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Access to University Coordinator</p> <p>https://zoom.us/j/2400423905 Meeting ID: 240 042 3905</p>
Thursday 18th 3.00-3.30pm	<p align="center">Research Presentation</p> <p>Refugee Women's Linguistic Identity and Social integration in Creative Writing: a research project exploring refugee women's linguistic identity and social integration in the UK within creative writing groups.</p>	<p>Sara Bdeir, second year PhD candidate in Education at Nottingham Trent University</p> <p>https://zoom.us/j/2400423905 Meeting ID: 240 042 3905</p>
Friday 19th 10.00-11.00am	<p align="center">Scottish Refugee Council: Training for HE Practitioners – a Taster Session for staff (2nd session)</p>	<p>Martha Harding and Shohana Shabnam , Scottish Refugee Council</p> <p>Click here to register</p>

11.00am –
12.00pm

Research Presentation, University of Newcastle
“It’s like rubbing salt on the wound” - The impacts of covid-19 and lockdown on asylum seekers and refugees in the UK

This research draws upon a nationwide survey of organisations who provide services for refugees and asylum seekers, and interviews with service providers and refugees and asylum seekers in Glasgow and Newcastle Gateshead.

Professor Peter Hopkins,
Newcastle University School
of Geography

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3.00 – 4.00pm

“Lift the Ban” – students campaigning for the right to work

Hear from a group of students who have been working to support the Lift the Ban campaign. They have spent the last year gathering support from local and national institutions, including Newcastle University and the British Medical Association.

They will be discussing the importance of the campaign, how our group began working on the campaign, their personal experiences and how other student groups can support this campaign and others of its kind.

Sam Hoskyns

Sinead Foley, students at the
University of Newcastle

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Meeting ID: 240 042 3905

Week 2

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Speaker(s)/Joining link</i>
Monday 22nd 10.00 – 11.00am	Information and discussion session – Training for staff supporting students seeking sanctuary Do you or your colleagues work with students seeking sanctuary? Are you working within admissions, widening participation or access, student support or funding teams? Join this session to learn about the training available to equip staff working with students of asylum, refugee and temporary immigration backgrounds. You will hear from the main training providers in this area about best practice, how to address the most common challenges more effectively. This session will also highlight the main differences between each providers’ training and how you can select the most appropriate training to support students from point of recruitment until graduation.	Katie Barringer, Head of Educational Progression at Refugee Education UK (REUK) Martha Harding, Martha Harding, Training Officer at Scottish Refugee Council . Kimberly Garande We Belong 's Outreach Officer https://zoom.us/j/2400423905 Meeting ID: 240 042 3905

1.00 - 2.30 pm

Roundtable Discussion: Education to Employment Pathways Among Forced Migrants – Addressing the Online and Distance-Learning Gap

This session by the Open University attempts to explore the different needs, challenges, and tensions between aspirations related to education and employment among forced migrants in the UK, from a multitude of perspectives including the legal, social, economic, and institutional angles. The session will specifically explore the field of online or distance learning, and skills education (jobs and apprentice programmes), that can potentially partially alleviate and address these challenges and tensions.

Speakers (hosts): Lidia Dancu, Dr Aditya Ray, Fidele Mutwarasibo (Open University)

Panel members: Mebrak Ghebreweldi (Diversity Resource International); Dr Neil Graffin (Law School, Open University); Dr Helen Baxter (University of Leicester); Maggie Lennon (Bridges Programme Glasgow); Simon Tindall (Skills and Innovation, Open University)

Register to receive the link: [Webinar \(microsoft.com\)](#)

2.00 – 3.00pm

Scottish Refugee Council: Training for HE Practitioners – a Taster Session for staff (3rd session)

Martha Harding and Shohana Shabnam, [Scottish Refugee Council](#)

[Click here to register](#)

Tuesday 23

12.00 – 2.00pm

St Mary's University: Horizons Summer School for Survivors of Trauma – University's Bakhita Centre for Research

The Horizons Summer School is a pilot project developed by St Mary's Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse.

The Horizons Summer School was successfully delivered over a six-week period in the Summer of 2021. Including both academic and enriching activities the Horizons Summer School has demonstrated that a flexible and innovative approach to educational provision positively impacts the lives of survivors, improves their confidence, and creates new spaces for personal growth and learning.

Dr Carole Murphy

Diem-Tu Tran

Melanie Doucakis

Vanna Derosas

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**Wednesday
24th**

10am-11am

Refuaid: Facilitating Access to Education and Employment through English Language Support

Mohib heads up RefuAid's Language: A Gateway programme, which in the past year has supported 476 RefuAid clients into language classes with partner schools and volunteer English language tutors all over the UK. The programme provides RefuAid clients with crucial access to the formal tuition needed to pass OET & IELTS exams, which are required to access university degrees, as well as re-qualify in a host of skilled professions.

Mohib Ullah will speak about Refuaid's work with universities, students and other organisations to support refugees with access to HE, prequalification and employment, as well as their exciting future projects.

Mohib Ullah, Head of UK Language Programme, [Refuaid](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/2400423905>

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2.00 – 3.00pm

Running a successful Refugee Week/Refugee Festival Scotland events

Interested in knowing more about Refugee Week and Refugee Festival Scotland, and how your university community can get involved in 2022?

Refugee Festival Scotland team, STAR Network Manager and University of Edinburgh Global Community Coordinator have partnered to offer a glimpse behind the scenes of running success festival events. We will introduce the festival, themes and dates of the campaign in 2022. You will hear from STAR how HR professionals can support students to mark the week. We will also present the examples of successful events, share lessons learned and discuss ideas for online/hybrid events.

It's your chance to meet and collaborate with others from around the UK.

