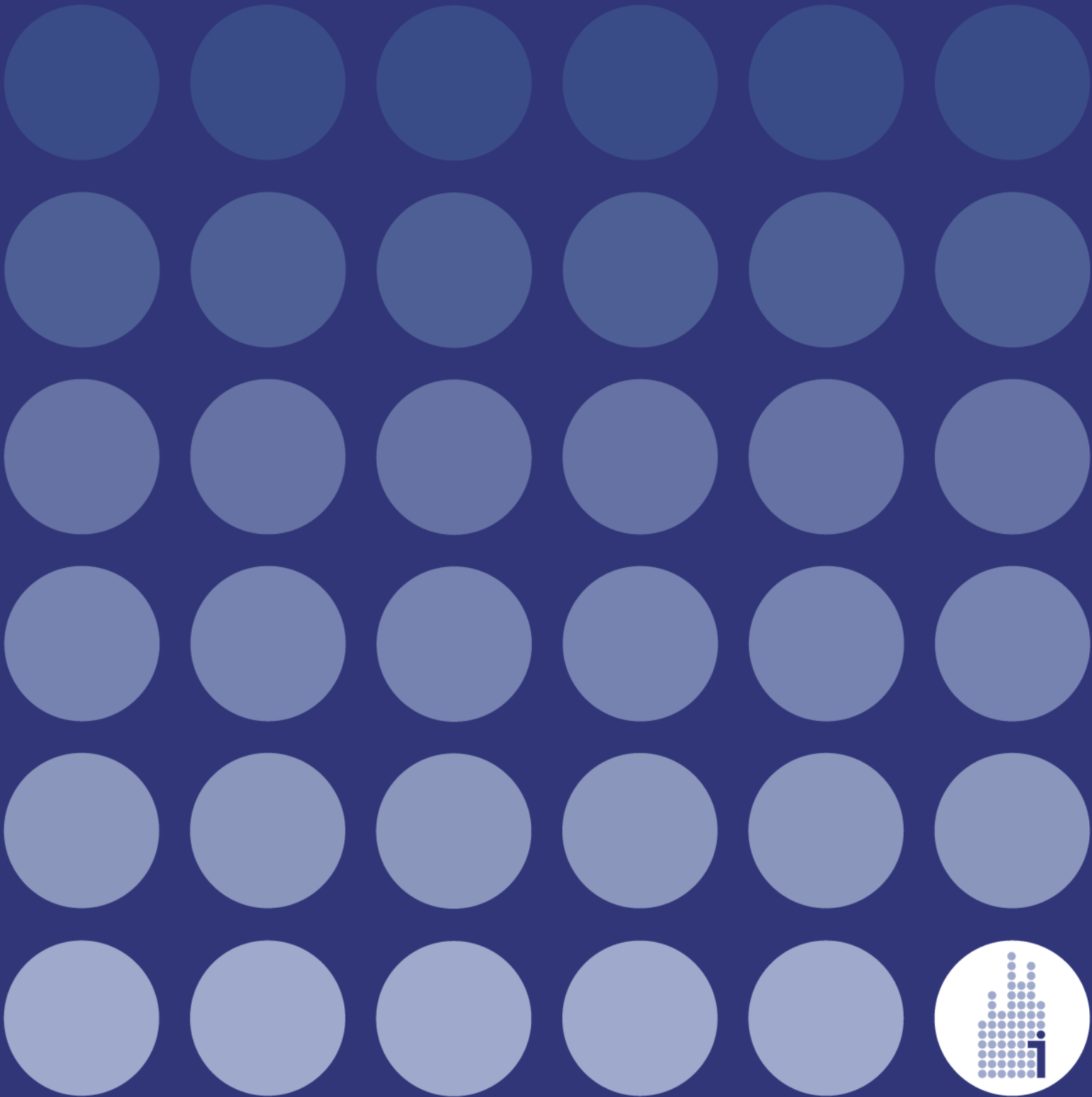


Information centre about asylum and refugees in
the UK - ICAR

Annual Report 2004/2005

“Asylum seekers and refugees are compelled to leave their countries of origin because of political persecution, conflict and poverty, which combine to remove safety, protection and opportunity.”





Information centre about asylum and refugees in the UK ICAR

**Fourth Annual Report
August 1st 2004 – July 31st 2005**



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A note from the Director

I am pleased to present ICAR's Fourth Annual Report. This has been my first year as Director, following the departure of ICAR's founder, Kirsteen Tait, in August 2004. Once again, ICAR has achieved a great deal and retained its position as the most trusted source of independent information and analysis about asylum and refugee issues in the UK.

The year's highlights included the redesign and re-launch of ICAR's website www.icar.org.uk. The creation of the site has been an enormous undertaking and made possible by Felicity Heyworth and Gareth Morrell who masterminded content design, oversaw the guarantee of functionality, liaised patiently with tincan Ltd our hosts and web designers, and quickly mastered the new content management system. The fruits of their labour are clear to see and the continuing increase in ICAR's Internet traffic attests to their skills and hard work.

ICAR is in the process of developing a media strategy. This is designed not only to increase the organisation's profile and fulfil its mandate to inform public debate and policy making, but also to increase our understanding of the media and engage more fully in public debates. We are grateful to Sarah Eldridge for managing our media and communications strategy.

"ICAR will increasingly seek to ask the 'big' questions about asylum and engage fully in public debate."

The period has also seen considerable activity in the area of work that has become known as Understanding the Stranger (UTS). Under the management of Beth Crosland, this ICAR programme has furthered considerably our knowledge about the complex relationships between refugees and asylum seekers and their host communities at a local level. UTS is designed to support practitioners and policy-makers working on this issue by providing easily understandable research findings and the experience and learning of their counterparts from across the UK. Significant publications from this project will be released next year.

