



Places of Sanctuary Ireland Limited

(Company limited by guarantee and not having share capital)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 30th June 2018

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Places of Sanctuary Ireland Limited

Directors and other information

Directors: Philip Berman
Andrew Pollak
Francis McEvoy
Rosemary Kunene
Lasanne Ouedraogu
Kevin Mascarenhas
Jacqueline Phiri

Secretary: Sara Hakim

Banker: AIB,
Howth Road,
Raheny,
Dublin 5.

Address: 2 St Andrew St Dublin 2

Registered Company Number: 585268

Registered Charity Number: 20107369

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

This report demonstrates the extraordinary achievements over the past year, due in large measure to the commitment and work of our staff (Tiffany Allen, Sara Hakim, Tian Yu Lloyd and Aakanksha Doshi) and volunteers. Sara was appointed as Director and had begun to make a real impact on the organisation but, sadly, had to take sick leave in May. We are very much hoping that she will be able to return to work in May or June 2019.

I would like to record my thanks to the Board which has worked diligently and effectively over the year, meeting at least every two months. This has not been as easy time for PoSI, with the funding from the Tony Ryan Trust running out in June 2019. We are actively looking for donors and, given the remarkable achievements to date, we are confident that we will find funding. However, there is nothing like a financial crisis to make an organisation take a good, hard look at itself. Do we need to exist? Have we done our job? Could our work be done by other organisations? The Board has been asking itself these searching questions, and continues to do so. The conclusion that we have reached is that PoSI continues to play an important role and that we have every reason to continue to do so. But we have also concluded that we do need to consult with the network – the organisations that we serve – to see whether their views accord with those of the Board. We will be convening a meeting of our network organisations early in 2019 to discuss these issues.

The time ahead presents challenges of course, and we are faced with some serious decisions. However, we believe that as the network is strengthened and established, the grassroots sanctuary activity will be embedded and unstoppable.

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2018.

Directors' responsibilities statement

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the Directors to prepare the financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Under company law, the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss for that financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

select suitable accounting policies for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;

make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and

prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' report comply with the Companies Act 2014. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Principal Activity and Review of the Business

Places of Sanctuary Ireland is a network of groups in towns, cities and local 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.

The Company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital.

There has been no significant change in these activities during the period ended 30 June 2018.

Results and dividends

The profit for the year, after taxation, amounted to €563 (2017 - €49,176).

The balance at the end of the year in the accumulated fund was €49,739 (2017 - €49,176).

State of affairs and events since the Balance Sheet date

In the opinion of the Directors, the state of the company's affairs is satisfactory and there has been no material change since the balance sheet date.

Legal and taxation status

Places of Sanctuary Ireland is a company, limited by guarantee, incorporated under the Companies Act 2014 and has charitable status under the Taxes Acts.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors are responsible for the company's system of internal controls and for reviewing its effectiveness. The internal control system is designed to manage, rather than eliminate risk of failure to achieve the company's business objectives and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Directors do not consider that the company has any significant exposure to financial risk, currency risk, finance and interest rate risk, liquidity and cash flow risk or credit risk. The Board continuously monitors the company's exposures to such risk and takes appropriate action should it become necessary.

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the period were as follows:

Philip Berman

Andrew Pollak

Francis McEvoy

Rosemary Kinune

Lasanne Ouedraogu

Kevin Mascarenhas

Jacqueline Phiri

The Secretary was Sara Hakim

Future Developments

The Company plans to continue its present activities. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business.

Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the period-end.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the Directors to ensure compliance with the requirements of Sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, are the employment of appropriately qualified accounting personnel and the maintenance of computerised accounting systems. The company's accounting records are maintained at the company's registered office at 2 St Andrew Street Dublin 2.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by:

Philip Berman

Francis McEvoy

Director

Director

Date:

Date:

DIRECTORS' REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

MISSION

Places of Sanctuary Ireland (POSI) is a network of groups in cities, towns and local communities whose primary aim is to create a culture of welcome and safety for refugees, asylum-seekers and other immigrants, many of whom are seeking sanctuary from war and persecution.

PoSI works through schools and colleges, churches, local councils, community groups, health providers, businesses and other organisations in the belief that these newcomers have a huge amount to offer Irish society. We want to ensure that their voices are heard and their skills and talents are given opportunity to flourish for their good and that of Irish society as a whole.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to build a culture of welcome, hospitality and inclusiveness across every sphere and sector of Irish society so that wherever people seeking sanctuary go they will feel safe, welcomed and included.

AIMS

To support the creation of a culture of welcome and inclusion across every sphere and sector of society to ensure that wherever sanctuary seekers go they will find places of safety

- To promote the voices and celebrate the contributions of people seeking sanctuary across every sphere and sector of society
- To increase understanding of why people seek sanctuary and the difficulties they experience whilst living in Ireland, north and south
- To express the collective voice of the network, advocating for and alongside sanctuary seekers
- To work in partnership with other organisations and groups that support refugees and migrants, together building a broader sanctuary movement across Ireland.

