



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



National University of Ireland, Galway
**University of Sanctuary
Movement and Campaign
Report 2016-2019**

Welcome

As Vice President for Equality and Diversity, and Chair of the Equality and Diversity Campus Committee (EDICC), I am delighted to support the vibrant University of Sanctuary Campaign, and this application for formal University of Sanctuary status, from NUI Galway.

A university has a social and civic responsibility to provide leadership, access and support to our entire community, and to recognise a collective responsibility to be a beacon, a source of insight, support, tolerance and sanctuary in a troubled world; particularly in the midst of the unprecedented global refugee crisis in which we find ourselves. NUI Galway takes this responsibility seriously and both colleagues in my office and members of the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Campus Committee has and will continue to warmly and actively engaged with the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, in supporting their activities and initiatives as their programme of education, support and awareness raising continues to take root across our university community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues, staff and students, across the University who are engaged very actively in our University of Sanctuary Campaign. In particular I would like to thank Dr Lorraine McIlrath, Co-ordinator of the Community Knowledge Initiative and Ms Imelda Byrne, Head of the Access Centre, for providing sustained leadership and support to the University of Sanctuary project, to Co-ordinator Aidan Harte for his enthusiasm, unstinting commitment and sheer hard work in driving this important agenda forward. Finally it is important to acknowledge all the members of the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee for their time, support and creative insights over the past 18 months, as we have worked to launch and embed the ideal of the University of Sanctuary movement across our entire university community.



Anne Scott
Vice-President for
Equality and Diversity
NUI Galway



Foreword by NUI Galway President, Prof. Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh

In January 2018, I took up the position of 13th president of NUI Galway. As one of my first official engagements as President I had the pleasure of launching the nascent University of Sanctuary campaign on 22 February 2018. Since then I have watched with pride as the University of Sanctuary campaign has developed and grown. I have been delighted to see the principles of the movement reflected in the thinking which will guide our University as we develop our Strategic Plan for the next five years. This plan will be underpinned by five core values:

- Respectful NUI Galway
- Expert NUI Galway / Excellent NUI Galway
- Accessible NUI Galway / Inclusive NUI Galway
- Distinctive NUI Galway
- Sustainable NUI Galway

The University of Sanctuary campaign speaks to all of these values and embodies our vision for a purposeful and civically engaged campus.

The campaign responds to many issues which affect and animate Irish society today: the promotion of meaningful integration for Ireland's newest communities; equitable access to education: and the elimination of discrimination in all its forms.

Significantly, the campaign's placement within the Access Programmes Office will give effect to our commitment to broaden access to university education from under-represented groups, while the involvement of the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) and its civic engagement ethos will ensure that the enterprise is sustained well in to the future through the promotion of continued student and staff engagement with the initiative, as it evolves from a campaign to an embedded initiative within the University structure.

The University of Sanctuary campaign has been supported by the University Management Team (UMT) from its inception, through the provision of funding for various pilot projects through the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC), through funding support for a part-time research assistant post to coordinate the initiative in January of this year, as well as through the provision of 6 undergraduate scholarships and 3 postgraduate scholarships, which will come into effect for the 2019/2020 academic year.

I would like to commend and thank all involved with this important initiative, including members of the UMT, the EDICC, the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, along with the many student groups and societies and various community partners who have worked together to create a plan for NUI Galway as University of Sanctuary. On behalf of the University community, I look forward to working with all parties to make Galway city and county a "Community of Sanctuary" over the coming year, coinciding with Galway's designation as European Capital of Culture in 2020.

Le gach dea-mhéin san obair thábhachtach seo.



Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh
Uachtarán - President



University of Sanctuary Positioning at NUI Galway

The University of Sanctuary Movement and Campaign brings together the work of the Community Knowledge Initiative and the Access Programmes Office at NUI Galway as a new partnership. This partnership grounds the work of University of Sanctuary through the two NUI Galway pillars of engaging with the community through civic engagement and widening participation to access higher education. Both of these pillars are essential and distinctive to NUI Galway and we remain committed to developing deeper partnerships with community partners and responding to the needs of community wherever possible.

We feel proud to have been associated with the Movement and Campaign on campus as it grew from a student grassroots activity to engender the support of the whole University through top-down and bottom up processes. It has also allowed us to forge new partnerships in the wider community with various community and voluntary sector organisations, as well as with members of our newest communities and the Traveller community. We feel that the Movement and Campaign has been a huge success with many developments underway to create more sustainable routes in the University and has enabled us to make strong relationships within the community.



Dr. Lorraine McIlrath
Coordinator
Communitiy Knowledge
Initiative
NUI Galway



We acknowledge the work of Aidan Harte who has been instrumental to the success of the University of Sanctuary at NUI Galway and his drive, determination and passion are evident in all that he does to tackle social injustices that exist in society. As a graduate of our University, he emulates the ethos of civic engagement and models the ideals of a graduate citizen.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge all of colleagues, friends and collaborators on the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee. It is very much an active committee, with all individuals working towards more accessible routes into the University and developing enduring relationships with those who find themselves facing barriers within society. The committee is diverse and we have learned hugely from each other, and includes members of the International Protection Community, members of the Traveller community, students, staff and leadership of the University along with representatives from the community and voluntary sector.

We hope this report brings to life a consolidated overview of all that has been achieved to date and our aspirations for the future.



Imelda Byrne
Head of Access Centre
Access Centre
NUI Galway



Acknowledgements

This report documents the process of developing and deepening the 'NUI Galway University of Sanctuary' movement through top-down and bottom-up commitments. The report was made possible by the support of many individuals and units across campus and within the wider community. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the campaign and development of the Sanctuary ethos and practice in Galway.

In particular, we would like to thank the Community Knowledge Initiative and Access Programmes Office at NUI Galway for hosting the University of Sanctuary and the provision of a University base; Professor Anne Scott, Vice President for Equality and Diversity, for her ongoing championing of the movement; and, the President of NUI Galway for his full support in actioning our vision.

The University of Sanctuary Steering Committee have been instrumental to our embedding across the University and we thank them for their genuine support, time and commitments. We also acknowledge our funders including the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC), Galway University Foundation, Access Programmes, Forsa Galway, and the Community

Knowledge Initiative for the provision of the necessary funding required for many initiatives. The movement was founded by student members of the Fáilte Refugees Society and we thank them for their vision, commitment, drive and support. Our partners in this process, namely members of the International Protection, refugee and Traveller communities have all been wise counsel and guided this work so that it meets real educational need in wider society. Finally, we thank the Places of Sanctuary movement for their incessant support and advice as we developed the initiative, as well as our colleagues in other higher education institutions.

This report was prepared by Aidan Harte (coordinator University of Sanctuary) and Dr. Lorraine McIlrath (Coordinator Community Knowledge Initiative) on behalf of NUI Galway and the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee.

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Introduction



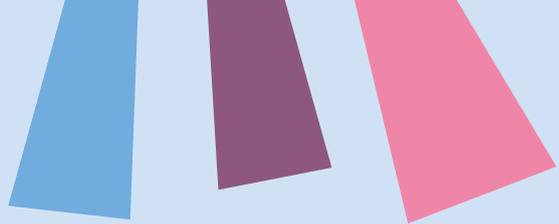
The National University of Ireland Galway has undertaken a series of strategies to develop, nurture, and sustain a welcoming environment on campus, particularly for those in Direct Provision, refugees, and members of the Traveller community. These strategies encompass an on-going institution-wide response to the unprecedented global refugee crisis and low levels of participation in higher education among the Traveller community, and to provide access to higher education opportunities at NUI Galway. We put forward this report which documents the process of developing and deepening the ‘NUI Galway University of Sanctuary’ movement and campaign as we endeavour to be recognised as an Irish University of Sanctuary, given our top-down and bottom-up commitments.

This report is structured into eight sections. The first section, entitled **Background**, offers an historical overview on the roots of the movement and how it was to grow from a group of committed students towards a wider set of commitments from NUI Galway staff, senior management (including the NUI Galway President), many other students and the wider community in Galway city and county. **Creating the Movement** outlines the development of a university-wide Steering Committee that has formally driven the ethos of “Sanctuary” across campus, underpinned by a variety of sub-committees that have driven certain aspects of the movement. The next section, **NUI Galway Strategy and Policy**, lays out our strategic and policy-led commitments to community and diversity along with a set of practices that enact these policies. These same practices have laid a solid foundation for the movement and have drawn from leadership in recognised core areas to create another dimension to university-community engagement. The next section, **Launch of the NUI Galway University of Sanctuary**

Campaign, highlights how the movement has been fully embraced by NUI Galway as a university-wide campaign to ensure that barriers to participation at higher education are removed. Next, **Funding and Support** details how the NUI Galway University Management Team (UMT) has secured funds to employ a member of staff to formally coordinate the campaign from a top-down and bottom up strategy, as well as the provision of resources to host seminars and create a number of annual scholarships. The **Learn, Embed and Share** section highlights the diverse range of activities and initiatives which have been developed to embed the ethos of “Sanctuary” across NUI Galway and, finally, a section on **Sanctuary into the Future** documents the future plans and activities which will continue the work of our Sanctuary movement, and develop and sustain deeper partnerships within our broader community.

Background





Following a national meeting in 2016 of higher education students from across the sector in Trinity College Dublin (TCD), the NUI Galway cohort of students who attended that meeting went on to initiate the University of Sanctuary movement at NUI Galway. The broad purpose of the national meeting was to discuss the collective actions higher education students could take in response to the global refugee crisis, its impact upon the growing number of International Protection Applicants (IPA's)¹ across Ireland, and how best the students could become successful agents of change by promoting inclusion and integration within their respective communities.

The six NUI Galway students² in attendance came from a variety of academic disciplines including Law, Human Rights, Advocacy and Activism and, following that meeting, those same students met at NUI Galway to form a new local student society to look at barriers facing new migrants to Ireland. The NUI Galway *Fáilte Refugees Society* was born, and became a local platform for the dissemination of information on issues related to Galway's International Protection community. The *Fáilte Refugees Society* was officially recognised by the University Societies Coordinating Group (USCG) in January 2017, and has received annual funding to facilitate their activities listed in the **Learn, Embed, and Share** section. To date, it has collaborated with a myriad of national and local organisations to advocate and lobby for migrant communities. Some of these organisations have included: the National Youth Council of Ireland

(NYCI), the Galway One World Centre, the Galway Anti-Racism Network (GARN), and the Community Knowledge Initiative ALIVE Volunteering Programme at NUI Galway. Many activities undertaken by the *Fáilte Refugees Society* have included the co-hosting of public awareness workshops and guest speaker events across campus, all of which aim to raise the profile of the on-going global refugee crisis, while advocating for the reform or abolition of the current Direct Provision system in Ireland.

¹ Within this document, the terms "International Protection Applicant" and "asylum seeker" are used interchangeably, as both terms are recognised as referring to those seeking International Protection/asylum in the Republic of Ireland.

² JJ Fenez, Aidan Harte, Chiun Min Seah, Suzanne Raap, Andrea Stigler, Tom Wilkinson - all then students in the Irish Centre for Human Rights at NUI Galway



Creating the Movement

In 2017, student members of the Fáilte Refugees Society became aware of the City and University of Sanctuary movement in Ireland and the need to create a university-wide movement to challenge educational inequities that existed nationally and in the West of Ireland in particular. An initial meeting was held with the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), NUI Galway’s centre for civic and community engagement, and with the CKI’s full support, the students went on to form a university-wide University of Sanctuary’ Steering Committee (please see Appendix 1 for Terms of Reference).

