

St Stephen's Green Trust Stand Up Speak Out 2021-2022

St Stephen's Green Trust (SSGT) has a strategic goal of supporting people in the international protection process to become full members of Irish society – Connecting Communities. As part of this goal, it is funding a two-year programme to support a stronger voice for people in the international protection process. The outcomes being sought under the *Stand Up Speak Out* programme in the short term are: project participants developing confidence and engaging in relevant forums on issues of importance to them; and new or strengthened relationships between projects and participants with other asylum seeker and refugee groups, community groups, NGOs and decision makers.

Longer term outcomes are: increased visibility at community level and/or public forums of the issues asylum seekers and refugees face; increased activism and mobilisation of asylum seekers and refugees on issues of importance to them locally and nationally; and a networked cohort of asylum seeker and refugee advocates who are visible and helping to shape local and national decision making processes.

Following an open call for proposals, six groups were funded under the programme for two year projects.

Organisation	Project Name	Website
Action Aid Ireland	Amplify our Voices	www.actionaid.ie
<p>ActionAid Ireland's Amplify Our Voices (AOV) project aims to support people who have experienced the direct provision system first-hand to lead some of the discussions around what will replace direct provision after 2024.</p> <p>Drawing on research that highlights empowerment and strong links to the social environment as key drivers of positive change, they have developed the AOV project as a two-year programme that will work with women located within direct provision centres in the south of Ireland.</p> <p>The first year will focus on analysing the issues that participants want to address, followed by training and capacity building, culminating in a women led virtual conference on the issue of what next after direct provision. The second year will focus on supporting a campaign, led by year one participants on one or more topics emerging from the virtual conference.</p>		
Afri	A welcome for the stranger	www.afri.ie
<p>There are two strands to this project. The main strand involves commissioning a research paper on what those living (or having lived) in the DP system would like to see replacing it. A report will be produced from this research which will form the basis of future work. The report, with an accompanying video will be disseminated to politicians as well as other decision makers and media.</p> <p>The second strand will consist of harnessing well established Afri events such as The Hedge School, Féile Bríde and the Famine Walk as a way of allowing the voices of people</p>		

in DP to be heard and to explore how this system will be replaced, including what the best possible alternatives to it might be. During the course of the project Afri will be working closely with the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland (MASI).

LGBT Ireland

Is Rainbow Muid, We Are Rainbow-supporting LGBT+ people in international protection in Ireland

www.lgbt.ie

This project called “*BELIEVE ME OR NOT, BUT I AM WHO I AM- Experiences of LGBT+ asylum seekers proving credibility in the Irish international protection process*” addresses the urgent need to highlight and educate on the experiences of LGBT+ international protection applicants as they interface with IPO officials who are attempting to establish their credibility in being LGBT+.

This credibility forms a core element at the heart of IPO’s decision-making process on all applicants but particularly LGBT+ applicants. How does one prove one is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender especially when many IPO officials’ concepts of what being LGBT+ looks like seem to be informed by western ethno-centric images, experiences, expectations? What other intersectional barriers do LGBT+ applicants experience? What do the voices of LGBT+ applicants of the Irish IPO experience have to say?

Over the two years a range of tools will be produced: an expert publication; a series of Rainbow Refugees videos; two national launch events (IDAHOBTT 2022 book; World Refugee Day 2022 videos) and two regional seminars as part of Cork Pride 2022 and Galway Pride 2022.

Places of Sanctuary Ireland

Schools of Sanctuary Ireland

www.ireland.cityofsanctuary.org

Schools of Sanctuary are places of safety, welcome and inclusion where a culture of interculturalism welcome, inclusion and understanding are strengthened and embedded into the life of the whole school community, with an emphasis on learning about refugees and sanctuary seekers. Schools follow a programme around three principles: LEARN- Learning about refugees and asylum seekers; TAKE ACTION-The school plans sustainable actions to make sure that welcome and inclusion are practically embedded into the daily life of the school and finally SHARE- The school shares its achievements and learnings with other schools and wider community. This project will empower sanctuary ambassadors and schools to participate through a series of webinars, meetings, and teaching materials to enable teachers, students and school communities understand more about Direct Provision and the needs of refugee families prepare accordingly. A TY pack will also be produced. Through Schools of Sanctuary Ambassadors, a pool of video and human resources will be taken into schools, colleges, and other public spaces such as libraries for awareness raising. From early 2021, there has been a momentum of schools signing the

pledges to be recognized as Schools of Sanctuary. By May 2021 five schools were recognized Schools of Sanctuary and 23 more were preparing.

Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR)

Housing4All: Creating accountability and progressive change

www.nlb.ie

In 2018 a core group of asylum seekers active with Housing4All identified priority human rights issues they wanted to campaign on including housing conditions, food poverty, funeral poverty, access to education, and access to health care. This project will work with a reinvigorated Housing4All campaign to promote these objectives and increase the accountability of the UK Home Office to local democratic institutions. New spaces for participation will be created through housing rights clinics and action research monitoring and the development of a policy proposal for the NI Executive and implementation of a campaign strategy to effect change. The work will also include the development of relationships and solidarity with other groups and collaborative action for change.

Wexford Local Development

Wexford Sanctuary Ambassadors

www.wld.ie

Sanctuary Ambassadors are refugees and asylum seekers who build bridges of understanding across Irish society. Sanctuary Ambassadors join a training programme to help equip them to use their voice and explain their story to decision makers. During the training they find out how Irish society and politics works, they have an opportunity to meet politicians and media personnel and they develop their skills in public speaking, awareness raising and advocacy. Sanctuary Ambassadors come from different cultures, nationalities, religions and backgrounds, but they form a community and work together, united by the aim to give a voice to their peers and build a more united and integrated Ireland. The Wexford Sanctuary Ambassadors have been active since 2019 and this project will build on achievements to date through training and mentoring and engagement in decision making forums of interest to the participants.

Contact SSGT for more information:

The Masonry, 151-156 Thomas Street, Dublin 8, DO8 PY5E

Tel: +353 (0) 1 961 9411; email: orla@ssgt.ie; website:www.ssgt.ie