

NEIL AMAS

Director, Information Centre about Asylum & Refugees

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An experienced senior manager and executive director who heads the UK's leading provider of independent information on asylum and refugees. He has conducted research on community cohesion, the advocacy role of refugee community organisations, disabled refugees, and new migrant housing and directs ICAR's research projects. He is currently writing and lecturing on media treatment of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK, based on ICAR's groundbreaking research in this area. He sits on the Runnymede Trust Academic Forum advising on issues around a multi-ethnic Britain, and until recently served as a trustee for the Detention Advisory Service. He regularly writes policy response documents across a range of migration and asylum related topics, and has extensive overseas fieldwork experience with refugees.

Employment

- Since 2005 **DIRECTOR** (since 4/08, previously Co-Director)
Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees, City University London.
The role combines strategic development and organisational and financial management with project management and research activities. Recent research grants include
- The cost of quality legal advice, Barings Foundation for Refugee and Migrant Justice.
 - Financial inclusion amongst new migrants in Northern Ireland, Gulbenkian Foundation.
 - Asylum seekers and surveillance, City University (with Dept. of Sociology)
 - Supporting disabled refugees and asylum seekers, Metropolitan Support Trust.
- 2001 - 2005 **PROGRAMME MANAGER**
Praxis, Bethnal Green, London
The organisation provides advice and support services to migrants and refugees, and a place for displaced communities to meet around sporting and cultural activities. Responsible for
- Health and social care programme management and development
 - Policy advocacy and research
 - Partnership building
 - Programme/project monitoring and evaluation
 - Fundraising and financial management
- 1994 - 99 **RESETTLEMENT MANAGER (THAILAND AND VIETNAM)**
International Catholic Migration Commission, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Managed the provision of Immigration/asylum and resettlement advice, advocacy, interviewing and casework , and inter-agency coordination and liaison

- 1994 **BROADCAST PRODUCER AND NEWSREADER**
Nation Publishing, Bangkok, Thailand
- 1990 - 94 **PROGRAMME COORDINATOR**
Phanat Nikhom Refugee Camp, Chonburi, Thailand.
Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees

Qualifications and Training

- 2002 NVQ 4 Management, Network Training and Research, London
- 2000 MSc Development Studies (Specifically Complex Emergencies), School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- 1999 RSA Certificate: Teaching English as a Foreign Language
- 1984 BA (Hons) Humanities, University of the West of England, Bristol

Selected Publications

Ward K, Amas N and Lagnado J (2008) *Supporting Disabled Refugees and Asylum Seekers: Opportunities for new approaches*. London: Metropolitan Support Trust.

Amas, N (2008), *Housing, New Migration and Community Relations: Reflections from the Evidence Base*. London: ICAR

Amas N and Price J (2007), *Strengthening the Voice of Refugee Community Organisations within London's Second Tier Voluntary Sector: Barriers and Opportunities*. London: London Refugee Voice

Amas, N and Crosland, B (2006), *Understanding the Stranger: Building Bridges Community Handbook*. London: Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Policy response papers

Response to the Department of Health's May 2004 'Proposals to Exclude Overseas Visitors from Eligibility to Free NHS Primary Care Medical Service' (Praxis, 2004)

Response to the Home Office consultation paper: 'Integration Matters: A National Strategy for Refugee Integration (Praxis, 2004)

Response to Lord Chancellor's Department Consultation Paper: 'Proposed Changes to Publicly Funded Immigration and Asylum Work' (Praxis, 2003)

Response to the Home Office's White Paper: 'Secure Borders, Save Haven: Integration with diversity in modern Britain'. (Praxis, 2002)