



CITY UNIVERSITY
LONDON



Gathering Evidence Effectively

A rough guide to navigating secondary sources
of data and information on refugees and
asylum seekers in the UK

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Introduction

Those working on refugee and asylum issues in the UK have often complained of information black holes and data gaps. However, the proliferation of websites, online catalogues, portals and digitised products over the past few years means that for those exploring this topic for the first time, or looking for information in a hurry, the experience may now be one of information overload.

Although there are still large gaps in our knowledge about refugees and asylum seekers in UK, both in terms of qualitative and quantitative data, the internet revolution and the current focus on evidence-based policy and practice and evaluation means that existing information is more accessible than ever. From 'raw' qualitative and quantitative data to statistics and research reports, from policy briefings to newspaper articles, and from listservs to online databases, there is a wide array of resources available to those studying forced migration in the UK context.

About ICAR

The Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR) was established in 2001 to help a variety of professionals and members of the public navigate a field often characterised by controversy and misinformation. Through targeted and systematic identification and circulation of information, research, and data from a wide range of sources, we seek to improve the accessibility of information and encourage information-based debate and policy-making.

As the provision of accurate and independent information forms the foundation of all our services and programmes, we have accumulated considerable expertise in navigating a field of disparate information sources, and our Ask ICAR! service responds to numerous enquiries every week.

About this guide

ICAR has therefore produced this rough guide to assist those seeking knowledge about UK asylum seekers and refugees to navigate secondary sources of data and information. The guide does not aim to be comprehensive, but seeks to provide some useful signposts.

The guide has been organised by type of information provider. The sections are as follows:

1. Government and statutory sector
2. Academia
3. Legal bodies
4. Voluntary sector

5. Inter-governmental organisations
6. Media
7. Think tanks
8. Professional bodies
9. Private research companies
10. Portals and information hubs
11. Archives of raw data for secondary analysis
12. Listservs

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Visit our website at <http://www.icar.org.uk> for a range of resources and information materials.

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Government and statutory sector

Government departments and other statutory sector bodies are a key source of information and data about asylum seekers and refugees, because of the role they play in managing and regulating entry, reception and settlement processes. The main statistical data on asylum-seeking populations is that produced by the Home Office, and the Home Office is also the main commissioner of research on asylum and refugee issues. However, many other statutory and government bodies are required to meet the specific needs of this population, from education to employment, and so are beginning to collect data and commission research to underpin policy development and service delivery.

The government and statutory sector can be a very difficult field to navigate in terms of secondary research. However, the move towards e-government means that there is a wealth of information on the internet – although sometimes it may be difficult to locate in dense government websites.

Statistics and baseline data

Accessing detailed data on the asylum-seeking population may be considered difficult, but collating data on the population with refugee status is even more of a challenge. At this point, individuals are ‘mainstreamed’ into services and no longer subject to the same type of immigration control as before. Furthermore, national surveys such as the Census do not record immigration status, so it is very difficult to disaggregate the refugee population from the migrant population or the ethnic minority population more generally. This lack of baseline data hinders research and policy and service development considerably.

Therefore in dealing with statistics on refugees, be aware of generalisations that may be made from small non-random samples and observations about migrant populations and ethnic minority populations that are applied unproblematically to refugee groups.

In recognition of the lack of data on the outcomes and experiences of those that receive status, the Home Office is developing longitudinal studies that will track outcomes over time.

Home Office – Research Development Statistics (RDS)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

Asylum statistics are compiled by the UK Home Office from administrative records and published quarterly, and in a revised and more detailed form on an annual basis as a part of the ‘Control of Immigration Statistics’ document. Quarterly statistics have been produced since the third quarter of 2001 (prior to this, they were published on a monthly basis) and they are published approximately two months after the quarter they represent (i.e. those for the fourth quarter of 2008 were published at the end of February 2009); the annual statistics are usually published in the August of the following year.

Both the quarterly and the annual statistics provide a summary of key points and trends, and contain detailed tables of applications for asylum, decisions, appeals, applications for support from the National Asylum Support Service, detainees, removals, and grants of settlement.

The quarterly statistics include a breakdown of applications, appeals and detainees.

The annual statistics are more detailed and include a breakdown of applications, decisions, appeals, applications for support from the National Asylum Support Service, detainees, and removals by nationality.

Annual statistical bulletins dating back to 1997 are available on the RDS website; earlier bulletins and more detailed data are available on request. For example, the breakdown by nationality in the published statistics is not comprehensive. Countries from which relatively small numbers of asylum applicants come may be included in the 'other' section for their continent or region, but asylum statistics about these national groups is available on request.

Anyone can make a Freedom of Information Request for additional information from the Home Office / UK Border Agency. Although this does take time to get results, it is easy to do on the web site: <http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/> which has a list of previous requests by agency / department that can be used as a template.

Asylum Immigration Tribunal (AIT)

<http://www.ait.gov.uk/AboutUs/statistics.htm>

The AIT is part of the UK Tribunals Service and is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. In 2005, the AIT took over from the older Immigration Appellant Authority. The AIT hears appeals against refusal of asylum and other immigration decisions of the Home Office. The AIT publishes annual overviews of the cases it receives on a monthly basis by case type; this includes asylum, immigration, and visit visa appeals. The statistics do not give details of outcomes (these can be found in the annual Asylum Statistics produced by the Home Office), but rather give only figures for the number of cases received and disposed of.

National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

The Office for National Statistics publishes the Migration Statistics Quarterly Reports (MSQRs) produced jointly with the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). These reports summarise and provide links to the following quarterly datasets:

- Provisional International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, UK
- Local area migration indicators, UK
- Population by country of birth and nationality from the Annual Population Survey, UK
- Internal migration by country/region for the UK
- Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary, UK

- National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals, UK

(Source: ONS <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/cross-cutting-topics/migration>)

Annual releases include an analysis of migration during the previous calendar year as well as ONS estimates of total long-term international migration; internal migration by local authorities in England and Wales and Home Office data on people granted British citizenship and on UK visa applications. The UK National Statistics publication hub website contains quick links to migration and asylum statistics under its '[migration](#)' [cross cutting topic section](#)

Population Census

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/get-data/index.html>

The 2001 census did not record immigration status. Although it is not possible to disaggregate refugees or asylum seekers, some information about this group can be gleaned from the ethnic minority data, which includes details of country of birth.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/profiles/commentaries/ethnicity.asp> and from the 'focus on ethnicity and identity' paper, <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=459> published in January 2004.

The ONS runs a number of large surveys which can be of use to those wishing to analyse data in-depth against key variables such as gender, housing status, employment and so on. These surveys only collect information on 'ethnicity' or 'country of birth' and so are not useful for those who are interested solely in asylum seekers and refugees. However, they can be useful to generate population estimates of certain nationality groups, which can be used as a proxy indicator of refugee populations if used in combination with settlement statistics and figures collated by local authorities, refugee consortia and other agencies. (See below)

Box 1: Obtaining data about overseas nationals

UK figures aggregated by country of birth and sex (table S015) are available from the Census Customer Services department, and may be obtained in excel format on request at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/customerservices.asp>

Quarterly National Statistics on National Insurance Number Allocations to all adult overseas nationals entering the UK are available via the DWP website at: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp>.

The [Neighborhood Statistics](#)' site, which is a subset of the National Statistics website, can be useful to target specific areas of the UK where particular refugee or migrant population are known to be settled.

Other National Statistics Surveys

The International Passenger Survey is based on over a quarter of a million face-to-face interviews with a random sample of passengers entering and leaving the UK through the main airports, seaports and the Channel Tunnel. It includes details about passengers' country of residence, and the reason for their visit, or migration to the UK. The information relates to those termed 'visitors', i.e. people on a trip abroad that lasts less than a year, such as business travellers, people visiting friends or relatives, those on study trips, tourists and day visitors.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/international_passenger_survey.asp

Other large scale surveys such as the Labour Force Survey provide interesting data on ethnic minorities and migrants generally, but do not offer disaggregated data on those who have arrived in the UK as asylum seekers or who have refugee status.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/ssd/surveys/labour_force_survey.asp

Data sets can be downloaded for free to academics and students after a registration process for all of these surveys, including the census (see UK Census portal: <http://census.ac.uk/>) from the UK Data Archive (<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk>). Further information and resources can be found from the Economic and Social Data Service, (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/>). Another dataset that can be useful for organisations working in the refugee sector is the British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey, which is available via the [Britsocat](#) web site, maintained by the Centre for Comparative European Survey Data.