At the time it was felt that a university-wide movement at NUI Galway required a breath of individuals from within and out with the university who could commit to and drive new initiatives that would remove barriers for asylum seekers and refugees wishing to pursue higher education. Invitations to join the Steering Committee were sent by the founding chairperson³ to NUI Galway student groups including NUI Galway’s Student’s Union, senior management, professional services and academic staff of the university. In addition, a number of representatives from local advocacy groups and NGOs were also invited to join the committee. The aim of this committee was to further embrace and develop a formal commitment to the Places of Sanctuary ethos, and to impact local and national policy. At the Steering Committee’s inaugural meeting, it was decided to widen the remit of the movement to also include members of the Irish Traveller Community, who too frequently remain on the periphery of Irish society with limited access to higher education and consequent opportunities.

Currently, the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee membership comprises sixty representatives from various organisations and offices, including the Vice President for Equality and Diversity; the College of Science; the College of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Sciences; the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies; the College of Business, Public Policy, & Law; the Irish Centre for Human Rights; the Centre for Adult Learning & Professional Development; the College of Engineering & Informatics; the Community Knowledge Initiative; the Access Programmes Office; the Students’ Union; the Fáilte Refugees Society; Minceirs Whiden (Travellers Talking) Society; various NUI Galway student services offices; the Great Western and the Eglinton Direct Provision centres residents’ committees, the Galway City Partnership; the Galway One World Centre; the Galway Integration Consortium; the Galway Traveller Movement; the Galway Anti-Racism Network; and AMACH LGBT+ Galway (please see Appendix 2 for Stakeholder Table).

³Aidan Harte

Individual Representatives	
Diadeen Ahmed	Universal Peace Federation Ambassador for Peace
Clare Austick	NUI Galway Students' Union Vice-President for Welfare & Equality (incoming SU President for 2019/2020)
Evelyn Bohan	Hardiman Library, NUI Galway
Dr Attracta Brennan	College of Engineering and Informatics, NUI Galway
Imelda Byrne	Head of Access Programmes Office, NUI Galway
Johannes Butawo	Diploma in Foundation Studies student, NUI Galway
Dr Helen Casey	Community Education, NUI Galway
Dr Louise Campbell	College of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Sciences, NUI Galway
Victoria Chihumura	NUI Galway Students' Union Minorities Officer
Farai Chiza	Great Western Direct Provision Centre representative & MSc in International Accountancy & Analytics student, NUI Galway
Fionn Connaughton	B. Comm student, College of Business, Public Policy & Law, NUI Galway
Dr Deirdre Curran	College of Business, Public Policy, & Law, NUI Galway
Dr Nessa Cronin	Centre for Irish Studies, College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Tom Crumlsh	B. Comm Student, College of Business, Public Policy & Law, NUI Galway
Mary Dempsey	Vice Dean for EDI, College of Engineering and Informatics, NUI Galway
Kenny Dickson Oguine	Diploma in Foundation Studies student, NUI Galway
Vicky Donnelly	Galway One World Centre Representative
Dr Andrea Fitzpatrick	Cúram, College of Science, NUI Galway
Shane Fitzsimons	B. Comm student, College of Business, Public Policy & Law, NUI Galway
Dr. Muriel Grenon	Cell Explorers Director, College of Science, NUI Galway
Aidan Harte	Founding University of Sanctuary Coordinator, AMACH! LGBT+ Galway & Galway Integration Consortium representative
Mike Heskin	Director of Sport, NUI Galway
Orla Higgins	College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Prof Brian Hughes	College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Dr Elaine Keane	Head of Doctoral Studies, School of Education, NUI Galway

Individual Representatives	
Janet Kehelly	St Vincent De Paul Croí Na Gaillimhe Resource Centre
Bridget Kelly	Galway Traveller Movement
Dr. Maureen Kelly	College of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Sciences, NUI Galway
Dr Su-Ming Khoo	College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Mary Liddy	Deputy Admissions Officer, Admissions Office, NUI Galway
Joe Loughnane	Galway Anti-Racism Network/Galway Traveller Movement
Owen Ward	Schools of Sanctuary Coordinator & Professional Master of Education student, NUI Galway
Noemi Magugliani	PhD Candidate, College of Business, Public Policy, & Law, NUI Galway
Obert Makaza	Bridge Project/Galway Integration Consortium representative
Ann Mallaghan	Galway County Council
Dr Lorraine McIlrath	Community Knowledge Initiative, NUI Galway
Hannagh McGinley	PhD Candidate, College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway & Community Activist
Dr Shane McGuinness	Cell EXPLORERS Coordinator, College of Science, NUI Galway
Suzanne McKane	Bridge Project/Galway Integration Consortium representative & Galway Community of Sanctuary Chairperson
Dr Ruth McMenamin	College of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Sciences, NUI Galway
Isaac McNamara	Fáilte Refugees Society Representative
Dr John Morrissey	College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Ash Mullen	Fáilte Refugees Auditor, College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies student, NUI Galway
Claire Murphy	Career Development Centre, NUI Galway
Jason Murwara	Diploma in Foundation Studies student
Prof. Siobhán Mullally	Established Professor of Human Rights Law and Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway
Loretta Needham	St Vincent De Paul Croí Na Gaillimhe Resource Centre, Galway
Joseph Nyirenda	Attract-Transition-Succeed, Access Programmes Office, NUI Galway
Margaret O' Rioda	Galway Traveller Movement representative

Individual Representatives

Jacqueline Phiri	BA in Civil Law student, College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Michael Power	Involve Traveller Group & Travellers' Voice Publication
Dr Shivaun Quinlivan	Vice-Dean for EDI, College of Business, Public Policy, & Law
Obadiah Niyi	Diploma in Foundation Studies student & CELL EXPLORERS volunteer
Dr Kathy Reilly	Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies), College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, NUI Galway
Celine Ryan	Shannon College of Hotel Management, NUI Galway
Prof. Anne Scott	Vice-President for Equality & Diversity, NUI Galway
Evgeny Shtorn	Diploma in Community Development student, NUI Galway
Conor Slattery	B. Comm Student, College of Business, Public Policy & Law, NUI Galway
Antonia Smith	Fáilte Refugees Society representative
Lorraine Tansey	Coordinator, Alive Student Volunteering Office, NUI Galway
Simba Tshoga	Diploma in Foundation studies student & Walk the Talk Galway chairperson
Agata Western	College of Business, Public Policy & Law



A number of Steering Committee subcommittees have been created to drive certain aspects of the movement, promoting efficiency. The subcommittees meet at regular intervals, according to their requirements, and provide reports of their activities at each monthly Steering Committee meeting.

The current subcommittees include:

- **Finance, Advocacy & Policy** – The purpose of this subcommittee is to create and sustain bursaries, grants, and scholarships which are already in existence at NUI Galway, along with applying for further funding towards increased levels of practical support for Irish Travellers, IPAs, and refugees seeking access to higher education. Ensuring that all university policies include both groups, and to advocate for the inclusion of asylum and Traveller-specific topics across the university’s curricula.
- **Communications & Media** – The focus of this subcommittee is on the development of internal and external communications. It is responsible for ensuring that the website and other social media platforms are regularly updated, and that information provided by the Steering Committee is pertinent and current. This is achieved by connecting with each subcommittee to highlight upcoming events and policies, etc.
- **Events, Training & Outreach** – This subcommittee organises guest speaker events and public awareness workshops on campus, while developing links between local and regional NGOs, charities, governmental agencies, advocacy groups, interfaith groups, and so forth. It also collaborates with staff and students to encourage research pertaining to Irish Travellers, IPAs, refugees and other vulnerable migrants.
- **Community & Corporate Sector Links** – This subcommittee addresses the need for more employment opportunities for migrant and Irish Traveller scholars accessing NUI Galway. The aim of this subcommittee is to develop, build and sustain links within Galway’s business, community and corporate sectors, and to promote the ethos of our Community of Sanctuary initiative. The members of this subcommittee are looking at new initiatives and pilot projects to promote a more inclusive and diverse employment sector across Galway city and county.

The background is a dark teal color. In the upper right corner, there is a series of seven colorful trapezoidal shapes arranged in a slightly curved line, with colors from top to bottom: teal, light blue, orange, lime green, pink, yellow, and red. In the center, there is a large circular area filled with a pattern of small, light blue dashed lines. Overlaid on this dashed circle is the main text in white, bold, serif font.

**Launch of the
NUI Galway
University
of Sanctuary
Campaign**

The University of Sanctuary campaign was officially launched at NUI Galway on the 22nd February 2018 by the then newly appointed President of NUI Galway, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, who offered his full support to the initiative. At this event, Professor Siobhán Mullally ⁴ stated that the university had a strong tradition of rights-based research, and that pursuing such a campaign required the full support of the university's top decision-makers.

John Roycroft, the then Director of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme in the Department of Justice and Equality, also spoke about how the Government had been trying to reform the Direct Provision system, while offering further support to the national Places of Sanctuary movement. He stated that bottom-up movements would prove most effective when addressing issues surrounding asylum, access to education, and human rights. In addition, two current students of NUI Galway, Victoria Chihumura and Simba Tshoga, both former asylum seekers spoke about the need for access to higher education and how, by being students of the University has transformed their lives. Also present was Sara Hakim, the then-Director of the National Places of Sanctuary Network, who spoke about the significance of NUI Galway's positioning within the West of Ireland as a Place of Sanctuary.

Since this formal launch, and with the full support of the NUI Galway President, the Steering Committee has embedded the ethos of the Places of Sanctuary across campus with the aspiration of creating an inclusive, inviting and welcoming campus for all people. The overall aim of the NUI Galway campaign is to break down the barriers for individuals regardless of their societal positioning, and offer a genuine 'Welcome to NUI Galway'. The principles set out by the Places of Sanctuary ethos have guided our Steering Committee on how best to proceed with the UoS campaign on campus and, although being a University of Sanctuary will require on-going processes, we feel that at this time we are in a position to be designated an official University of Sanctuary.



Steering Committee at Campaign Launch.

⁴Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights.



NUI Galway Strategy and Policy

While the University of Sanctuary movement and campaign is a new initiative for NUI Galway, it is supported by an historic vision and strategy that is reflected through the current NUI Galway Strategic Plan, Vision 2020. Vision 2020 highlights that NUI Galway must respond to ‘an increasingly diverse student population’, to ‘attract high quality students from all parts of Ireland and beyond’ and to ‘continue to adapt our programmes to respond further to changing patterns of demand and societal needs’. In addition, it underscores the importance for NUI Galway to ‘serve and engage with [our] diverse communities in mutually enriching ways, through enhanced relationships on campus, in our region and around the world’ (p35).

Within this strategy, NUI Galway is described as a ‘civic university’ that plays ‘a leading role in the intellectual, economic, social, sporting and cultural development of our city, region and nation.’ (p13) As a civic university we feel that the ethos of sanctuary very much aligns with the fabric of the University in terms of the support for those most marginalised and disadvantaged within our community.

Presently, NUI Galway is undertaking a new strategic planning process that is due for completion in December 2019 and enactment in 2020. This process, entitled *NUI Galway Imagine Strategic Planning Process 2018-2019*, is engaging the views and opinions of staff as well as the student body. Through a values developmental process, five values have been put forward; Community of Respect, an Accessible University, a Distinctive University, an Expert University and a Sustainable University. These values will be the bedrock of the foundation of the strategy. The values of *Accessibility, Respect and Inclusion* embraced by NUI Galway speak to the University of Sanctuary Campaign in that they commit NUI Galway to ‘equality of opportunity for all’ that values ‘different outlooks and experiences’ and ‘reflects and serves the diverse society around us’. Members of the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee recently participated collectively in an online forum chaired by Professor Anne Scott⁵ to discuss best practice in the promotion of accessibility and inclusivity as part of the *NUI Galway Imagine Strategic Planning Process 2018-2019*. As this strategic planning process unfolds, the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee envisage that the University of Sanctuary Campaign will be a key feature of

the University’s response to serve an increasingly diverse society now and into the future.

