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O L L S C O I L L U I M N I G H

# Creating a University of Sanctuary: Experience and Reflections from an Irish University

inHere Conference: *Integration of Refugees in  
Europe: the role of Universities*, Sapienza  
University, Apr 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dr. John Lannon

20<sup>th</sup> April 2018



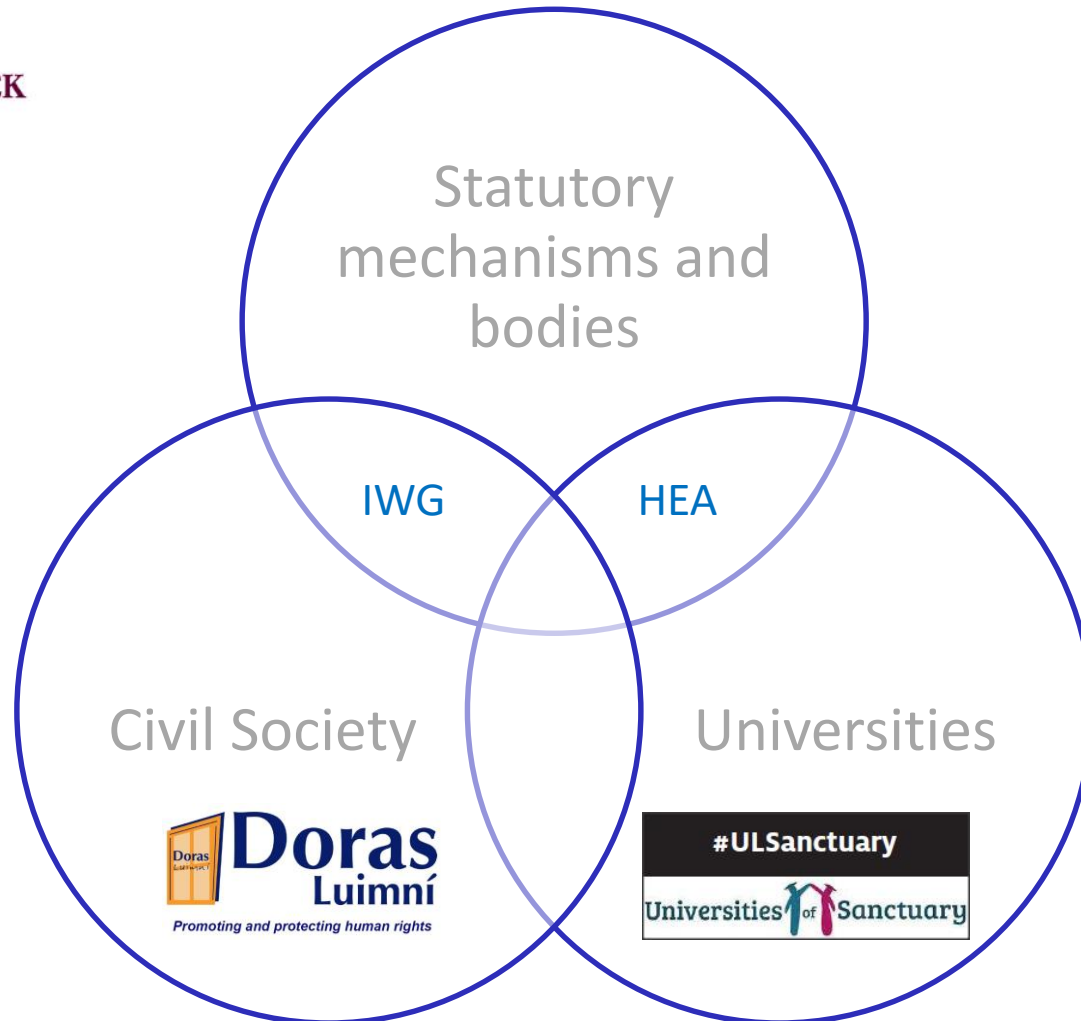
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# Asylum & Refugee Statistics - Ireland

**Table 1: Asylum Application Statistics**

<i>Year</i>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<i>Number of Asylum Applications</i>	956	946	1,448	3,726	2,224	2,926
<i>Numbers Living in Direct Provision</i>	4,841	4,360	4,364	4,696	4,425	5,096
<i>Average Length of Stay (Months)</i>	45	48	48	38	32	23

**Table 2: Length of Time of Direct Provision Residents in Asylum Process at end of 2017 (Based on Entry into RIA Accommodation)**

