

SANCTUARY IN SCOTLAND

CENTRAL CHURCH, TOLLCROSS,
EDINBURGH

SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020



- 10.00 Arrivals, registration, coffee
- 10.30 Opening remarks, welcome
- 10.35 Prayers and worship
Led by the Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the Church of Scotland General Assembly
- 10.55 Scene-setting
Safeguarding the Stranger - A Theology and Ethic of Protective Hospitality: Jayme R Reaves
- Protective hospitality entails welcoming the other by providing sanctuary or refuge - often at the risk of one's self - for the safety and wellbeing of a threatened other and it is a valuable, yet neglected or forgotten, theological and ethical imperative of the Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. We will explore the various parameters of what protective hospitality means and what characterises communities who believe and practice it.
- 11.20 Scene-setting: Scotland's vision for welcoming refugees: Dr Sabir Zazai
- 11.40 Karina Martin: Welcome Churches (short introduction)
- 11.45 Workshops
- Social Connections in Refugee Integration: Sabine Chalmers
 - How to mobilise your church to welcome refugees: Karina Martin
 - Vigils and witness at Dungavel: Margaret Donnelly
- 12.35 Lunch
- ❖ Church of Sanctuary
 - ❖ Edinburgh Networking
 - ❖ Direct support
 - ❖ Awareness and Education
 - ❖ Advocacy and campaigning
- 13.15 Workshops
- Bringing your community together to welcome refugees: Carly Whyborn
 - Supporting refugees in your local church Barry Hughes
 - Racial Justice@25 and Scotland: Richard Reddie
- 14.05 Movement building - Church of Sanctuary: Rev Dr Inderjit Bhogal

A brief introduction to the City of Sanctuary and Church of Sanctuary movement

14.30 Refugee protection across Europe: a view from Brussels post Brexit: Dr Torsten Mortiz

Reflection on how European developments will continue to influence UK/Scottish refugee protection, recent EU policy developments and snapshots from a few refugee protection situations around Europe.

14.55 Poverty and climate: drivers of humanitarian emergencies: Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

This presentation will focus on the increasing challenges communities face across the world because of climate chaos: sustainable development projects are compromised leading to more displacement of people

15.20 Observations and reflections: Bob Fyffe

15.30 Close

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS



Colin Sinclair is currently Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and has spent the year travelling with his wife Ruth. They have four children and five grandchildren. He is normally Minister of Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh.



Jayme R. Reaves is a public theologian and over the last 20 years has worked as a researcher, lecturer, and facilitator in the US, Former Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain on the intersections between theology, peace/conflict, hospitality, memory, and gender. She also serves as the Coordinator for the Centre for Encountering the Bible at Sarum College in Salisbury. She is author of the 2016 book *Safeguarding the Stranger: An Abrahamic Theology and Ethic of Protective Hospitality*. Follow her on Twitter at @jaymereaves or get more info at her website www.jaymereaves.com



Sabir Zazai was appointed as Chief Executive of Scottish Refugee Council in September 2017. Sabir arrived in the UK as an asylum seeker in 1999, fleeing the conflict in Afghanistan. He was dispersed to Coventry, where he lived and got involved in local community initiatives. From 2014, Sabir led the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, a charity that once assisted Sabir through his own journey as a refugee. Prior to this, he managed the Migration Impact Fund in Coventry and led a major improving financial capability programme with Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau. Sabir has a wealth of

knowledge in refugee integration that is informed by his personal experiences of going through the asylum system and his research and campaigning background in this area. His policy and research work in refugee integration focuses on community cohesion management, integration and social relations. Sabir was recently conferred with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Glasgow for services to community and he has received the Lord Provost's Award for human rights.



Inderjit Bhogal is a Methodist Minister currently working with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. He is a former president of the Methodist Conference and is the founder of City of Sanctuary. Inderjit is married to Kathy and live in Sheffield.



Torsten Mortiz holds a PhD in political sciences from the Free University Berlin and has broad research experience in Eastern and Central European transformation after 1989. Having been involved in the leadership of various pan-European Youth Networks in the late 90s he has been working since 2002 for the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME). He was appointed as the CCME General Secretary in 2018.



Sally Foster-Fulton is Head of Christian Aid Scotland, an international development charity committed to working with all faiths and none to eradicate extreme poverty. She also serves on the Board of Eco-congregations Scotland, an ecumenical coalition committed to resourcing and supporting churches to live out and lobby for sustainable solutions. Before taking on her role with Christian Aid, Sally served as Associate Minister at Dunblane Cathedral and Convener of the Church and Society Council for the Church of Scotland. Sally is the author of three books of reflections, prayers and worship resources and contributes widely to collected works and periodicals.