The University of Sanctuary also aligns with practices within the University that work in partnership with community and society; including the Office for the Vice President for Equality and Diversity, Community Education, the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) and the Access Office.

To detail further:

Office of the Vice President for Equality and Diversity

The Office of the Vice President for Equality and Diversity was established in 2016, with Professor Anne Scott being appointed to the role. This Office is responsible for leading and promoting all aspects of equality and diversity throughout the University. Professor Anne Scott has been an active champion for the University of Sanctuary Campaign at NUI Galway, both as a member of the Steering Committee in regularly attending meetings, while also representing the campaign at the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC), the university’s Academic Council and University Management Team (UMT) meetings. The work in the Office has been divided into a number of priority streams one of which is the Cultural Diversity work stream that focuses on the inherent variety of the University community in terms of race, ethnicity, culture, language, religion, and experiential upbringing. This stream is influenced by the diversity not only of the

⁵ Vice President for Equality and Diversity, NUI Galway

student and staff body (drawn from over 110 countries), but also that of Galway city and the broader catchment area. Cultural diversity overlaps with, but is not restricted to, the interface of national and international staff and students: it also spans the diversity within our national (or 'domestic') population, the University's engagement with ethnic-minority Irish citizens (including members of the Traveller community), and aspects of indigenous Irish language and culture.

The Cultural Diversity Working Group was formed in the 2016/17 academic year and met for the first time in May 2017. The focus of the group has led to four key aims: development of systems to assist staff and students in navigating diversity at NUI Galway (e.g. intercultural sensitivity training); enhancement of University services to ensure balance and non-bias (e.g. mainstreaming service-recipients within common service systems); consultation with international staff to canvas experiences relating to diversity; and the promotion of cultural diversity as a leadership value-system of the University. Progress towards all aims has been achieved with work on-going. Pilot programmes in Cultural Communication and Intercultural sensitivity training have been developed and delivered. An initial consultation exercise with international staff has taken place, and feedback from the 2018 Culture Survey will provide quantitative and qualitative data on the experiences of staff.

The Cultural Diversity stream aligns with the work of the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, and the campaign has received €2,690 in funding from the EDICC fund to date for various pilot projects rolled out across campus. This funding has; assisted the UoS Steering Committee to produce a promotional video for the UoS campaign, financed catering for UoS guest speaker events, covered transportation for Direct Provision residents who have attended conferences and other guest speaker events on campus, and funded a Nursing and Midwifery event aimed at promoting nursing and midwifery as a career path for Irish Travellers.

The most recent EDICC funding resulted in Cell EXPLORERS, in collaboration with the UoS Steering Committee, the Galway City Partnership, Cúram and the University of Vienna, organising a Social Inclusion in Public Engagement in STEM event, spanning three days. This event revolved around three separate activities: 1) two workshops run by Johanna Strahlhofer of the Kinderburo, University of Vienna, who presented strategies to better engage with members of the migrant community, 2) a focus group of STEM outreach practitioners, Direct Provision representatives and community group leaders to share strategies to better

engage with marginalised communities in Ireland, and 3) a Children's Mini Science Fair putting into practice the lessons learned over the previous two days on how to communicate science, attended by two youth groups and a large cohort from a local Direct Provision Centre.

Community Education

The Community Education ethos and approach has been a fundamental part of NUI Galway's history of engaging with communities of disadvantage. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Adult Education at NUI Galway, and the community education model of development and support have formed a significant part of this legacy. Undoubtedly, the 'issue' and 'geographic' based community needs have changed over this timeline. However, the fundamental need to engage and offer communities in the University, local and global catchment region opportunities to access, enjoy and succeed in Higher Education on a part time basis, requires both pastoral and academic engagement. Therefore, building on the significant community education partnerships between internal and external communities is necessary to ensure equality of opportunity and outcome for all. Experience of working with part-time students from peripheral communities reflects the need to ensure financial and social barriers do not impinge on access, retention and/or success. Therefore, the University of Sanctuary Campaign at NUI Galway provides a new chapter in this community education partnership with colleagues and community members, to enable and sustain access to programmes of study on a part-time, full-time but ideally a flexible learning basis for all. In addition, the University of Sanctuary enables students, staff and community partners to work collectively to ensure all communities and cultures are represented in the future educational tapestry of NUI Galway. In particular, two programmes from the part-time Community Education suite of programmes, namely, the Diploma in Community Development Practice and the BA in Community, Youth and Family Studies has proven to be most successful in attracting both Irish Travellers and members of the International Protection communities to participate and gain accreditation in NUI Galway.

Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI)

The CKI at NUI Galway promotes greater civic engagement through core academic activities, namely teaching, research and service at the levels of students, staff, courses, programmes and the institution as a whole. The CKI supports and promotes the ethos of civic engagement among students, staff and the wider community. Civic engagement is defined as: A mutually



beneficial knowledge-based collaboration between the higher education institution, its staff and students, with the wider community, through a range of activities including; Service Learning / Community Based Learning; Community-Engaged research; Volunteering; Community / Economic regeneration; Capacity-building; Outreach programmes; Community-campus partnerships; and, Access / Widening Participation. Since 2016, CKI has offered its full support to the student-led movement, supporting the development of the Steering Committee and funding a number of movement activities including two overseas trips to the UK to attend Places of Sanctuary conferences - the Yorkshire and Humbershire Regional conference which took place in Leeds in December 2018 and, more recently, the UK Places of Sanctuary AGM which took place in Coventry in May 2019. In addition, the CKI has collaborated and partnered with the Access Programmes Office to create a University of Sanctuary position to drive and embed the work.

The Access Programmes Office

NUI Galway Access Programmes are devised to advance the social, economic, educational and cultural needs of the Border, Midland and Western Region (BMW) and Co. Clare in Ireland. The Access Programmes office is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, and has been providing meaningful access routes to university for students who, for a variety of financial or social reasons, are unable to access third-level education over the past two decades. The University sees provision of Access [granting direct Access by targeted groups] as a key approach to equipping all non-traditional students for entry to third-level studies. The access routes managed by the Access Programmes Office include the Diploma in Foundation Studies for school leavers and mature students, which includes IPA's and Irish Travellers. Other pathways which target the same groups include the HEAR and DARE Schemes⁶, the QQI FE Pathway, and the Mature Student Pathway. School-based activities managed by the Access Programmes Office include

the Schools of Sanctuary Initiative, UNI 4U, Attract-Transition-Succeed, the University Trail, specially targeting DEIS⁷ schools in the BMW region. In addition the Access Programmes Office has collaborated and partnered the Community Knowledge Initiative to develop a University of Sanctuary position to drive and embed the work.

These approaches enable the University to effectively target the most disadvantaged in the region, to work with all schools, to offer educationally sound preparation for entry into our own university programmes, and to remain conscious of the sensitive to special concerns of rural and Gaeltacht communities.

⁶The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) & The Disability Access Route to Education (DARE).

⁷Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools.

Funding and Support



Over the course of the Campaign⁸ that aims to become a designated University of Sanctuary, it became apparent that a staff member was required given the extent of activities underway to support migrants and members of the Traveller community to access the University. In May 2018, the CKI and the Access Programmes Office at NUI Galway submitted a joint application to the University Management Team (UMT) for funding to be awarded to secure a University of Sanctuary Campaign post on a part-time basis for twelve months (in the first instance).

This partnership between the CKI and the Access Programmes Office grounds the campaign through the two pillars of engaging with the community through civic engagement and through widening participation to access higher education. The aim of this position was to drive and support the University of Sanctuary ethos and practice across campus through the formal appointment of a dedicated staff member. The Vice-President of Equality and Diversity championed the proposal at the UMT meeting in July 2018 and €30,000 was awarded by the UMT in August 2018 through the NUI Galway Foundation Office to employ a University

of Sanctuary Coordinator. The position was advertised in November 2018 and Aidan Harte was appointed to the role in December 2018, commencing employment in January 2019. He is based between the CKI and Access Programmes Office. This funding signalled top-down university support through the provision of funds to help enact a sustained ethos and practice. Key aspects of the job description indicate that the coordinator, in partnership with the Steering Committee, pursues a rights-based, shared learning approach to their initiatives, by developing strategies designed to promote awareness, inclusion, and multiculturalism across campus.

This dedicated post has enabled the campaign to achieve its aims through the following:

- Developing a research plan to gather data (qualitative and quantitative) relating to existing structures that support the education of Travellers, asylum seekers and refugees, while working with local advocacy groups and schools to address future implications;
- Developing a research report with a full analysis of the data to be presented to the 'University of Sanctuary' review board;
- Creating a multi-faceted advocacy strategy which includes guest speaker events, public awareness workshops, training workshops, shared cultural events, and the management of campaign's website and other social media platforms,
- Developing rights-based curricular based service-learning and extra-curricular based volunteering opportunities for students to connect to their community;
- Advocating for the creation and sustainment of financial incentives such as bursaries, scholarships, and fee waivers for sanctuary-seeking students and members of the Travelling community;
- Liaising with relevant statutory and voluntary bodies such as the Galway city & county councils, the Bridge Project, the Galway Anti-Racism Network (GARN), the Galway Traveller Movement (GTM), Pavee Point, and other relevant stakeholders;
- Initiating a local City/Community of Sanctuary group, sustaining an on-going relationship with that group, and other relevant partners, and to consult with them on how best to support their work;
- Rolling out of 'Inclusion and Awareness' training in academic year 2019/20 amongst academic/service staff and students, so that all affiliates of NUI, Galway are aware of the University of Sanctuary ethos, and that NUI, Galway is a designated University of Sanctuary.

⁸ Campaign until NUI Galway receives official UoS designation.

Scholarships 2016-2018 and 2019-2021

In 2016, NUI Galway launched the Inclusive Centenaries Scholarship Scheme to mark Ireland's Decade of Centenaries, and to celebrate the diversity of Irish society. This merit-based, national scheme aimed to assist high-achieving, second-level school leavers from Ireland's newest communities to pursue higher education at NUI Galway, to realise their full potential, and to contribute to shaping Ireland of today and tomorrow. Drawing from this initiative the UoS Steering Committee created wider and more inclusive criteria for the 2018-2019 academic year, resulting in all three scholarships being awarded successfully.

As part of the UoS initiative, the Steering Committee applied in February 2019 for a further set of scholarship provision for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes at NUI Galway as part of the University of Sanctuary Campaign. The University Management Team (UMT) accepted the application, resulting in a University of Sanctuary-specific set of scholarships for the academic year 2019/2020. As a result, there will be **6 undergraduate and 3 postgraduate scholarships** available to International Protection Applicants, refugees and Irish Travellers. In addition, the fees for all

scholarships awarded will be charged at the EU rate that was proposed by Irish University Association (IUA) and accepted by the NUI Galway Registrar and Deputy-President. Full details will be published on NUI Galway's www.nuigalway.ie/sanctuary website in Mid-July.