ICAR's core information work has also gone from strength to strength, with new information products added to the website and existing products updated to reflect new knowledge and trends. Esme Peach, Kim Ward and Felicity Heyworth have been instrumental in ensuring the extremely high standard of ICAR's products and maintaining their continued relevance to the current debate. The Election Bulletins, authored by Kim Ward, were a particular highlight.

ICAR has said farewell to three members of staff during this year. Felicity Heyworth returned to Canada, Victoria Seymour moved to DFID, and Esme Peach has taken up a new position with Refugee Action. I would like to extend my thanks for all their

hard work and vision; individually and together they helped to shape ICAR and prepare it for the next stage of its development. We are also delighted to welcome Gareth Morrell, Katherine Mann and Sarah Eldridge to the staff.

2005/2006 will see considerable change at ICAR. New appointments will be made and ICAR will concentrate its efforts on its core activities – the collection and dissemination of information principally through the website; academic research, publishing and conference participation; and active engagement with policy makers and practitioners in the refugee sector. Our primary objectives remain to analyse, inform and where appropriate shape public debate about asylum in the UK; to analyse and engage in the policy making process by, among other things, presenting evidence and identifying policy alternatives; and improve knowledge of refugee issues in the UK and globally through academic research and media contributions.

The funding situation is secure for the coming year; however, much of the next twelve months will be devoted to securing ICAR's financial future. ICAR will increasingly seek to ask the 'big' questions about asylum and engage fully in public debate. It will locate UK asylum issues in a European and global context.

I would like to thank all those who have helped ICAR over the past twelve months and who have contributed to our success.

Essential to that success is the support of our Consultative Committee, and it was with great sadness that we learnt in August about the death of Sir Jack Hibbert. Jack made a significant contribution to ICAR as a key member of the Consultative Committee. He provided ICAR with clear guidance on statistics and their importance in the asylum debate and in the framing and presentation of policies. Jack's insistence that ICAR must deepen its expertise in statistical matters will guide our fundraising efforts over the coming twelve months.

Christopher McDowell
October 2005

About ICAR

The Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR) is an independent organisation set up to collect, collate, analyse and disseminate current, academically credible information about asylum and refugees in the UK. We aim to raise the level of public debate and promote better understanding of the issues. We respond to the need for authoritative, independently generated information about complex and controversial issues, presented in an objective manner.

ICAR is not an advocacy organisation, except in pursuit of increasing the quantity and quality of information available.

ICAR was established in 2001. It has charitable objectives and is based in the School of Social Science and Public Policy at King's College London.

For more information visit:

www.icar.org.uk/aboutus

What ICAR does

ICAR engages in a number of activities in order to fulfil its aims and objectives:

- ICAR identifies and records information, research and data on asylum and refugees in the UK from all available sources
- ICAR undertakes original research on asylum and refugees in the UK and on the causes and consequences of global forced migration
- ICAR seeks out new, untapped sources in an effort to capture information that might otherwise be lost or remain isolated from other relevant or complimentary work
- ICAR digests, analyses and synthesises information to make it more relevant, comprehensible and widely available
- ICAR responds to enquiries and disseminates and presents best available information to a wide range of audiences and users
- ICAR develops and undertakes projects that enhance and extend its information services and offer new opportunities and sources of information

These activities inform and are informed by five main bodies of evidence:

- Academic research, including postgraduate
- Asylum seekers' and refugees' own experiences of asylum and settlement in the UK
- The experiences of the general public regarding asylum seekers and refugees
- Local, regional and national government information and data
- Refugee agency and other voluntary sector information and data

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/aimsandobjectives

ICAR staff

Dr Christopher McDowell – Director

Christopher McDowell has been a researcher, consultant and teacher on forced migration for the past twenty years. His interests in forced displacement and resettlement as a result of conflict or development have seen him conduct research in Asia, Africa, Australia and Europe. He has held research positions at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Programme and the Institute of Development Studies; and a Senior Lectureship at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia

Beth Crosland – Programme Manager

Beth has been at ICAR since it was founded in 2001. She is currently the *Understanding the stranger* programme manager. This programme, based on research carried out by ICAR, is about how to promote understanding between refugees and asylum seekers and their host communities at a local level and currently involves a number of projects. Beth also manages ICAR's *'asylum in the media'* programme.

Kim Ward – Information Officer

Kim joined ICAR in 2004 and also currently works part-time as an advice worker at a refugee centre in central London. Kim has written a number of products for ICAR's website and manages ICAR's involvement in the *Coventry Welcome Project*.

Gareth Morrell – Finance and Administrative Officer

Gareth joined ICAR in March 2005 and is responsible for preparing ICAR's budget proposals and for controlling current research grants. Gareth is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the ICAR website and has been since its re-launch.

Katherine Mann – focUS Research Officer

Katherine recently joined ICAR as a researcher on the *focUS project*. She is responsible for developing and facilitating the various research elements of the project, as well as disseminating key project findings via the ICAR's website.

Sarah Eldridge – Media Officer

Sarah works with journalists to ensure they make maximum use of ICAR's research and data. She monitors media coverage of asylum and refugee issues and liaises with politicians, academics and others about the impact of their work.

For further information on ICAR's staff and individual contact details visit: www.icar.org.uk/staff

ICAR's funders

The following organisations are responsible for providing funding for ICAR's core and project-related activities across 2004/2005. ICAR is very grateful for their support.

- Atlantic Philanthropies
- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
- Camelot Foundation
- Comic Relief
- Commission for Racial Equality
- Coventry Refugee Centre
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
- Greater London Authority
- Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales
- National Refugee Integration Forum
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- Rayne Foundation
- Robert Gavron Charitable Trust
- Sigrid Rausing Trust

ICAR online

The year ended with the re-launch of the ICAR website following a comprehensive review and revamp to make it more transparent and navigable. The new format maintains the distinctive ICAR colour scheme and logo, while allowing the user to navigate more easily and quickly through ICAR's extensive catalogue of resources and programmes. In addition to the improved navigability of the site, the information held within each resource and programme is now more accessible having been broken-up into more manageable and readable pages.

