

## Experiences Back Home.

My name is G.A., and my journey to becoming a forced migrant was shaped by the oppressive circumstances I faced in my homeland, Nigeria. Initially leading a fulfilling life in the northern part of the country with my husband and two children, I encountered a stark turning point when I accepted employment with an influential organization. This decision, meant to enhance our well-being, instead plunged us into the depths of modern slavery.

The organization forced its employees into a harrowing existence, with the constant threat of violence and the ominous shadow of my children's kidnapping hanging over our heads. The mental anguish and invisible yet palpable physical torment became unbearable, prompting the realization that our once-beloved country was no longer a safe haven for our family. Faced with the imperative need to ensure our safety, we made the difficult decision to leave our cherished life behind, experiencing a mix of despair and relief as we departed.

## Experience in Wales as a Sanctuary Seeker.

Upon seeking refuge in the United Kingdom, specifically in Wales, my experience as a sanctuary seeker unfolded with a mix of challenges and heartwarming support. Initially, I harboured expectations of swiftly securing accommodation, paying rent, and enrolling my children in school. However, reality struck, revealing the need for a legal status to access housing and education. This marked the beginning of my journey as an asylum seeker.

Wales, though, welcomed us with open arms. The people exuded warmth and friendliness, with some becoming caring neighbors who watched over my family. The school system proved inclusive, helping my children settle down, while organizations like The Voices and Gab Center offered crucial support. Despite the initial hurdles, I found solace in the kindness of strangers and the supportive community.

## Hopes and Goals for the Future:

Looking toward the future, my aspirations are anchored in personal and familial growth. I envision completing my current undergraduate program at Cardiff Metropolitan University in Wales, marking a significant educational milestone. Active integration into the community and building strong connections is a priority, fostering stability and well-being for my family.

Career development is a key goal, with the hope of securing employment as a manager in one of Wales' reputable hospitality industries. In the next phase, I aspire to start my own business in hospitality, contributing to the local economy and community. Advocating for others in similar situations, I aim to be a source of support and empowerment.

Ultimately, my journey as a sanctuary seeker is a testament to resilience and the pursuit of a brighter future. Wales has become a place of refuge and opportunity, a Nation of Sanctuary where my hopes and dreams can take root and flourish. Through sharing my story, I hope to inspire understanding, empathy, and solidarity within the wider community.