

Stephens, James ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7299-3273> (2022)  
University of Sanctuary. In: Race 2B Conference, 20 October 2022, University of  
Cumbria, Carlisle, UK. (Unpublished)

Downloaded from: <http://insight.cumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/6703/>

*Usage of any items from the University of Cumbria's institutional repository 'Insight' must conform to the following fair usage guidelines.*

Any item and its associated metadata held in the University of Cumbria's institutional repository Insight (unless stated otherwise on the metadata record) may be copied, displayed or performed, and stored in line with the JISC fair dealing guidelines (available [here](#)) for educational and not-for-profit activities

**provided that**

- the authors, title and full bibliographic details of the item are cited clearly when any part of the work is referred to verbally or in the written form
  - a hyperlink/URL to the original Insight record of that item is included in any citations of the work
- the content is not changed in any way
- all files required for usage of the item are kept together with the main item file.

**You may not**

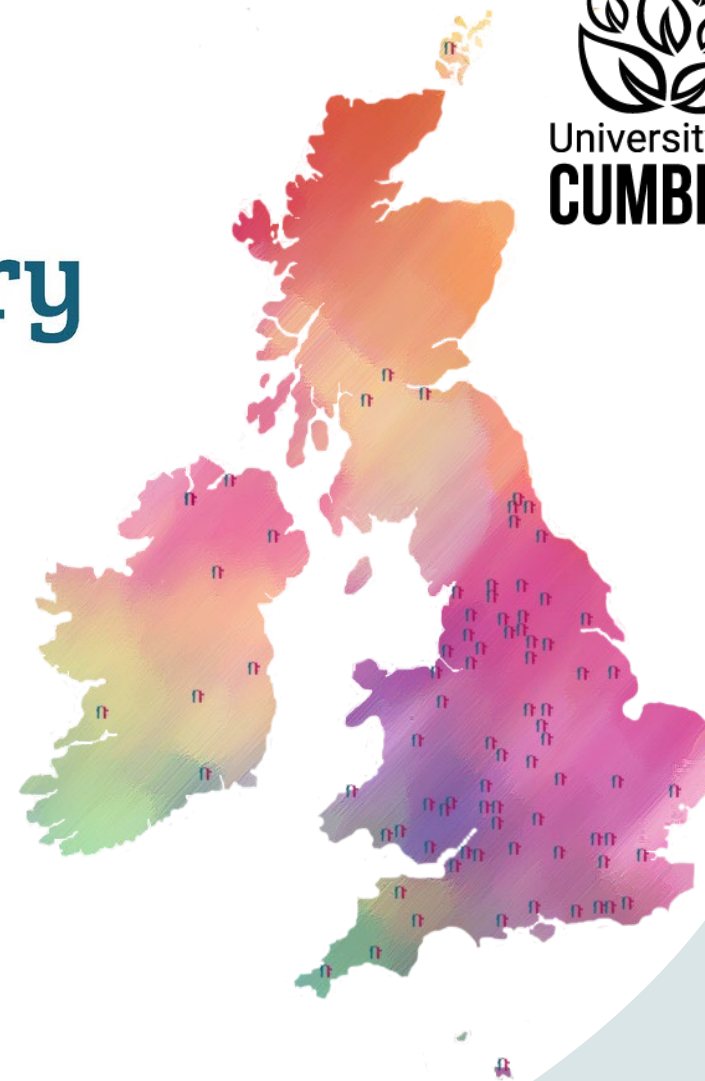
- sell any part of an item
- refer to any part of an item without citation
- amend any item or contextualise it in a way that will impugn the creator's reputation
- remove or alter the copyright statement on an item.

The full policy can be found [here](#).

Alternatively contact the University of Cumbria Repository Editor by emailing [insight@cumbria.ac.uk](mailto:insight@cumbria.ac.uk).