Website innovations

The new website has allowed ICAR to launch a number of new innovations that make the site more relevant, user friendly and up-to-date:

- *Understanding the Stranger mini-site* – this programme of work now has its own dedicated pages housed in ICAR's main website, with its own design and homepage
- *'What's New?' section* – alerting the reader to the latest additions to the site, new reports and resources in the field and developments in asylum and refugee policy
- *Expanded Media section* – including an easy reference guide for journalists giving brief answers and signposts to further information on commonly asked questions. It also gives contact details for ICAR's new media officer
- *Factsheets* - a series of quick and succinct reference guides to the key issues about asylum and refugees in the UK. Their subject matter will reflect the issues covered in ICAR's [navigation guides](#), but in a less detailed and more instantly accessible format. The first factsheet gives the user an insight into [public opinion on asylum and refugee issues](#) in the UK.

ICAR redeveloped its site in close partnership with **tincan ltd**

Other website developments this year

ICAR has also developed its web-based information products during the process of the redesign.

- *Asylum in the election* – ICAR produced a series of bulletins focusing on issues and debates thrown up before and during the 2005 general election campaign. These consisted of a series of papers analysing speeches and issues raised by politicians, putting them in a broader context with reference to other information. A second list offered analysis of issues by theme.

ICAR's **Understanding the Stranger** programme now has its own mini-site, with distinct branding and homepage

- Addition of Glasgow, Cardiff and Lambeth to the 'Mapping the UK' section
- New navigation guide to public opinion on asylum and refugee issues - written by Dr Nissa Finney, to give an overview of knowledge, ideas and debates relating to public opinions on asylum and refugee issues. Kim Ward has also written a vastly updated navigation guide to regional protection zones and transit processing centres offering a comprehensive overview of these plans by the UK government.
- UK in a global context – a new area of the website focusing on how events and processes in other parts of the world affect asylum and refugee issues in the UK.

Existing web products

All the developments to the website build on a number of successful existing resources and products.

- *Navigation guides* - giving detailed information and analysis of particular refugee and asylum issues and communities in the UK. These are written by experts in an accessible and comprehensive format.
- *Statistics section* - highlighting newly available statistics on asylum and migration with summaries and analysis, listing sources of asylum statistics and referring to other relevant ICAR products.
- *Mapping the UK* - providing information about asylum and refugees in specific towns and cities across the UK. An interactive map allows the user to select a town or city which then opens up links to historical, statistical, resource, project and real lives information about the area, along with contact details.
- *Media pages* - offering guidelines for journalists, reference to media research on asylum and refugee issues, and listing ICAR's own contributions to the media.
- *Making better use of data and information* - to assist the research capacity of agencies working with and for refugees and asylum seekers, by offering an information pack of ideas and guidance for the effective collection and use of data and information by refugee and related agencies. It includes the full text of the publication "Doing case studies for the refugee sector: a DIY handbook for agencies and practitioners".
- *About refugee research* - explaining how and why research is commissioned, conducted and disseminated in the academic, government and NGO sectors. This is accompanied by two searchable databases of resources and web links.
- *Digests of relevant publications* - summarising reports, books and other publications of interest to professionals and others working with asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. These are written to a standard format and include information about subject coverage, methodology, aims, findings and recommendations of each publication as well as details about ordering and online availability.

ICAR operates three online **searchable directories** of digests of relevant publications, resources and links

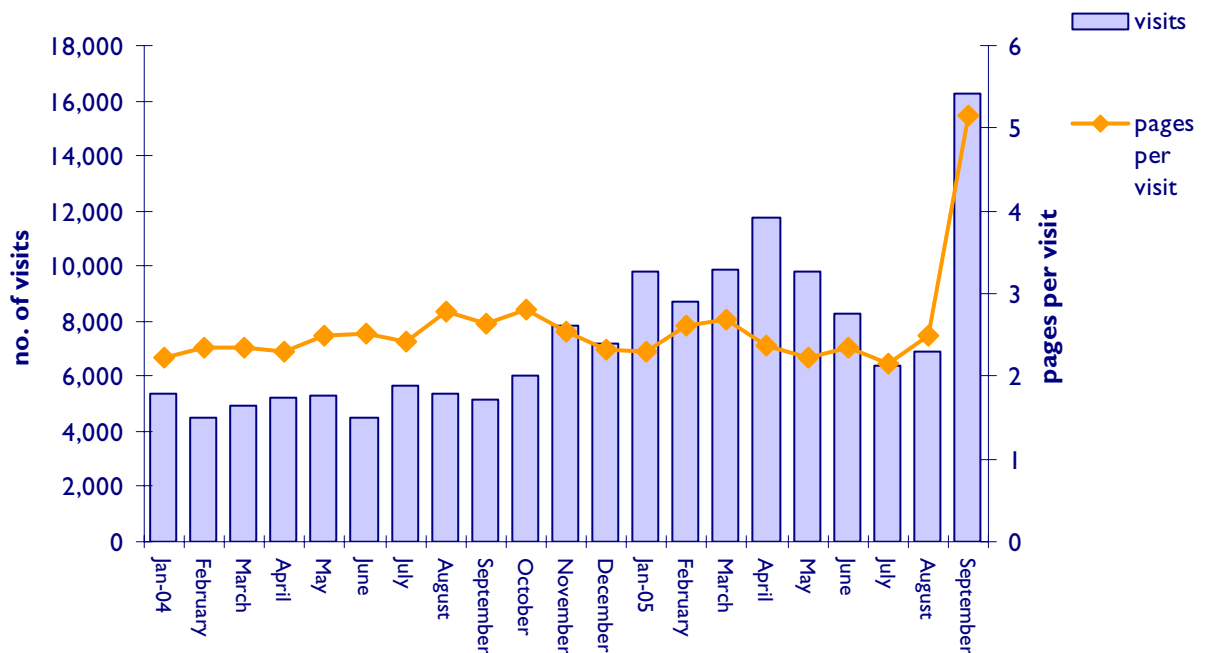
- *Resources Directory* – nearly 2000 records of resources relevant to asylum and refugees in the UK
- *Links Directory* – over 350 links to other websites offering national, regional and local coverage, organised by type of information provider, subject and geographical area
- *Real Lives section* - linking to electronic narratives of refugees' own experiences of forced migration and accounts from people working and living with them
- *Programmes section* - providing detailed information about ICAR's past and ongoing work
- *Administrative section* - containing information about ICAR's funders, consultative committee, staff and operational policies

