



Making
Sense of Asylum

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

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

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

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Dear Viewer,

Welcome to the latest edition of ICAR's newsletter, highlighting our most recent work and website resources.

Updates – New Website Launch

ICAR has launched its new website with improved functionality and layout. ICAR resources can now be easily accessed through key thematic areas or by location (UK & Worldwide). The renovated website provides more accessible routes to our collections of information and research products. The research directory has over 2,000 entries, and we update our catalogue on a weekly basis, guaranteeing the relevance and usability of ICAR's resources for academics as well as policy makers, service providers, and students.

We will continue to develop and monitor the web pages in the coming months and welcome any feedback from users. Please email Julie.Gibbs@city.ac.uk

ICAR Blog

We have now moved the ICAR Blog from Word Press to integrate it into the main ICAR webpage's at <http://www.icar.org.uk/5778/blog/icar-blog.html>. This gives us greater control over the look and feel of the Blog and ensures that users of the ICAR website can access the blogs seamlessly. We publish the Asylum Update weekly on the blog and welcome any feedback as above.

Upcoming – Financial Inclusion project

An ICAR project to examine the extent form and consequences of financial exclusion amongst new migrants in Northern Ireland is currently underway. In partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau Belfast Inclusion, and Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic

Minorities (NICEM), the project will develop practical initiatives and policy recommendations to promote financial inclusion in the future, both in Northern Ireland and the UK.

The project is funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. For more information please contact Julie Gibbs.

New staff members at ICAR

Gabriela Quevedo joined ICAR in December 2008 as Research and Information Officer. Gabriela is a sociologist and holds an MA in Human Rights by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies – University of London. She worked for a number of years in Venezuela as a Research Officer at the Centre for Social Sciences (CISOR), and has volunteering experience in various NGOs both in Venezuela and the UK.

Gabriela will write information briefings and updates for the ICAR website, answer public enquiries and provide research support for ICAR projects.