UK Data Archive

<http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>

The UK Data Archive at the University of Essex is dedicated to supporting quality research and education by supplying social and economic datasets for secondary analysis. Most of the datasets it holds are numeric and are derived from social surveys.

In the context of the data archives, 'data' means computer-readable data. Data are created in a wide variety of format. Numeric data may result when textual information (such as answers to survey questions) has been coded, or they may represent individual or aggregated quantities, for instance of sums of money earned or goods exported. Data are typically then analysed by users with the use of statistical software. Qualitative material, such as in-depth interviews or diaries, anthropological field notes, as well as the complete answers to survey questions, are also available for computer analysis.

Numeric data are available in a range of formats, the most popular being SPSS, STATA and ASCII tab-delimited. Some datasets can be analysed online without registration using the NESSTAR interface. Qualitative materials are typically available as word-processed documents or databases. Datasets are deposited in the UK Data Archive from a variety of sources, including academic researchers, government departments, independent research institutes and market research organisations. Academic research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) is an important source of data, due to its Datasets Policy whereby all award holders are expected to offer data to the UKDA for archiving.

Censuses and large surveys carried out by governments for their own policy purposes are particularly rich sources of data for further exploration. Central government, and in particular, National Statistics (NS) is a major and regular supplier of data series.

The original data need not necessarily have been collected specifically for research purposes. Administrative databases such as the National Health Service Patient Re-registrations, show where patients are re-registered when they move from one Family Practitioner Area to another as part of a management information system. These data, although collected for a very different purpose, yield valuable information for external researchers on migration patterns between censuses.

Datasets can be found in the UKDA catalogue by searching on specific information. Researchers, students and teachers may register with the UKDA and obtain data. However, some datasets may have restrictions on access. Registered users can download a large and increasing number of datasets direct from the UKDA web site. Students in the UK can obtain the data at no cost.

Examples of relevant quantitative data relating to refugees and asylum seekers available includes: attitude surveys such as Mori polls and Eurobarometer; British Social Attitudes Survey; 'Children's Worlds ... Children's Lives...', a survey on refugee children by the Refugee Council and Institute of Education; National Health Service Patient Re-registrations – useful for studies of asylum seeker mobility and secondary migration; and the International Passenger Survey.

Local Authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships

Some local authority departments collect quantitative data on certain sections of refugee and asylum-seeking populations for operational purposes, and as part of discrete surveys to establish demographic profiles to underpin service development. In particular, a number of local authorities and consortia have conducted skills audits on local refugee and asylum-seeking populations.

In particular, local education authorities are likely to collect data on refugee and asylum-seeking children at local schools. The local Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) and teams dealing with English as an Additional Language (EAL) are likely to keep statistical data on local populations of refugee and asylum-seeking children. Statistics on pupil mobility are also likely to be of interest for researchers looking at the experiences of asylum-seeking children. However, data for children not of school age is more difficult to obtain. This data may or may not be made publicly available in aggregate form, but for example, looking at the EMAS sections of local authority websites and reports on their work will often reveal some interesting data.

Local authorities are also likely to have statistics on the numbers of asylum seekers they support under arrangements previous to the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) and on unaccompanied asylum seekers. However, once again, this data may not be published.

It is not possible to list all the possible web pages or points of contact for local authorities and their departments. Websites can be identified using internet searches.

Regional strategic migration partnerships are networks made up of local service providers and stakeholders, and led by a local authority in the region or the regional government authority. The partnerships often strive to pull together disparate sources of data on local refugee and asylum-seeking populations to inform their work. They may disseminate such data in newsletters, on consortium websites, or at conferences they have organised. Even if you cannot find this data in the public domain, it is worth contacting the partnership in question as they may be happy to release aggregated data for research purposes. Integration strategies are a particularly useful starting point for general statistics.

Regional strategic migration partnerships also produce other forms of information such as guides to entitlements and local services, myth-busting, research reports, and so on.

Regional Migration Partnerships

- Yorkshire and Humber: <http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/>
 - They have recently launched a '[Migration research database](#)' for that region, resembling the RAL database, managed by ICAR
- East of England Regional Assembly Strategic Migration Partnership: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/working-in-partnership/strategic-migration-partnership/>
- East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership: <http://www.lg-em.gov.uk/pp/gold/viewGold.asp?IDType=Page&ID=16665>
- West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership: http://www.wmlga.gov.uk/Policy_Areas/Migration/Migration_Partnership.aspx
- North East Strategic Migration Partnership: <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/css.nsf/AIICSSWeb/377426DD7B4323DD80256B660057217B>
- South West: http://www.swcouncils.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=3141&tt=swra
- Wales: http://www.newport.gov.uk/_dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=refugeesasylum.homepage
- Scotland: <http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk/>
- London: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/migration/lsmg/index.jsp>

London Asylum Seekers Consortium (LASC)

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/communityandliving/london-asylum-seekers-consortium/> (NB this was under construction at the time of publication)

LASC, led by the Association of London Government (ALG) and Westminster City Council, publishes data about asylum-seeker accommodation and support services in London. It is not possible to give further details at the time of publication due to the web site being under construction.

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Refugee and Asylum Seekers Consortium (CRASC)

<http://www.asylumscotland.org.uk>

CRASC publishes details of asylum seekers in Scotland who are supported by NASS. The website also features resources for asylum seekers, news and events information, myth-busting, and FAQs.

Research, policy information, news

Other information produced by government and statutory bodies include research findings, policy information and news updates. In their bid to develop a robust knowledge base for evidence-based policy and practice, government bodies are conducting an increasing amount of research on refugees, asylum seekers and issues relating to the immigration and asylum system in the UK. Although the Home Office conducts the majority of this type of research, other departments also conduct research on refugee and asylum-seeking populations as part of their aim to develop policies and services that meet the needs and improve the circumstances of all members of the UK population.

While the above section focused on statistics and baseline data, research also generates a good deal of qualitative information of this type, so it is also useful to read the section with this in mind. Each government department has a publications section and it may be useful to browse to department most relevant to your area. For a full list of Government Departments and links to their web pages go to: <http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page203>

One way of locating relevant figures about asylum seekers, migrants and refugees in the UK is looking at previous research conducted by support organisations, regional and national partnerships and other agencies. This section contains an overview of the main bodies, where to look for information and which data they hold, followed by a list of the latest reports identified by ICAR containing figures on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in the UK.

UK Borders Agency

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

The Department of most relevance to asylum and refugee issues as a whole is the UK Border Agency (UKBA).

UKBA is responsible for immigration control at ports of entry to the UK and also considers applications for permission to stay, asylum and citizenship. Particular parts of their website are relevant to asylum. One is 'law and policy', which includes links to and details of recent legislation, and statutory instruments, consultation papers relating to changes to immigration law and policy, and other policy documents, such as the 'Protocol governing the conduct of substantive interview and the role of interviewing officers, representatives and their interpreters'. Elsewhere, the section on 'asylum in the UK' outlines the current procedures and policies. It includes an FAQ section, though the questions posed and their responses reflect policy concerns such as the focus on and targets for removals, measures taken to improve decision quality, and justifications for the dispersal policy.

Useful information to help understand the way that cases are assessed is contained in the detailed 'Asylum Policy Instructions' (APIs) which cover all aspects of asylum policy, including the standard wording used in refusal letters.

The 'country information' section includes the country reports published by the Home Office 'Country of Origin Information Service' (COIS) giving background information about the main countries of origin of asylum seekers in the UK and details of human rights issues. The COIS reports are based on secondary data sources; a full list of which is provided. The Home Office has been criticised for the quality of its country information and this has led to the establishment, under the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, of an Advisory Panel on Country Information (APCI) with a remit to review and provide advice about country information material produced by the Home Office.

Additionally, Operational Guidance Notes are published. These are intended to provide brief summaries of the general, political and human rights situation in several countries, detail the common types of claims and give guidance on whether these are likely to warrant a grant of asylum, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave. They are produced by the Asylum and Appeals Policy Directorate, in consultation with Senior Caseworkers, the Appeals Group, Legal Advisers Branch and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Searching the press releases, also accessible from the site, may help in identifying the dates of recent policy changes, such as the introduction of pre-entry visa requirements, and the introduction of new processing procedures.

Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>

As well as being responsible for maintaining the various statistical services published by the Home Office, as described above, RDS is also responsible for carrying out research or commissioning research from others. RDS is composed of several different sections that aim to meet the research and information needs of the units within the Home Office. RDS has a listserv that notifies subscribers when new publications are produced and made available online.

Immigration Research and Statistics Service

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

RDS conducts and commissions research and evaluation, and provides statistical analysis on immigration, asylum and integration issues. It aims to support the development of policy and management of the UK Border Agency. Reports can be downloaded from the address above.

Local authorities

Many local authorities conduct and commission research on refugees and asylum seekers who are resident in the local area. This research often involves assessing the needs of particular populations in relation to a specific or a range of issues as well as establishing basic demographic profiles to inform service delivery and development. Manchester City

Council, Southampton City Council, Liverpool City Council, Birmingham City Council, the Greater London Authority, and Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Lewisham councils in London are just some of the many local government bodies that have conducted research on refugee populations in the local area. In particular, a number of local authorities have conducted skills audits of local refugee and asylum-seeking populations.

Local authorities may also provide information on entitlements, projects and myth-busting information about refugees and asylum seekers.

It is not possible to list all the web pages or points of contact for local authorities and their departments.

Idea – The Improvement and Development Agency for Local Authorities <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/org/la-data.do>

Idea has an A-Z list of all Local Authorities and links to their web pages. It also has a section on good practice in migration for local authorities which may be of relevance.

Greater London Authority (GLA)

<http://www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/refugees.jsp>

The GLA conducts research into asylum and refugee issues as they pertain to London. The full text of these reports, as well as of the Mayor's response to government policy proposals, is available.

Department for Communities and Local Government

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/publications/research-stats/>

DCLG are responsible for building strong and inclusive communities. They carry out and commission research on neighbourhood issues and this includes race relations, faith and community cohesion. They also have useful information on third sector and voluntary groups. The research section outlines their neighbourhood policies and publications.

Cabinet Office Strategy Unit

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy.aspx>

This unit conducts long-term strategic reviews of major areas of policy and aims to provide a strong capacity for evidence-based policy analysis and strategic thinking for the government. It is probable that the unit will turn its attention to issues relating to asylum and immigration at some point and has already conducted work on ethnic minorities and the labour market that may provide a useful strategic direction for work on refugees and employment.

UK Parliament

<http://www.parliament.uk>

This is a useful source of information on the development of legislation and policy. The 'Bills before Parliament' section includes a chronological list of the various readings and committee stages of current legislation, including links to the text of the Bill, the text of

debates in both Houses of Parliament and in committee, and the 'Committees' section provides links to the reports and publications of the various parliamentary committees.

There is a section of the site for Immigration and Asylum Issues with links to the various legislation, bills and relevant committees. <http://www.parliament.uk/topics/Asylum-immigration-and-nationality.htm>.

The Research publications section contains regular publications of current interest produced by the Commons Library for MPs and their research staff. It also contains research notes compiled for Lords and other members of parliament.

The Recent Parliamentary Reports section lists the most recent reports produced by the committees of both Houses and other selected parliamentary offices.

Box 2: Monitoring Parliamentary Questions relating to asylum and refugees

The 'Hansard' section of the UK Parliament website (<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pahansard.htm>) - which includes references from 1988 onwards - can be used to find details of debates and parliamentary questions (PQs) relating to asylum and refugees. Parliamentary questions are often a useful source of statistics and policy information that is not published or made readily available. The content of those relating to asylum are often published on the websites of organisations concerned with asylum and immigration and human rights, and reported in the news media.

It is also worth looking at TheyWorkForYou.com which is a charity run site with details of parliamentary activity by areas of the UK and theme with recent debates and written answers. <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

British Official Publications Collaborative Reader Information Service (BOPCRIS)

<http://www.bopcris.ac.uk>

BOPCRIS allows users to search and browse information from British official publications over the period 1688-1995. You can also read abstracts and read the digitised full text version for a limited number of these documents.

Box 3: Some reports containing figures about asylum, refugees and migrants in the UK

- *Economic impact on the London and UK economy of an earned regularisation of irregular migrants to the UK* by Gordon, Ian; Scanlon, Kathleen; Travers, Tony; Whitehead, Christine, commissioned by GLA Economics. Available at: www.london.gov.uk/mayor/economic_unit/docs/irregular-migrants-report.pdf
- *Estimating London's new migrant population – methodology*, by Professor Phil Rees and Dr. Peter Boden, University of Leeds. Commissioned by the Great London Authority in September 2006. Available at: <http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/refugees/docs/nm-pop.pdf>
- *Sizing the illegally resident population in the UK* by McLaughlan, Gail; Pinkerton, Charles; Salt, John. Migration Research Unit University College London, Home Office Report 58/04, available at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/rdsolr5804.pdf>
- *Country of birth and labour market outcomes in London. An analysis of Labour Force Survey and Census Data* by Spence, Lorna, available at: www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/factsandfigures/dmag-briefing-2005-1.pdf

Academia

The key academic databases used for identifying resources on refugees and asylum issues are:

International Bibliography for the Social Sciences (IBSS):

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/IBSS/>

Intute: <http://www.intute.ac.uk/>

Social Care Online: <http://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/>

Index to Theses: <http://www.theses.com/>

Ingenta: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/>

JSTOR: <http://www.jstor.org/>

If you are at a university as a staff member or student you will be able to use all of the above resources through your Athens username and password. Access to journals depends on your university's subscriptions, and you may need to contact your library if you have difficulties accessing journals. If you are not affiliated to a university you will still be able to search the above databases and should be able to get any relevant articles through the British Library, although there may be a charge for this.

Even though your own university library may not have a very extensive selection of material on refugee issues, try accessing the catalogues of specialised libraries at other universities (see below). You can always arrange a visit to consult their resources or order a copy of a document through document supply services. Also remember that the British Library has an online catalogue and document supply service which is open to all.

Some of the main academic information providers on UK asylum and refugee issues include:

Centre for Migration, Policy and Society [COMPAS], University of Oxford

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk>

This centre draws together the work of the Transnational Communities Programme, the Refugee Studies Centre and the Centre for Migration Policy Research [CMPR]. Research conducted on asylum has addressed issues such as the root causes of migration, modes of migration, migration control regimes, and impacts on receiving societies. Their website provides descriptions of all ongoing research, the full text of working papers, press releases and opinion editorials, and presentations from COMPAS events.

Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations [CRER], University of Warwick

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/crer>

Refugees constitute a major focus of CRER's research agenda. CRER has a large resource centre on issues in ethnic relations, providing access to a range of grey literature including pamphlets and research papers, occasional papers, monographs, policy papers, statistical papers. Bibliographies in ethnic relations are all listed and available to order online.

Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees

<http://www.icar.org.uk>

ICAR's website provides digests of recent publications on refugee and asylum issues and navigation guides to key issues and populations that provide a good introduction to a range of topics, as well as extensive links and resource listings for further research. The site provides searchable directories of publications, websites, projects and researchers working on UK refugee issues. It also has a statistics section offering statistical summaries and signposts on major themes and a Mapping the UK section which provides an overview of asylum issues as they affect specific cities and towns around the UK.

ICAR also has conducted research into many aspects of refugee, asylum and migration in the UK. Full text versions of such reports are available online. Finally, the Ask ICAR! enquiry service responds to many information requests.

Researching Asylum in London (RAL)

<http://www.researchasylum.org.uk/>

RAL is an independent database of research on refugee and asylum issues relevant to London. The aim of this project is to make research more accessible to service providers and policy-makers working in the field. The database contains summaries of research in which the aims, methodology, key findings, conclusions and recommendations are easily identifiable. These summaries are an invaluable source of quick information that can help researchers and fundraisers to easily organise key topics and debates to feed into proposals and literature reviews. RAL is managed by the ICAR team and produces bi-monthly updates containing the latest additions to the database.

Migration Research Unit [MRU], University College London

<http://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/mru>

MRU research focuses on national and European migration trends and migration policy. The MRU website features downloadable reports and a bibliography of MRU publications.

Centre for Migration Policy Research, Swansea University

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/cmpr/>

This centre has a wide range of publications and research projects relating to forced migration. Wales specific refugee and migration issues are also covered.

Refugee Council Archives at UEL

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/rca/services.htm>

The Refugee Council Archive is open to researchers, organisations and refugees. See the section on the voluntary sector for more information.