User statistics and feedback

Over fifty new users subscribed to ICAR's website in the first month of its re-launch – total number subscribed is 385

Detailed website user statistics are tracked on a daily basis and, prior to the re-launch of the site, these stats reflected a steady growth in the number of users. The new site went live to users on 1st September and the number of visitors to our site increased dramatically during this month, with substantially more users than ever before visiting ICAR's site. Previously, the site's most visited month was April 2005, receiving 11,764 visits as the general election campaigns reached their climax. In September 2005 the site received 16,254 visits, nearly 40% more than in April 2005. This is also a substantial increase on September 2004 when the site received 5,141 visits (see chart 1).

chart 1 - www.icar.org.uk user statistics



“Having read through 'UK Asylum Law And Process', NCADC would strongly recommend that everyone should download a copy”
NCADC news service

In addition to the increased number of visits to ICAR’s site, the number of pages being viewed has increased at an even more impressive rate. Comparing again April 2005 with the first month figures for the re-launched site, the number of pages being viewed by users has increased by over 200%, from 27,791 to 83,852. This means that on average, each individual user now views over 5 pages per visit. Previously, users were only viewing between 2 and 3 pages per visit. This suggests that users are finding the site easier to navigate and being drawn to other areas of the site they may otherwise have ignored.

We are able to track visits to individual pages and thus record the popularity of particular products and reports. While it is early days for the analysis of these particular statistics, the figures suggest that products benefit from being advertised directly from the homepage, which is good news as the new site has greater options and flexibility to display more of our products directly from the homepage. The search terms used to identify the site are also recorded, and teach us a lot about current interests and concerns. ICAR’s *Google* rating is also very high and ICAR web pages regularly feature at the top of *Google* searches on asylum and refugee issues.

While all the initial indications of these statistics are excellent, it is expected that the number of users may fall a little as the months progress, as is standard for a re-developed or re-designed website. The promising aspect, however, is the impressive pages per visit statistics. The fact that users are viewing considerably more pages at each visit suggests that ICAR will retain many of its new users as a result of the re-launch as they are clearly finding useful information on the site.

User feedback

It is a well-known frustration to website designers and managers that when a website looks good and works well, compliments and encouragement are rare. Nonetheless, ICAR has had several unsolicited emails in the past year commending the site. These usually relate to particular website products, which are clearly serving a purpose and meeting a need:

*“In September 2005 the site received **16,254 visits**, nearly 40% more than in April 2005, previously the busiest month for ICAR’s website.”*

- *The ICAR digests have been of use to me on a number of different pieces of work. The clear summaries that they provide have allowed me to inform my work with research that it would otherwise be impossible to consider within the time constraints of my role.*
Policy & Research Officer, Barnardo's
- *Just wanted to make contact and let you know that I think the website is fantastic and so useful - and especially the mapping. Really begging you to finish this as it would be so useful for organisations like mine. We have offices all over the UK, and at the moment am trying to widen our participation with refugees across the regions. The*

*concept is fantastic and very very needed - please please add in detail for elsewhere!
... Really do think it's a real encyclopedia of information and will just be so useful when
up and running for everywhere. Please do add my email to your distribution. Think you
deserve very large pat on the back for this!*

Refugee Manager, The Prince's Trust

- *Those city "maps" are great!*
Journalist from the Economist

- *The sections of towns looks excellent.*
Information and Policy Officer, South East Consortium

- *The mapping is BRILLIANT.*
Director of Northern Refugee Centre

- *Having read through 'UK Asylum Law And Process', NCADC would strongly recommend
that everyone should download a copy. It will take you through the asylum process
from beginning to end, in a language which is easy to understand and follow.*
National Coalition Against Deportation Campaign news service listserv

- *The navigation guides on women R/ASkrs and gay and lesbian R/ASkrs are particularly
helpful to have and I have passed the details of these on internally and externally. I'm
hoping the forthcoming health navigation guide will include HIV, although HIV is a topic
in itself for a navigation guide.*
Policy and Publications Coordinator, George House Trust

*For more information on the
ICAR website and its products
contact **Gareth Morrell:**
t: 020 7848 2103
e: gareth.morrell@kcl.ac.uk*

The **Ask ICAR!** service is available by phone:
t: 020 7848 2103
or email:
e: icar@kcl.ac.uk

Ask ICAR!

Providing timely, accurate and objective information is fundamental to ICAR's work in creating an environment for informed public debate. To this end ICAR staff continue to respond to requests for information from researchers, journalists, students and others wanting advice, contacts and guidance on asylum and refugee issues.

Ask ICAR responds to between twenty and forty enquiries every month. The service can provide:

- contact details for key organisations, experts and spokespeople
- short briefings on topical issues
- detailed resource lists
- summaries of recent research evidence
- key statistics



Responses are tailored to the user's needs and the initial response is immediate. An agreed deadline is set – and met – for responses requiring further research.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/askICAR

ICAR and the media

Following the appointment of our new Media Officer, ICAR has stepped up efforts to establish itself as *the* source of academically credible information about asylum and refugees for journalists, politicians and other interested parties. We feature in national and international media, we are consulted regularly by journalists and academics and there has been a dramatic increase in the number of ‘hits’ at ICAR’s revamped website.