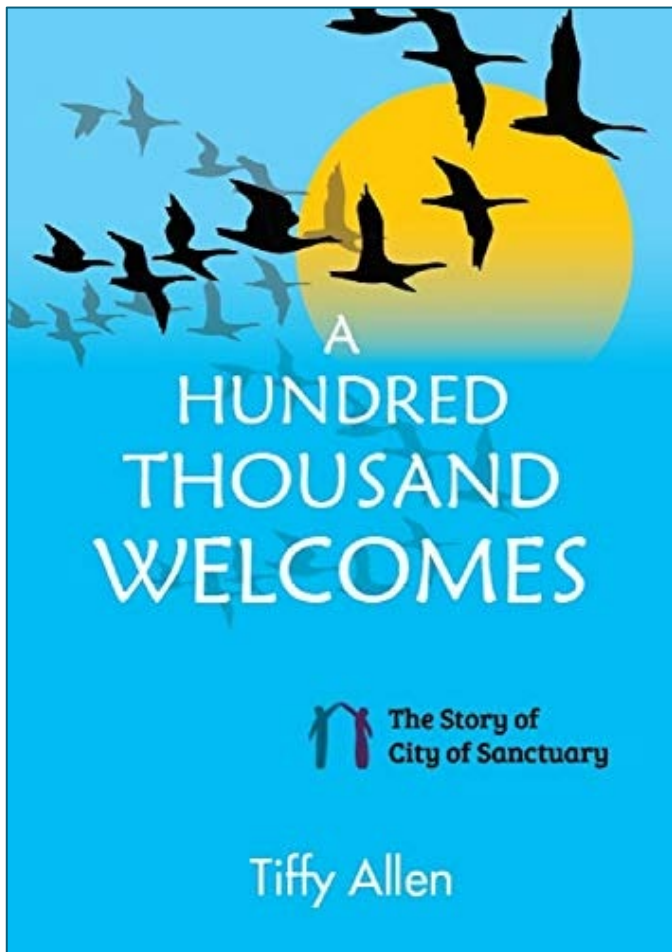
# Universities of Sanctuary

A UK wide network of universities building a movement of welcome and belonging for people seeking safety.





<https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/refugeeswelcome>



The University of Sanctuary network today:  
a growing and collaborative network of HE institutions supported by  
City of Sanctuary, that provide scholarships and beyond..



Student  
Action for  
Refugees



article 26

A project of the Helena Kennedy Foundation



City of Sanctuary UK



Universities  of Sanctuary

28 awarded universities  
across the UK

Around 50 universities  
working towards and  
building this vision.

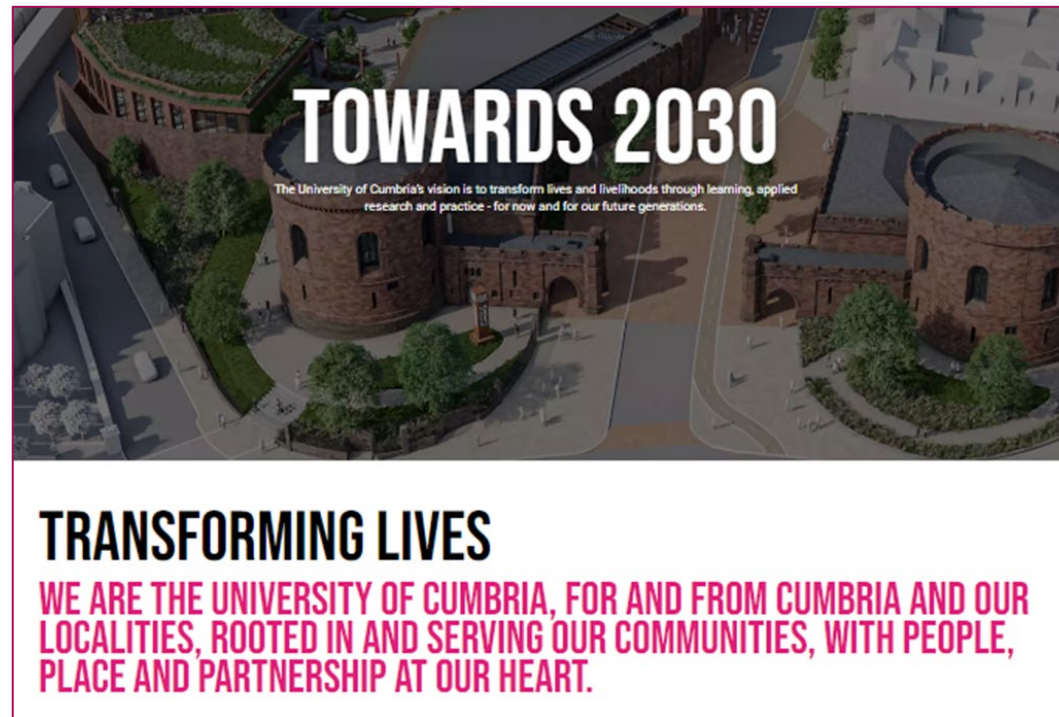
## Why become a University of Sanctuary?