SANCTUARY CHARTER

During the year, Places of Sanctuary Ireland, as part of the wider City of Sanctuary movement, adopted the Sanctuary Charter. This Charter is closely aligned to the charter adopted by the UK City of Sanctuary organisation. The full version of the Charter is available on the PoSI website, but the values described below are central to the Charter.

Values The organisation and network will be guided and informed by commitment to the following values:

Inclusiveness – We welcome and respect people from all backgrounds, place the highest value on diversity and are committed to equality.

Openness - We are committed to a culture of working collaboratively within the network and in partnership with others.

Participation – Those who support our vision work together with people seeking sanctuary. We value and recognise the contribution of all involved. We aspire to ensure people seeking sanctuary are fully

involved in decision making processes and supported to become leaders within our organisation and network as well as within the wider movement.

Inspiring – We work with enthusiasm and positivity and are determined to surpass what has already been achieved to welcome refugees and people seeking sanctuary. We act as a catalyst for change by being open to new and innovative ideas and through sharing knowledge gained with others and working in partnership.

Integrity – We aspire to high standards of honesty and behaviour, and always to act in the interest of people seeking sanctuary.

We also support the aspirations of City of Sanctuary UK's Birmingham Declaration. The Birmingham Declaration was launched at the first Sanctuary Summit in the UK in 2014 and has since been endorsed by more than 320 organisations. The core principles in the Declaration are:

1. All asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be treated with dignity and respect.
2. A fair and effective process to decide whether people need protection should be in place.
3. No one should be locked up indefinitely.
4. No one should be left sick or destitute in our society.
5. We should welcome the stranger and help them to integrate.

THE ORGANISATION

Places of Sanctuary Ireland (PoSI) is the umbrella body for the City of Sanctuary groups in Ireland, north and south, providing a focus for coordination and development of the network. This contributes to building a wider Sanctuary movement. In addition to undertaking City of Sanctuary activities and initiatives at an all-island level, the role of the organisation is to ensure that there is good communication across the organisations that form our network, to coordinate decision-making and to help raise the profile of the City of Sanctuary movement.

2nd PoSI National Conference

The second national conference, supported with a grant from Social Change Initiative, was held on January 27th 2018. The conference attracted even greater numbers and reflected and was this time hosted by our friends at Irish School of Ecumenics.

The following is a report of the conference, written by Dr. Avila Kilmurray of Social Change Initiative:

The map of the island was multi-coloured with post-its. Welcome to the annual networking gathering of Places of Sanctuary (Ireland). Enthusiasts from Belfast to Cork, from Galway to Dublin, and places in between, came together to discuss progress around three ambitions:-

Awareness-raising: to help educate and inform communities about refugees and migrants. Who are they? Why do they come to Ireland? What are their stories?

Befriending: to help Irish people (north and South) to get to know and welcome newcomers.

Cultural connections: to ensure that every activity and group can be a place of sanctuary and welcome.

As simple as A, B, C – adapting the U.K. concept of Cities of Sanctuary to Ireland, where places can encompass rural communities and small towns, as well as urban centres.

The local group representatives that swapped stories and ideas in the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, came from Belfast, Cork, Waterford, Portlaoise, Galway, Limerick, Athlone, Monaghan, Dundalk, Cavan and Dublin. Coleraine and Derry sent apologies. They spoke about schools of sanctuary and universities of sanctuary; cities of sanctuary and counties of sanctuary. They celebrated each other's achievements and simmered over the 'deeply ungenerous' measures that the Irish Department of Justice has seen fit to present in response to a recent Irish Supreme Court judgement that asylum seekers should have the right to work. But they are unfailing optimists – 'Sure the Minister is a decent man, and the proposed measure is temporary!' Organising activist, Tiffy Allen, assured local group representatives that the 'Culture of welcome runs through Ireland'.

Refugee Voices

Speaking as a member of the Portlaoise Places of Sanctuary group, Rosie – a refugee herself – described how her confidence was built through participation on an introduction to politics course which explained how things work in Ireland. The course was developed initially in Waterford and was then rolled out in other areas. Rosie said, "I am able to give of my skills". A sister, originally from Nigeria, explained how she and her family were 'at the wrong end of the stick', experiencing the asylum process as long-drawn out and nerve shattering. Having fled her country, with her husband and three children, after the family were threatened, she described how the asylum process in Ireland leached away any sense of self-confidence. Official letters were seen as threatening, and no matter what the treatment meted out, she was always frightened to complain. Like many other asylum-seekers, she explained, you eventually reach breaking point and 'damn the consequences'. Places of Sanctuary invited her to join a delegation of refugees to address Senators and Deputies in the Dáil. "Just giving me the opportunity to talk is like pulling your head out of the ocean when you are drowning", she said, commending the Senators and T.D.s who took the time to meet them and listen to their stories.