Media strategy

ICAR has been developing a media strategy aimed at national and local media, sector press and organisations, government departments and agencies, and academic and research bodies. The main aim is to make sure they have accurate, objective and up to date information about asylum and refugee issues and their implications.

Media contacts

ICAR’s media work has focused on identifying and contacting key organisations and individuals including journalists, communications officers in relevant organisations and MPs. We have opened discussions with other refugee organisations with a view to setting up an informal network for information sharing and forward planning; we have entered discussions with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees with a view to publicising and developing our work with MPs.

Website

ICAR has launched its revamped website with a sharper, updated media section (leaping from nowhere to the top ten of ICAR’s most visited pages) including easy reference pages with answers to commonly asked questions (in the top 20 most visited pages). The media URL is the third most frequent entry point for the website, suggesting our mail-out alert to journalists was effective. In addition, the media page does not feature in the top 10 exit points for the site, suggesting that most who arrive at the media homepage move on to look at other pages in that section and link through the site before leaving.

Further developments are planned, including background information about new and upcoming issues in the public eye, observations on current media coverage and a section listing expert contacts.

General Election

ICAR produced a specially targeted series of Election Bulletins, drawing attention to and contextualising the evidence relating to political speeches and themes. ICAR’s

Contact ICAR’s new Media Officer, **Sarah Eldridge**,
by phone:
020 7848 2103
or email:
sarah.eldridge@kcl.ac.uk

director was invited to be part of ITN's Election Panel of Experts on hand to explain refugee and asylum issues as they arose during the campaign.

*"The **media url** is the third most frequent entry point for the website"*

Media and public appearances

BBC News on-line published the ICAR director's response to the IPPR/Sheffield University/BBC research 'Born Abroad'; he also contributed to a BBC Radio Wales documentary 'Scroungers'; his article on international migration was featured on openDemocracy.com; he was interviewed for articles in Pacific News Service and a Norwegian-based publication. ICAR is The Link on BBC's iCan pages on immigration, and other BBC stories on refugee and asylum issues.

ICAR's director has taken part in a number of public debates including a Refugee Week discussion at the Jewish Museum alongside journalists from the Observer, Financial Times and BBC.

Media monitoring/research

ICAR's media officer monitors media coverage of refugee and asylum issues and works closely with our media monitoring projects (currently for the GLA and the Home Office/Press Complaints Commission). Both are adding to ICAR's growing expertise in this area and raising ICAR's profile in the field.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/media

ICAR programmes

ICAR continues to organise and extend the amount of available information about asylum and refugee issues, building a fund of expertise for ourselves and others. Staff are engaged on a number of programmes to collect, record and analyse new sources of information and expand existing ones to consolidate ICAR's reputation as the single most authoritative source on asylum and refugees in the UK.

Our programmes bring us into contact with refugees and asylum seekers, agency staff, policy makers, researchers, and local people from across the UK, enabling us to keep in touch with local concerns and initiatives and to update our information and services accordingly. The programmes entail research projects, organised workshops and conferences and written pieces for journals and the ICAR website. We aim to contextualise this work in terms of global events, government policy and media coverage.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/programmes

Media and Political Images

ICAR is involved in a number of projects that monitor the representation of asylum and refugee issues in both national and local media:

Asylum in the Election

Throughout the general election campaign, we used ICAR's web pages to monitor and examine the way politicians and the media dealt with issues around asylum and immigration. ICAR highlighted instances where unsourced or unverified statistics were being used and pointed people towards more credible available evidence. ICAR's analysis was presented in two ways:

- *Bulletins* – responding to specific speeches or news reports and providing selected links to further commentary to assist understanding.
- *Themes* – organising information and evidence presented in the bulletins under thematic headings [numbers, removals, smuggling, resettlement, off-shore processing, social cohesion and political images, identity, reasons for flight, quotas, decision-making].

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/election2005

National Refugee Integration Forum (NRIF) Media Monitoring

This project assesses the impact and adequacy of the Press Complaints Commission guidance notes on reporting of refugees and asylum seekers

ICAR, in partnership with the MediaWise, Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Media Project (RAM), The Refugee Council and Student Action for Refugees (STAR) has been commissioned by the National Refugee Integration Forum (NRIF) to investigate the impact and adequacy of this guidance. The research has three main elements:

ICAR's asylum in the media programme will lead to two important publications in the coming year for the GLA and the NRIF

- content analysis of a broad range of national and regional press coverage of UK asylum and refugee issues to identify articles which potentially breach key elements of the industry Code of Practice and the PCC guidance notes. It will also provide an in-depth picture of post-guidance coverage in order to provide evidence of reporting trends across the UK, to contextualise the more detailed analysis, and to assess the impact of the PCC guidance notes.
- detailed investigations of stories which appear to flout the industry Code of Practice and the PCC guidance notes to establish whether they are fair and accurate and whether they do indeed breach the code and guidance notes.
- feedback interviews with editors/senior journalists to explore trends revealed by the monitoring.

The body of evidence collected through the project will be presented to organisations and individuals with a role in promoting fair and accurate reporting about this group, including the NRIF and the PCC.

GLA media monitoring

ICAR was commissioned by the Greater London Authority to monitor and analyse local press coverage of refugees and asylum seekers.

The work involved monitoring reporting between January-February 2005 by 31 London local newspapers, two London regional newspapers, and seven minority ethnic/faith papers. The aim was to assess the degree to which their coverage demonstrated inaccurate and unbalanced reporting, and used images in language, photographs and graphics likely to engender in readers feelings of fear and hostility towards refugees and asylum seekers. This research has been carried out in partnership with Dr Roger Grimshaw of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies at King's College London, Kate Smart a freelance researcher contracted by ICAR and Laura Quick. It is due to be published by the GLA in autumn 2005.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/mediapoliticalimages



Films from this project will be shown in London in the coming year

Understanding the Stranger (UTS)

This ICAR programme is about our work in promoting understanding between refugees and asylum seekers and their host communities at a local level.