- The Award is the beginning of the journey, not a destination.
- Equipping graduates with the necessary skills to address barriers to opportunities.
- Attracting more students to the university.
- The notion of sanctuary fits with the values of most universities. The award allows universities to **become part of a network.**

# The University of Sanctuary scheme aligns within the values of the University of Cumbria and The Cathedrals Group of Universities



“We care about our students, graduates, staff, university, communities, region, environment, and world.”



“Creating opportunities for people from all walks of life, so that their background is not a barrier to accessing education.”

# Barriers to HE



## Education For All - Guidance for universities



### Financial

- Access to student finance
- IELTS
- UCAS/PG application fees
- Funding to support application preparation
- On course extra funding
- Limitations of asylum support

### Structural

- Negotiating the asylum system
- Potential restrictions of asylum system to access study
- Qualification recognition
- English language requirements

### Contextual

- Information about opportunities
- Understanding UK application system
- Shifting legal landscape
- Negative public opinion
- Difficulty accessing other services

### Personal

- Confidence about applying
- Culture shock
- Language difficulties
- Isolation
- Loss or change of status
- Mental and physical health
- Poverty/income insecurity

# The 3 Key Principles

LEARN about what it means to be seeking sanctuary.

Taking positive action to EMBED concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion.

## Minimum Criteria

- A public commitment to the City of Sanctuary vision of welcome through endorsement of the charter, and signing of the local group pledge where relevant.
  - Offer Sanctuary Scholarships which should be underpinned by the Article 26 Guiding Principles.
  - A commitment to taking steps to minimise the impact that changes in government legislation has for forced migrants on the experience of applying for and attending university.
  - A web page dedicated to the sanctuary initiatives and commitment of the university to a culture of welcome.
  - Support the establishment of a student-led awareness group on campus (such as a STAR group).
  - A dedicated member of staff/team of staff as a contact point for sanctuary students. This provision should be communicated to the students, be easily accessible and the staff member(s) must be appropriately trained.
  - Create a three-year plan or embed into existing plans how the institution can continue to develop a culture of welcome.
- Evidence of effective communications that ensure sanctuary scholarships and other opportunities are taken up by people seeking sanctuary. See the Article 26 resource 'Reaching Out to Sanctuary Scholars'.
- Active engagement with the wider community including people seeking sanctuary and their local City of Sanctuary network or refugee support network if there is one.
  - Active engagement with the national University of Sanctuary stream. This could be through financial/in kind contributions, contributions to the work of the University of Sanctuary national steering group, or email group (see resource section below for a link to join the email group). It's also vital to provide case studies to share good practice with others and help with the development of resources and furthering the movement.