Refugee Studies Centre (RSC), University of Oxford

<http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk>

The RSC houses a large library on forced migration that offers access to a range of grey literature, books, dissertations, and videos. Access to the centre is free and the catalogue is searchable online. The library also offers a document supply service for the cost of postage and photocopying. Research reports, research updates, working papers, and contents and abstracts for its journals are available online on the RSC website. Forced Migration Online (FMO), an electronic portal providing access to worldwide information resources on forced migration and making many RSC library holdings available in digital form is also based at the centre. See also the section on portals and information hubs.

Sussex Centre for Migration Research [SCMR], University of Sussex

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/migration/>

The centre has completed research into transnational exile communities and post-conflict reconstruction, narratives of exile and return, voluntary assisted return, and the illegally resident population in detention. The SCMR website provides online working papers, newsletters, and details of current and completed projects. A research centre on migration, globalisation and poverty has also been established within SCMR which has its own website: <http://www.migrationdrc.org>. The website features briefing papers, working papers (comprised of thematic and country background papers), newsletters, news on upcoming migration events, and overviews of research projects and themes.

Cemore Centre for Mobilities Research, Lancaster University

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/centres/cemore/index.php>

The Centre for Mobilities Research is based in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster and produces the journal 'Mobilities'. It provides opportunities for postgraduate and post-doctoral study. Work has been published on the cultural politics of asylum and forced migration and human rights on the European Union's Eastern borders, amidst a diverse range of other topics.

Many other universities without specific migration centres also conduct research into refugees and asylum seekers. These universities include Oxford Brookes, Goldsmith's College, London Metropolitan, Queen Margaret, Surrey, York, and many others.

Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), University College London

<http://www.econ.ucl.ac.uk/cream/>

CReAM is located in the Department of Economics at University College London. Its research focuses on international population mobility and movements affecting the UK and Europe and on associated global processes. CReAM aims at informing the public debate on migration in the UK and in Europe by providing new insights, helping to steer the current policy debate in a direction that is based on carefully researched evidence without partisan bias. The [research programme](#) is divided into four major themes: forms of population movement and mobility; the non-migrant experience - effects of migration on importing and exporting countries; the migrant experience - integration, adaptation and exclusion; perception of migrants within receiving countries - identity and aspects of social cohesion.

European Centre for the Study of Migration and Social Care, University of Kent

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/masc/>

Established in 1998, the centre strives to be a focal point for the full range of research, consultancy and teaching activities relating to minority groups and refugees in Europe that is taking place within the university. Work has included research on the social care of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK and a European survey of mental health services for minority groups and refugees. The centre also runs a masters programme on migration, mental health and social care.

Worldmapper project, University of Sheffield & University of Michigan

<http://www.worldmapper.org>

Worldmapper is a collection of world maps, where territories are re-sized on each map according to the subject of interest. It is a user-friendly tool to assess broader issues of migration and mobility in relative terms.

Viewing the following is recommended:

- Main Destination: Map on refugees and internally displaced persons as a % of resident population, available at:
http://www.worldmapper.org/posters/worldmapper_map13_ver5.pdf
- Main Origins: refugees and internally displaced persons as a % of resident population, available at:
http://www.worldmapper.org/posters/worldmapper_map14_ver5.pdf

Box 4: Relevant sources on migration and global mobility

Global Mobility Regimes Project (<http://globalmobility.info/>)

International Migration Institute, University of Oxford:

- *Mobility and Human Development* by Hein de Haas, with Oliver Bakewell, Stephen Castles, Gunvor Jónsson and Simona Vezzoli (February 2009). Available at: <http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk/pdfs/2009-wp-14-mobility-and-human-development-hein-de-haas>

Population of concern map by UNHCR, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/4a2d1be92.pdf>

Legal bodies

UK Policy and law

Asylum Policy instructions, UK Border Agency

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumpolicyinstructions/>

This subset of the UKBA website contains the Government's policy on asylum, and is the primary material used by case owners in the UK Border Agency to assess asylum claims.

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC)

<http://www.oisc.gov.uk/>

OISC is an independent, non-departmental public body set up under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. It is responsible for regulating immigration advisers, promoting good practice and addressing complaints about anyone giving immigration advice. Their website contains information on how to choose and find an adviser and the complaint mechanism available if an adviser has given poor or inadequate advice.

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA)

<http://www.ilpa.org.uk/>

ILPA is an organisation formed by leading UK immigration practitioners which promotes the improvement of advising and representation of immigrants. It provides information to members on domestic and European immigration, refugee and nationality law. ILPA produces information sheets and updates for community organisations and NGOs, offers training courses and publishes submissions and updates on UK and EU immigration policy.

Law Society for England and Wales

<http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/>

The immigration section of the Law Society's website grants access to the full text of all their outputs pertaining to asylum and immigration, including responses to legislation, guidelines for the practice of law in this area, the Immigration Bulletin newsletter, and the activities of committees and panels concerned with immigration law.

Legal Resource Library, Garden Court Chambers

<http://www.gardencourtchambers.co.uk/resources/index.cfm>

Garden Courts Chambers legal resource Library contains links to the full text of relevant case law, legislation and other useful legal resources on appeals & judicial reviews,

asylum & refugee law, asylum support, deportation & expulsion, detention, economic migration etc. They produce a weekly immigration law bulletin on free subscription.

Country of Origin Information

Country of origin information service, Home Office

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html

This information unit produces reports used by UK Border Agency officials involved in the asylum determination process. Products focus on human rights issues as well as background information on geography, economy and history. COI material produced by UKBA is reviewed by the independent Advisory Panel on Country Information.

www.apci.org.uk

Country Information Centre and Research, Information & Policy Unit, Immigration Advisory Service

<http://www.iasuk.org/research.aspx>

Formerly known as the Research and Information Unit (RIU), this specialized research unit at IAS has undertaken country of origin information research for asylum cases since 1997. They produce over 120 COI reports per month, which form part of the objective evidence in applications to UKBA case owners, in submissions to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) and in applications to the Higher Courts. They have published widely on the topic of country of origin research and produce a pay-fee bulletin with the latest in-country information and legal developments in the UK.

European and International legal framework

Convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/3b66c2aa10.pdf>

Europa – Gateway to the European Union

http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

EUROPA is the portal site of the European Union. It provides up-to-date coverage of European Union affairs and essential information on European integration. Contains a documentation centre with links to EU documents, from legal texts to historical records, the latest EU-wide surveys and opinion polls.

European Migration Network (EMN)

<http://emn.sarenet.es/html/index.html>

EMN is formed by a wide range of entities representing all relevant stakeholders in Europe. National contact points are designated by each member state and they develop a national network consisting of ministries of interior and of justice, research institutes, non-governmental organisations and a national office of an international organisation. In the UK, the National contact point for EMN is within the Analysis, Research and Knowledge

Management Directorate (ARK) of the UK Border Agency. EMN aims at bringing together, analysing and making accessible already available data, as well as contributing to evidence based policy making.

Asylum in the EU- European Council on Refugees and Exiles

http://www.ecre.org/topics/asylum_in_EU

Statewatch Observatory on EU asylum and immigration policy

<http://www.statewatch.org/asylum/obserasylum.htm>

Portals for case law, legal developments

British and Irish Legal Information Institute (BAILII)

<http://www.bailii.org/>

The (BAILII) provides access to a comprehensive set of British and Irish case law & legislation, European Union case law, Law Commission reports, and other law-related material.

The Michigan-Melbourne refugee Caselaw Site

<http://www.refugeecaselaw.org/>

This website contains cases from the highest national courts of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Free Movement

<http://freemovement.wordpress.com>

This is a blog with updates and commentary on immigration and asylum law. Includes links to latest case law developments, an advice page section (the website does not offer personal immigration advice), information on finding a lawyer and training opportunities.

Voluntary sector

Non-governmental organisations, refugee community organisations, civil society groups, faith groups... There are a vast number of voluntary sector organisations working on asylum and refugee issues in the UK and most of these will prove to be valuable information resources in a number of ways.

Voluntary sector organisations provide a wide range of data and information: research findings, aggregated client data, analysis and commentary on policies and news, briefings for service providers and clients, syntheses of national statistics, country briefings, user surveys, clients' stories, staff experiences, conference reports and so on.

Identifying organisations

One of the first things that researchers wish to do is identify the organisations and projects that work with/on the population or issue that interests them. Some useful resources for this are:

Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership

<http://www.reap.org.uk/>

A web site that has a directory of refugee organisations in London along with their contact details.