Following on from our work with local people in six towns and cities in the UK, ICAR staff are engaged in *focUS – connecting futures*, a participatory film-making project with young people in Coventry and Peterborough. Working with partners Frontline AV and Living Lens this brings together young people from the host and asylum & refugee communities to make films about themselves.

ICAR is also writing a handbook called *Understanding the stranger building bridges community handbook – combating asylum-related community tension at a local level*. This handbook will present innovative initiatives from across the UK that aim to mediate tension and build bridges between local host communities and asylum seekers and refugees. An ICAR introduction will draw out the common messages revealed by the initiatives as well as by other relevant research and projects.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/uts

Patterns of Refugee Settlement

With this new programme, ICAR intends to develop a body of work that attempts to identify where refugees in the UK have settled, what their experiences are and how they have been involved in research. It was initiated on the back of work commissioned by ICAR on the Somali community in the UK, written by Hermione Harris.

We hope soon to follow this up with work on the Tamil community in the UK.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/refugeesettlement

CRE literature review

This work for the Commission for Racial Equality on attitudes towards asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants encompasses the following facets of public attitudes towards asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants:

- the content of people's attitudes – what people think about asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants, including attitudes possessed by particular groups within society, especially ethnic minorities;
- how these attitudes are developed and influenced, with a particular focus on the relationship between media coverage and people's attitudes. Again, this includes distinctions in terms of how different groups within society are influenced by different messages, approaches, types of media, or sources of 'information'; and
- examples of successful campaigns or other initiatives designed to influence attitudes towards asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants.

The review considers the weight that should be attached to the various findings, and the specific aspects of public attitudes to which the findings are applicable. It also highlights relevant gaps in the existing body of evidence. The final draft of the review was submitted to the CRE in October 2004.

UK in a global context

This programme is an attempt to understand how events and processes in other parts of the world affect asylum and refugee issues in the UK. This programme, currently at an early stage, intends to improve understanding of refugee and asylum issues by providing information on the global context in which these issues are located. So far we have contributions on the following issues:

ICAR's UK in a global context programme
responds to a lack of information on the causes of displacement

- state-promoted displacement - actions of states, be it from development programmes, conflicts or political desire, displace millions across the world. ICAR's Director, Dr Chris McDowell has written an article addressing the impact of issues in the developing world, particularly in terms of internal displacement.
- supra-national institutions - policy frameworks to support and/or manage people seeking asylum can have a big impact on domestic countries and refugees. Plans have been agreed at regional level for 'off-shore' processing of asylum seekers in various parts of the globe, yet whether they provide effective protection and durable solutions is unclear. The recent Monash Conference addressed this subject and a summary of the papers given here will soon be available on this section of ICAR's website.
- Forced migration online (FMO) partnership - ICAR is FMO's first domestic partner and allows collaboration with FMO's extensive catalogue of resources on the situation of forced migrants worldwide and concepts used to understand this situation.

For more information visit:
www.icar.org.uk/globalcontext

ICAR seminars

“The range of speakers was perfectly chosen and balanced”

Panel member – ESRC workshops

Researching migrant populations

Training workshops for postgraduates, 11 – 12 May and 23 – 24 June 2005, Oxford and London.

Building on its work with postgraduates as part of the ICAR/UNHCR Postgraduate Network, ICAR joined forces with the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society [COMPAS] at the University of Oxford, to organise a set of training workshops tailored towards doctoral students working in the field of migration.

The workshops, funded by the ESRC Training and Development Board, were designed to encourage the exchange of information and ideas between expert academics, policymakers, practitioners and students. Recently graduated students were invited to explain their experiences and the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches that they used. Above all, participants were given unique training, not currently available elsewhere, on research methods particular to the field of migration and strategies for making research relevant to policy makers within and outside of government.

The linked events were held around four topics:

- *Workshop one:* Migration, postgraduate research and evidence-based policy
- *Workshop two:* Using interview methods with migrant populations
- *Workshop three:* Ethics and access in researching migrant populations
- *Workshop four:* Navigating migration statistics

“The ESRC investment in this series should reap rewards in the quality of students' research methodologies and outputs!”

Panel member - ESRC workshops

Interactive sessions were led by experienced trainers allowing students to feed in their own experiences and questions whilst trying out new techniques. The opportunity was provided to discuss general themes and questions raised during the day with a panel of experts. The group was kept small to encourage participants to share their experiences and difficulties, to brainstorm possible solutions and allow them to experiment and practice what they were taught.

Trainers and panellists from a range of organisations and universities participated, including: the Home Office, the Refugee Council, Save the Children, UNHCR, Panos, the Greater London Authority, RAPAR, North of England Refugee Service, University of Sussex, and Queen Mary's Evidence Centre.

ICAR publication seminars

ICAR hosted two seminars this year, aimed at bringing together individuals and organisations interested and involved in work done by ICAR on the impact of media images of asylum seekers and refugees on public opinion and the Somali population in the UK respectively. Both seminars were by invitation only, and were organised so as to foster informed and lively discussion and debate.

ICAR contributions to seminars, conferences and events

ICAR has also contributed to a number of other events at which ICAR's particular expertise has been a valuable addition.

