



# University of Sanctuary Initiative at NUI Galway

## Sanctuary

Places of Sanctuary Ireland (PoSI) is a network of groups in local communities which shares the objectives of promoting a culture of welcome and inclusiveness across Irish society for those seeking International Protection in Ireland. PoSI works through community groups, schools and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), local councils, businesses and other organisations to achieve their objectives. The University of Sanctuary steering committee at NUI Galway also includes the Irish Traveller community in our remit, with a focus on the promotion of Irish Traveller culture as an innate and positive element of Irish society, and to address the low levels of participation at second and third-level education amongst members of the Irish Traveller community. Our initiative is cofacilitated by the Access Centre and Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI), and has received sustainable funding from the University Management Team (UMT) to date. Our ethos and activities fully align with the university's strategic values of Respect and Inclusiveness.

## Membership

Currently, the University of Sanctuary steering committee membership comprises representatives from various organisations and offices; including, the Office of the Vice President for Equality and Diversity; all Colleges within the University; the Irish Centre for Human Rights; the Centre for Adult Learning & Professional Development; the Community Knowledge Initiative; the Access Centre; the Students' Union; the Fáilte Refugees Society; the Minceirs Whiden (Travellers Talking) Society; various NUI Galway student services offices; the Great Western and the Eglinton Direct Provision centres residents' committees, the Galway City Partnership; the Galway One World Centre; the Galway Integration Consortium; the Galway Traveller Movement; the Galway Anti-Racism Network; and AMACH LGBT+ Galway.



## How We Work?

Collectively, our actions are governed by our steering committee, which oversees a set of subcommittees. Members choose whichever subcommittee, if any, they feel that they would like to join, depending upon their interests and skills.

### • Communications & Media

The focus of this subcommittee is on the development of internal and external communications. It is responsible for ensuring that the website and other social media platforms are regularly updated, and that information provided by the Steering Committee is pertinent and current. This is achieved by connecting with each subcommittee to highlight upcoming events and policies, etc.

### • Community & Corporate Sector Links

This subcommittee addresses the need for more employment opportunities for migrant and Irish Traveller scholars accessing NUI Galway. The aim of this subcommittee is to develop, build and sustain links within Galway's business, community and corporate sectors, and to promote the ethos of our Community of Sanctuary initiative. The members of this subcommittee are looking at new initiatives and pilot projects to promote a more inclusive and diverse employment sector across Galway city and county.

### • Events, Training & Outreach

This subcommittee organises guest speaker events and public awareness workshops on campus, while developing links between local and regional NGOs, charities, governmental agencies, advocacy groups, interfaith groups, and so forth. It also collaborates with staff and students to encourage research pertaining to Irish Travellers, International Protection Applicants, refugees and other vulnerable migrant groups.

### • Finance, Advocacy & Policy

The purpose of this subcommittee is to create and sustain bursaries, grants, and scholarships which are already in existence at NUI Galway, along with applying for further funding towards increased levels of practical support for Irish Travellers, International Protection Applicants, and refugees seeking access to higher education. Ensuring that all university policies include both groups, and to advocate for the inclusion of asylum and Traveller-specific topics across the university's curricula.

## Want to get involved?

### Contact us by:

**Email:** [uni.sanctuary@nuigalway.ie](mailto:uni.sanctuary@nuigalway.ie)

**Phone:** 00353860137470

**Website:** [www.nuigalway.ie/sanctuary](http://www.nuigalway.ie/sanctuary)

**Facebook** "Galway Community of Sanctuary 2020"

**Twitter** "SanctuaryNUIG"

