

District of Sanctuary Prayer Stations

A set of 4 prayer stations to enable groups to explore the journey from exile from homeland to a place of sanctuary.

1. **Exile from Home:**

Resources; images of war, places around the world where people flee from. Before and after photos of war zones (www.boredpanda.com/before-after-war-photos)

Prayer/Action/Reflection: Imagine you have to leave your home(land), you don't know if you'll ever come back.

Are you alone?

Do you other family members to care for?

Transport or walking?

What items will you take with you?

What will be left behind?

How might a sanctuary centre help to provide what was left behind?

2. **The Journey:**

Resources; different types of footwear in various degrees of wear. Images of different terrains - deserts, seas, mountains, jungles. Include if you can distances from places where people flee from to your own place.

Prayer/Action/Reflection: Imagine you are having to walk out of your country. Think about safe routes and people who might be able to assist.

Who can you trust?

Do you have money, items of value?

Passports or official documents?

What would you be willing to do to leave?

Are you ready to risk your life (and those close to you)?

How might a sanctuary movement assist in ensuring those who are fleeing their homes are enabled to move, travel and relocate safely?

3. **Arrival:**

Resources; no entry signs, chains, locks, manacles. Images of prisons and a list of all the detention centres in the UK, current numbers of detainees and gender/age demographic.

Prayer/Action/Reflection: Read through the information.

Does this surprise/shock you?

Were you aware of detention centres?

Hold the chains and locks; could you imagine wearing these?

How might a sanctuary movement change policy on detention centres?

How might you visit and support those in detention centres?

4. **Safe to Stay?**

Resources; Build a large tent from blankets, chairs, sheets etc. Fill with cushions and bean bags (idea to make it cosy and warm)

Prayer/Action/Reflection: Sit inside the space, get comfortable.

How does this feel? Warm/Safe?

Is it inviting to sit in?

Do you need documents to be in this space?

Can you communicate to those who allow you to stay?

Do you need help to make this permanent ?

How might places of sanctuary be created and sustained?

Could you be a part of this?

Throughout the journey pray for those who are currently on these journeys, those who are in detention centres, those in refugee camps and those who have it within their power to help.

Dawn Canham April 2019