

King's College London

City of Sanctuary pledge

King's College London is a supporting organisation of [City of Sanctuary](#) and has signed the national organisational pledge:

We support the 'City of Sanctuary' vision that the UK will be a welcoming place of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution. We endorse the City of Sanctuary Charter, and agree to act in accordance with City of Sanctuary values and apply the network principles within our work (as far as our specific context enables us to). We recognise the contribution of refugees and people seeking sanctuary to British society. Sanctuary seekers are welcomed, included and supported within our organisation. We expect our branches or local groups (if any) to support their local City of Sanctuary group if one exists, and will facilitate contact between them and their local City of Sanctuary group. We are willing for our organisation's name to be added to a list of supporters of City of Sanctuary, linked to our website. We are also willing to be contacted by City of Sanctuary with further ideas for how we can turn our support into practical action and to discuss ways we might work together to promote the vision further.

At King's College London, our ambition is to make the world a better place through our education, research and our service to society. We strive to use our knowledge, assets and capabilities to make a difference in London, across the UK and around the world.

In response to the global issue of forced displacement, King's formed its Sanctuary Programme in 2015. Over the past 7 years, King's has harnessed its expertise in education and remote learning, world-class research and partnerships to initiate and lead on projects that create opportunities for forcibly displaced people. King's also aims to enhance understanding of forced displacement among our students, staff and alumni, and to develop opportunities for them to make a positive contribution.

The King's Sanctuary Programme includes a range of projects, such as our Sanctuary Scholarships, the Partnership for Digital Learning and Increased Access (PADILEIA) and the King's Refugee Community Sponsorship Scheme. Through these flagship initiatives, King's has supported sanctuary seekers to thrive in higher education, educated thousands of displaced

people through blended bridging programmes and bespoke contextualised online university courses, and has enriched the UK community sponsorship scheme by developing an education-led pathway for forcefully displaced students and academics. Working to ensure education remains a right for all, these innovative projects give individuals affected by conflict and displacement unrivalled opportunities to rebuild their lives and fulfil their potential.

King's is committed to welcoming forced migrants into our institution and community. From 2017, we worked in partnership with Citizens UK, the UNHCR and the Home Office to become the first university to be accredited as a Community Sponsor through the UK Refugee Community Sponsorship Scheme. In December 2021, King's resettled a refugee student and their family, who had been displaced from Syria to Lebanon, under this scheme. We have drawn on our experience of community sponsorship in order to develop and deliver a sponsorship model for UK universities to help host displaced Ukrainian students and academics under the UK Government's Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine). This work is developed in close partnership with other UK universities and it is part of a wider ambition to create safe and legal education-led pathways for displaced students and academics from across the world.

We have built a strong culture of sanctuary within the university by ensuring our vision is embedded in strategic planning. King's Sanctuary Programme is one of the 'transformative initiatives' in our Vision 2029 and is cited as a key example of the university's positive social impact in our recently launched Strategy 2026, which sets out how we intend to work over the next four years in order to deliver on the ambitions of Vision 2029.

We want to share learnings from the King's Sanctuary Programme and work with other universities and organisations that share our ambition to create lasting change for individuals impacted by forced migration. We know that we do more, and do it better, when working together. Real change requires collaboration.