The Places of Sanctuary networking event drew representation from asylum seekers still living in Direct Provision across Ireland, as well as Irish, British and motivated people of all ages and backgrounds from across the island, irrespective of borders.

Pushing the Bounds of Possibility

The Cork Places of Sanctuary group spoke of the close links with both Cork City Council Social Inclusion Unit and University College Cork. They welcomed the Scholarship Scheme established for refugees established by the University. Limerick also reported university interest in recognition that this city has the highest Muslim population outside Dublin. Representatives from University College Galway formed part of the Galway delegation, reporting on linkages with Galway One World Centre, Galway Anti-Racism Network and the EU funded Bridge Project in Galway that is actively working towards making Galway a City of Sanctuary. It was noted that 25% of this city on the western seaboard are now foreign nationals, ensuring diversity in the Galway Culture Capital of Europe programme slated for 2020.

In the Midlands, Athlone Institute of Technology College is already a college of sanctuary. It is currently developing on-line programmes to facilitate refugee access to skills development and learning. Two participants from Dundalk Institute of Technology expressed interest in following this path. Focusing on children, work in both Monaghan and Derry/Londonderry highlighted the possibility of fostering Schools of Sanctuary and the Northern Ireland Educational Authority have developed a Schools of Sanctuary Resource Pack.

The location of Direct Provision centres in areas such as Athlone, Portlaoise and Limerick has heightened awareness of the importance of extending a welcome. The New Horizon Refugee Support Group was established in Athlone in 2000, where Direct Provision currently houses some 400 people. The Laois Integration Network extends a welcome through sport, the arts and social activities. It has struck a resounding chord by supporting an Orchestra of Sanctuary as well as a local Football Team. Reference was made to a forthcoming GAA (Gaelic Athletics Association) Refugee event due to be held in Croke Park in March 2018. Meanwhile, a touring exhibition in Limerick focused on Children in War Torn Syria, while the Dublin group received support from the Abbey Theatre. Striking a more pragmatic note, the Limerick group has formed a partnership with the Samaritans to offer an empathetic 'listening ear' for refugees and asylum seekers who are as often distressed by the trauma of their previous life as by the uncertainty of their current status.

The Dublin Places of Sanctuary group outlined their busy schedule, which ranged from a Soccer Tournament in January to a Right to Work conference in the autumn. Contact with Christ Church Cathedral is giving rise to a Cathedral of Sanctuary, and in May, 50 people lobbied the Dáil and Seanad. Listening to the achievements of other groups, the Belfast representatives announced that its Strategic Plan is due to be launched in Belfast City Hall in March.



Weaving the Strands Together

Places of Sanctuary is seen as a people's movement. Activist, Tiffy Allen argued that "The culture itself is beginning to shift. . .It is beginning to be the cool thing to do". The sanctuary movement is keen to emphasize that the idea of sanctuary can be woven into daily life; enhancing what people are

already doing. The important twist in the weave is the awareness and confidence to ensure that people who come to Ireland as refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed and included. In the words of the Places of Sanctuary movement – ‘We work together with schools and colleges, universities, faith groups, local councils, community groups, businesses, sports and other organisations to create opportunities for local people to meet newcomers to our country, to hear their stories and to help them find a new home here amongst us. We want to ensure that their voices are heard and their skills and talents are given opportunity to flourish for their good and that of Irish society as a whole’. The Social Change Initiative was delighted to be associated with the Places of Sanctuary networking day through its Migration Learning Exchange programme. For further information contact info@ireland.cityofsanctuary.org and www.cityofsanctuary.org.

PLACES OF SANCTUARY GROUPS

November 2017 saw new groups in **Galway** and **Cork** make significant progress as they strengthened their steering groups and began to work on strategic plans. The **Belfast** group was also moving ahead, preparing for its first AGM. All three cities are working towards formal recognition as Cities of Sanctuary. In November 2017, **Monaghan** launched its intention to become a County of Sanctuary, with support from the Mayor of Monaghan and councils. Dublin hosted a very successful Right to Work conference (see below).

The campaign for **Portlaoise** and **Laois** to be recognized as a Town and County of Sanctuary was also launched during the year as Laois Integration Network outlined its plan for a sustainable strategy to build inclusion and welcome into all sectors of society.

City of Sanctuary Dublin Right to Work Conference

On 21 September 2017, nearly four months after the Supreme Court ruling in favour of a Burmese man’s appeal over the blanket ban preventing asylum seekers to work or seek entrance to the labour market, City of Sanctuary Dublin organized an Asylum Seekers’ Right to Work conference. Other than NGOs, scholars and law experts in the field of Human Rights, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), mainstream business associations and business entities were also approached. All of these groups responded positively and helped set up a distinguished list of speakers, including Emily Logan, the Chief Commissioner of Irish Human Rights, the well-known economist Jim Power, Dr Liam Thornton, UCD professor in Human Right laws, Former Supreme Court judge Catherine McGuinness, Virgin Media CEO Tony Hanway, and David Joyce, ICTU Equality Officer.

