University College Dublin
University for All

Universities of Sanctuary

Responding to Forced Displacement: Sanctuary Initiatives at University College Dublin

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UNICA Seminar:

Universities Responding To Forced Displacement: Challenges and Opportunities

25 November 2020

University of Sanctuary Movement

- A stream of the Cities of Sanctuary (CoS) Movement
  - CoS originated in the UK in 2005, a movement which holds the vision that the nations involved will be "welcoming places of safety for all and proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution."

  - *Places of Sanctuary* was subsequently founded in Ireland and Ireland's first *University of Sanctuary* was Dublin City University (2016)

  - 7 of the 9 universities in Ireland now have University of Sanctuary status

  - University College Dublin became a University of Sanctuary in March 2018

  - Three principles of UoS status: Learn; Embed; Share

Learn

Modules & lectures in relation to Forced Migration

Academic research & dissemination

Conferences & Seminars organised in conjunction with NGOs & with refugees

Student led refugee week

Staff attending conferences & training and bringing learning back

Student theses and dissertations

Embed / Direct Action

UCD as a 'University for All' - Provision of scholarships & supports

Voluntary work & fundraising (staff and students)

University units working with asylum seekers to help with upskilling

Supporting refugee background academics to get back into academia (e.g. Scholars at Risk; CARA)

Share

Share with the Public: public seminars; media engagement

Share with NGOs: Board membership; speaking at events

Share with asylum seekers & refugees: e.g. reception centre project; access to UCD Applied Languages centre

Share with Government / policy makers: e.g. sitting on government committees; making policy submissions

Go Raibh Maith Agaibh!

Thank you!