Inga Ackermann, Global Community Coordinator, University of Edinburgh

Jessica Benham, Student Network Manager, STAR (Student Action for Refugees)

Eleanor Harris, Refugee Festival Scotland Officer, Scottish Refugee Council

Baz Alden, Refugee Festival Assistant, Scottish Refugee Council

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Thursday 25th

10.00 – 11.00am

Scottish Refugee Council: Training for HE Practitioners – a Taster Session for staff (4th session)

Martha Harding and Shohana Shabnam , [Scottish Refugee Council](#)

[Click here to register](#)

10.00-11.00am

North East Solidarity and Teaching (N.E.S.T) Presentation

[North East Solidarity and Teaching \(N.E.S.T\)](#) is a multi-award winning and internationally-recognised student-led project at Newcastle University Students Union (NUSU) that is managed by Go Volunteer. N.E.S.T empowers the refugee and asylum-seeking community in the region through a variety of formats such as one-to-one English teaching, group English classes, sports, creative arts and trips into the local area.

Through N.E.S.T, learners (refugees and asylum seekers) gain confidence in their language skills, find new friends and family, and become better integrated into the community. N.E.S.T runs every day, providing up to 13 sessions each week for people of all ages.

Join this session to learn more about this scheme and how you could start similar work at your university.

Bridget Stratford
N.E.S.T Project Worker
Newcastle University
Students' Union
<https://zoom.us/j/2400423905>
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11.00am – 12.00pm

Support for Students Seeking Sanctuary – A Session for HE Staff, points of contact for sanctuary students and directors of student support and wellbeing

Do you work in a department or team that supports students with sanctuary seeking backgrounds ? Would you like to share your experiences, ask questions or discuss challenges you come across?

Helen Paskins, International Experience Team at Sheffield Hallam University
Isabelle Habib, Senior Access Officer at Birkbeck, University of London

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Is your department interested in creating a post for a point of contact to directly support students on sanctuary scholarships and beyond? Join this session to hear from two points of contact and discuss:

- Creating a sense of community for sanctuary students
- Academic and pastoral mentoring
- Involvement of sanctuary students at every stage of the journey
- Hardship funding and financial support, applying for grants, linking students with internal and external support.
- Advocacy work
- Legal advice and signposting
- Engaging with University of Sanctuary working groups.

2.00 – 3.00 pm

Student Loans Company

An Overview for universities about Eligibility and Higher Education Loans, Appeals Processes and Current Work to support Students Seeking Sanctuary
Join this information session to learn more about the work of the Student Loans Company and the issues affecting students with temporary immigration backgrounds. There will also be time for discussion and questions

Charmaine Valente, Funding Information Partners Account Manager, Student Loans Company

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4.00 – 5.00 pm

University of Dundee Scholarships – A model for International Humanitarian Scholarships

In this session, the University of Dundee will talk about their unique Humanitarian Scholarships model. Join to hear about how they have made scholarships available for Refugees outside the UK in addition to CARA programmes and scholarships for sanctuary seekers in the UK.

Sharon Sweeney, Student Funding Officer

Allanah Watson, Admissions Projects Officer

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Friday 26th

**11.00 am –
12.00pm**

Council for At-Risk Academics

The Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara) has been working since 1933 as a rescue mission for academics in immediate danger, and also runs regionally-based programmes to assist academics who have been forced into exile in the region around their home country or who are trying to work on, despite many risks and hardships. In this session, Cara's Director will outline their current work and the challenges they face, and Mr Haidari will talk about his own experiences in Higher Education in Afghanistan over nearly ten years, and the recent events which forced him and his family into exile.

Stephen Wordsworth,
Executive Director, Cara

Eraj Haidari, Visiting Researcher at City, University of London, formerly Lecturer in the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Balkh University, Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan

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12.00 – 1.00 pm

Why is community engagement with BAMER (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee) people important in Higher Education?

Alice Mpofu-Coles and the Student Community Champions at the University of Reading.

Universities have started to increase efforts to connect with diverse communities, and they are focused on tackling inequalities through equality, diversity and inclusion (E.D.I.) work. Most universities are based in towns and cities, and they should not stand in isolation from the majority of the local residents. They need to amplify the voices of the local population, not only in research but also as part of a broader impact on local people for the societal outcomes.

<https://zoom.us/j/2400423905>

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1.00 – 2.00 pm

Setting up Sanctuary Scholarships

Are you interested in setting up a Sanctuary Scholarship at your institution, but unsure where to start?

Sanctuary Scholarships are gateways to university for prospective students from refugee and migrant backgrounds who would otherwise be locked out of higher education due to their immigration status. In the UK, people who are seeking asylum or have limited leave to remain are usually unable to access student finance and are charged international fees.

Hear from two universities about how they have set up their two scholarship model and their experience so far.

Harriet Sheridan, Partnerships Officer at University of St Andrews

Raphaëla Armbruster, Admissions and Access to Higher Education

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2.00 – 3.00 pm

RefugEAP soft launch: English for Academic Purposes Programme for Refugee-Background Students

This talk will outline a new scheme entitled RefugEAP, which is being set up by the University of Leicester to create opportunities for refugee-background students from across the UK to access both formal and non-formal English for Academic Purposes (EAP) provision to aid them in their efforts to access a UK university. It will start by laying out the need for this scheme, and the difficulties commonly faced by these students in accessing EAP. It will then set out the structure of the scheme, which consists of two strands:

- Providing non-formal classes and learning opportunities for refugee-background students
- Working to improve formal opportunities for refugee-background students to access formal EAP provision across the UK HE sector

The session will close with an opportunity for participants to ask questions, and participants who may be interested in getting involved will be given information about how they might do so.

Aleks Palanc, University of Leicester

Adam Pettit and Kirsty Branch, [Password English Language Testing](#)

Moses Seitler, [Screen Share](#)

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