This conference was covered by Irish Times and asylum seeker Christiana Obaro's speech was published on the day and drew wide attention from many readers and broadcasters.



"Immigrants play a key role in the Irish economy and account for 15.8 % of total employment in the economy. They have a broad sectoral spread and are essential to the proper functioning of the Irish economy. Non-Irish nationals, including refugees and asylum seekers, will inevitably be called upon to play an even more important role in the future as the economy moves towards full employment and as skills shortages arise. It makes no economic or social sense to prevent people from participating fully in the economic and social life of Ireland. An adequate supply of labour with the requisite skills is a key element of the competitiveness of the Irish economy and needs to be nurtured"

Jim Power, Economist

5th Sanctuary in Politics Course

A grant from the Community Foundation of Ireland enabled PoSI to run the fifth Sanctuary in Politics course from February to May 2018 (every two weeks but with interruptions from heavy snow!) Taking place in Dublin, once again courtesy of Irish School of Ecumenics (TCD), this time the course was national rather than Dublin-focused, attended by refugees and asylum seekers from Galway, Monaghan, Cork, Limerick and Waterford. The course attracted the interest of partners in the wider City of Sanctuary network and the model was shared in Belfast, Wales and England. This course also introduced the new idea of graduate mentors, with ten graduates of previous courses working alongside Irish colleagues to mentor and facilitate small group sessions during the course.

At the graduation ceremony, Sabir Zazai, CEO of Scottish Refugee Council and Chair of City of Sanctuary UK was the inspirational keynote speaker, and students were inspired by his testimony of arriving in Coventry from war torn Afghanistan as a penniless asylum seeker speaking no English. With teaching on campaigning from Amnesty International, visitors from across Ireland, and certificates handed out by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, there was a great atmosphere of festivity and joy as the students poured out into the spring sunshine to celebrate their achievement.



One of the graduates gives her testimony:

"Sanctuary in Politics course was really empowering to all students including mentors. The sessions were delivered in a very friendly manner and everyone felt to be part of the group. As a mentor I was privileged to be part of the mentors and I was motivated to carry on the

good work. Our group in Portlaoise organised information session on voting rights in the local library and we are now conducting voting registration booth to encourage more migrants/ asylum seekers/ refugees in Laois to register so that they can vote for the upcoming elections.”

Cork City of Sanctuary – Sub Groups for Sanctuary Action

Cork City of Sanctuary took the decision to refine their strategy for becoming a City of Sanctuary where action on the ground would back up their vision for welcome and inclusion by forming sub groups:

- 1. Arts and Culture Sub-Group**
- 2. Spaces and Places**
- 3. Research Sub-Group.**
- 4. Advocacy Sub-Group**
- 5. Further and Third Level Education Sub-Group.**
- 6. Communication and Media Sub-Group:**
- 7. Primary and Secondary School Education Sub-group.**
- 8. Health Sub-Group**
- 9. Terms of Reference and Vision Sub-Group.**

Each group is led by a team of two, with the aim being that at least one of the two is from a refugee/migrant background. There has been real progress made in each area and several useful workshops where the subgroups share their strategy and progress on a wider platform.

Galway: An emerging community of sanctuary

Our staff member, Aakanksha Doshi, had the opportunity to visit Galway for their vibrant culture night and learn more about their plans of becoming a community of sanctuary by 2020. Here is her account of culture night:

“I had the pleasure of visiting Galway for its vibrant culture night. Culture night in Galway was held at the Harbour Hotel, a beautiful location by the waterfront. The event took place in a large, brightly-lit room where chairs had been set-up in circular formations to facilitate conversation. Along the room, there were long tables set-up with pamphlets, brochures, posters and information from Galway Anti-Racism Network, Amach LGBT Galway, Walkthetalk Galway, Teach Solais LGBT and Schools & Universities of Sanctuary. The room was also setup with a DJ desk, dedicated to playing a mix of music from around the world and a big screen projecting information on universities and schools of sanctuary.

Right at the entrance, there was a photo exhibit of the Irish Traveller community, set-up by the Galway Traveller Movement (GTM), which showcased heart-warming photos and a few items such as bags, bowls and more, made by the community. Soon, the room was filled with people and it was an eclectic mix! I had the pleasure of meeting the Galway steering group and its passionate members. It was a mix of the local Irish people from Galway including some from Athlone, students from NUI Galway including five students who are part of the university of sanctuary programme, asylum seekers from Eglinton and Western Direct

Provision centres (mainly individuals from Nigeria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, South Africa and Russia). There were engaging discussions going on in all corners as people talked and shared their ideas and thoughts over food and beverages. It was so encouraging to see the sheer number of people who were interested in the schools of sanctuary program. I had individuals from different walks of life, come up to me and ask for a brochure because they wanted to contribute in some way. One of the women who approached me was into art therapy herself and she said that “schools of sanctuary are the future. Teaching our children about inclusivity and diversity is extremely important.” We also had the chance to show the UNHCR video of Widden Primary being a School of Sanctuary, on the big screen. By the end of evening, 26 signatures had been signed to show resolution and support for the Galway community of sanctuary.