- *The right to seek and enjoy asylum? The Pacific, Mediterranean and Caribbean plans compared* - workshops were held in Prato, Italy on 26th and 27th September, 2005. ICAR has contributed to the organisation of this international conference examining the current state of 'off-shore' processing plans and policy. It will also consider possible future directions, for 'off-shore' processing in the Pacific, Mediterranean and Caribbean regions with a view to determining whether they provide 'Effective Protection' and 'Durable Solutions' for asylum seekers and refugees. It will examine and evaluate current European proposals to emulate Australia's Pacific Plan, against the protection needs of asylum seekers and the need for durable solutions for refugees.
- Panel Member, Media and Refugees, Jewish Museum, Thursday 23 June 2005
- Keynote, Refugee Arrivals Project, Heathrow Airport, Thursday 12 May 2005
- 'The End of Mass Asylum(?) in an Era of Global Displacement', Keynote Address at Annual Conference, Refugee Action, Bosworth Hall Hotel, Thursday 21 April 2005.
- 'Asylum and the Election', presented at Conference, 'Asylum Support and Refugee Integration', The Royal Institution, London, 21 March 2005.
- 'The Involuntary Resettlement Challenge', presented at King's College Public Forum, 'The Aftermath of the Asian Tsunami' Thursday 10 February 2005.
- 'Political Images and Community Impact: Refugee Reporting and Public Attitudes in the Context of Global Refugee Management', presented at Conference, 'Supporting and Integrating Refugees and Asylum Seekers: The Way Forward', London, 26 January 2005.
- 'Media Images and Community Impact', London Metropolitan University, 4 November 2004.

ICAR publications

ICAR's election bulletins

[bulletin no. 1](#)

Response to speech by the Liberal Shadow Home Secretary
20th September 2004

[bulletin no. 2](#)

Response to speech by the leader of the Conservative party
22nd September 2004

[bulletin no. 3](#)

Response to speech by the Home Secretary
29th September 2004

[bulletin no. 4](#)

Response to speech by the Shadow Home Secretary
6th October 2004

[bulletin no. 5](#)

Response to speech by the leader of the Conservative party
24th January 2005

[bulletin no. 6](#)

Response to five-year strategy for immigration and asylum, presented to
Parliament by the Home Secretary
7th February 2005

[bulletin no. 7](#)

Response to speech by the leader of the Conservative party
10th April 2005

[bulletin no. 8](#)

Response to Conservative election manifesto
11th April 2005

[bulletin no. 9](#)

Labour election manifesto
13th April 2005

[bulletin no. 10](#)

Speech by the Prime Minister
22nd April 2005

All by Kim Ward

2004-2005

ICAR's signpost series

[films about asylum seekers, refugees and forced migration](#)

Jo Pettitt and Esme Peach

June 2004 - updated January 2005

[EU accession and asylum](#)

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April 2004 - updated May 2004

ICAR responses to Home Office publications

[ICAR's response to:](#) Home Office, 2004, *Integration matters: A national strategy for refugee integration*

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October 2004

[ICAR's response to:](#) Home Office, 2002, *Secure Borders, Safe Haven: Integration with Diversity in Modern Britain - White Paper*

ICAR

March 2002

For more information visit:

www.icar.org.uk/publications

In addition to the publications above, see also ICAR's online resources:

- navigation guides to key issues and refugee populations, visit www.icar.org.uk/navigationguides
- factsheets, visit www.icar.org.uk/factsheets
- digests of relevant publications, visit www.icar.org.uk/drps
- statistics by theme, visit www.icar.org.uk/stats

ICAR staff publications

Van Hear, N. and MCDOWELL C. (eds) (2005) *Catching Fire: Containing Complex Displacement in a Volatile World*, Lexington, Lanham, Maryland, ISBN: 0-7391-0923-5, in press.

MCDOWELL, C. and Van Hear, N. (2005) Introduction. Chapter 1 in Van Hear, N. and McDowell C. (eds) *Catching Fire: Containing Complex Displacement in a Volatile World*, Lexington, Lanham, Maryland, ISBN: 0-7391-0923-5.

MCDOWELL, C. (2005) 'Displacement, Return and Justice in the Creation of Timor Leste' Chapter 7 in Van Hear, N. and McDowell C. (eds) *Catching Fire: Containing Complex Displacement in a Volatile World*, Lexington, Lanham, Maryland, ISBN: 0-7391-0923-5 .

MCDOWELL, C. and Van Hear, N. (2005) 'Linking Return and Reintegration to Complex Forced Migration Emergencies: Diversities of Conflict, Patterns of Displacement and Humanitarian Responses - A Comparative Analysis' in Dumper, M. (ed.) *Palestinian Refugee Repatriation in Global Perspective* Routledge, London, in press.

MCDOWELL, C. (2005) 'An Asylum Diaspora: Tamils in Switzerland'. In Ember, C. R., Ember, M., and Skoggard, I. (eds.) *Encyclopedia of Diasporas Immigrant and Refugee Cultures Around the World, Part Two: Topics - Types of Diasporas*, Kluwer, Yale, ISBN: 0-306-48321-1, pp.534-544.

MCDOWELL, C. (2005) 'Refugees', in *Encyclopaedia of the Developing World*, Routledge, New York (November)

MCDOWELL, C., Pittaway, E. and MacKenzie, C. (2005) *Ethics of Refugee Research: Forum Report*, University of New South Wales and Macquarie University.

ICAR's contribution to knowledge transfer

'Knowledge transfer is about combining education, relationship building, innovation and investment, to transfer the outcomes of universities' teaching and research to industry and society'.