National Collaboration

From the outset, NUI Galway's Steering Committee has participated at national level conferences and networking events, organised by Places of Sanctuary Ireland. In January 2018, seven members of the Steering Committee⁹ attended the national Places of Sanctuary conference at Trinity College, Dublin, and shared their experiences with fellow attendees. More recently, in March 2019, two members¹⁰ of the Steering Committee attended the launch of Cork's City of Sanctuary Strategic Plan 2018-2020, and had the opportunity to share and learn from other regional groups on how they were each organising locally. In recent months, the leadership at NUI Galway, along with other university presidents and deputy presidents, has raised the issue of the non-EU rate of fees which International Protection Applicants are faced with when hoping to attend higher education with Higher Education Authority (HEA) and the Irish University Association (IUA).



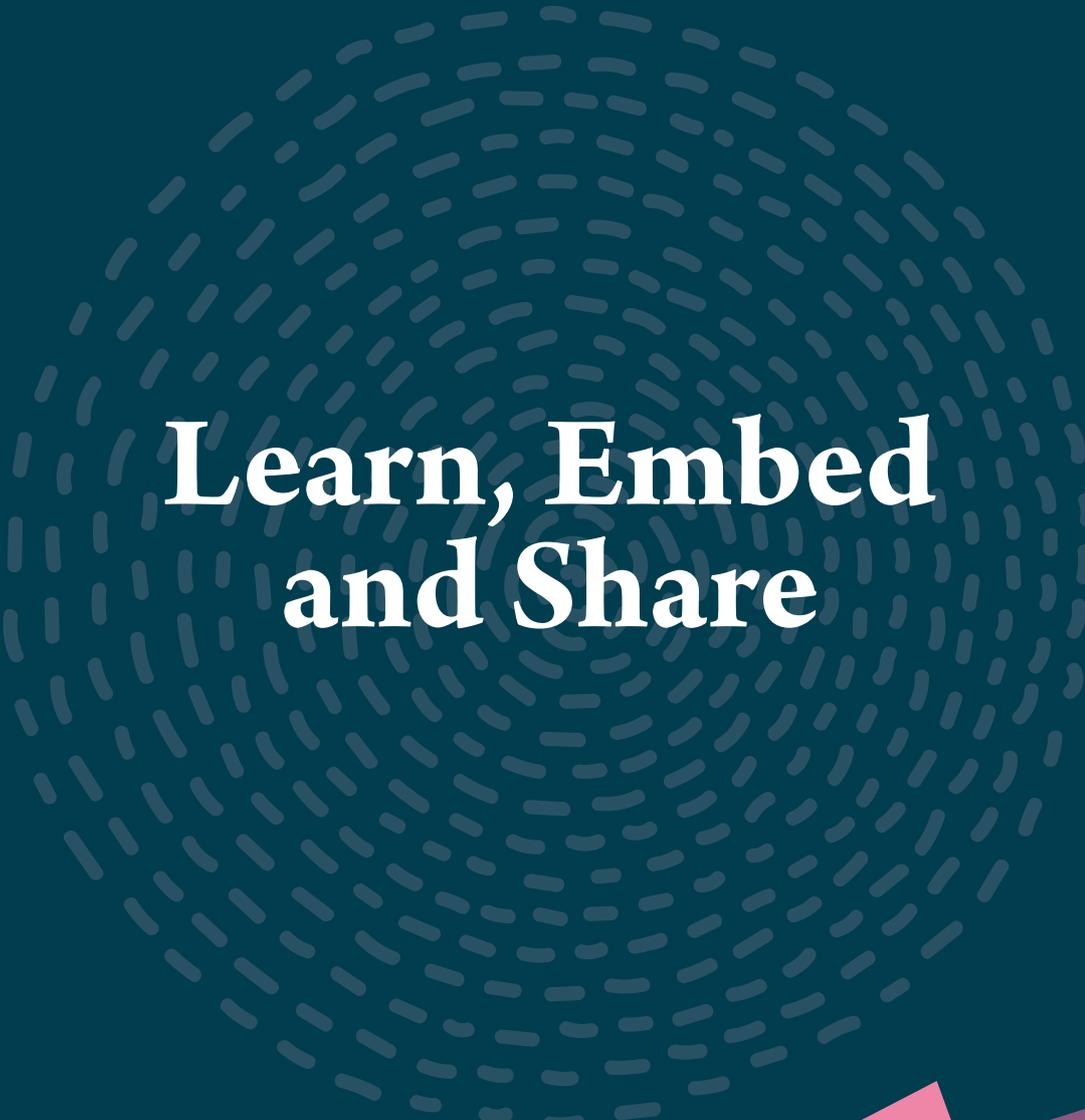
Vice President for the Student Experience, Dr Pat Morgan (Retired), presents Inclusive Centenary Scholarships to recipients.



Members of Galway's University of Sanctuary Committee visit Cork. From L to R: Homayoon Shirzad, Tiffy Allen (Coordinator of Places of Sanctuary, Ireland), Aidan Harte, Evgeny Schtorn.

⁹ JJ Fenez, Aidan Harte, Precious Jubane, Fr Declan Lohan, Suzanne McCane, Jacqueline Phiri and Simba Tshoga.

¹⁰ Aidan Harte and Evgeny Schtorn.



Learn, Embed and Share



This following section will highlight the activities of the NUI Galway University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, student societies and our community partners in the promotion of the Learn, Embed and Share ethos of the Places of Sanctuary movement.

As mentioned in previous sections, NUI Galway has a long history of engagement in many and varied community and inclusion related activities, however the following examples are specific to the University of Sanctuary (UoS) campaign.

Learn

NUI Galway is primarily a place of learning, and it is a *shared learning* ethos which informs the actions of the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee. A number of events and activities underpin this ethos that is central to the Sanctuary movement at the University and include:

Fáilte Refugees Society Created

The Fáilte Refugees Society was set up on campus in January 2017 in an effort to raise awareness of the global refugee crisis and the need to tackle racism in all its forms, and at every level and context in which it is encountered. The Society's committee participate annually in the university's Societies' Day to garner as much student support as possible, and to bring a message of equality to all. The Society numbers have grown to over 150 members since 2017, and its activities are funded by NUI Galway's University Societies Coordinating Group (USCG). Furthermore, the Society has voted to constitutionally support the University of Sanctuary campaign at the university.

Minceirs Whiden Society Created

The UoS Steering Committee has supported the creation of the first-ever Traveller-specific Society in Ireland, Minceirs Whiden, and will collaborate with the Society to host future events in raising awareness around Traveller-specific culture, particularly around the annual Traveller Pride Week and the delivery of social inclusion workshops across campus. The Society officially launched on 17th April 2019 with over one hundred members, is also funded by the USCG, and is affiliated with the Galway Traveller Movement.

Community Education Programme

The Community Education Suite of programmes that have engaged with Travellers, Refugees and Asylum Seekers over the last 23 years in particular, have included; the Diploma in Community Development Practice; the BA in Community, Youth and Family Studies and the

Certificate in Youth Work Practice. Over 120 part-time learners are welcomed annually.

- BA Community, Youth & Family Studies (Degree)
- Diploma Community Development Practice (Cert./Diploma)
- Certificate Youth Work Practice (Certificate)

Centre for Irish Studies

The Centre for Irish Studies promotes a diverse range of migrant research in to both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching at NUI Galway. Two MA students are currently working on migrant literature in Ireland this year; one in the Masters in English & one in the Masters in Irish Studies. Both students are looking at interdisciplinary approaches to *This Hostel Life* by Melatu Uche Okorie, and other related authors (Roddy Doyle and Eoin Colfer), in terms of critical debates in contemporary Irish literature and society. The Centre for Irish Studies has also collaborated with colleagues in NUI Maynooth to work with the Asylum Archive project. The Centre for Irish Studies hosted the Galway Conference of Irish Studies in June, which will have the theme of "home". As we witness national and international crises of home, the Centre for Irish Studies will examine the question of what it is to dwell. What does it mean to be 'at home'? How has Irish Studies historically engaged with conceptions of home and how might the discipline deal with changing definitions of home in the future?

UN World Refugee Day 2017

The Fáilte Refugees Society collaborated with Amnesty International Galway, the Galway One World Centre, The Galway Anti-Racism Network, AMACH! LGBT+ Galway, and the Galway Integration Consortium to host three events across the city throughout the day, with between 100-150 people in attendance throughout the day. This collaborative process was built upon our collective aspiration to educate the general public on issues which are affecting over 65 million displaced people globally, and to highlight the fundamental human rights espoused in the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Other events organised by the Fáilte Refugees Society included Anti-Racism workshops and pop-up workshops around campus, asking students what they knew about the terms "Direct Provision", "Asylum Seeker", "Refugee", "Migrant", etc.

World Refugee Day 2018

The University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, in collaboration with AMACH! LGBT+ Galway, the Galway & Roscommon Education and Training Board, and the Galway Anti-Racism Network, celebrated World Refugee Day by hosting an award ceremony for participants in AMACH's cultural identity photography workshop series. Following the award ceremony, participants joined members of the public in making a human "FÁILTE" sign on a local beach, to highlight Galway's welcome for all! On Saturday, 23rd June, NUI Galway's science outreach programme Cell EXPLORERS trained two young members of the local Direct Provision centres in peer demonstration of science experiments. The trainees joined the Cell EXPLORERS team to provide engaging hands on experiment to the young children attending the family day organised with to members of the International Protection community.

Éire, Land of a Hundred Thousand Welcomes

In December 2017, the UofS Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) and the Alive Student Volunteering Office, facilitated a production of *Éire, Land of a Hundred Thousand Welcomes* which was a critique of Ireland's Direct Provision system, and written by drama students at the Mount Temple Comprehensive School in Dublin. The play was performed in the O' Donoghue Theatre on campus, which was almost filled to capacity with over 80 attendees. The audience comprised university staff & students, as well as local post primary school students. The fact that this play was written by post-primary students themselves (pictured below with Croí Na Gaillimhe representative, Janet Kehelly) truly highlighted that we had a great opportunity to express the message of Sanctuary to the next generation. Clearly, the students of Mount Temple found merit in the usage of Ireland's famous moniker, as did Tiffy Allen while penning the Places of Sanctuary book.

Refugee Awareness Week

February 2018 - The Fáilte Refugees Society, in collaboration with the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, facilitated a Refugee Awareness Week during the Students' Union Equality Week (February 19th-22nd, 2018). The Refugee Awareness Week included a panel discussion on the Right to Work and the Right to Education, a table quiz to raise awareness and funds for the Direct Provision residents' committees in Galway city, a clothing drive and pot-luck dinner for the members of the Direct Provision centres. This year, the Society also celebrated Refugee Awareness Week with a similar line up of events.

International Conference The Rights of Migrants and Refugees: Exploring the role of Courts and Tribunals

May 2018 - The Irish Centre for Human Rights hosted an international conference on the theme of "The Rights of Migrants and Refugees: Exploring the role of Courts and Tribunals". The event brought together practitioners, academics, students and policy makers working in the field of migration and asylum law and policy. The keynote address was delivered by Judge Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque of the European Court of Human Rights. Guest speakers included Hilka Becker (International Protection Appeals Tribunal), Kathryn Cronin (Garden Court Chambers), Raza Husain QC (Matrix Chambers), Catherine Meredith (Doughty Street Chambers), Colin Smith B.L., as well as Professor Siobhán Mullally and Ciara Smyth (National University of Ireland Galway) and Doctoral Candidates Stefano Angeleri and Noemi Magugliani of the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

Migration and Asylum Process Seminar

June 2018 - The University of Sanctuary Steering Committee hosted a **Migration and Asylum Process** guest speaker event on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018 that was **funded by the EDICC Grant**. Guest speakers included Dr Kathy Reilly (NUI Galway), who presented findings from a longitudinal study on access to education, and impacts upon migrant students; Suzanne McKane (Galway City Partnership's Bridge Project), who provided information on the asylum process in Ireland, and how the Irish Government alters application parameters regularly; and Jacqueline Phiri (NUI Galway student), who spoke about her personal experiences of residing in Direct Provision in Galway City. The event was well attended with approximately forty attendees comprising a broad cross-section of Galway's population.



