



NEWSLETTER

Making Sense of Asylum

September 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of ICAR’s by-monthly newsletter, highlighting our most recent work and website resources.

If you wish to receive our newsletter regularly please [register here](#)

ICAR is an independent information and research organisation based in the School of Social Sciences at City University in London.

ICAR’s mission is to increase public understanding of asylum issues in the UK, and inform policy and practice through applied research and impartial policy evaluation.

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ICAR Focus on

In this month’s **Focus on**: ‘the Calais asylum seeker crisis and the need to [move on](#)’, ICAR Director Neil Amas looks at the recent eviction of asylum seekers from their makeshift camp near Calais and suggests that, like the evictees themselves, the terms of the debate about economic versus forced migration need to move on.

Asylum Update: ICAR’s most popular resource

In July and August 2009 ICAR conducted a web ‘user’ survey. The survey aimed to collect user views on the quality of our resources and the areas of ICAR website that users want to see improved or expanded. We were pleased to receive over 60 responses to the survey which were overwhelmingly positive about the ICAR site and the products that we produce. A full report will be available shortly on the ICAR web pages.

Asylum Update was ranked as the most useful resource for our users (71%) followed closely by our briefings (62%) and statistics sections (58%). The table below shows the resources in order of their popularity ranking.

Resource	Percentage
Asylum Update	71.0%
Briefings	62.0%
Statistics	58.0%
About Refugee Research	53.0%
Research Directory	42.0%
RAL	36.0%
Mapping the UK	36.0%
Navigation Guides	20.0%
Media	15.0%
Ask ICAR	13.0%
Other	4.0%

52 out of the 55 people who answered the question stated that our Quality of Information was excellent or good, and 54 stated that ICAR information was relevant. The ease of use of the web site especially navigation around the site was an issue for some respondents and we are going to be working on this over the coming year.

RAL Update

[Researching Asylum in London](#) (RAL) is ICAR's specialized online database containing summaries of all research on refugee and asylum issues relevant to London published since 2000.

[Subscribe to RAL update](#) to receive a bi-monthly bulletin sent to your email account to keep you informed of the latest research.

Mapping the UK – New Additions

ICAR has recently added the [city of Cardiff](#) to the 'Mapping the UK' section of the website. Mapping the UK guides contain references, statistics and key organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers in each region as well as a history of migration to that city. Many thanks to our summer intern Maya Pritchard for her work on the Cardiff guide.

ICAR Research Directory

Key recent research reports published on asylum and refugees issues are highlighted here. See ICAR's Research Directory for more reports.

Asylum Law and Policy

Topics: Country of origin research, decision making, detention, integration policy, legal advice.

[Language, Asylum, and the National Order](#) by Blommaert, Jan in Current Anthropology Vol 50 No 4.

[International Refugee Law and Socio-Economic Rights: Refuge from Deprivation](#) by Foster, Michelle in Journal of International Migration and Integration Vol 10, No 3.

[Asylum Procedures: Report on Policies and Practices in IGC States](#) by Wong, Geraldine (ed.). Published by the Inter-governmental Consultation on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC).

[Governmental mobility: The power effects of the movement of detained asylum seekers around Britains detention estate](#) by Gill, N. in Political Geography, Vol 28, No 3.

[Psychological distress amongst immigration detainees: A cross-sectional questionnaire study](#) by K.Robjant; I.Robbins, V. Senior in British Journal of Clinical Psychology, Vol 48, Part 3.

[The case for publicly-funded legal representation before the Asylum Support Tribunal](#) by Citizens Advice Bureau.

[Access to Justice: a review of existing evidence of the experiences of minority groups based on ethnicity, identity and sexuality](#) by Mason, Paul and Hughes, Nathan. Published by the Institute of Applied Social Studies.

Housing and welfare support

Topics: [Homelessness & destitution, social housing.](#)

[Still Destitute](#) by Lewis, Hannah. Published by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

[The second destitution tally: an indication of the extent of destitution among asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers and refugees](#) by Kate Smart. Published by the Refugee Council.

[Opening Doors: Improving housing services for refugees and new migrants](#) by Perry, John. Published by the Chartered Institute of Housing and the Housing Association Charitable Trust.

Media

[The representation of refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants in British newspapers during the Balkan conflict \(1999\) and the British general election \(2005\)](#) by Majid, KhosraviNik in Discourse and Society Vol. 20, No. 4.

Health

Topics: [Access to healthcare, mental health.](#)

[Narrowing the Gap – Improving health pathways for asylum seekers dispersed from initial accommodation in the UKBA Midlands and East of England region](#) by the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership.

[Health care for refused asylum seekers: evidence over ideology](#) by E. Pool; H. Preston et al, in Lancet London, Vol. 374, No 9688.

[Working with refugees and asylum seekers](#) by Turner, Stuart W. and Herlihy, Jane in Psychiatry Volume 8, Issue 8.

[Depression and anxiety in labor migrants and refugees - A systematic review and meta-analysis](#) by Lindert, J. et al in Social Science and Medicine Vol 69, No 2.

Community

Topics: [Community development, community safety, integration, transnationalism.](#)

[Community Activism and Empowerment of Turkish-Speaking Migrant Women in London](#) by Gülfem Çakir, Sakine AND Hatzidimitriadou, Eleni in International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care, 5(1)

[Gang-related violence among young people of the Tamil refugee Diaspora in London](#) Author Balasunderam, Ahalya in Journal of Youth Studies Vol 12. No 3.

[Exploring community connections: community cohesion and refugee integration at a local level](#) by Daley, Clare in Community Development Journal Vol 44 No 2.

[The Early-Morning Phonecall: Remittances from a Refugee Diaspora Perspective](#) by Lindley, Anna in Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Volume 35, Issue 8

Education and employment

Topics: Low paid employment, skills

[London's Migrant Division of Labour](#) by Wills, J. et al in European Urban and Regional Studies Vol 16, No 3

["I hate being idle" Wasted skills and enforced dependence among Zimbabwean asylum seekers in the UK](#) by Lisa Doyle for the Refugee Council and the Zimbabwe Association.

Specific needs

Topics: children & adolescents, disabilities, LGBT, social care, unaccompanied children

[Social work with young people](#) by Smith, Roger.

[Ensuring all disabled children and young people and their families receive services which are sufficiently differentiated to meet their diverse needs](#) by Newman, Tony in Disability Research Review No 6.

[From discretion to disbelief: recent trends in refugee determinations on the basis of sexual orientation in Australia and the United Kingdom](#) by Millbank, Jenni in International Journal of Human Rights Vol 13 Nos 2-3.

[Lesser youth?: particular universalisms and young separated migrants in East London](#) by Sinha, Shamser and Uppal, Shuruti in Journal of Youth Studies Vol 12, No 3.



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