



SAMPHIRE

ADVOCACY POLICY 2021

1. PREAMBLE

Samphire's Vision

'To create a society which is inclusive and compassionate towards migrants.'

Samphire's Strategic Objectives 2020-2023

1. The lives of immigration detainees and former detainees are improved
 2. Migrants of all ages feel welcomed and included within schools and communities of east Kent.
 3. Samphire is a competent and sustainable charity known for its quality work on migrants' rights and welfare.
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2. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ADVOCACY

In our understanding, advocacy encompasses any activity, communication or media aiming to influence people's attitudes, or government policy, legislation or services, in line with our Strategic Objectives.

3. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of our advocacy programme is to support work towards achieving Samphire's Vision and current Strategic Objectives (above). Advocacy is a means to multiply our impact and achieve more sustainable systemic change. Even where there is not an immediate objective in mind, it is important to keep certain issues in the public eye e.g. positive stories about migrants and refugees.
2. SO1. As a small charity, we do not have the power, resources or the remit to bring about widespread improvement in the lives of immigration detainees. Hence, the need to reach those with greater influence and power. For example, by lobbying government for policy change, or influencing public opinion for a more welcoming environment .
3. SO2. Samphire's current 'Schools of Sanctuary', and 'Community Engagement' projects are advocacy projects targeting SO2.
4. SO3. We believe that the more Samphire undertakes advocacy backed by evidence, the more likely our voice will be taken seriously and achieve results.

4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Our advocacy should be based on lived experience, or on robust research and analysis.

2. Our priority is to encourage and support our clients to engage in their own advocacy activities. Where this is not possible (due to a language barrier or fear of negative consequences) Samphire should be a 'voice for the voiceless'.
3. As a small organisation with limited resources, we cannot campaign on every issue and therefore must be selective.
4. Our voice is stronger in a coalition of organisations sharing similar aims. Whenever relevant and feasible, we will support the campaigns of others and recruit their support to our initiatives.
5. Our advocacy should be constructive, outlining feasible solutions or alternatives.
6. Our focus should be on achieving sustainable or systemic change, while recognizing that interim, stop-gap measures may be necessary at times.
7. All persons engaging in advocacy on behalf of Samphire should be aware that action in the public sphere can bring unanticipated negative as well as positive repercussions, for them as individuals, for Samphire as an organisation, or for members of our focus communities.

5. BROAD APPROACH

Samphire's broad approach is three-pronged:-

1. To embed advocacy as a planned and monitored activity within all our projects.
2. To engage in time-bound advocacy in response to emerging situations which have a direct or indirect impact on Samphire's focus communities
3. To encourage our focus communities to engage in their own advocacy efforts, as well as to participate in Samphire-led efforts.