Equal Access for Asylum Seekers and Refugees
(Formerly University of Sanctuary)

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: International Students’ Officer
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This Students’ Union notes:
1. Asylum seekers and refugees encounter immense barriers to Higher Education.
2. Asylum seekers are charged international fees by Universities, cannot work in the UK and cannot access student loans and government grants.
3. Refugees often struggle to fund themselves through Higher Education.
4. Sheffield was the first ever 'City of Sanctuary'.

This Students’ Union believes:
1. Education is a Human Right and should be accessible to all on the basis of merit, not ability to pay.
2. Asylum seekers and refugees would particularly benefit from Higher Education because it would help them successfully adapt to life in the UK.
3. Asylum seekers and refugees culturally and intellectually enrich our campus, Sheffield and the UK.

This Students’ Union resolves:
1. To educate our members about the difficulties encountered by asylum seekers and refugees by working with student groups and charities (including but not limited to STAR, the Red Cross Society, Amnesty International Society, United Nations Youth and Students Association and ASSIST).
2. To lobby the University to enable all those seeking refugee protection to be able to study as home students.
3. To lobby the University to be a welcoming place to all refugees and asylum seekers.

POLICY HISTORY:

Original University of Sanctuary policy passed by Students’ Union Council on 19 May 2011 and renewed temporarily by SU Council in October 2013. The above revised policy was agreed by SU Council in December 2014.

This policy was renewed in November 2017 for 12 months with a view to bringing revised policy in this academic year.