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Migration Partnership

<http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/?page=directory>

This is the website of the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Consortium for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. It includes a directory of agencies working with asylum seekers and refugees in the area, which is searchable using a free text search or by alphabetical listings. It also houses a local research directory.

Local resources database, Harpweb

<http://www.harpweb.org.uk/content.php?section=vital&sub=v8>

The local resources database is searchable by area and type of service provider. It provides contact details for organisations working with/for refugees and asylum seekers in specific areas of the UK. See the section on portals and information hubs for more information.

Mapping the UK, Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR)

<http://www.icar.org.uk/1320/uk-map/mapping-the-uk.html>

The Mapping the UK product provides contacts and links for organisations working in specific cities and towns.

If you are looking for locally-based organisations, many citizens advice bureaux, volunteering agencies, and local authorities have developed directories that may be a useful starting point.

Statistics and baseline data

The voluntary sector often produces summaries and digests of national asylum statistics produced by the Home Office. NGOs may also generate statistics from research data (see below) such as surveys, and from client casework databases.

Aggregate data from client casework databases may not be published, but may be made available to researchers on request and can often be found in annual reports or project evaluations.

Resources and information produced by Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) and Refugee Community Organisations (RCO) may also produce rough estimates of population sizes or other baseline data that is hard to come by, based on their work and client group data. However, in analysing these, do remember that some groups may also exaggerate numbers to secure funding or may underestimate numbers for campaigning purposes.

Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

<http://www.aviddetention.org.uk>

AVID collects data from its member groups on immigration detainees in the UK. This data may be available on request for research purposes.

Refugee Council

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>

The Refugee Council produces research briefings and summary historical comparisons from 1999 to present. It has also produced a report that examines asylum statistics dating back to the 1980s entitled *Asylum by Numbers*, which is available to order. The Refugee Council's client database is very sophisticated and is capable of generating aggregate data on a wide range of service provision issues.

Research, news and policy information

There are a vast number of voluntary sector organisations that conduct research, compile information, draft policy briefings and so on, from large national agencies to smaller community organisations. It would be impossible to list them all here, so we have included a few key agencies that have significant information and research functions.

Because we have used these criteria of quantity and dedicated function, the list below may only highlight 'the usual suspects'. Use the above resources for identifying other organisations, and contact and visit smaller local organisations as these too are rich sources of information and data, even though they may be less prolific due to resource

constraints. Furthermore, it is worth remembering that many people miss interesting sections on the websites that they use regularly for other purposes.

Association of Visitors to Immigration Detainees

<http://www.aviddetention.org.uk>

This site provides access to wide range of secondary resources for immigration detainee visitors and other users. Resources include policy briefings, details of removal centres and visitors groups, research and evaluation reports, speeches, legislation, legal guidelines, operational guidelines, country assessments, best practice guides and statistics. Most of these materials are produced by other sources, but AVID has collated them to provide easy access to materials relevant to detention that are useful for researchers as well as detainee visitors. The site also features online versions of its own bulletin.

Amnesty International

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10398>

In addition to the array of resources produced on country of origin situations, Amnesty produces briefings, policy commentaries, educational materials, press releases, and research reports relating to UK refugee and asylum issues. All these materials are available online. Amnesty Scotland's website also provides access to research reports on asylum seekers in Scotland and Amnesty Wales has information on campaigns for Wales.

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID)

<http://www.biduk.org>

BID's website has a range of online resources available, including research reports on detention, information sheets, best practice guidelines for bail applications, responses to policy changes and consultations, newsletters, and annual reports.

European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

<http://www.ecre.org/>

ECRE's website provides a wide range of resources on European asylum and refugee issues, including policy position papers, research papers, guidelines, good practice guides, detailed statistics, country reports, reports on legal and social conditions for refugees in individual countries, FAQs and responses, and an extensive selection of links to other organisations.

Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)

<http://www.iasuk.org>

The advice section of the IAS website provides information on the legal aspects of asylum and immigration. The news section offers online versions of IAS press releases, briefings and responses to policy changes, as well as a publications section with downloadable versions of research reports and other materials. The press area of the site contains texts of IAS speeches, parliamentary briefings, responses to consultation documents and papers, and media releases. Materials relating to current issues such as proposed

parliamentary bills are grouped together for ease of access. The website also features contact details for other organisations.

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

<http://www.jcwi.org.uk/>

JCWI produces written materials such as briefings, policy articles and a quarterly bulletin. A law and policy section organises information under the headings UK law and policy, European law and policy, statistics, and consultation.

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

<http://www.torturecare.org.uk/>

The Medical Foundation produces country reports based on the forensic medical reports and first-hand accounts of clients, research reports, annual reviews, aggregate client data, clients' stories, briefings, submissions and responses, clinical bibliographies and myth-busting materials.

North East of England Refugee Service (NERS)

<http://www.refugee.org.uk/>

This website features background information on asylum issues, FAQs and responses, clients' stories, summaries of recent research conducted by NERS and other agencies, summaries of recent statistics, a press release archive, and a library of links to other local and national organisations. The homepage also provides links to recent local and national news stories.

Oxfam

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/ukpoverty/protectionasylumseekers.html>

This page contains information and resources from Oxfam's work with asylum seekers in the UK.

Praxis

<http://www.praxis.org.uk/>

Praxis' website features events listings, toolkit resources for RCOs, a discussion forum for RCOs and their users, links for refugee communities, key facts and figures on refugee and asylum issues, policy updates, advice for professionals working with refugees, information archives, and online research reports and other publications. Praxis also has its own resource centre.

Refugee Action

<http://www.refugee-action.org.uk>

Refugee Action has a history of conducting research into refugee populations and has a wide selection of research reports available, as well as materials for community organisations and audio-visual resources.

Refugee Council

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>

The Refugee Council makes available online its press releases, briefings, country reports, policy papers, annual reports, and information for asylum seekers (translated), case workers, and refugee community organisations. It provides comprehensive summaries of legislation, entitlements and support arrangements as well as commentary on asylum statistics. The site also includes a UK events diary. An email listserv helps keep regular users up to date with new features on the site. Its resource centre is now archived at the University of East London (see above).

Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP), Asylum Aid

<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk>

RWRP is hosted by Asylum Aid. They have published a number of research reports on refugee women, including a series of country reports on women and domestic violence, and also produce targeted country information for Asylum Aid caseworkers dealing with asylum claims by women and make some of these available from their website.

Scottish Refugee Council

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/>

The Scottish Refugee Council make their quarterly newsletter and annual reports available online, as well as research reports on issues such as housing, the Kosovo programme, and the experiences of refugee children in Scotland. The site also provides advice materials for asylum seekers on a range of topics, briefings on current issues, and press releases. An events board provides information on forthcoming events in Scotland.

Save the Children UK

<http://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

In addition to its work overseas, Save the Children is involved in a number of projects and campaigns relating to refugee and asylum-seeking children in the UK. By using the search function for the whole site or searching specific areas such as the policy library, education library, or publications library, you can access a range of products including personal stories from children, press releases, responses to policy and consultations, education resources, guidelines, briefings, research reports, and interactive resources for young people.

Box 5: Some reports with demographic data about asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in the UK

- *Daring to dream: Raising the achievement of 14 to 16 year old asylum-seeking and refugee children and young people* by McKenna, Nora: Refugee Council: 2005, available at: http://www.necf.org/core_files/RaisingachievementOct05.pdf
- *Estimating the numbers of refugees in London* by Bardsley, Martin; Storkey, Marian. Health of Londoners Project: 2000, summary available at RAL: <http://www.researchasylum.org.uk/?lid=70>
- *New Communities in Greenwich*. Greenwich Council: 2007, summary available at RAL: <http://www.researchasylum.org.uk/?lid=1741>
- *An exploration of refugees' experiences as English language students in Further Education colleges* by Dimitriadou, Anastasia. University of London: 2004, summary available at RAL: <http://www.researchasylum.org.uk/?lid=317>
- *The Reception and integration of new migrant communities* by Pillai, Rachel; Kyambi, Sarah et al. IPPR: 2007, summary available at RAL: <http://www.researchasylum.org.uk/?lid=1623>
- *Refugees' opportunities and barriers in employment and training* by Bloch, Alice. Goldsmiths College, University of London: 2002, summary available at ICAR research directory: <http://www.icar.org.uk/3297/research-directory/refugees-opportunities-and-barriers-in-employment-and-training.html>

Archives, resource centres and libraries

A number of local and national organisations have libraries, archives or resource centres that are open to the public. Most organisations will keep a resource library for internal use and in exceptional cases researchers may be allowed access to these on request.