Overall, the experience was wonderful. I was received by Aidan from the Galway team and I can't thank him enough for his hospitality and for making me feel so welcome. The Galway team are building a community of sanctuary by promoting the values and ideals of sanctuary in different ways around Galway. It was an extremely fruitful encounter for me as it made me realise that there are people all around Ireland who are very interested in the work Places of Sanctuary is doing. It was an important way to connect and network with like-minded individuals and I am very thankful to the Galway team for letting me be a part of it.”

City of Sanctuary Belfast: The Great Refugee Picnic with Amnesty International 24th June 2018

Belfast as welcoming and warm as it should always be.



A huge ‘Refugees Welcome’ message at the Great Refugee Week Picnic in Ormeau Park.

What a gorgeous day of sun, fun, friendship, neighbours, diversity, music, food, clowns, juggling, face painting... and welcomes!

Thanks to the Lord Mayor Councillor Deirdre Hargey for spending so much time with people

Thank you to our partner, Amnesty International, and our supporters and funders at the NICRAS, Community Relations Council, Africa House, Awni, Niconi, and to the unions – NIC-ICTU, NIPSA, UNISON, UNITE, USDAW and FBU.

We also wish to thank Fare Share, St Johns Ambulance, Lonesome George, Micheal the DJ and the face painters and circus clowns.

A huge thanks to those who provided the wonderful food, music, clowning and face painting and all who organised and volunteered today's event.



Portlaoise Celebrates Sanctuary on Culture Night

A grant from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) to the Immigrant Council of Ireland enabled us to hold an event that brings refugees and asylum seekers together with local communities in three different locations every six months; the first of these events was held in Portlaoise on Culture Night in September Friday 22nd September 2017. Portlaoise Parish Centre, known for its open doors and inclusive atmosphere, hosted 'Exploring Cultural Connections' with a mix of communities including resettled Syrians, asylum seekers from the Direct Provision Centre, Lithuanian and Polish dancers, and an Irish Traditional Music band seeking to form an international orchestra through the Comhaltas group. At the same time, the Parish Centre was given a well-deserved award as an Honorary Place of Sanctuary, which Fr Paddy Byrne received with a heart-warming speech about their commitment to sharing the centre with all communities of all faiths and nationalities. Radwan from Syria and Rosie from Swaziland responded with testimonies about how their communities had been helped to make the Parish Centre a home from home, facilitating excellent intercommunity relationships and conversations.



The second of the three events is due to be held in Galway On Culture Night – September 21st 2018.

STREAMS OF SANCTUARY

Streams of Sanctuary encourage professionals within ‘communities of practices or interests’ to come together to embed the concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within their professions, sectors and organisations, together with other interested individuals (including people seeking sanctuary), groups and organisations. Any individual or organisation working within a Stream of Sanctuary must be committed to the vision and values of Places of Sanctuary Ireland. The development of new activities, projects and initiatives within a Stream must be aligned with Sanctuary network principles. A Stream will also enable the sharing of best practice, resources and ideas. Currently, our most active stream is Universities of Sanctuary, but Schools of Sanctuary is rapidly developing, and there are a number of new streams that are in the process of development.

Universities and Colleges of Sanctuary.



The University of Sanctuary Ireland (UoSI) consortium, which comprises representatives from the University and Institute of Technology (IoT) sectors, as well as a number of additional stakeholders from the asylum seeker and refugee communities, has had a productive year so far. At the moment, four of the seven universities in Ireland have received the designation and the three others are in various stages of preparation to be considered for the award. In addition, three IoTs are in the process of applying and a Liberal Arts College has just submitted their application.

Two on-line meetings have been convened: one in February and the second in October. One issue that has emerged concerns identity and representation. For example, it was discussed whether it would be desirable to adapt the University of Sanctuary logo to represent an Irish focus, e.g. by changing the colour scheme; also, the name ‘university’ is not inclusive of colleges, institutes and other HE bodies that are seeking sanctuary designation.

Discussion of same is ongoing. There have also been expressions of interest by universities across Europe in possibly adopting the identity on foot of presentations given at seminars and conferences.

A nation-wide webinar is scheduled to take place on the theme of Access to Higher Education on 23rd November. Invitations are being sent to HEIs, NGOs, school liaison officers, and members of asylum seeker and refugee communities.