<i>&lt;1 Year</i>	<i>1-2 Years</i>	<i>2-3 Years</i>	<i>3-4 Years</i>	<i>4-5 Years</i>	<i>5-6 Years</i>	<i>6-7 Years</i>	<i>7+ Years</i>
2,221	1,116	1,117	438	213	127	101	204

**Table 3: Irish Refugee Protection Programme Statistics**

<i>Number relocated in Ireland at end of 2017</i>	755
<i>Number resettled in Ireland at end of 2017</i>	785

Source: Jesuit Refugee Service Ireland



# Doras Luimní

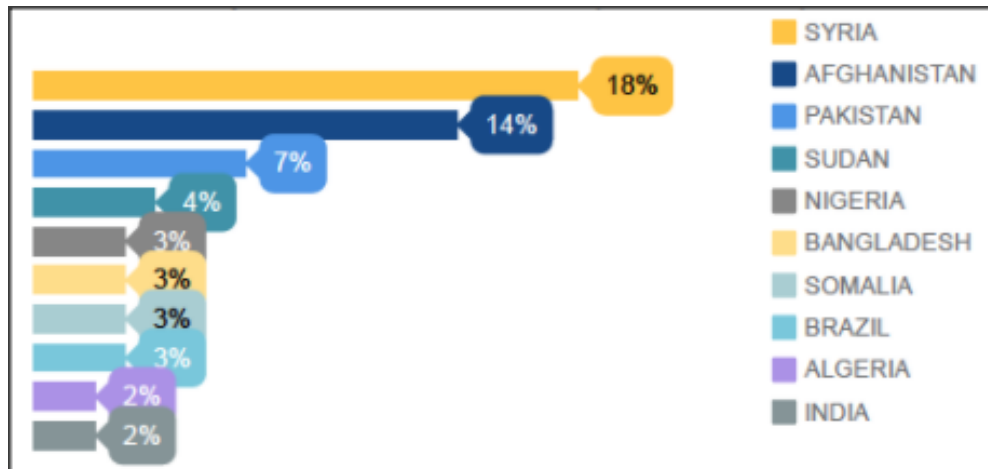
Promoting and protecting human rights

Doras Luimní is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation working to support & promote the rights of migrants, primarily living in Limerick & the mid west region of Ireland.

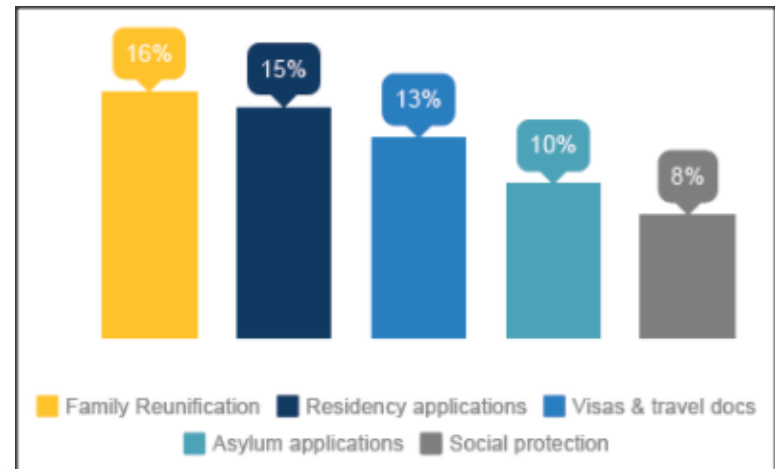
## Impact in 2017



## Top 10 countries



## Top 5 issues



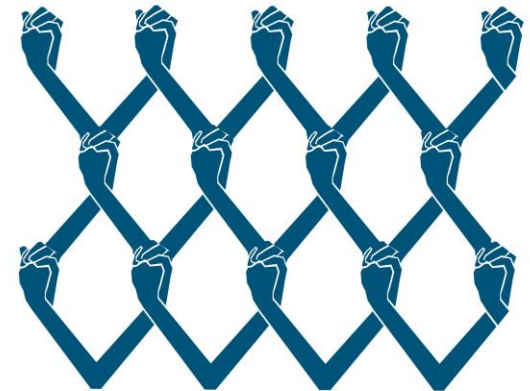


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# Direct Provision (Asylum Applicants)



**END INSTITUTIONALISED LIVING**



**DIRECT PROVISION -**

**NO PLACE TO  
CALL HOME**



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#ULSanctuary

Universities of Sanctuary

June 2017 ...