L to R Jacqueline, Suzanne & Kathy.

Bespoke English Language Courses for International Protection Applicants

In June & July 2018, the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee hosted a two-week English language course for eighty International Protection Applicants residing in the local Direct Provision Centres. This served to open the university campus to those in Direct Provision and to provide information to those wishing to pursue education at NUI Galway. This was funded by the Access Programmes Office in 2018 and was funded by the Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) in June 2019.

Film Premier of *Through Our Eyes*

In Oct 2018, as part of the **8x8 Festival** with the STAND organisation and **Global Week** on campus, the Fáilte Refugees Society screened *Through Our Eyes* to an audience of between 20-30 students. *Through Our Eyes* is a film about Syrian refugees made by BAFTA award-winning director Samir Mehanovic, who is a Muslim refugee. Following the screening, Samir joined in the discussion through video conference for a Q&A session.

Barriers to Diversity in Ireland's Education System

The University of Sanctuary Steering Committee hosted a 'Barriers to Diversity in Ireland's Education System' guest speaker event on Friday, November 30th, 2018. The event was well attended, with 20 attendees. The speakers included Dr Elaine Keane (NUI Galway), who spoke about a severe lack of diversity amongst second level Education teaching staff; Catherine Cooney (GRETB)¹¹ who addressed issues facing Irish Travellers within the education system, and Owen Ward (NUI Galway Student), who spoke about his personal experiences of our education system as an Irish Traveller. This event was funded by the CKI.



L to R Owen, Elaine, Catherine.

Module Contemporary Issues in Human Rights Protection

January 2019 - During the second semester of the academic year 2018/2019, students of the second year of the Bachelor of Arts with Human Rights have been taught a module on Contemporary Issues in Human Rights Protection, in which a large section was dedicated to exploring and understanding issues related to migrants and refugees. This module included lectures on international migration law, migration in the European Union as well as case studies, amongst which Ireland was included.

New Academic Programme LLM in International Migration and Refugee Law and Policy

February 2019 - The Irish Centre for Human Rights launched the LLM in International Migration and Refugee Law and Policy. Ms Gráinne O'Hara, Head of the Department of International Protection at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), gave the keynote address and also spoke of the need for highly qualified postgraduates in the area of migration and forced displacement, both at the policy level and in the field: "At a time when human mobility, and forced displacement in particular, is to the forefront of so many highly charged political discussions, the value of academic discipline on the distinct but related issues of migration and refugee flight comes into its own." The LLM in International Migration and Refugee Law will commence in September 2019 and is the only course of its kind on offer in an Irish university. The core teaching programme is supplemented with an exciting programme of guest seminars, workshops and conferences engaging with leading experts and practitioners in the field of refugee protection, human trafficking, international migration, human rights law and public policy.

NUI Galway's Inaugural Sanctuary in Politics Course

This June witnessed NUI Galway's inaugural Sanctuary in Politics course taking place on campus as part of our efforts to become a designated University of Sanctuary. The four-week Sanctuary in Politics course took place on each Saturday of June 2019 (from 8th-29th), and was open to participants from both the Traveller and International Protection communities who had an interest in gaining an understanding of discrimination in Ireland, (re)presentation in the media, the Irish political system, and campaigning in general. Participants of the unaccredited course gained an understanding of the weekly topics in the mornings, and formed the audience

¹¹ Galway & Roscommon Education & Training Board.

for a panel discussion in the afternoons. Panellists were invited from the political, media, voluntary and advocacy sectors, depending upon the topics being covered on the respective day.

The panel discussions focused on the various elements of our Community of Sanctuary framework (please see Appendix 3 for Community of Sanctuary Information Sheet), and covered the following seven topics: 1) Employment, 2) Housing, 3) Health, 4) Justice & Human Rights, 5) Language and Education, 6) Arts and Culture, and 7) Sport.

Embed

In addition to the shared learning approach, central to the Sanctuary ethos is to embed a culture of welcome across university life. A summary of undertakings that highlight this culture of embedding and include:

Behind the wheel - The NUI Galway University of Sanctuary Steering Committee includes senior members of university management, representatives from each of the university's colleges, student Societies, the Galway Traveller Movement, and members of the International Protection communities in Galway, as well as representatives from local NGOs, charities, advocacy groups and Governmental agencies.

Access to the NUI Galway Student Kitchen

In October 2017, an invitation was extended to members of the local Direct Provision centres in Galway city to use the Student Kitchen facilities at NUI Galway, and there is an opportunity to have most, if not all ingredients provided for members. The kitchen is located in the HUB common room and is equipped with all crockery and cooking equipment such as a pressure cooker and food processor. The kitchen has open access hours where anyone may use the facilities and also may be booked for groups or individuals.

Societies' Day Presentation

In January 2018, four members¹² of the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee participated in the University's Societies' Day, alongside the Fáilte Refugees Society, to highlight our campaign's ethos, and to promote student involvement in our activities. The event proved most enjoyable, and we connected with a lot of students on the day. We will continue to represent the Places of Sanctuary movement at Societies' Day and other student

engagement events, both on campus and across Galway city and county.



L to R. Aidan Harte & Mary Liddy.

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC) Briefing

In February 2018, the then voluntary coordinator of the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, Aidan Harte, met with senior members of NUI Galway's EDICC to give a brief outline of the University of Sanctuary campaign, which resulted in some members of the EDICC joining the nascent University of Sanctuary Steering Committee. This committee is composed of representative members from across the University who are senior decision makers with responsibilities for major units, schools, colleges, and leadership, including significant involvement from the Students Union and Staff Networks. The EDICC reports to both the University Management Team (UMT) and to Údarás na hOllscoile, via a sub-committee of the Údarás, and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Social Inclusion in Public Engagement in STEM Event

In February 2019, with EDICC funding, Cell EXPLORERS, in collaboration with the UofS Steering Committee, the Galway City Partnership, Cúram and the University of Vienna, organised a Social Inclusion in Public Engagement in STEM event, spanning three days. This event revolved around three separate activities: 1) a pair of workshops run by Johanna Strahlhofer of the Kinderburo, University of Vienna, who presented strategies to better engage with members of the migrant community, 2) a focus group of STEM outreach practitioners, Direct Provision representatives and community group leaders to share strategies to better engage with marginalised communities in Ireland, and 3) a Children's Mini Science Fair putting into practice

¹² Imelda Byrne, Aidan Harte, Mary Liddy, Simba Tshoga.

the lessons learned over the previous two days on how to communicate science, attended by two youth groups and a large cohort of children and parents from a local Direct Provision Centre.

Volunteering

The ALIVE Volunteering Programme within the Community Knowledge Initiative on campus offers a wide range of opportunities for students to be involved such as homework clubs, human rights advocacy, and awareness-raising campaigns. Participating students are awarded the NUI Galway President's ALIVE certificate for their efforts, and the UoS Steering Committee are currently developing links with the new Gaisce Wavelength Programme, which is a programme aimed at providing asylum seekers aged between 18-25 volunteering experiences, while reducing the costs associated with attaining the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards¹³. We will be rolling this programme out in the academic year 2019/2020.

Collaborative Research

Collectively, the UoS project is also **facilitating student research** by encouraging students to engage in research covering asylum and Traveller-specific topics, as well as issues of access to third-level education for those on the periphery of Irish society. Through **Service-Learning** placements, three students have become involved with our Steering Committee's activities across campus, and in the broader Galway community. Four BA Commerce students have also commenced developing a workshop series aimed at employment preparation for asylum seekers, refugees and Irish Travellers who wish to enter the labour market but feel underprepared to do so. The students are currently working closely with representatives from the Galway City Partnership, university academic staff, and NUI Galway's Careers Development Centre, and each received the NUI Galway President's ALIVE award for their involvement and dedication to the ethos of the Sanctuary movement. The UoS Steering Committee will develop similar volunteering and Service-Learning opportunities for the academic year 2019/2020 through our four subcommittees.

Galway 2020

We have connected with the European Capital of Culture 2020 committee in the city, and will be developing strategies and partnerships countywide in an effort to

follow the lead of Hull City in combining this prestigious accolade with making Galway City and County a Community of Sanctuary in the same year.

NUI Galway's Students' Union

NUI Galway Students' Union (SU) have supported the University of Sanctuary initiative from the very beginning. In 2016, a referendum was called where students voted against the inhumane system of Direct Provision. The SU believe that all people are entitled to accessing Higher Level Education, and Students' Unions across Ireland have a duty to their students and absolutely must play a part in collaborating with and mobilizing institutions to drive these important student-staff initiatives to become Places of Sanctuary.

NUI Galway Students' Union brought forward a motion to the annual Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Congress in April 2018 where all unions in Ireland voted unanimously to support the implementation of Places of Sanctuary initiatives in higher-level institutions across Ireland. The student movement has always been at the forefront and core of social justice and equality campaigns; mobilizing students to go out and vote, educate the student body on various important topics and stand in solidarity with those experiencing discrimination.

A "Students Against Direct Provision" task force was set up in January 2019 where students' unions met in the University of Limerick to discuss ways to inform students and the wider public of the standards people in Direct Provision live in, form a network of people to drive a national campaign and plan a deportation strategy in the case of a deportation order being issued when a student is on a scholarship in an institution of sanctuary.

The Union of Students in Ireland organized a "Direct Provision Think In" in February 2019 where students' unions and other organizations across Ireland came together collectively to build on a national campaign.

On a local level, NUI Galway Students' Union have ran awareness campaigns through social media platforms, challenging students to live off €21.60 a week, organizing panel discussions, information evenings, a video campaign, taking part in protests, passing and bringing forward motions on local and national levels and recruiting volunteers to be part of the University of

¹³ There are three levels of Gaisce – Bronze, Silver and Gold. The more time and energy participants give, the greater the reward.



Sanctuary initiative. Students' Unions are representative and advocacy groups. The Union's core mission is to "represent its members and promote, defend and vindicate the rights of its members at all levels of society." The University of Sanctuary initiative is particularly of value and importance to us as we represent students who have gone through Direct Provision, who are currently still in the system as a student and those who cannot afford to access Third Level Education. Education is a right and not a privilege, denying someone an education is denying someone a basic right. This initiative is crucial for providing opportunity through scholarships, fostering a sense of community and inclusion on campus and educating the student body and wider community on issues that affect people living in Direct Provision.

NUI Galway's Students' Union has pledged their continuous support to the initiative, and has promised to ensure that its objectives are followed through. This designation will solidify NUI Galway to become a Place of Sanctuary, support and inclusivity to refugees, asylum seekers, members of the Irish Travelling community and migrants.

Reservation of Event Spaces

The UoS Steering Committee is actively securing spaces at conferences/guest speaker events for International Protection Applicants and Irish Travellers at NUI Galway. The committee is currently advocating for this to become standard policy amongst all colleges within the university. With increased collaboration between Community Education and the Galway Traveller Movement, and the success of 25 Travellers engaging on the Diploma in Community Development Programme, the Steering Committee will hope to increase this opening of conference and guest speaker events spaces.

