

RAS 18

Ymchwiliad i ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches yng Nghymru

Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales

Ymateb gan: Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru

Response from: Together Creating Communities



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National Assembly for Wales Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Inquiry on Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Wales

Submission from TCC (Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru / Together Creating Communities).

General

As a member of the Welsh Refugee Coalition (WRC), TCC¹ supports the submission made by the WRC and wholeheartedly supports its recommendations. On the basis of its work in North East Wales, TCC would like to emphasise the following points, as raised in the WRC submission.

Nation of Sanctuary

TCC's work to date around refugee and asylum seeker support has been focused on working with local authorities in North East Wales to encourage sign-up to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS) and working with one of the secondary schools within its membership to help them achieve School of Sanctuary status. TCC has also trained leaders from its member groups on communicating effectively and confidently with people around issues of immigration and asylum. TCC therefore encourages the Welsh Government to commit to the aspiration of Wales becoming a Nation of Sanctuary.

Housing

Working with Wrexham County Borough Council on the SVPRS showed that there are many considerations local authorities need to take into account when housing refugees and asylum seekers, particularly under the SVPRS. These include proximity to services and housing quality within the private rented sector. Conversations with our member groups who work directly with asylum seekers and refugees highlight concerns around the quality of housing provided to asylum seekers who qualify for support and whose claims are yet to be heard.



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TCC therefore particularly supports WRC's recommendation that the Welsh Government should act to offset discrimination against refugees in housing, for example through having a dedicated housing resettlement officer and working with private landlords to raise awareness of different types of migration status.

TCC would like to thank the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee for the opportunity to comment on the inquiry.

Comments or questions on the response can be addressed to:

Sam Rex-Edwards, lead organiser.

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¹ TCC (Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru / Together Creating Communities) has been community organising across North East Wales since 1995. TCC has 28 member groups (faith, schools and community organisations) and trains and works with community leaders to generate positive change.



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