Bob Fyffe has been the General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland since 2006.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Today's event has been put on by Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees in partnership with Action of Churches Together in Scotland and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.



Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (sfar.org.uk) is a multi-faith partnership project hosted by the Church of Scotland.

They seek to co-ordinate and promote action by faith communities in Scotland to support asylum seekers and refugees.

They are working with Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Interfaith groups. Through our commitment to each other and a sharing of common values of human dignity and protection, we have our own story to tell of hospitality and welcome.

Today's event is a deliverable of the New Scots Integration Programme, part-funded by the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). Making management of migration flows more efficient across the European Union.



Action of Churches Together in Scotland (acts-scotland.org) was formed in 1990 as Scotland's national ecumenical instrument and brings together nine denominations in Scotland who share a desire for:

- Greater oneness between churches, as Jesus prayed, "that they all may be one" (John 17.21).
- A growth of understanding and common life between churches.
- Unified action in proclaiming and responding to the gospel in the whole of life.

In its work ACTS seeks to enable the Scottish churches in their common life. It encourages and resources encounters between them in which each participant learns from the other, where difference is explored and respected and where division is healed.



Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (ctbi.org.uk): There are many different Christian churches and denominations, but all have the same basic calling – to worship God, to share the good news about Jesus Christ and to work for the good of all people. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland is the umbrella organisation helping to bring these Christian churches together under Christian unity.

Following the outcome of the Swanwick Declaration in 1987, the British Council of Churches emerged as the Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland, developing alongside ecumenical instruments – Action for Churches Together in Scotland, CYTUN (Churches Together in Wales), Churches Together in England and the Irish Council of Churches – to help embrace other Christian churches in smaller communities. The Council of Churches in Britain and Ireland subsequently became Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

CTBI is committed to developing ties and communications with other Christian churches throughout the country, strengthening fellowships with each other as well as deepening understanding of different denominations and their diversity or identity. Acting as an ‘instrument’ by which the churches can journey together towards full visible unity, CTBI provides information and guidance to bridge understanding of issues in today’s society and develops publications and free resources with other organisations and members to offer reflection, prayer and study materials to celebrate key Christian events. As an agency of the churches through the four nations, CTBI strives to ensure churches work more together, less apart.

MORNING WORKSHOPS

How to mobilise your church to welcome refugees	Vigils and witness at Dungavel	Social Connections in Refugee Integration
Karina Martin	Margaret Donnelly	Sabine Chalmers
Welcome Churches	Justice and Peace Scotland	Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees
		
<p>This seminar will explore how to inspire your church to welcome more refugees. It will give practical ways to find and connect with refugees arriving in your community (including Welcome Boxes and using the Welcome Network). You will learn about the importance of training and supporting your “welcomers” on the frontline of helping refugees. We will also discuss ways your church can provide community for those who are isolated or alone.</p>	<p>Margaret has organised and led vigils and prayers outside Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre near Strathaven for nearly 20 years. She is an active member of the national Justice and Peace Scotland Commission, part of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference. Come to hear about her experiences of visiting Dungavel from when it first opened until now, how she has organised the vigils and the difference it has made.</p>	<p>Social Connections are a key indicator for the integration of New Scots in our communities. In this interactive workshop delegates will explore the role and importance of social connections in the wider integration process, and how they and their church can make a meaningful contribution in supporting New Scots rebuild their lives in their new home.</p>

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

Bringing your community together to welcome refugees	Racial Justice@25 and Scotland	Supporting refugees in your local church
Carly Wyborn	Richard Reddie	Rev Barry Hughes
RESET Community Sponsorship	Churches Together in Britain and Ireland	St Mark's Stirling
		
<p>Churches have a unique place in our communities for people to come together, share their skills and do something practical to respond to the refugee crisis. In this workshop, we will look at how you can bring more people together, using your existing networks, resources and knowledge to welcome refugees to your neighbourhood.</p> <p>We'll share stories of other communities – like yours – who have welcomed refugees through Community Sponsorship, guide you through the process and celebrate that from mid-2020 every refugee resettled through Community Sponsorship will be in addition to those resettled through Government led resettlement.</p>	<p>This year marks the 25th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday in Britain and Ireland. This workshop will explore this history from both a church and societal perspective. It will be an opportunity to assess how much progress has been made from a Scottish perspective and discuss what challenges lie ahead. It will particularly focus on how best Scotland can mark an anniversary that comes at a time of increasing ethnic diversity and the challenges thrown up by Brexit.</p>	<p>An opportunity to learn from a parish which has recently welcomed refugees from Sudan into its local community and congregation. You will hear about welcoming steps the church took, together with details of 3rd party groups the minister and congregation worked with to ensure the family were fully welcomed into their community.</p>