Organisations that have information centres that are open to the public include:

Northern Refugee Centre (NRC)

<http://www.nrcentre.org.uk/>

The NRC provides an information and resource service to individual refugees, RCOs, voluntary and statutory agencies, the media and the general public, including researchers.

Refugee Council Archive, University of East London

<http://www.uel.ac.uk/rca/services.htm>

The Refugee Council's own resources archive was donated to the University of East London. It covers the period from 1951 to the late 1990s and contains over 13,000 items. It is organised under topics including causes of flight, migration, asylum and refugee studies and according to state of origin of the refugees in question. Contact the university to find out details of access.

Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP), Asylum Aid

<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/>

A resource centre on women, gender persecution, and forced migration is open to asylum-seeking women, legal representatives, asylum support workers and researchers, though not to students at this time. The catalogue is available online.

Box 6: Contacting organisations

Voluntary sector organisations are inundated with information requests from the media, other organisations, refugees and asylum seekers, MPs, the public and researchers.

If you want your information request to be answered, you may want consider the following obvious, but in our experience often neglected, points:

- **Be specific** – requests such as ‘please could you send me any information you have on asylum issues’ are unlikely to be answered. Ask about particular topics and specific aspects that you are interested in and be clear on what your time constraints are.
- **Do your research** – when you contact an organisation you should be clear about what it does and how it can help you. Make sure you have done some research around the topic you are researching and have identified as much material as possible yourself before contacting an organisation. It pays not to seem as if you are expecting someone else to do it!
- **Be personal** – try and email a person directly. Try to identify who is likely to be responsible for dealing with enquiries of this type and who is likely to know most about the topic you are interested in. Emailing generic addresses will often mean that your enquiry gets lost!
- **Be polite** – write in full sentences, address people politely and introduce yourself formally. Spell people’s names and that of their organisation correctly.
- **Reciprocate!** Remember to thank people for their help and send them copies of your research report/dissertation/etc. if they are interested.

Inter-governmental organisations

The UK offices of several inter-governmental organisations (IGOs) who work internationally are also a useful source of information and data. A good deal of information is available online but further resources and publications are often available on request. The main international websites of these organisations also contain UK-relevant or UK-specific material and can often yield many 'hidden gems', particularly in relation to quantitative information.

International Organization for Migration (IOM) UK

<http://www.iomlondon.org>

The IOM UK website includes its newsletters, information packs for refugees and asylum seekers on return and reintegration (including translated materials). The main IOM website at <http://www.iom.int> has a wide range of publications on migration around the world, including books, studies, reports, periodicals, brochures and information sheets, some of which must be ordered for a fee. Relevant reports can be identified using the detailed publication search function. UN related conference reports and policy documents are also available on the site. An archive of press briefing notes, IOM statements, and news releases is also accessible online.

UNHCR UK

<http://www.unhcr.org.uk>

The UNHCR UK public information team produces a variety of information resources that are available online. Online resources include country updates, briefings on aspects of the UK asylum process, summaries of UK statistics and statistical comparisons with other countries, UNHCR's Refugees magazine, and FAQ responses.

The main UNHCR website at <http://www.unhcr.org> is dense with information and data, aspects of which are also relevant to the UK context. The statistics section features a wealth of quantitative data on refugees and asylum across the world, including UK statistics. The website also features operational guidelines, legal handbooks, guidelines covering refugee protection issues and numerous other publications. Most sections of the website have their own search function to facilitate resource identification.

As many industrialized countries do not maintain a dedicated refugee register and are thus not in a position to provide accurate information on the number of refugees residing in their country, UNHCR estimates the refugee population in a number of those countries. To ensure that the refugee population in these countries is reflected in global statistics, the number is estimated based on the recognition of asylum seekers over a 10-year period.

This cut-off period reflects the average time it generally takes for a refugee to acquire the nationality of his/her host country.

UNHCR Statistics pages are available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c4d6.html>

The latest UNHCR Global Trends report (2008) is available from their website at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/4a375c426.html>

The latest report on Asylum trends for industrialized countries (First Half 2009) is available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/4adebca49.html>

Supplementary excel tables are also available.

Box 7: Using UNHCR data to calculate refugee population

This is an example of estimating the refugee population based on the above method:

Example: Poland

Asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status, 1998-2007: **2,315**

Asylum-seekers granted a complementary form of protection and/or allowed to remain for humanitarian reasons, 1998-2007: **7,755**

UNHCR estimate of the refugee population in Poland (= sum of both categories), end of 2007: 10,070.

Media

Many postgraduate students have chosen to focus their research on analysis of media coverage of asylum issues. Even if media portrayal is not your area of interest, media reports are essential to researching policy developments around the UK, incidents of interest, and political and public opinion on this issue.

Most local and national newspapers have their own websites. Some only have their articles of the day online, others have free or pay-to-access online archives. A Google search will reveal most newspapers' website details. A number of newspapers and broadcasters, such as the BBC and the Guardian, have dedicated sections on asylum and immigration issues.

A number of organisations and projects dedicated to interrogating the nature of media representation of asylum issues have also been established and these are a useful source for research reports and secondary analysis and commentary. More information on resources relating to the media can be found in ICAR's media section:

<http://www.icar.org.uk/4840/media/media.html>

Article 19

<http://www.article19.org>

This group campaigns internationally for freedom of expression and information, and a number of its projects in the UK have been focused on asylum and refugees. These have included a research and media monitoring project led jointly with the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies, the findings of which have been published in a collection of reports and other media.

BBC Online: Destination UK

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_depth/uk/2001/destination_uk/default.stm

This permanent feature of the BBC News website records current and archived BBC stories on all aspects of asylum as it pertains to the UK, as well as background and feature articles. A separate country profiles section organises information about countries of origin under the headings overview, facts, leaders, and media.

The Guardian: Immigration and Asylum

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/immigration>

This permanent feature of the Guardian website records current and archived stories from the Guardian on all aspects of asylum as it pertains to the UK. Latest information is highlighted, and then stories are archived under themes of recent or ongoing interest such as immigration policy, community cohesion, European expansion, immigrant experience, smuggling, ID cards etc.

Institute of Race Relations (IRR)

<http://www.irr.org.uk/asylum/index.html>

This resource collects stories about asylum and refugee issues from a wide range of sources, including local and regional press. They also produce lengthy editorials and brief research reports on issues of current concern.

Media Hate Watch UK, Diversity Online

<http://www.diversity-online.org>

This website is run for the International Media Working Group Against Racism and Xenophobia. The Media Hate Watch UK part of the site identifies inflammatory and inaccurate reporting by the UK media and provides commentary and analysis of individual stories. News stories and updates are added daily, accompanied by supporting documents, pictures, reports, and legislation. The site also has a resource centre of relevant links and bibliographies. Much of the site is only accessible to those who have registered, but registration is free.

The Observer – Asylum: Myths and Reality

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/asylum>

This permanent feature of the Observer website records current and archived stories from the Observer on all aspects asylum as it pertains to the UK. Stories are archived under themes of recent or ongoing interest such as asylum seekers in Britain, deportation, entry into Britain, the far-right position, and trafficking. A large collection of Comment articles is also accessible here.

Proquest

<http://www.proquest.co.uk/>

Most university libraries will subscribe to Proquest UK Newstand, an online archive of UK newspapers. The archive varies according to the newspaper concerned, but goes back at least 3 years, and the service is kept regularly updated with new stories appearing 1-3 days after publication.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Media (RAM) Project

<http://www.exiledjournalists.net/page.php?id=56&category=Projects>

Established by Presswise, this project (now finished) aimed to promote best practice in media representation of asylum and refugee issues. Its website included resources on the use of the media, an archive of its bulletins that provide analysis and commentary on the latest media stories about asylum, links to key resources and websites, and a searchable directory of exiled journalists. The website is archived on the Exiled Journalists Network.

Hatnews

<http://www.hatnews.org>

This is a news portal is made up of professional journalists from around the world who are either currently refugees or asylum seekers in the UK or have gained their 'status' but are not currently working in journalism.

