

# ICAR Newsletter

## January 2011



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

This is our first newsletter since moving to the Runnymede Trust in July 2010. It has been a hectic 6 months racing to catch up with the work that we put on hold whilst saving the centre from closure.

We have now turned a corner with the launch of our financial inclusion project, and a range of new publications. Work has also begun on a new strategy for the years ahead.

### Financial Inclusion amongst New Migrants in Northern Ireland

On Monday 6th December the ICAR research report 'Financial Inclusion amongst New Migrants in Northern Ireland' was officially launched at Citizens Advice Belfast's AGM at Stormont. The research examines the nature of financial exclusion amongst new migrants in Northern Ireland and develops policy recommendations to promote financial inclusion in the future.

The project ran in parallel with a practical intervention by CAB Belfast, aimed at improving financial advice to new migrant communities. Both parts of the project were funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. This intervention has been evaluated by ICAR and the results included in the full project report.

Minister Alex Attwood and Members of the Legislative Assembly Jennifer McCann and Anna Lo spoke at the event and stressed the importance of the inclusion of new migrant communities and the value that they bring to Northern Irish society. Minister Alex Attwood said:



*"This report, based on real life experiences, helps government to better understand the barriers too often experienced by local migrant communities. It is imperative that government departments' work together to develop services that best meet the needs of migrant workers and their families."*

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

### Resource Guides

Following on from our successful seminar series last year we have a new section of the website titled Resource Guides aimed at helping those wishing to research refugee and migrant populations. The Gathering Evidence Effectively guide was launched at our first seminar back in December 2009 and details how to find resources on refugee and asylum populations.

Two new pages we have added are the Country of Origin Resource guide, with information sources on refugee sending countries, and Mapping Refugee and Migrant Communities in the UK, written by *Gabriela Quevedo*, which details data sources

with specific data about the movement of the population into and out of the UK.

You can view the Resource Guides here:

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

## Population Guides

ICAR Population Guides focus on key refugee populations in the UK. They provide a summary of the population's history in the UK, the issues they face, demographic and asylum data, country of origin information, and existing resources and projects. The Guides are aimed at users who do not have specialist knowledge of the population concerned. As such, they provide an introduction to particular populations and an overview of the evidence base in each instance, along with suitable signposts for those wishing to explore the topic further. The first two guides are focused on Afghans and Zimbabweans in the UK.

## ICAR Research Directory

90 new reports and articles on asylum issues in the UK and Europe have been collected and added to the ICAR Research Directory since June 2010. Here is a small sample:

- 'These People Could Be Anyone': Fear, Contempt (and Empathy) in a British Immigration Removal Centre by Alexandra Hall in the Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies Vol 36; No 6.
- Racism, class ethos and place: the value of context in narratives about asylum-seekers a case study based in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, by Gareth Millington. In The Sociological Review Vol 58 No 3.
- Strangers or Citizens? Refugee and migrant participation in local political processes in London report by the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum.
- New book: *Refugee women in Britain and France* by Allwood, Gill and Wadia, Khursheed. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- *Survey on Legal Aid for Asylum Seekers in Europe* by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and European Legal Network on Asylum (ELENA).
- *Vulnerable or Invisible? Asylum Seekers with Disabilities in Europe* by Clara Straimer, UNHCR New Issues in Research, Research Paper No 194.
- *Muslim Asylum-Seekers and Refugees: Negotiating Identity, Politics and Religion in the UK* by Fiddian-Qasmiyeh, Elena; Qasmiyeh, Yousif M.

in Journal of Refugee Studies, Vol 23 No 3.

## Articles and blogs

- *Julie Gibbs and Adeline Trude (BID)* wrote 'Released into Detention', featured in [the Autumn 2010 Runnymede Bulletin](#).
- *Jacob Lagnado* wrote 'Legal aid reforms will negatively impact on refugees and asylum seekers', featured as a guest blog post on [the Runnymede Westminster Monitor](#).

## Interns

ICAR has been running a successful internship programme for a number of years, typically taking two or three interns each term. Our interns get a chance to become part of the ICAR team and complete a piece of written work which is then published on the ICAR website. They therefore play a real part in the quality and depth of information provided by ICAR, especially the 'Mapping the UK' section. We would like to thank all of the interns below who helped us in autumn 2010:

- Rachel Humphris
- Sophie Jones
- Karen Toma
- Catherine Tustin
- Ratha Lehall

## Coming Up:

We will be launching two new Briefings early in 2011, one on Detention of Asylum Seekers and another on EU Policy.

The ICAR team at Runnymede comprises *Julie Gibbs*, Senior Research and Information Officer; and *Jacob Lagnado* and *Gabriela Quevedo*, Research and Information Officers.

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