

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Subscriber,

**Welcome to the July edition of ICAR's newsletter.**

### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: ICAR AT THE RUNNYMEDE TRUST



I am delighted to announce that thanks to the generous support of our funders and members of the public we have managed to save ICAR from closure. We will be moving to a new home at the Runnymede Trust on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

In just 10 weeks since our current host institution, City University, announced that it would no longer support ICAR, we have raised almost £25,000 in contributions. This is enough to set us up at Runnymede from where we will now fundraise for long term sustainability.

The move to Runnymede not only gives ICAR an excellent platform and infrastructure to continue our work, but also presents an exciting opportunity to share and exchange expertise, knowledge and skills with the UK's leading race equality think tank.

I would like to personally thank the Sigrid Rausing Trust, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and members of the public who generously donated and wrote in to show their support. Without them ICAR would no longer exist. I am also very grateful to Rob Berkeley and the team at Runnymede for their fantastic support and for taking this opportunity together.

[See Runnymede press release here](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Amas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Neil Amas  
Director, ICAR

## Highlights:

- [ICAR Research: Justice at Risk for Asylum Legal Aid Clients](#)
- What are we writing?  
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- What are we reading?  
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[Researching Asylum in London \(RAL\): June 2010 update](#)
- [A BIG Thank You to our ICAR Interns](#)

## ICAR Research: Justice at Risk for Asylum Legal Aid Clients

In January 2009 ICAR was commissioned by Refugee and Migrant Justice, with funding from the Barings Foundation, to carry out a research project examining quality advice in legal aid for asylum seekers and how much it costs to provide. The research came in the light of changes to the payment system for legal aid through the move to the Graduated (Fixed) Fee Scheme. As part of this project ICAR carried out a literature review and interviews with refugees, legal representatives, and key decision-makers in both the Home Office and the Asylum Immigration Tribunal. In addition, we completed a review of 63 files to build a quantitative model examining cost of provision and the correlation between time, cost and quality.



The research found that high quality legal advice has a clear effect on the outcome of an asylum case, making justice for asylum seekers more efficient and sustainable. It found that the graduated fee scheme is having a real and lasting effect on providers of legal advice who want to perform a high quality practice. Lastly, it found that the scheme and the linked marketisation of legal aid for asylum clients has led to perverse incentives where those who are trying the hardest for their clients are earning the least amount of money.

As we were publishing the research and writing the final reports, Refugee and Migrant Justice announced that it had been forced to go into administration due to cash flow problems it links to changes in the legal aid regime. This has resulted in up to 10,000 asylum clients suddenly finding themselves without legal representation. ICAR hopes that this research will be able to shed further light on the 'harsh realities' many legal advice providers find themselves facing.

For further details see the four published reports. The final report, quantitative report and provider interviews will be published shortly.

**Interim Report** ['Justice at Risk: quality and value for money in asylum legal aid'](#)

**Literature Review** ['Review of quality issues in legal advice: measuring and costing quality in asylum work'](#)

**Literature Review** [executive summary](#)

**Refugee Interviews** ['Cost of Quality Legal Advice'](#)

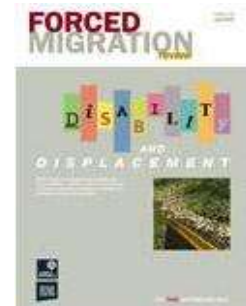
See also RMJ [press release](#)

## What are we writing?

### ICAR research in Forced Migration Review: 'Failing London's Disabled Refugees'

The latest issue of Forced Migration Review on Disability and Displacement features an article based on research carried out by ICAR in 2008. The research was funded by the Metropolitan Support Trust and entitled 'Supporting disabled refugees and asylum seekers: opportunities for new approaches'.

See ['Failing London's Disabled Refugees'](#) by Neil Amas and Jacob Lagnado.



## What are we reading?

### Key research to follow up

ICAR's research directory contains information about all research and related resources known to ICAR which cover any aspect of asylum issues and experiences in the UK. It seeks to provide basic bibliographical and availability information about published and unpublished reports, journal articles, conference papers, audio-visual materials, theses, and so on.

It is updated on a weekly basis and provides an invaluable source of information for researchers, students and service providers alike.

Recent additions to the directory include:

- [Refugees' Experiences of Home Office Interviews: A Qualitative Study on the Disclosure of Sensitive Personal Information](#) by Diana Bogner; Chris Brewin; and Jane Herlihy, in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Volume 36, Issue 3.
- [The Exclusion of \(Failed\) Asylum Seekers from Housing and Home: Towards an Oppositional Discourse](#) by O'Mahony, L. F.; Sweeney, J. A. in the Journal of Law and Society Vol 37 No 2.
- [Asylum-seeking families in current legal discourse: a UK perspective](#) by Stevens, Dallal in Journal of Social Welfare & Family Law Vol 32 No 1.
- [First casualty of cutbacks: the truth](#) by Paul Kenyon in British Journalism Review, Vol. 21, No. 2.

Find more reports in our [RESEARCH DIRECTORY](#)

### Researching Asylum in London (RAL): June 2010 update

The 'Researching Asylum in London' (RAL) website and database originated as a pilot project of the 'Centre for Research on London' (CRL) based at City University. RAL aims to make research more accessible to service providers and policy-makers working in the field. The database contains summaries of research outlining the aims, methodology, key findings, conclusions and recommendations. You can search by keyword, population, theme or location.



**RAL UPDATE** is a bi-monthly bulletin that brings you up to date with the latest additions to our RAL database.

Welcome:



- To download the June 2010 update click [HERE](#)
- To view previous updates click [HERE](#)
- To subscribe to RAL Update click [HERE](#)

[www.researchasylum.org.uk](http://www.researchasylum.org.uk)



## A BIG 'Thank You' to our ICAR Interns

ICAR has been running a successful internship programme for a number of years, typically taking two or three interns in spring, summer and winter. Our interns get a chance to become part of the ICAR team and complete a piece of written work which is then published on the ICAR website. Interns therefore play a real part in the quality and depth of information provided by ICAR, especially the 'Mapping the UK' section.

We would like to thank all of the interns below who have helped us over the past year. During a difficult six months they have provided much needed support.

Adam Alagiah  
Anikó Kádár  
Anna Issacs  
Beauty Chikeya  
Els Dehantschutter  
Maya Pitchard  
Sophie Jones  
Grace Dolan  
Rachel Humphris

Under the new arrangement ICAR will continue to operate as an independent centre, and our website will continue to be fully functional.

For more information contact us at [icar@city.ac.uk](mailto:icar@city.ac.uk) or visit [www.icar.org.uk](http://www.icar.org.uk)

