

Groups pledge to make Wolverhampton a City of Sanctuary



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ACH's Wolverhampton team attended a council meeting along with many other organisations and individuals to pledge their support to make Wolverhampton a City of Sanctuary. At ACH we believe that it is essential to be part of the community where we are based. By doing this we can promote the contribution of refugees and people from BME communities. It was really great to see the support for refugees in Wolverhampton. Dozens of organisations large and small attended the event at the Civic Centre to hear more about a rapidly growing national movement which is seeking to build a network of towns and cities which offer hospitality to people seeking sanctuary in the UK.

During the night's event, delegates heard the story of asylum seeker and chair of Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary, Alvine Noumey, who talked movingly about how she fled persecution in Cameroon and finally found sanctuary in Wolverhampton. The event also featured a key note speech from Methodist minister Rev Inderjit Bhogal OBE, who founded the City of Sanctuary movement in Sheffield a decade ago and who lived in Wolverhampton in the early 1980s.

He said:

"Sanctuary is not just about having a roof over your head, what people really need is friendship – we all want a sense of friendship and belonging."

John Catley, Secretary of Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary, said:

"A City of Sanctuary is a place which is committed to welcoming and including people who are seeking sanctuary."

Leader of the City of Wolverhampton Council, Councillor Roger Lawrence, said:

"Wolverhampton has a long history of welcoming people from all over the globe to our city, and as council we are proud to support moves to create a City of Sanctuary."

We look forward to the exciting partnerships and networks that are building in the City of Wolverhampton.