

## **City of Sanctuary**

“That this Council supports Belfast City Council becoming a “Council of Sanctuary” and supports the initiative to have Belfast recognised as a “City of Sanctuary”.

### **As a council we recognise that:**

a) A “Council of Sanctuary” is a place that provides a welcome and safe place for asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and supports the conditions that will allow people from these backgrounds to feel safe, valued and included in Belfast.

b) We recognise as leaders we have a responsibility to receive and include new residents with care and dignity.

c) This commitment to become a “Council of Sanctuary” does not seek to provide preferential treatment to one community over another, instead it recognises that during the arrival, settlement and integration journey, asylum seekers, refugees and migrants face many challenges and that as city leaders we will play our part in working to build a culture of welcome, equality and inclusion.

d) This council will work to implement a “City of Sanctuary” through our actions and policies, through understanding the lived experience of communities that are new to Belfast and through supporting our partners in the community and voluntary sectors.

### **The Council Resolves to:**

- Join a network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and become a recognised “Council of Sanctuary”
- Continue to understand the lived experience of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants living in Belfast
- Continue to work with organisations in the city who support refugees, asylum seekers and migrants
- Challenge anti-refugee and anti-migrant attitudes wherever they are found
- Ensure equality in the provision of our services and facilities and that public spaces can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone
- Develop an internal Race Equality and Diversity Action Plan – that will review how we deliver our services and take action as an employer to create a diverse workforce.”

Proposer: Councillor Kyle

Seconder: Councillor McMullan