At individual university level, Dublin City University (DCU) has added 22 FutureLearn on-line scholarships to its sanctuary offerings and has successfully completed a second pilot of its MELLIE reciprocal storytelling project, involving asylum-seekers and DCU volunteers. An extension of the MELLIE project, Theatre Making, was facilitated by Fighting Words and the Gate theatre, Dublin in the summer. It has also launched a new MA in Refugee Integration and has recently commenced asylum and intercultural training with staff from the Dept. Justice and Equality’s Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Services (INIS) division. DCU’s University of Sanctuary has a dedicated webpage. It published its first annual sanctuary report in Spring.

University College Cork (UCC) hosts a Refugee Week and continues to develop Arts based programmes in conjunction with the Glucksman Gallery as well as opening up computer rooms for asylum seekers to use. It is also concerned with developing pathways to education with the support of the local community.

University of Limerick (UL) celebrated Refugee week with a focus on sanctuary story telling, culinary arts and awareness raising of racism to coincide with International Day against Racism.

University College Dublin was granted sanctuary status in Spring and launched a major drive to make the university accessible to asylum seekers and refugees through a pilot fees waiver scheme.

Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) continues to liaise with and support the on-line learning initiative Refugees and On-line Education (ROLE), developed by New Horizon Athlone. It was acknowledged that there is a need to develop and showcase a 'one-stop-shop' concerning scholarships and related pathways to HE. This is currently being created.

Finally, the role of advocacy is increasing across the board with, for example, Students' Unions running campaigns to end deportations and close Direct Provision Centres across the State. The UoSI committee plans to address the issue of access to higher education as one of its advocacy strategies. This will be raised at the webinar due to take place.

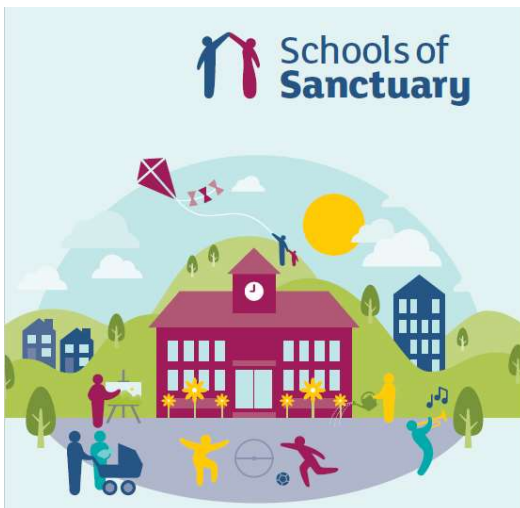
Schools of Sanctuary

A grant from St Stephen Green Trust has enabled us to begin to pilot Schools of Sanctuary across the network. 10 new schools in Belfast and two in Derry have joined the Schools of Sanctuary programme.

Overall report: There are several schools around Ireland which have been recognized as potential schools of sanctuary. Talks are on with individuals from these particular schools to take this forward. Other than that, teams in Galway and Cork are working on creating a resource pack for Ireland based on the Northern Ireland one. As of now, there are six schools in Cork, at least two in Galway, a few in Portlaoise and two-three potential ones in Dublin.

There are hundreds of schools across the network in the UK and Ireland whose lives have been transformed by the School of Sanctuary programme. We are proud that the numbers in Belfast and elsewhere are growing.

Belfast City of Sanctuary has been working closely with the Education Authority of Northern Ireland to support the Schools of Sanctuary initiative. One crucial part of the preparation was the training of appraisal teams, a mix of refugees, asylum seekers and local Belfast COS supporters, who have been going into schools and looking at the packs for the purposes of endorsing them. Here is their account of what it has been like:



"It's been a wonderful experience for our teams in Belfast who have awarded the school of sanctuary award to 11 new schools which include Long Tower PS, Malone Inte College, Donegall Road PS, Elmgrove PS, Holy Evangelists' PS, St Kieran's PS, Christ the Redeemer PS, Gppd Shepherd PS, Mercy College, Holy Cross Girls PS and the Sacred Heart Boys PS.

Our teams have experienced a friendly welcome, warmth and hospitality and a spirit of inclusion within the school environment of these institutions. A common idea that was shared by all these schools was that diversity is something to be proud of and that this type of open-mindedness and inclusive

learning will equip children not only for their school years but also after. Eleven schools went through the assessment this year and ten more are scheduled for next year.

We have to acknowledge the tremendous work the Education Authority put into making sure the Schools of Sanctuary Toolkit matched our education structures, the preparation they did with each individual school to attain the standards for accreditation as a School of Sanctuary, the template of things to watch out for as we inspected and also accompanying our teams when we went out to inspect.”

Going forward...

In other parts such as Dublin, we have identified three potential schools of sanctuary with which we are beginning to collaborate. Meanwhile in Cork, there are six schools working towards becoming schools of sanctuary. The Cork and Galway teams are working towards creating a Schools of Sanctuary resource pack based on the resource pack from Northern Ireland with the aim of creating a resource more specific to their particular areas. The team in Galway have identified two potential schools of sanctuary, as well. In Portlaoise we have identified a few schools that are interested and subsequently, we are planning to have an event and training based around schools of sanctuary with primary and secondary school teachers from the area.