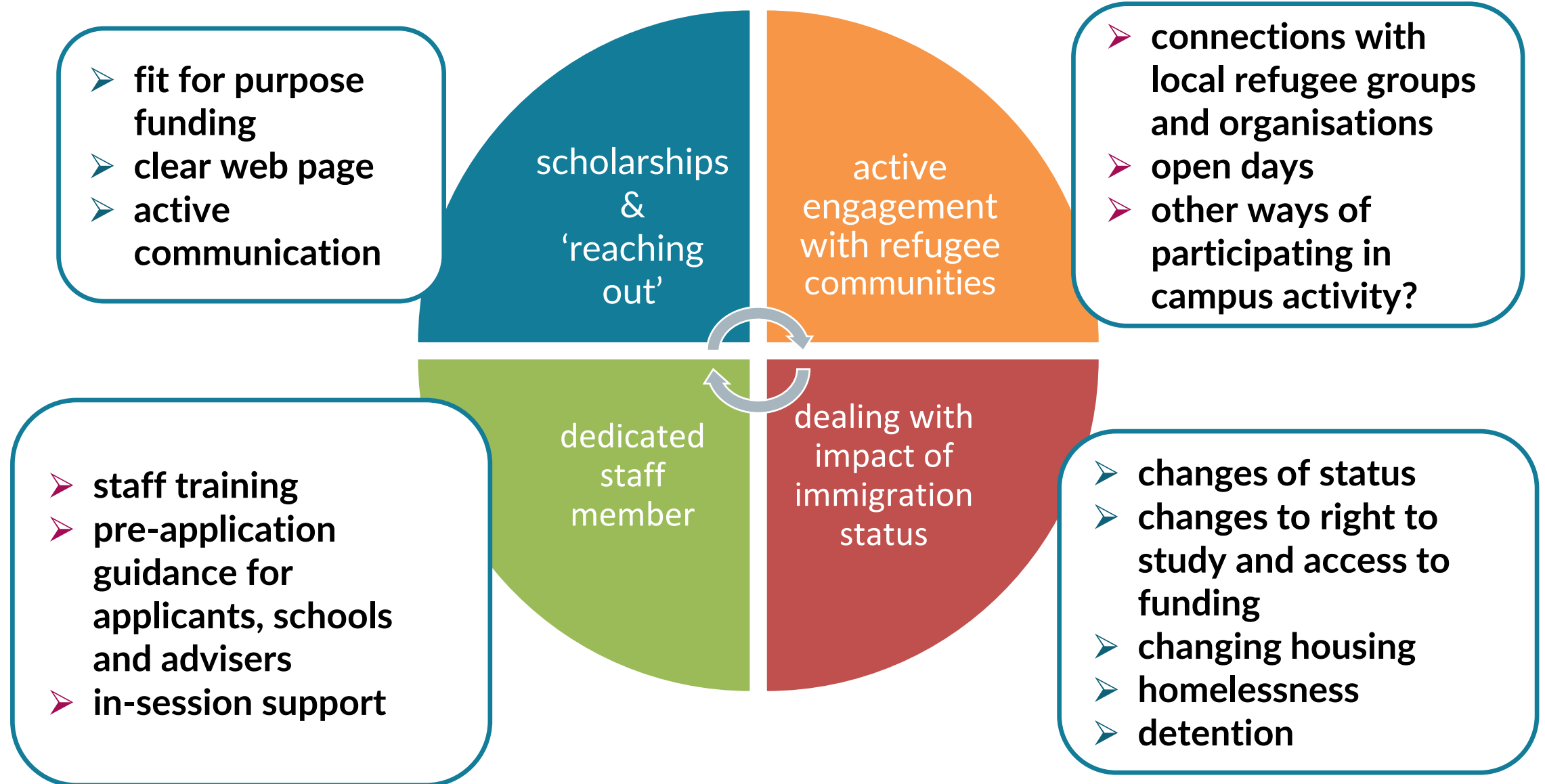
## Guiding Principles on Sanctuary Scholars in UK Higher Education

A document outlining guiding principles, which lay the foundations for Sanctuary Scholarship schemes

SHARE the vision and achievements.