EurActiv

<http://www.euractiv.com/en>

This is an independent information portal specialized in EU affairs

News feeds

Keeping up to date can be complicated given the immense amount of information and the wide range of sources available. Most web based media have a facility to set up news feeds on particular issues, including asylum, refugees and migrants, so it might be useful to bookmark some of the following:

UKBA Newsfeeds

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates/newsfeeds>

The Guardian Immigration and asylum news feeds:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/immigration/rss>

BBC personalized news feeds

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/help/3223484.stm#myfeeds>

Parliament News feeds on Asylum, immigration and nationality

<http://news.parliament.uk/subject/Asylum-immigration-and-nationality/rss>

Think tanks

As asylum and immigration rocket up the political agenda, key think tanks have increasingly turned their attention to the discussion of alternative policies and the development of an evidence base to inform these, or with which to critique existing policies.

In terms of resources useful to the researcher, think tanks are particularly good for commentaries on policy, research syntheses and expert discussion papers. When browsing such materials, think about which side of the political spectrum the organisation leans towards...

Examples include:

Centre for Policy Studies

<http://www.cps.org.uk/>

The Centre for Policy Studies has produced a number of publications on immigration and asylum. These publications can be ordered online via the publications page.

Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR)

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/research/themes/?id=3093>

The IPPR have a programme of research on Migration and Integration and have published a range of research reports, all available online.

Migrants' Rights Network

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/>

MRN is an advocacy organisation that carries out research and policy analysis into issues relevant to migrants in the UK. It aims to promote the rights of migrants, and support migrant organisations.

Migration Policy Institute

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org>

This think tank is dedicated to the study of the movement of people worldwide. Although it is based in the US and has an international focus, it is included here because its website features useful UK-related materials. It includes details of ongoing research projects, downloadable publications, and research summaries (listed chronologically). Its news area provides an archive of press releases, op-ed pieces, and news coverage of their work.

MPI also runs Migration Information Source, an information hub on global migration, at <http://www.migrationinformation.org>. Migration Information Source provides a searchable data centre containing quantitative data on migration and asylum for specific countries, comparative data charts and tables for selected countries, and data spotlights,

commenting on the use and availability of quantitative data on specific issues. The site also includes commentaries on news stories, a migration fundamentals series (providing basic facts on key issues), feature articles, spotlights on key issues, country profiles, (brief overviews of vital data, policies, history, and political debates), all authored by experts in the field. The site also features interviews with key researchers, policy makers, and practitioners. A searchable archive provides easy access to all products and users can subscribe to a monthly email news flash and updates.

Migration Watch UK

<http://migrationwatchuk.org>

Established in October 2001, this 'immigration and asylum-monitoring organisation' has been the focus of much media and government attention. Its website provides a number of online resources such as pocket guides, briefing papers, FAQs and key messages that seek to show that arguments for large scale immigration are unsound. Key media coverage and comments from the public are also featured.

Open Democracy

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/>

Open Democracy is 'an online global magazine of politics and culture'. The website is populated by articles, commentary, and debate by a wide range of experts in areas such as conflict, democracy and power, globalisation, science and technology, and the media. Information about asylum and refugee issues appears under several headings, but a search of the site using the terms 'asylum' and 'refugees' results in a number of links to articles, editorials, summaries etc.

Professional bodies

Professional bodies that have a key interest in refugees and asylum seekers are often useful sources of information on policy and practice issues that relate to their area of professional activity. These bodies sometimes undertake particular projects or campaigns and have developed materials to support these that researchers may find useful. Furthermore, professional bodies also conduct research into refugee and asylum issues as they relate to their professional specialism.

Examples include:

British Dental Association (BDA)

<http://www.bda.org/>

The BDA has a refugee dentist stakeholder forum, a follow on for the Refugee Dentists Steering Group set up with the Refugee Council in 2002.

British Medical Association (BMA)

<http://www.bma.org.uk>

The BMA has published and made available on their website several reports on the treatment of and health issues faced by asylum seekers and refugees, as well as on refugee doctors and BMA policy in this area. These appear in several different sections of the site, but are accessible by searching the site with the terms 'asylum' and 'refugees'. The BMA has also developed a database of refugee doctors with the Refugee Council, which would no doubt provide useful aggregate data for those researching the skills and professional backgrounds of refugees.

Royal College of Nursing (RCN)

http://www.rcn.org.uk/development/practice/social_inclusion/asylum_seekers_and_refugees

Also a professional body representing nurses, RCN has developed a database of refugee nurses, which would no doubt provide useful aggregate data for those researching the skills and professional backgrounds of refugees. RCN also provides information on the social exclusion of refugees in health care settings.

Trades Union Congress

<http://www.tuc.org.uk>

The TUC has campaigned on a number of refugee and asylum issues. By using the search function on its website, you can access a number of its responses to policy developments and government consultations.

Private research companies

A number of private research companies conduct research and surveys on refugee and asylum issues. These companies can be a useful source of information on ongoing and completed research projects. Although some may provide links and summaries of final reports, in many cases the final reports are only available from the commissioner of the research, which may be a government body or an NGO.

MORI

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/>

MORI has conducted a number of attitude surveys on refugees and asylum seekers and has also been involved in research projects on refugee populations. Its website provides news releases and summaries of research and surveys, and searching its research and polls archive allows you to identify relevant projects and research results. Its publications section also provides useful resources on research methods and analysis, particularly in relation to opinion polls.

Michael Bell Associates

<http://www.mba4consultancy.co.uk>

Michael Bell Associates is a research and consultancy practice with a specialisation in refugee and asylum issues. Its website provides information on current and completed projects and links to published reports.

Other companies that have conducted research and consultancy on refugee issues include BMRB <http://www.bmr.co.uk> and Focus Consultancy <http://www.focus-consultancy.co.uk>

Portals and information hubs

There are now a number of portals and hubs dedicated to information on refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Other more internationally-focussed portals also provide an range of resources and materials on the UK context. These portals often have many downloadable materials and searchable databases that facilitate resource discovery and improve resource accessibility.

Electronic Immigration Network (EIN)

<http://www.ein.org.uk>

EIN is the largest specialist provider of information on UK immigration and refugee law via the internet. It provides a resource for immigration practitioners, asylum seekers and immigrants, students, journalists, judges, academics, parliamentary researchers and others with an interest in the field of immigration and asylum. The site comprises two main areas: the Public Site and the Members' Site. The public site gives access to news and updates or information on the latest legislation and most recent case law, events and a general resources list which links to related sites.

Forced Migration Online (FMO)

<http://www.forcedmigration.org/>

Forced Migration Online (FMO) provides instant access to a wide variety of online resources dealing with the situation of forced migrants worldwide. Designed for use by practitioners, policy makers, researchers, students or anyone interested in the field, FMO aims to give comprehensive information in an impartial environment and to promote increased awareness of human displacement issues to an international community of users.

Harpweb – Health for asylum seekers and refugees portal

<http://www.harpweb.org.uk>

HARPWEB provides access to information, practical tools, and articles written and produced by health care professionals, non-governmental organisations, academics, and research bodies with expert knowledge of working with asylum seekers and refugees, both in the UK and other countries around the world. Information is organised under the headings children info, women info, men info, social info, cultural info, vital resources, practical info, and then further divided by type of disease. Information provided includes contact details for relevant organisations, general resources, translated materials, articles, self help materials, etc.

Harpweb Mental Health – Mental health and well-being resource

<http://www.mentalhealth.harpweb.org.uk/>

This spin-off from HARPWEB focuses on information and resources about the mental health of asylum seekers and refugees.

Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK

<http://www.icar.org.uk>

ICAR is an information hub as well as a research centre due to its multiple resources and its accessibility through the web. Important features of ICAR's information function include the *Ask ICAR service* (<http://www.icar.org.uk/9550/ask-icar/ask-icar.html>), which responds to information requests from a range of parties; and the *Research Directory* (<http://www.icar.org.uk/resourcedirectory>) containing information about all resources held by or known to ICAR covering any aspect of asylum and refugee issues and experiences in the UK.

Asylum Update (<http://www.icar.org.uk/11906/icar-asylum-update/asylum-update-4th-december-2009.html>) is a weekly bulletin containing the latest research and policy developments in the sector. It replaced former ICAR Ref blog and is structured under five sections: research, policy and law, news, events and resources. *ICAR 'Focus on'* is a recent development of asylum update. It is a bi-monthly commentary on items of news or policy developments which includes further references for more in-depth analysis.