EUGEO¹⁴ Conference Collaboration

The UoS Steering Committee collaborated with the Centre for Irish Studies and Omós Aite¹⁵ at NUI Galway, as well as the Space and Place Research Group at Maynooth to fund overnight accommodation for an International Protection Applicant so that they could share their expertise at the 'Spaces of Refuge' session

held at the international EUGEO conference held at NUI Galway in May 2019.

IELTS¹⁶ Funding

An issue facing many asylum seekers who receive offers of places at third-level universities is the issue of English proficiency, and the IELTS qualification. The preparatory courses associated with the IELTS qualification are expensive, and are available in Galway city at the cost of approx. **€1,900 per person**. The NUI Galway UoS Steering Committee has recently secured funding for two such asylum seekers in collaboration with **Forsa**, the Trade Union conglomerate, and **One Galway**, another collective of both Trade and Student Unions located in Galway city. This partnership has been inspired by the Cork City of Sanctuary group, who collaborate with local trade unions to secure funding for asylum seekers who have been offered a place at UCC.

Schools of Sanctuary

The Schools of Sanctuary programme is underway, with an NUI Galway PME student¹⁷ developing strategies for implementation as part of his PME programme. So far, two schools have confirmed their participation in both the City and County, and we are in discussion with four other schools for the academic year 2019/2020. Owen has developed an NUI Galway-specific toolkit for the implementation of our School of Sanctuary programme, as we are one of the few, if not only, Sanctuary groups working with both Irish Travellers and International Protection Applicants in Ireland.

¹⁴ the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe.

¹⁵ Ómós Áite: Space/Place Research Group was established in 2009 to promote the interdisciplinary study of issues relating to the social, cultural and political production of space and place in modern society.

¹⁶ International English Language Testing System.

¹⁷ Owen Ward.

Please see below for projected NUI Galway Schools of Sanctuary targets:

Phase One - Phase One commenced in semester two (academic year 2018/2019) with two post-primary schools. The two participating schools include Archbishop McHale College, Tuam Co Galway and Our Lady's College Galway city. The primary objective of this phase is to test the current structure of the Schools of Sanctuary programme. The findings of the test case will be evaluated in June 2019, and changes will be made to the structure of the Programme where necessary.

Phase Two - Phase Two will commence in September 2019 with four post-primary schools. The participating schools are as follows: Archbishop McHale College, Tuam Co Galway, Our Lady's College Galway City, Galway Community College Galway City (TBC) and St Marys College Galway City (TBC). This phase will implement the updated structure while conducting research using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Final Phase - The conclusion of the pilot will concentrate on the research findings of the School of Sanctuary Programme. The findings and recommendations of the research will be published in a final report, and a core element of the study will be central in a Professional Master of Education thesis.

Finally, the research findings of the pilot will not only verify the solutions but also accelerate the implementation of the programme in both primary & post-primary schools throughout Galway City & County.

Community of Sanctuary - the Community of Sanctuary Steering Committee is currently seeking new community organisations, advocacy groups and Governmental membership to join in its committee, in an effort to promote **Galway city and county as a Community of Sanctuary to coincide with Galway's designation as European Capital of Culture in 2020**. Already, the Galway Integration Consortium (Galway city) and the Galway Intercultural Forum (Co Galway) have supported the committee's efforts in achieving this goal, and NUI Galway's designation will bolster our combined efforts to date.

Share

Finally, the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee endeavours to share its actions with the broader community; through participation at national and international events, local radio interviews, hosting of public guest speaker events, information sessions, press releases, through various social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter and, internally, through university communications. NUI Galway's University of Sanctuary's promotional video will soon be available to view on our upcoming website towards the end of June 2019.

Below is a summary of our efforts to share our Sanctuary actions and ethos:

Places of Sanctuary Ireland All-Island Network Conference at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) - as mentioned earlier in this document, on the 27th of January 2018, a cohort of seven representatives from NUI Galway's Steering Committee attended the Places of Sanctuary Ireland All-Island Network Conference at TCD where participants met with several members from other Places of Sanctuary groups. Attendees were able to participate in several workshops, and relay experiences to both the wider group as well as to NUI Galway's Steering Committee once they returned to the university. This conference encouraged our efforts, and allowed us to learn from others on the path to 'Sanctuary'. In the University of Sanctuary Stream, in particular, attendees from NUI Galway were able to hear from other Universities about their struggles and issues that have arisen since being designated.

UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2018

In March 2018, The UoS Steering Committee collaborated with Walk the Talk Galway, Galway City Partnership's the Bridge Project, AMACH LGBT+ Galway, and residents of the local Direct Provision centres to host a walk around Diamond Hill within the Connemara National Park to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As suggested by residents in the Direct Provision centres who wished to show solidarity for those

who were homeless, all proceeds from the walk went towards two local charities who work with the homeless across Galway city and county; COPE Galway and The Simon Community. The walk was well attended by over fifty people, and some local political figures joined in the walk.



Participants prior to their Diamond Hill climb.

Youth Academy Collaboration

Building on past collaboration between the Youth Academy and the Traveller community, the UoS Steering Committee collaborated with NUI Galway’s Youth Academy and Galway Traveller Movement (GTM) to provide five free places on the Youth Academy’s courses to Traveller children aged between 8-11 years in September 2018. The Youth Academy at NUI Galway works with

high ability 4th, 5th and 6th class primary school children to support their learning and academic development. In 2018, the Youth Academy received a significant donation of €250,000 (over 6 years) from Merit Medical to support DEIS scholarships.

Outreach Talks

In March & April 2018, NUI Galway’s Access Programmes Office and UoS Steering Committee representatives¹⁸ held outreach talks in Galway’s local Direct Provision centres, which resulted in many new entrants to NUI Galway for the academic year 2018/2019. The Access team also hosted many open days aimed at Travellers, providing information on the Access Diploma, as well as undergraduate and Postgraduate courses at the university (please see below table for increased participation by both groups as a result of the outreach talks, open days and Youth Academy collaboration). The Access Programmes Office team have repeated the same system of sharing information this year, and these actions will hopefully lead to similar trends in increased participation for the academic year 2019/2020. Both the University and Schools of Sanctuary streams are being promoted at every Access Programmes Office and CKI event, and will visit countywide schools in the autumn to inform students of the various pathways to third-level education, while sharing the “Sanctuary” ethos.

Academic Year	Access Programme	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Youth Academy ¹⁹
2017/2018	21	2	0	0
2018/2019	29	4	2	5

¹⁸ Imelda Byrne, Obert Makaza and Suzanne McKane.

¹⁹ Since 2016, special efforts have been made to engage with the traveller children through the GTM, and they were provided with free places ever since. 2018/2019 was the first collaborative effort between the Youth Academy and the University of Sanctuary campaign.

Tutorial Hours

The UoS Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Cell EXPLORERS science outreach programme in the College of Science, funded tutor hours for an International Protection Applicant studying Leaving Cert biology without professional supervision. These tutor hours were funded by EDICC Grant. That same student successfully completed their Leaving Certificate in June 2018, and is currently enrolled in NUI Galway's Diploma in Foundation Studies.

International University Visits

The UoS coordinator has given talks about the University/Community/Schools of Sanctuary initiatives to visiting students and academics to NUI Galway over the past year, and visitors expressed huge interest in exporting the ethos and actions of the Sanctuary movement to their respective college²⁰. A significant element of peer-led movements is the promotion of critical civic engagement amongst the student body, whether through Community-Based Learning projects or action-based research, with the aim of addressing issues of societal inequities and human rights, amongst others.

Schools of Sanctuary Talks

The Schools of Sanctuary coordinator²¹ has hosted talks aimed at post-primary schools in Galway City and County in recent months, with high levels of engagement from DEIS schools in particular.

Community Group Showcase

In July 2018, two representatives²² from the Access Programmes Office, the University of Sanctuary, and AMACH! LGBT+ Galway collaborated with Youth Work Ireland, Galway to showcase the work of all community organisations in delivering services to young people in Galway city and county on the Spanish Arch, a local landmark in the heart of the city (we were freezing but much fun was had).



L to R Adele Clinton & Aidan Harte.

NUI Galway Volunteer Fair

In September 2019, the UoS participated in the Alive Volunteer Centre's Volunteer Fair, which took place in the foyer in the Human Biology building on campus. The event was well attended, with between 30-40 attendees, and students from a variety of disciplines visited the various stands to inquire about volunteering opportunities within the university, across Galway city, and at national level.

Culture Night 2018

The Community of Sanctuary Steering Committee is currently seeking new community organisations, advocacy groups and Governmental membership to join in our committee, and we successfully hosted an information session as part of Galway City Council's Culture Night celebrations in September at the Harbour Hotel in Galway City. The event was hosted in collaboration with the Bridge Project, the Galway Traveller Movement, and the Galway Anti-Racism Network to showcase our Schools, University, and Community of Sanctuary initiatives. The evening was well attended, with between 40-50 attendees, and our initiatives were supported by representatives from across the political spectrum. We will be making this an annual event, in an effort to maintain community relations, and to ensure that the Community of Sanctuary ethos is known across our Galway community .

²⁰ Visiting groups came from Merrimack College in Boston, USA, and the University of Zagreb, Croatia in 2018. Representatives from the Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, and the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas, Spain in June 2019.

²¹Owen Ward.

²²Adele Clinton, Aidan Harte.



L to R Owen Mac An Bhaird, Imelda Byrne, Simbarashe Tshoga.

Old School Sports Day

In October 2018, the Fáilte Refugees Society hosted an Old School Sports Day at the Kingfisher sports centre on campus as part of Mental Health Week and was well attended, with between 15-20 attendees. It opened the Kingfisher facilities to local residents of the Direct Provision Centres. The University of Sanctuary Steering Committee is currently developing ways to increase access to these facilities to Irish Travellers, asylum seekers and refugees.

Regional Conference in Yorkshire & Humberside, UK

In December 2018, two representatives²³ from both the University and Community of Sanctuary committees (one from each) attended a regional conference in Yorkshire & Humberside, UK, to share ideas and information with local groups. Groups represented were Sheffield, York, Wakefield, Harrogate, Bradford, Malhamdale, Doncaster, Ripon, Leeds, Bentham, Barnsley and North Pennines. It was a great opportunity for Galway representatives to learn from groups who have been involved with the Places of Sanctuary movement for a number of years and to promote Galway as a Community of Sanctuary. Of particular significance was the fact that representatives from Galway got the chance to meet with representatives from Sheffield, the spiritual home of the Places of Sanctuary Movement.



Galway Meets Sheffield.

²³ Aidan Harte, Suzanne McKane.

²⁴ Aidan Harte, Evgeny Shtorn.

Access to Nursing & Midwifery Workshop

In Feb 2019, the UoS Steering Committee facilitated an Access to Nursing & Midwifery Workshop on February 18th 2019 at NUI Galway, which was targeted at members of the Traveller community. This workshop was in celebration of Traveller Ethnicity Day on 1st March, and was well attended. The Access to Nursing & Midwifery workshop was run in partnership with NUI Galway's Access Programmes Office, the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the Office of the Vice President for Equality & Diversity, and was funded by the EDICC grant.



Attendees at the Access to Nursing & Midwifery Workshop.

Intercultural Family Fun Day

In Feb 2019, the Fáilte Refugees Society, in collaboration with the University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, hosted an Intercultural Family Fun Day for all families of Galway, with a particular emphasis on integration and inclusion. Approximately fifty attendees were provided with an opportunity to meet their community, while enjoying food, juggling and a bouncy castle at the Our Lady's Boys Club Hall on Sea Road. The event was filled to capacity, and everyone truly enjoyed sharing stories and food.