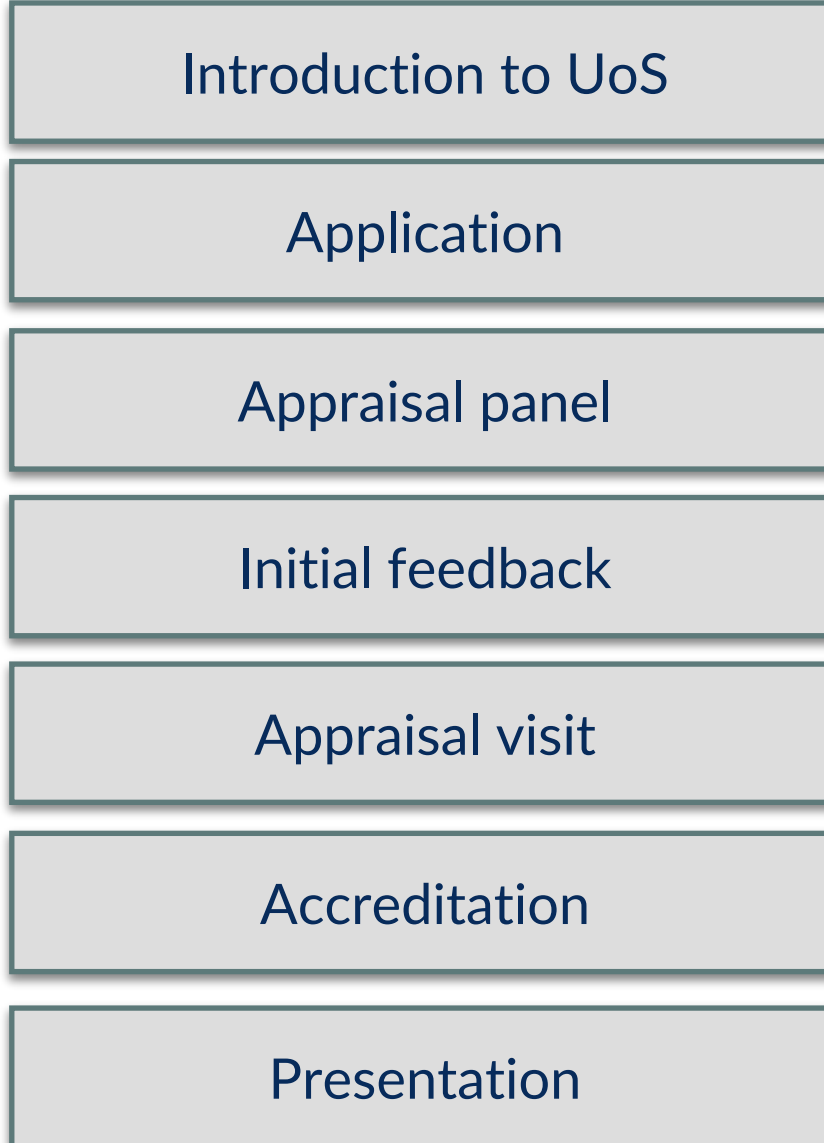
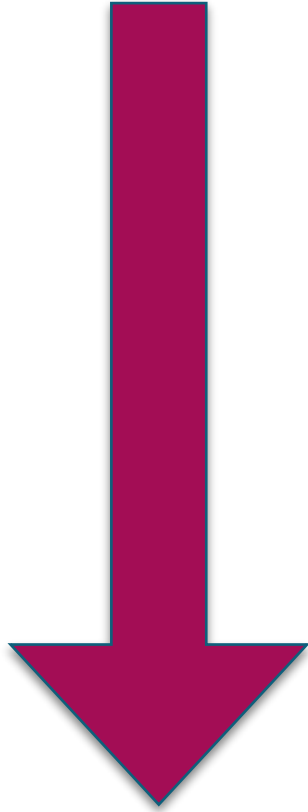


# What does a University of Sanctuary look like?





# APPRAISAL PROCESS



# Community Connections



East Meets West

# Our Journey So Far...



EDIW Committee granted support to this endeavour in Summer 2022

Registered our interest with UoS organisation and initial meeting with Maryam

In the process of convening a university wide working group to oversee the project

Beginning to identify 'workstreams' to Embed action

'Soft' launch of the project today. Formal launch soon.

“Small actions weave into a ‘hundred thousand welcomes’...and change the culture”

# The Open Access Movement

Open Access has the potential of making academic and scholarly outputs from universities more transparent, inclusive and democratic.

The University of Cumbria is committed to supporting Open Access and we manage the institutional research output repository called [Insight](#).

Library Services also curate an [Open Access Resources Page](#) to guide learners and researchers toward free, trusted, high quality, scholarly content.



# Universities of Sanctuary



Thank you for listening