Moving Here

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/default.htm>

Moving Here provides free online access to resources which record and illustrate the migration of Caribbean, Irish, Jewish and South Asian communities to England over the past two centuries. The website offers free access to online versions of original material related to migration, including photographs, personal papers, government documents, maps and art objects, as well as a collection of sound recordings and video clips. Users have also submitted stories of their migration to the UK and these can also be accessed online. Most of the material available on this site has been contributed by the Moving Here partners.

Archives of raw data for secondary analysis

There are many archives that offer researchers the opportunity to analyse 'raw' data, or re-analyse material collected and analysed by other researchers. These resources are often neglected by postgraduates who are keen to conduct their own qualitative research rather than examine data compiled by others. However, excellent work can be produced on the basis of, for example, recorded oral histories languishing in archives, or such material could be used in addition to data you have collected yourself.

Some examples include:

Qualidata - Economic and Social Data Service, University of Essex

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata>

The Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS) is a national data service that came into operation in January 2003. ESDS Qualidata is a specialist service of the ESDS led by the UK Data Archive (UKDA) at the University of Essex. The service provides access and support for a range of social science qualitative datasets, promoting and facilitating increased and more effective use of data in research, learning and teaching. Data is commonly acquired via the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Datasets Policy requiring that all research grant award holders offer the archive data collected during the course of their research.

Researchers, students and teachers from all fields and types of organisation may register with the UKDA and obtain data. However, some datasets may have restrictions on access. For example, commercial usage may be restricted. Students in the UK sector can obtain the data at no cost.

Qualidata offers a resource discovery hub via both the UKDA catalogue record and its own search engine. Recent research is available in machine-readable format (Word, RTF), which is available online with no access restrictions. Older research is available in paper format. Data held includes: in-depth and semi-structured interviews; focus groups; field notes and observations; documents and photographs.

Examples of qualitative data on refugees held in archives includes Panos' 'Women in conflict' oral testimony project (consists of 189 interview transcripts and 49 interview summaries) and the British Red Cross archives.

Mass Observation Archive, University of Sussex

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/massobs/>

The archive houses the work of the social research organisation, Mass-Observation, which specialises in material about everyday life in Britain. It contains papers that were generated by the original Mass-Observation social research organisation (1937 to early

1950s), and newer material collected continuously since the 1981. This organisation was founded in 1937, and comprised of a team of observers and a panel of volunteer writers to study the everyday lives of ordinary people in Britain. The panel was composed of people from all over Britain who either kept diaries or replied to regular open-ended questionnaires sent to them by the central team of Mass-Observers.

The national panel was revived by the archive in 1981 and continues today with people all over the country keeping diaries or replying to directives that ask them to submit their views on various topics four times a year.

The archive is open to researchers provided they agree to abide by the conditions protecting the collection. It holds all the material generated by Mass-Observation between 1937 and 1949, with a few later additions from the 1950s and 1960s, as well as the material from 1981 to the present day.

The materials fall into three main categories: a series of 3,000 typed reports produced by members who made up the central team of investigators that summarise the various studies; the raw material behind the various investigations (observations, survey papers, questionnaire replies, descriptions of places and events, newspaper cuttings and printed ephemera); the diaries and other personal material (day surveys and directive replies) submitted by members of the national panel.

Numerous directives from 1990 – present have addressed issues of racism and immigration, with one directive focussing on refugees and asylum seekers. The responses to these directives are a very interesting lens on public opinion. Interesting relevant directives include: racial discrimination & racial characteristics (Spring 1990); community and 'foreigners' (Spring 1993); 'Coming to Britain' (asylum seekers and refugees) (Summer 2000); ethnic minorities and jokes (Spring 2002); refugees from Kosovo (Summer 1999); and refugees from Afghanistan (Special 2001 & Autumn 2001). The material from the 1939 – 1951 period also includes interesting material on attitudes towards 'Jews', 'negroes' and other 'foreigners' generated by the Mass-Observation surveys.

Museum of London oral history projects

<http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk>

The Museum of London has been recording the memories of Londoners since 1992. Its oral history archive now contains thousands of hours of interviews and many other life documents such as photographs. The oral history interviews feature a wide variety of people who have lived and worked in London and who talk about their lives and everyday experiences. Many of the people who have been interviewed are of migrant origin, and a number are refugees. Researchers can access the oral history archive, and other museum archives, by appointment. Full text versions of a number of the interviews are also available online.

Other archives and oral history projects

A large number of oral histories are held in archives and libraries around the UK. Examples of some institutions and projects that may hold or have generated oral histories and other information on refugee populations include:

Refugees Stories Project

<http://www.refugeestories.org/>

Refugee Stories Project (RSP) is a heritage project that focused on the intangible aspects (e.g. stories, traditions and histories) of refugee communities in London. The project was run by the Evelyn Oldfield Unit (EOU) in partnership with the Museum of London, London Metropolitan University and 15 Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs). The first phase of this project collected life story testimonies of 167 individuals and the second phase produced a learning resource pack designed for KS3 Citizenship, History, Geography and English subjects. The archive and resource pack is available on request from the project website.

Bradford Heritage Unit (BHU)

<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/about/bhu.htm>

Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Libraries, Archives & Museum Service)

<http://www.haringey.gov.uk/leisure/brucecastlemuseum.htm>

Croydon Museum and Heritage Service (CMHS)

<http://www.croydon.gov.uk/cloctower>

Oral history projects, Southampton City Council

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/s-leisure/artsheritage/history/oralhistory/default.aspx>

Sound Archive, Museum of Welsh Life

<http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/195/>

Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop

<http://www.wforalhistory.org.uk/>

Listservs

Like them or loathe them, listservs are undoubtedly a very useful way of keeping on top of new developments, publications, and recent media coverage.

Many organisations and networks have their own listservs to communicate with their membership or to update regular users of their website on new additions and features (e.g. Refugee Council).

However, the list below cites only those listservs that focus on forced migration, cover a range of source materials, include a variety of contributors, and whose purpose is to disseminate information and facilitate discussion rather than communicate with a membership base. There are many other listservs that may include information on certain aspects of these issues, and some are mentioned in the sections above.

Before you subscribe, you should be aware that there is some overlap between the information circulated by the listservs below and this may or may not prove a problem to you!

Examples include:

Forced migration list

<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/FORCED-MIGRATION.html>

This listserv is a moderated discussion group on issues concerning refugees and internal displacement, managed by the Information Manager of Forced Migration Online. It is widely subscribed to by academics, students, field workers, and the staff of NGOs and international organisations, and includes discussion of forced migration issues and information about upcoming events, publications, and ongoing research. It is a very lively discussion group, and the members are hugely knowledgeable about a wide range of forced migration issues.

Independent Race and Refugee News Network (IRR)

<http://www.irr.org.uk/asylum/index.html>

In addition to its other work and information services, the network run by IRR also offers a free customised news service. Subscribers can choose to receive daily or weekly emails that list the latest new stories in the form of a headline and the first paragraph, with hyperlinks to the full story. If you select the 'immediate' option when you subscribe, you can also receive the complete story in the body of your email as soon as it has been published. The network collects stories about asylum and refugee issues from a wide range of sources, including local and regional press.

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns (NCADC)

<http://www.ncadc.org.uk/news/maillist.htm>

One of the long standing asylum-related listservs, the NCADC listserv has a strong campaigning function and circulates information about asylum seekers who are about to be deported, urging subscribers to act on their behalf. In addition to this, it provides very current information on policy and parliamentary issues, for example information on dates of readings and discussion of relevant legislation in Parliament.

Refugee Education: refed

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/refed/>

This Yahoo Groups listserv is a moderated discussion group of refugee education specialists. Members include teachers, education academics, LEA and local council staff, and interested individuals. It is a very lively discussion group, and the members are hugely knowledgeable about a wide range of asylum and refugee issues. Members post questions about, for example, points of law pertaining to refugee and asylum seeker access and rights to educational and social services, the availability of resources, the existence of groups, projects, or experts etc. and always receive several responses. It would serve as an excellent starting point for eliciting ideas and available resources on your research.

Refugeecdnetwork

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/refugeecdnetwork/>

This Yahoo Groups listserv is for development workers and community development workers based in statutory or voluntary agencies, community organisations working with refugees in the UK, and researchers and individuals interested in community development. It aims to provide subscribers with the opportunity to exchange information, good practice and experience.