Our team member Aakanksha had the opportunity to go down to Belfast and visit two schools of sanctuary that have received their award recently. She writes her personal report here:

I had the opportunity to visit St Kieran’s Primary School and Malone College in Belfast. The visit was facilitated by Jane Camara. It was an excellent visit and I had the chance to see first-hand, what it was like to be a School of Sanctuary in Ireland.



Our first visit was to St Kieran’s Primary. We met the two teachers who have undergone training and workshops held by the Education Authority and spoke about their experience of becoming a school of sanctuary. They were very passionate as they showed me the school’s portfolio. They had numerous practices that embodied the principles of ‘Learn, Action and Share’ in different ways. They had displays in different languages, a welcome book, language of the month, Irish language classes, multicultural books, global learning activities and so much more that created a conducive environment for the students. One of the most important points that came up during this chat was that in the preliminary stages of becoming a school of sanctuary, there was a discussion with school council, staff, board of governors about ‘Who is seeking sanctuary?’ And the importance of this question resonated throughout our chat. Their portfolio gave me a complete insight into how the school functioned as a school of sanctuary and included their action plan going ahead too. It was so encouraging to see young teachers take on the cause of sanctuary and their enthusiasm was palpable. I saw the numerous good practices they embody such as a buddy bench system, gardening, Roots of Empathy, Small World’s Workshop and more.

The second school we visited was Malone College. We had the opportunity of meeting two teachers here as well. This school also had multi-lingual displays, welcome signs and a meet and greet committee. Their greatest asset though, I believe, is their bilingual centre where they have EAL lessons, family liaisons, pastoral care, prayer area and quiet time. It is true place of sanctuary. On arrival, we had the opportunity to meet 4 students from a non-Irish background and they shared their experiences of being a part of a school of sanctuary and what it meant to them. It was very heart-warming to see the rapport these students shared with both the teachers. We also had a chance to go through their portfolio which was spectacular and highlighted all the activities and their action plan. They make students feel welcomed by practices such as buddy/mentor systems, language of the month and they constantly develop relationships and build community links through activities and by developing intercultural skills. They also spread religious awareness by celebrating different festivals and through assemblies.



At both the schools, it was very encouraging to see young teachers take on such a prominent role in working towards becoming a school of sanctuary. They took complete ownership of their work and their passion shined through. It was an incredible experience to see both the schools and get an idea of what a real school of sanctuary looks like. We discussed how these practices could be emulated down south, as well and teachers at both the schools had a palette of ideas. Both schools have shared their portfolios with me and the teachers are more than willing to help at any point.

Lastly, I would like to thank Jane for arranging the visit and facilitating the entire trip to the schools. Seeing her hard-work and passion infused a new life within me. She was kind enough to pass on resources from workshops they did in the past. Overall, it was a very fruitful trip and I hope it yields good results south of the border.

Sanctuary in Nature and Sanctuary breaks

'Sanctuary in Nature' is a new project initiated in 2017 by Cities of Sanctuary Dublin member; environmental author and guide Paddy Woodworth. It seeks to use the natural world as a meeting point for migrants and Irish people, and a refuge for sanctuary seekers from the stress and tedium often inherent in their predicament. There is compelling evidence worldwide that direct contact with nature is vital for physical and mental health.



This project offers migrants opportunities to enjoy and learn about Irish wildlife, wildflowers and landscapes. We see the project as an exchange between equals and an opportunity for migrants to inform Irish people about nature in their home countries. An important by-product is the informal socialisation between individuals and small groups in a relaxed context in beautiful natural settings.

Four pilot outings during 2017/18 have attracted participating adults and children from Syria, Albania, Uganda, South Africa and Mongolia. Led by Paddy Woodworth, we have visited the gardens and riverside/wetland walks in Sonairte, and explored the rich plant and animal life in the woodlands and beaches adjacent to the Mosney Centre. Woodworth pointed out common trees, plants, birds, and marine life. Over coffee, participants then revisited what we have seen in books, and learnt about fauna and flora from the migrants' countries.

For migrants, they get an opportunity to acquire a basic knowledge of common trees, plants, birds and landscapes of the east coast, enhancing and enriching their daily experience and enjoyment of their everyday environment. They are also encouraged to express their pride and pleasure in the natural beauties of their home places; improving their sense of community with Irish people; health and well-being benefits.



For non-migrant participants, they appreciate the pleasures of sharing our own local places with migrants, and gaining an opportunity to get to know our neighbours and make a contribution and a difference to the lives of people in distressing situations.

Local centres, such as Sonairte National Ecology Centre Rogerstown Estuary become focal points for local communities and their neighbours to meet regularly in a friendly and neutral social setting.

Meanwhile, for the second year running the Causeway Borough of Sanctuary Group hosted over forty Syrians from the North West at the Corrymeela Centre of Reconciliation, Ballycastle on 7th July 2018. Football, good food, a pampering session and a trip to the beach was enjoyed by all!

