

Testimonial University of Sanctuary:

I was born in Guinea Bissau and spent my life there until I was forced to leave. I lost both parents when I was very young because of their political activity. I had to leave everything I love and care about behind in search of safety and freedom.

I came to this country with nothing. No family, no friends, no money and, as an asylum seeker, I had no control over my life.

When I arrived I was placed in the barracks at Penally, sharing with 5 people in a room during the pandemic. These were hard times, but I felt I had the support of Welsh people and eventually was moved to a house in Swansea.

The unwavering hospitality and acceptance from the Welsh people has provided me with the sanctuary I desperately sought.

Despite the challenges of integrating into Welsh society and the language barriers I faced, I was fortunate enough to get a scholarship to University of Wales Trinity Saint David to study Computer Science. This has given me hope when life was very difficult. The scholarship is a life saver for me. It is providing me with the education I aspired to and has given me the chance to take part in university life. I have made friends. I play football for the university team. I feel I am taking part in Swansea life. None of this would have been possible without the scholarship and the continued support from the University.

I am filled with a sense of gratitude for the sanctuary Wales has provided me and I am keen to take a positive role in the world I live in. I want to give something back. I have been a class rep; I am on the IET Wales South West network committee; I am on the University of Sanctuary Project Group.

My journey is a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is hope that together we can build a future where compassion and solidarity prevail.

