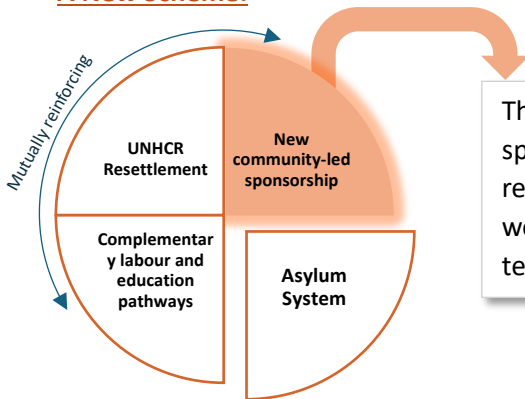# Policy Research Project: Creating Safe Pathways to the UK

Proposal for a New Scheme: Summary

Background:

Existing safe pathways to sanctuary in the UK are **largely inaccessible**. Current programmes focus on specific countries (Afghanistan, Hong Kong, and Ukraine), and global resettlement options through the UNHCR are **limited in scope**. The Homes for Ukraine scheme showed that the **UK can quickly implement large-scale welcome initiatives** using **humanitarian visas**, supported by **community involvement**. The new government should expand safe routes to sanctuary by creating a universal pathway and investing in sustainable national and local infrastructure for community-led sponsorship and welcome.

A New Scheme:

The proposed new scheme is based on existing community-led sponsorship and welcome schemes and would sit alongside existing resettlement and complementary education and labour pathways, as well as a fair and functional asylum system. The scheme would offer temporary protection through the issuing of a humanitarian visa.

Aims of the New Scheme:

- **Inclusive** - open to people from all nationalities and based anywhere in the world with a connection to the UK.
- **Community-led** - develop existing community-led sponsorship and welcome initiatives that are proven to promote better integration outcomes; strengthen and empower UK communities.
- **Scalable and sustainable** - strengthen and expand infrastructure within government and local authorities; develop community capacity for a continued pathway to sanctuary into the future.
- **Adaptable** - rapid responses to global events without relying on new schemes each time. Open to various forms of sponsorship, including education and labour pathways.

Key Features:

Mechanism: Eligibility criteria based on humanitarian need, offering 5-years to leave to remain and access to work, study and social benefits from day one. Simplified processes to enable people to leave dangerous situations quickly. Flexibility to entitlements through an emergency mechanism to respond to particular needs in urgent situations.	**Naming and matching:** Introduction of naming and sponsor involvement in matching process, as well as diversification of sponsors (e.g. universities, schools, workplaces), to improve matching and enable scaling. Simplified sponsoring processes for certified sponsor organisations to allow scaling and more community involvement pre-arrival.
Welcome and inclusion: Development of a national framework that local authorities can use to establish localised programmes of welcome and inclusion. Access to physical and mental health support; support accessing work and education; financial support; language learning support; and access to cultural life. Establishing a sustainable funding framework to improve planning and build on existing infrastructure and services. Training provided to sponsors through third sector partnership.	**Monitoring and evaluation:** Integrated from the beginning to support ongoing learning. Facilitating networks and connections for sharing of best practice and support for establishing new community sponsor groups.