UK City of Sanctuary Annual Conference

UK City of Sanctuary Annual Conference May 2018 in Newcastle was attended by 8 delegates from Ireland. Veronica Crosbie, Chairperson of University of Sanctuary Committee, Ireland, spoke to the delegates about how higher education institutions in Ireland are joining the City of Sanctuary movement. Also, our Sanctuary in Politics programme was highlighted and the Schools of Sanctuary resource book from Belfast was showcased, both attracting a lot of interest from other delegates. Many interesting ideas such as developing Gardens of Sanctuary, creation of resource packs for mental health, using the media to promote stories of sanctuary were shared across the network.



UNHCR

In June 2018 Tiffy travelled to Geneva to speak on behalf of Places of Sanctuary Ireland and City of Sanctuary UK at the annual UNHCR conference. As a result of the closer links with UNHCR, PoSI and COSUK became part of the With Refugees Coalition, and several cities from across the network signed up to the Cities with Refugees campaign, with Galway taking the lead here in Ireland.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

Income	2018	2017
	€	€
Grant Income	62850	62968
Total Income	<u>62850</u>	<u>62968</u>
Expenditure		
Wages and Salaries	49962	9425
Conference Expenses	1002	1227
Computer Costs	-	681
Printing and stationery	1100	560
Telephone	250	318
Travel and Subsistence	3534	935
Bank charges	24	7
General Expenses	366	252
Secretarial Costs	317	387
Course Expenses	3940	-
Professional Fees	1326	-
Culture Night Expenses	466	-
Total Expenditure	<u>62287</u>	<u>13792</u>
Surplus	563	49176

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2018

	30/06/2018	30/06/2017
	€	€
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	52,662	49,176
	_____	_____
Creditors: Amounts Falling due within one year	2923	-
Net Current Assets	49,739	49,176
	_____	_____
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	49,739	49,176
	=====	=====
Accumulated Fund		
Opening Balance	49,176	-
Surplus for the Year	<u>563</u>	<u>49,176</u>
Closing Balance	49,739	49,176
	=====	=====

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies' regime.

We, as director(s) of (company name), state that:

(a) the company is availing itself of the exemption provided for by Chapter 15 of Part 6 of the Companies Act 2014,

(b) the company is availing itself of the exemption on the grounds that the conditions specified in s.358 are satisfied,

(c) the shareholders of the company have not served a notice on the company under s.334(1) in accordance with s.334(2),

(d) we acknowledge the company's obligations under the Companies Act 2014, to keep adequate accounting records and prepare Financial Statements which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the end of its financial year and of its profit or loss for such a year and to otherwise comply with the provisions of Companies Act 2014 relating to Financial Statements so far as they are applicable to the company,

On behalf of the board:

Philip Berman
Director
Date:

Francis McEvoy
Director
Date

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Profit and loss account €	Total equity €
At 1 July 2017	49,176	49,176
Surplus for the year	563	563
At 30 June 2018	49,739	49,739

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	Profit and loss account €	Total equity €
At 1 July 2016	-	-
Surplus for the year	49,176	49,176
At 30 June 2017	49,176	49,176

The notes on pages 29 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the period ended 30 June 2018

	2018	2017
	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities		
Surplus for the period	563	49,176
Adjustment for:		
Increase in Creditors	<u>2,923</u>	=
Cash generated from operations	3,486	49,176
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial period	49,176	-
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial period	52,662	49,176

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

1. General information

Places of Sanctuary Ireland is a network of groups in towns, cities and local 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. The company is limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, incorporated under Companies Act 2014 and has charitable status under the Taxes Acts.

The significant accounting policies adopted by the company and applied consistently are as follows:

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland" and Irish statute comprising of the Companies Act 2014.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in applying the Company accounting policies (see note 3).

2.2 Grants

Grants and sponsorship are received by Places of Sanctuary Ireland in respect of printing costs associated with specific volumes of the Review. Income is recognised in the accounts in the year in which it is received.

2.3 Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

2.4 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of

bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Company's cash management.

2.5 Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.6 Financial instruments

The Company only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade debtors and creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received. However, if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in the case of an out-right short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and in non-puttable ordinary and preference shares are measured:

- at fair value with changes recognised in the Income and expenditure account if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably;
- at cost less impairment for all other investments.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Income and expenditure account.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract

3. Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make

judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the applications of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

Judgements and estimates are continually evaluated and based on historical experiences and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates, will be by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of the assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

4. Employees

The Company has three employees other than the council members. Total Salary costs in the period were €49,962.

5. Cash and cash equivalents

	2018 €	2017 €
Cash on deposit	52,662	49,176
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>52,662</u>	<u>49,176</u>

6. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2018 €	2017 €
Trade Creditors	2,923	-
	<u>2,923</u>	<u>-</u>

7. Approval of Financial Statements

The Board members approved these financial statements for issue on