*“University of Limerick has been designated a University of Sanctuary in recognition of its initiatives welcoming asylum seekers and refugees into its university community.*

*“The University of Sanctuary award was officially presented to President of UL, Dr Des Fitzgerald at a special ceremony on United Nations World Refugee Day (Tuesday, June 20).*

*“In being designated as a University of Sanctuary, UL has committed to a three-year action plan to promote access and to integrate those from a refugee and asylum background into third level education,” Dr Fitzgerald stated.*

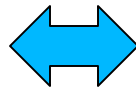
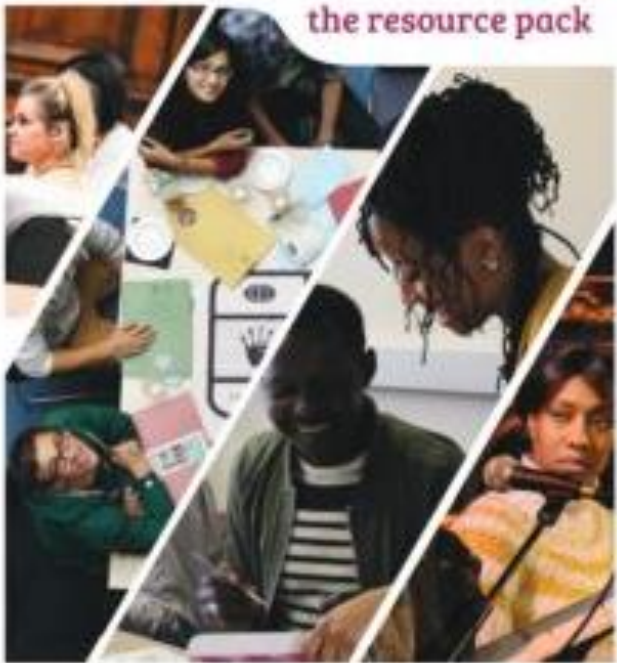


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## The *University of Sanctuary* Concept

### Universities of Sanctuary

the resource pack



**Places of Sanctuary Ireland (PoSI)** is a network of groups in towns, cities and local communities which share the objectives of promoting the integration, inclusion and welfare of refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants, by encouraging every sector of society to make a practical commitment to becoming places of welcome and safety.

PoSI works through community groups, schools and colleges, churches, local councils, businesses and other organisations in the belief that these newcomers have a huge amount to offer Irish society. ... PoSI is not affiliated to any political or religious organisation, but is linked to the wider **City of Sanctuary** movement which was established in the UK in 2005 with a vision for making cities places that had a culture of welcome and inclusion, especially for those seeking sanctuary.





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## UL University of Sanctuary Action Plan (3 years)

### Goals:

1. Removing Obstacles
2. Awareness Raising
3. Embedding a Culture of Welcome



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## Goal 1: Removing Barriers

- Transition to University Programme
- Financial Assistance
- Sanctuary Scholarships
- Delivery of free English language classes



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## Goal 2: Awareness Raising

- Include case studies/lectures on refugee issues in curriculum
- Arrange for refugees and/or asylum seekers to give a first hand account of their experience
- Encourage students to get actively involved in volunteering
- Sanctuary Week
- Coordinated programme of research



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# Sanctuary Week





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# Integration and Migration Research





## Goal 3: Embedding a Culture of Welcome

- Open lectures to refugees
- Arrange for special taster classes
- Open days for refugees and asylum seekers
- Where refugees are involved in research projects, invite them to co-present findings



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# The Bigger Picture: Equality and Diversity

## UL President reconfirms commitment to equality and diversity

Tuesday, 12th December 2017

Tags: University Of Limerick, UL,

*“Let us work together to ensure equality for all members of our campus community and to be clear in our unambiguous commitment to the advancement of gender equality and diversity.”*



MA Contemporary Dance class outside the Irish World Academy, UL!

I drink my cup of chamomile tea and wonder how my life has changed in the University of Limerick. I remember how many great opportunities are just ready here for people who are thirsty of learning and experiencing. I wonder how I have been embraced by UL and the students here. I was truly welcomed when I had just arrived in Ireland and had no clue about what is going on. I was totally impressed with the way I was welcomed at the very first week and soon everything was fixed and life seemed quite natural and settled!



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## Final Thoughts

- Respecting difference
- Embracing the openness
- Changing mindsets
- Shaping policy







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## Websites & Contact Details

**Doras Luimni:** [www.dorasluimni.org](http://www.dorasluimni.org)

**Universities of Sanctuary:** <http://universities.cityofsanctuary.org/>

**Places of Sanctuary Ireland:** <http://ireland.cityofsanctuary.org/>

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