Cork's City of Sanctuary 2018-2020 Strategic Planning Launch

In March 2018, two representatives²⁴ from the Galway University and Community of Sanctuary Steering Committees attended the launch of Cork's 2018-2020 Strategic Planning Launch. The event was a great opportunity to network and to share ideas with fellow Sanctuary groups, and was attended by many local and national political figures.

UK Places of Sanctuary AGM & Launch of *One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*

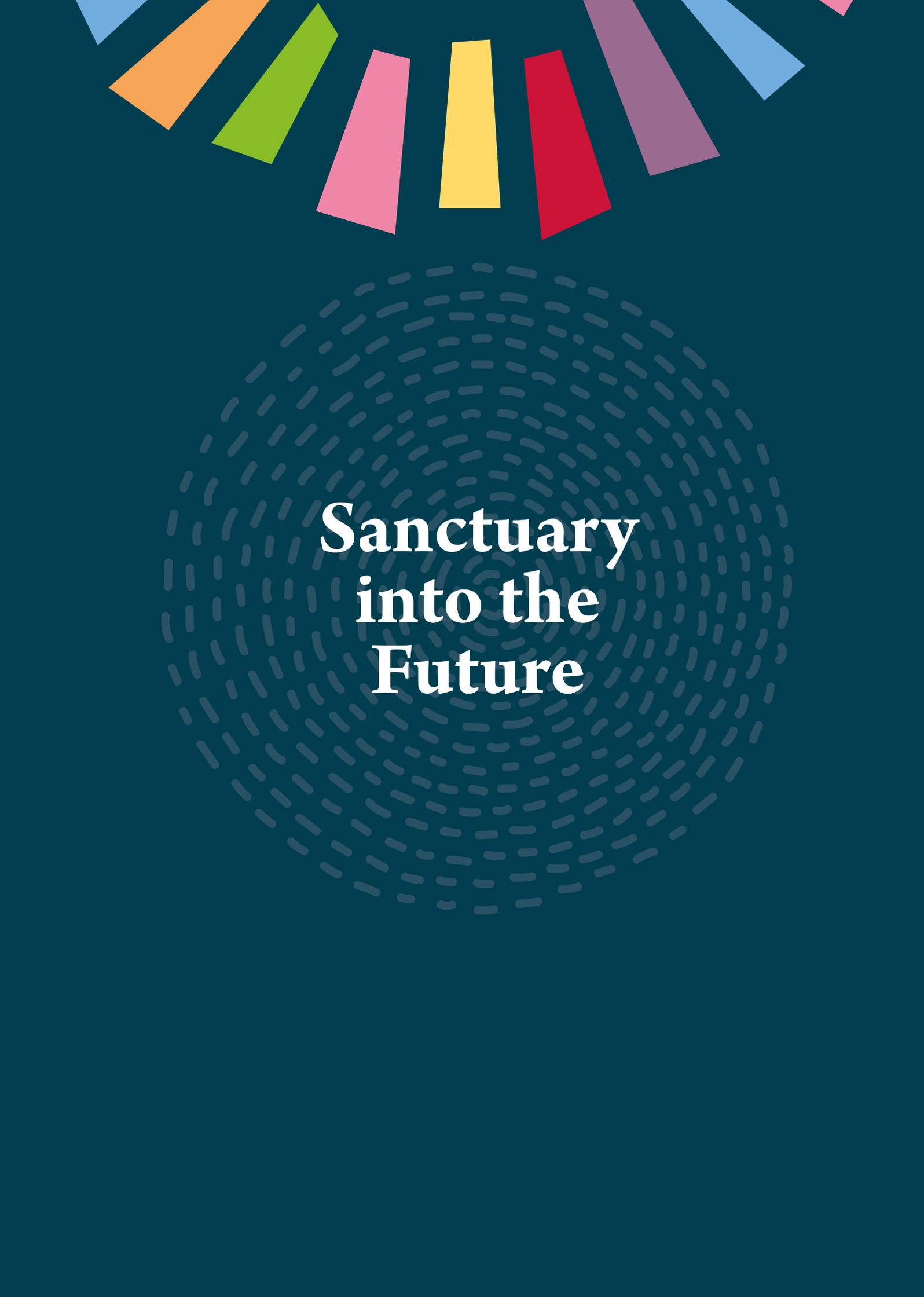
In May 2019, two representatives²⁵ from NUI Galway's UoS Steering Committee travelled to the UK Places of Sanctuary AGM and launch of the Places of Sanctuary's book in Coventry. Upon arrival (the day before the AGM), delegates were treated to a guided tour of Coventry cathedral and the surrounding area. Following the tour, delegates enjoyed an evening of music and icebreakers at a local theatre, before retiring to bed at a respectable 10pm. The AGM was held in the "Welcome Centre", and proved to be very informative and interactive. Round table discussions followed presentations of national Sanctuary awards, and groups from all over the UK and Ireland had the opportunity to discuss various streams of sanctuary, including Libraries of Sanctuary, Maternity and Sanctuary, Working with Local Councils, and Awards and Sanctuary. The book *One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*, which is written by Tiffy Allen, brings to life the story of City of Sanctuary through a tapestry of personal stories from all over the network. The stories begin in Sheffield in 2005, and take readers on a journey right up to 2019. As well as spotlighting the ways which

many local groups, streams and initiatives have evolved, the book gives readers important insights into the core values of the Places of Sanctuary movement, and offers inspiring examples of keeping "Sanctuary" central amidst the various challenges and changes people meet. Although the Galway group doesn't feature in this particular installation, there will be plenty of scope to feature in future Sanctuary publications.



*The Irish Contingent at the launch of *One Hundred Thousand Welcomes*.*

²⁵ Aidan Harte, Simba Tshoga.



Sanctuary into the Future

As the 2018/2019 academic year draws to a close, the UoS Steering Committee has met to strategically plan for the academic year 2019/2020 and beyond. A collaborative strategy that encompass a range of activities will ensure that the Sanctuary movement will continue on campus, in countywide schools, and across the Galway's broader community. Some of these include:

Embedded Steering Committee

The UoS Steering Committee has evolved to encompass all five Colleges within the University, and has gained a sufficient profile to ensure sustainability of its activities in to the future. With support from senior management, the UMT, the EDICC, various student services, student societies, community partners, individual representatives, as well as the national Places of Sanctuary team, NUI Galway is in a prime position to sustain the ethos and actions of the Places of Sanctuary movement well in to the future.

Provision of Scholarships & Non-EU Rate of Fees

The Finance, Advocacy & Policy subcommittee will continue to advocate for scholarships and bursaries within NUI Galway for Irish Traveller, International Protection Applicant and refugee scholars, while advocating for the removal of the Non-EU rate of fees for International Protection Applicants at national level. We will also continue to advocate for the rights of International Protection Applicants who have been in the International Protection system for over three years, and are still denied the right to access SUSI grants and free fees.

Sanctuary and Equality Training Programme

The Events, Training & Outreach subcommittee is currently developing a University of Sanctuary-specific Diversity and Inclusion training programme in collaboration with the Galway One World Centre and the Galway Traveller Movement. This training aims to raise awareness and address both unconscious bias and stigma surrounding migrant and Traveller issues, while offering an understanding of the different forms of poverty and inequality affecting both communities. The resulting workshops will also educate participants on how to create an effective dialogue with individuals who may not understand these concepts, and will be offered to all staff and students on campus at the commencement of the 2019/20 academic year, with particular focus on final and first year students.



Members of the UoS Steering Committee, EDI Vice-Deans, NUI Galway students, and community partner representatives attend a recent "University of Sanctuary - Building a Culture of Equality" Workshop.

Service-Learning

The Community and Corporate Sector Links subcommittee will continue to provide opportunities for students to develop meaningful community-based learning opportunities while tackling societal issues impacting upon both the International Protection and Traveller communities.

Communicating our Ethos and Actions

Our communications and Media subcommittee will continue to develop ways to share the ethos and actions of the broader Places of Sanctuary movement in Galway city and county. We have been active on Facebook and, more recently, Twitter, and will have our www.nuigalway.ie/sanctuary website up and running to coincide with the announcement of the UoS scholarships in Mid-July 2019.

Sanctuary in Politics & English Language Summer Courses

Both courses will be held annually at NUI Galway, as they form two integral aspects of successful integration; an understanding of the society around new arrivals in Galway, and a chance to learn the English language in an informal setting in an educative institution such as a university.

IELTS Qualification

The UoS Steering Committee is currently exploring ways in which it can collaborate with local educative bodies such as the Galway Institute of Technology (GTI) and the GRETB to secure a more sustainable pathway to the IELTS qualification.

The Gaisce Wavelength Programme

The UoS Steering Committee are currently developing links with the Gaisce new Wavelength Programme, which is a programme aimed at providing asylum seekers aged between 18-25 with volunteering experiences, while reducing the costs²⁶ associated with attaining the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. In conjunction with the Alive Student Volunteering Centre will be rolling this programme out in the academic year 2019/2020.

Fáilte Refugees Society and Minceirs Whiden Society Collaboration

The UoS Steering Committee will continue to collaborate with both student Societies in the promotion of awareness and inclusion amongst the staff and student bodies, and to celebrate cultural diversity.

We hope that this application meets the criteria set by the Places of Sanctuary Initiative for NUI Galway to be considered and recognised at an Irish University of Sanctuary. We remain committed and engaged as an institution and collective of individuals to the ethos and practice of Sanctuary.



²⁶ Costs can include registration fees, as well as costs associated with activities carried out while achieving either/all of the awards. Please see the national Places of Sanctuary website for information.



Appendices

Appendix 1

NUI Galway Terms of Reference May 2019

Learn – Embed – Share

1. Rationale for Group

1.1 As a response to the unprecedented global refugee crisis (UN, 2016), and the increasingly diverse demographics of Galway city and county (CSO, 2017), students and staff at NUI Galway are taking positive steps to develop, nurture, and sustain a migrant-friendly environment on campus, particularly for asylum seekers and refugees. We will increase public awareness of the ongoing refugee crisis amongst the student and staff bodies. As well as our efforts on campus, we will advocate for the end of Ireland's Direct Provision system, as we cannot in good conscience allow for the continued denial of basic human rights to individuals and families, which is what the Direct Provision system perpetuates in its current form (Mc Mahon, 2015).

1.2 Given the high population of Irish Travellers in the catchment area of NUI Galway (CSO, 2017), we will also include Travellers in our remit, who too frequently are excluded from participation in third-level education. Travellers suffer far greater levels of social exclusion, poor health, and shorter life spans, resulting from their peripheral positioning within Irish society, with just over 73% aged 34 or younger, and only 7.5% over the age of 54 (CSO, 2017, ESRI, 2017). By utilising our links with community partners, and promoting the Ottawa Charter of Health Promotion (WHO 1986), we will emphasise the benefits of participation in education in an effort to increase the overall health of Irish Travellers, while further diversifying our education system (Keane & Heinz, 2015).

1.3 Undocumented immigrants in Ireland face high levels of uncertainly, exclusion from education, and exploitative labour market conditions on a daily basis (Ledwith &

Reilly, 2013; Maher & Cawley, 2016), so it is on these grounds that we will advocate for State regularisation of all undocumented immigrants, and call for an end to deportations. Access to education is also a fundamental human right, and it is arguably the university's moral and ethical responsibility to ensure equitable access for all (UN, 1966).

2. Membership

2.1 Membership is open to representatives from each College at NUI Galway, from the various offices and services on campus, student representatives, representatives from each Direct Provision centre, and representatives from local NGO's and charities affiliated with either the university or our target groups. This will ensure a broad, cross-sectional representation for the steering committee.

Currently, membership comprises representatives from the Office of the Vice President for Equality & Diversity, the College of Science, the College of Medicine, Nursing, & Health Sciences, the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies, the College of Business, Public Policy, & Law, the College of Adult Learning & Professional Development, the College of Engineering & Informatics, the Community Knowledge Initiative, the Access Programmes Office, the Students' Union, the Fáilte Refugees Society, Minceirs Whiden Society, various NUI Galway student services offices, the Great Western and the Eglinton Direct Provision centres, the Galway City Partnership, the Galway One World Centre, the Galway Integration Consortium, the Galway Traveller Movement, the Galway Anti-Racism Network, and AMACH LGBT+ Galway.



3. Aims

Awareness – Increasing public awareness of both International Protection and Traveller-specific topics

Inclusion – Nurturing an inclusive atmosphere amongst staff, students and guests of the university

Multiculturalism – Creating a platform to celebrate diversity across campus and in the surrounding communities

Scholarships – Developing scholarship programmes to sustain equitable access to 3rd level education

4. Working Methods, Meetings & Annual Reviews, Current Subcommittees

4.1 Working Methods

The steering group will pursue a rights-based, shared learning approach to our initiatives, by developing strategies designed to promote awareness, inclusion, and multiculturalism across campus. Through the democratisation of knowledge, and the sharing of experiences, skills and resources, we can achieve our aims by:

- Creating a cross-faculty steering group which involves senior management, all colleges, student representatives, local NGO & charity representatives, Direct Provision representatives, and Irish Traveller representatives,
- Advocating with, and not for, Irish Travellers, asylum seekers, and refugees, by empowering all through our rights-based and shared learning ethos,
- Advocating for the creation and sustainment of financial incentives such as bursaries, scholarships, and fee waivers for sanctuary seeking students and Irish Travellers,
- Sourcing funding to sustain the work of the Steering Committee,
- Supporting Irish Traveller, asylum seeker, and refugee academics to get back to their research,
- Supporting voluntary work initiatives by staff, students, and community partners,
- Supporting and encouraging research in to Irish

Traveller/asylum issues,

- Whenever appropriate, ensure curricula cover relevant aspects of Traveller and asylum issues,
- Where possible, the opening of facilities on campus such as sports facilities and the library, to sanctuary seekers and Irish Travellers,
- Helping to start a local City of Sanctuary group, sustaining an ongoing relationship with that group, and other relevant partners, and to consult with them on how best to support their work,
- Finding ways to help Irish Travellers, asylum seekers, and refugees to re-establish themselves, through language support, work placements, volunteering opportunities, accrediting prior learning, re-skilling and up-skilling career workshop, etc,
- Supporting the commencement and development of local Schools of Sanctuary networks
- Advocating for State regularisation for undocumented immigrants

Working methods can be added to and altered according to requirements.

4.2 Meetings & Annual Reviews

The steering group will meet monthly on campus, where possible, and there will be a formal structure to meetings, based on minutes and agendas. The coordinator will generate minutes and agendas of meetings to the membership. The steering committee will review its Terms of Reference bi-annually, at the commencement of each semester, to ensure continued sustainability of the above working methods.

4.3 Current Sub Committees:

Subcommittees will be formed as necessary, and their meetings will be determined by their members. Subcommittees will forward regular updates to the coordinator, along with items for each steering group meeting agenda. This will ensure that there is a coherent and clear line of communication.

Finance, Advocacy, & Policy – Ensuring the sustainability of bursaries, grants, and scholarships which are already in existence, along with applying for further funding towards increased levels of practical support for Irish Travellers, asylum seekers, and refugees seeking access to 3rd level



education. Ensuring that all university policies include our target groups. Advocating on a case by case basis, where feasible, on Traveller/asylum issues.

Events, Training & Outreach – Organising guest speaker events & public awareness workshops on campus, while developing links between local and regional NGO's, charities, Governmental agencies, advocacy groups, faith groups, etc. Collaborating with staff and students to encourage research pertaining to our target groups.

Social Media & PRO - Ensuring that social media is regularly updated, while connecting with each subcommittee to highlight upcoming events, policies, etc.

Corporate Sector Links – Building and sustaining links within Galway's business and corporate sector, to promote the ethos of our Community of Sanctuary initiative. Instigating initiatives and pilot projects to promote a more inclusive and diverse employment sector across Galway city and county.

5. Citations

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Appendix 2

University of Sanctuary Partner Stakeholders

Access Programmes Office

The Access Programmes Office works for students who for a variety of financial or social reasons are unable to access third level education. The University sees provision of Access [granting direct Access by targeted groups] as a key approach to equipping all non-traditional students for entry to third-level studies.

Amach! LGBT+ Galway

AMACH! LGBT Galway CLG is volunteer run organisation which represents and advocates on behalf of the LGBTI+ community in Galway city and county.

Bright Club

Bright Club is a variety night for lateral minds, where researchers become comedians for a night! Each event features academics from science, humanities, and social science talking about their work alongside professional comedians and musicians. The only variety night where you'll furrow your brow before laughing your face off.

Careers Development Centre (CDC)

The CDC aims to provide students of NUI Galway with a quality career guidance and information service focused on facilitating and empowering students to manage their own career development and make effective career transitions.

Cell EXPLORERS

Cell EXPLORERS is a science education and outreach programme based in the School of Natural Sciences in the National University of Ireland, Galway. We work on a unique model where volunteers and student projects combine to allow sustainable outreach.

Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI)

The Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) fosters community university partnerships that aim to promote the principles and practices of civic engagement and democracy.

Croí Na Gaillimhe Resource Centre

Croí na Gaillimhe is driven by a small team of skilled and dedicated staff, board and volunteers. Our job is to offer social, educational and developmental support for people who find themselves isolated or socially or economically excluded.

Cúram

Cúram's research in innovative 'smart' medical devices and implants will benefit patients with chronic ailments such as cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, neural, soft tissue, renal and urology, and respiratory diseases.

Eglinton Direct Provision Centre Residents' Committee

Forsa Trade Union, Galway

Fórsa is Ireland's newest trade union with over 80,000 members. The union was formed on 2nd January 2018 after the members of IMPACT, the Civil, Public and Services Union (CPSU), and the Public Service Executive Union (PSEU) voted overwhelmingly to amalgamate the three organisations.

Galway 2020 Team

The Galway 2020 team is responsible for delivering a European Capital of Culture that enables the creation of more vibrant cultural communities throughout Galway.

Galway City Partnership's Bridge Project

The BRIDGE project seeks to promote the effective delivery of reception and integration supports (including advocacy and capacity building interventions) to asylum seekers and third country nationals living in Galway City and County

Galway County Intercultural Forum

The Galway County Intercultural Forum provides an opportunity to members of the immigrant community in County Galway to work together, network and support each other on issues that are important and relevant to them. Membership consists of migrant community representatives from different parts of County Galway. The Forum aims to serve as a platform to help develop an inclusive, supportive and intercultural community

Galway Traveller Movement (GTM)

The GTM aims to achieve full equality for Travellers and the participation of Travellers in social, economic and cultural life as well as the broader enhancement of social justice and human rights.

Gawlay Anti-Racism Network (GARN)

GARN are a grassroots community group committed to promoting racial equality and social justice. We are not tied to any political party or organisation, but work with other groups that share our goals. We believe that everyone deserves the same respect and rights regardless of origin, ethnicity, appearance or belief system. We want to strengthen the campaign against racism both locally and internationally. And we want to gather people together to get the voice of change heard.

Great Western Direct Provision Centre Residents' Committee

NUI Galway Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC)

The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC) sets the framework for equality in service provision and employment across the University through development of operational work programmes.

One Galway - Union Collective

The One Galway Union Collective aims to build a collaborative community campaign to fight exploitation and improve workers' conditions

Walk the Talk Galway

Walk the Talk Galway is a peer-led group who aim to promote the integration of asylum seekers, refugees and vulnerable migrants in to the broader Irish society through the means of physical exercise and healthy diet.

Youth Academy

The Youth Academy at NUI Galway works with high ability 4th, 5th and 6th class primary school children to support their learning and academic development.



Appendix 3

The Galway Community of Sanctuary May 2019



What is the Galway Community of Sanctuary?

The Galway Community of Sanctuary (GCS) is a movement to build a culture of welcome and hospitality for refugees, asylum-seekers and Irish Travellers. It is part of the national Places of Sanctuary Ireland network, and incorporates communities which share the objectives of promoting the integration, inclusion and welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, by encouraging every sector of society to make a practical commitment to becoming places of welcome and safety. In keeping with past initiatives, the GCS has broadened their focus to include members of the Travelling community. The focus of the group is to build upon the work which has already taken place in the City and County, and to deliver on the aims of our Community of Sanctuary network. For more information contact uni.sanctuary@nuigalway.ie.

Some of the things that have happened already in Galway:

2005 Galway City Anti-Racism Strategy 2005-2008 “Towards a city of equals”.

2007 Galway City Intercultural Forum established: to raise awareness of ethnic minority and emigrant issues and advance policy submissions.

2010 Galway City integration Strategy “A City of Equals – promoting an intercultural city”.

2011: Galway County Intercultural Forum established: to provide an opportunity to members of the immigrant community in County Galway to work together, network and support each other on issues that are important and relevant to them.

2013 “GALWAY COUNTY INTEGRATION & DIVERSITY STRATEGY 2013 – 2017”

2015 Galway Integration Consortium established: a multi agency working group to promote, develop and enable the integration elements of A City of Equals to be implemented.

2015 Galway County Development Plan 2015-2021

2017 NUIG University of Sanctuary multi-agency working group established.

2017 Galway City Development Plan 2017-2023

2018 Galway Community of Sanctuary Steering Committee established

Why the need for a Community of Sanctuary in Galway:

- Over the past two decades, the global population of forcibly displaced people has grown substantially to **65.6 million in 2016**, and it remains at a record high.
- Irish Travellers suffer far higher levels of ill health, with only **7.5% over the age of 54**. Of the 31,000 Travellers living in Ireland, just over 2,500 live in Co Galway.
- According to the CSO, Galway City is the most multicultural city in the country, with **just under 20% of the population being non-Irish nationals**.
- Only **13%** of Irish Travellers complete second-level education.
- There are currently two Direct Provision centres in Galway city, with approx. 350 asylum seekers, **60 of whom are children**. The Direct Provision system continues to deny basic human rights to each resident.
- Irish Travellers experience an **unemployment rate of 80%**, resulting from a lack of education and social inclusion.
- There are currently approximately **100 Syrian Refugees** in Co Galway
- Galway city has a chance to become a **Community of Sanctuary by 2020**, to coincide with our designation as European Capital of Culture.

GCS Vision

Galway is a welcoming place of safety for all, and is proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution, social exclusion and injustice at the hands of any government, including Ireland's.

GCS AIMS

Awareness – Increase public awareness of the global refugee crisis and Traveller-specific issues by;

- Supporting the development and implementation of a Schools of Sanctuary programme.
- Supporting and hosting awareness raising events e.g. public talks/ information sessions/ cultural activities.
- Promoting awareness around the improvement of the lives of asylum seekers and Irish Travellers.

Inclusion – Promote the message of Galway as a Community of Sanctuary, and advocate for different public and private institutions and services to adopt more inclusive policies and practices by developing a Community of Sanctuary Tool Kit and supporting clients to become businesses/schools/services of sanctuary.

Multiculturalism – Promote multiculturalism and equity through Galway City and County

Areas of focus

- Employment
- Housing
- Health
- Justice & Human Rights
- Language & Education
- Arts & Culture
- Sport





NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

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