- *Asian Development Bank* - Commissioned Christopher McDowell to advise Indian, Chinese and Cambodian governments on the management of impoverishment risks arising out of planned development investments and involuntary population displacement.
- *Greater London Authority* - Commissioned ICAR to apply its methodology for monitoring press coverage, to examine the local and cross-London press coverage of refugee and asylum issues. Draft report submitted in April 2005 influenced GLA's new initiative for Press Awards acknowledging good reporting of asylum in London.
- *Coventry City Council* - Have commissioned ICAR to undertake research in residential areas of Coventry to gauge people's attitudes to asylum seekers and refugees and evaluate City Council initiatives to improve community relations. Commission based on ICAR's Understanding the Stranger work.
- *The Law Society* - Have commissioned ICAR to advise The Law Society on a project to assess why immigration detainees receive often poor quality legal advice in UK detention centres. Commission based on ICAR expertise in research methodologies among refugees and knowledge of the asylum legal system.
- *Refugee Council* - Invited ICAR to sit on Council Research Advisory Group
- *Housing Association* - Invited ICAR to sit on Advisory Committee for Charitable Trust

Acknowledgements

Consultative Committee

ICAR would especially like to thank members of our Consultative Committee for their help, advice and guidance. By guarding ICAR's commitment to independence and acting as a rigorous sounding board they play a vital part in ICAR's development and progress. ICAR's consultative committee meet three times a year in an advisory capacity to ICAR's staff. ICAR is very grateful to the following members for their continued support:

- *Lord Browne-Wilkinson* - Chairman - retired Law Lord
- *Professor Michael Clarke* - Director of the International Policy Institute, King's College London
- The late *Sir Jack Hibbert* - former Director of the Central Statistical Office
- *Professor Roger Jowell* - Director of the Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University
- *Dr Khalid Koser* - Lecturer in Human Geography, University College, London
- *Lord Moser* - former Director of the Central Statistical Office, Chairman of the British Museum Development Trust
- *Professor Phyllida Parsloe* - Emeritus Professor of Social Work, Bristol, Chairman of the North Bristol NHS Trust, Trustee of the Sir Halley Stewart Trust
- *Dr Vaughan Robinson* - Director of Migration Unit, University of Wales, Swansea
- *Sam Younger* - Chairman of the Electoral Commission, former head of the British Red Cross & the BBC World Service

External consultants and partner organisations

- *Amy Barbor* and *Rose McCausland* from Living Lens are working on the focUS project in Peterborough.
- *Fran Porter* and *Sean Spencer* from Frontline AV is working on the focUS project in Coventry.
- *Candida Blaker* is an arts evaluation consultant working on the focUS project.
- *Neil Amas*, formerly of Praxis, is working on the Building bridges community handbook.
- *Kate Smart* of asylum initiatives is involved in the research of ICAR's asylum in the media projects.

- *Dr Roger Grimshaw* is the Research director of the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies, King's College London and is the academic director for ICAR's asylum in the media projects.
- *Rich Cookson* is a freelance journalist for the Media Wise Refugees, Asylum and the Media Project and is involved in ICAR's asylum in the media projects.
- *Media Wise Refugees, Asylum and the Media Project* is a partner agency for some of ICAR's asylum in the media projects.
- *Refugee Council* are a partner agency for some of ICAR's asylum in the media projects.

Supporters and advisers

ICAR would also like to thank the following for their advice, comments, and support during the last year. They have made an enormous contribution to ICAR's achievements and boosted its capacity and range of expertise:

Amy Barbor (Living Lens), Zafir Behlic (easy multimedia), Candida Blaker (freelance consultant), Zrinka Bralo (Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum), Jean Candler (Refugee Council), Helen Carpenter (Welcome to your Library), Dominic Casciani (BBC Online), Ruth Clarke (office of Jeremy Corbyn MP), Jeremy Corbyn (MP for Islington North), Dr Heaven Crawley (AMRE Consulting), Mick Cronin (Community Liaison Officer, South East Kent Constabulary), Dr. Saulo Cwerner (Centre for Urban and Community Research, Goldsmiths College), Marilyn Deegan (Forced Migration Online, University of Oxford), Nuradin Dirie (Somali Co-ordinating Committee), Lea Estherhuizen, (methodology consultant), Maknun Ashami Gamaludin (Evelyn Oldfield Unit and freelance consultant), Professor John Garnett (International Policy Institute, King's College London), Sandy Gourlay (KCLE, King's College London), Clare Graham (UNHCR), Dr Paul Gready (Institute of Commonwealth Studies), Elliott Hall (Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London), John Harrison (Finance, King's College London), Shereen Hussein (Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London), Mike Jempson (Mediawise), Nell Keddie, (volunteer digest author), Anna Kelson (Refugees, Asylum and the Media Project), Randolph Kent (International Policy Institute, King's College London), Paul Labbett (King's College London Enterprises Ltd), Anna Lindley (COMPAS, University of Oxford), John Lloyd (Financial Times), Sean Loughna (Forced Migration Online, University of Oxford), Leonie McCarthy, (Project Manager, Peterborough City Council), Rose McCausland (Living Lens), Sue McIntosh (Greater London Authority), Alan McNamara (Accommodation Centres Project Team, Home Office), Denise Meredith (freelance press adviser), John Morrison (Business Leaders Initiative on Human Rights, Respect Europe), Shannon Mouillesseaux (postgraduate network intern), Fraser Murray (Asylum and Refugee Coordinator, Coventry City Council), Joanne Murray (Social Care Workforce Research Unit, King's College London), Mohammed Omaar (Association of London Somali Associations), Kate Pooler (UNHCR), Fran Porter (Frontline AV), Sean Roberts (CRE), Dr Jill Rutter (Department of Education, London Metropolitan University), Khadija Shireh (British Somali Community Women's Association), Harold Short (Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London), Paul Spence (Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London),

Sarah Spencer (COMPAS, University of Oxford), Richard Stanton (Greater London Authority), Jim Steinke (Northern Refugee Centre), Professor Terry Threadgold (Cardiff School of Journalism), Dr Nicholas Van Hear (COMPAS, University of Oxford), Paul Vetch (Centre for Computing in the Humanities, King's College London), Mark Warren (Refugee Integration Section, Home Office), Rachel Westerby (postgraduate network intern), Gulcan Yeroz (postgraduate network intern), Mike Khabie Zeitoune (research intern), Dr. Roger Zetter (School of Planning, Oxford Brookes University).

ICAR financial details

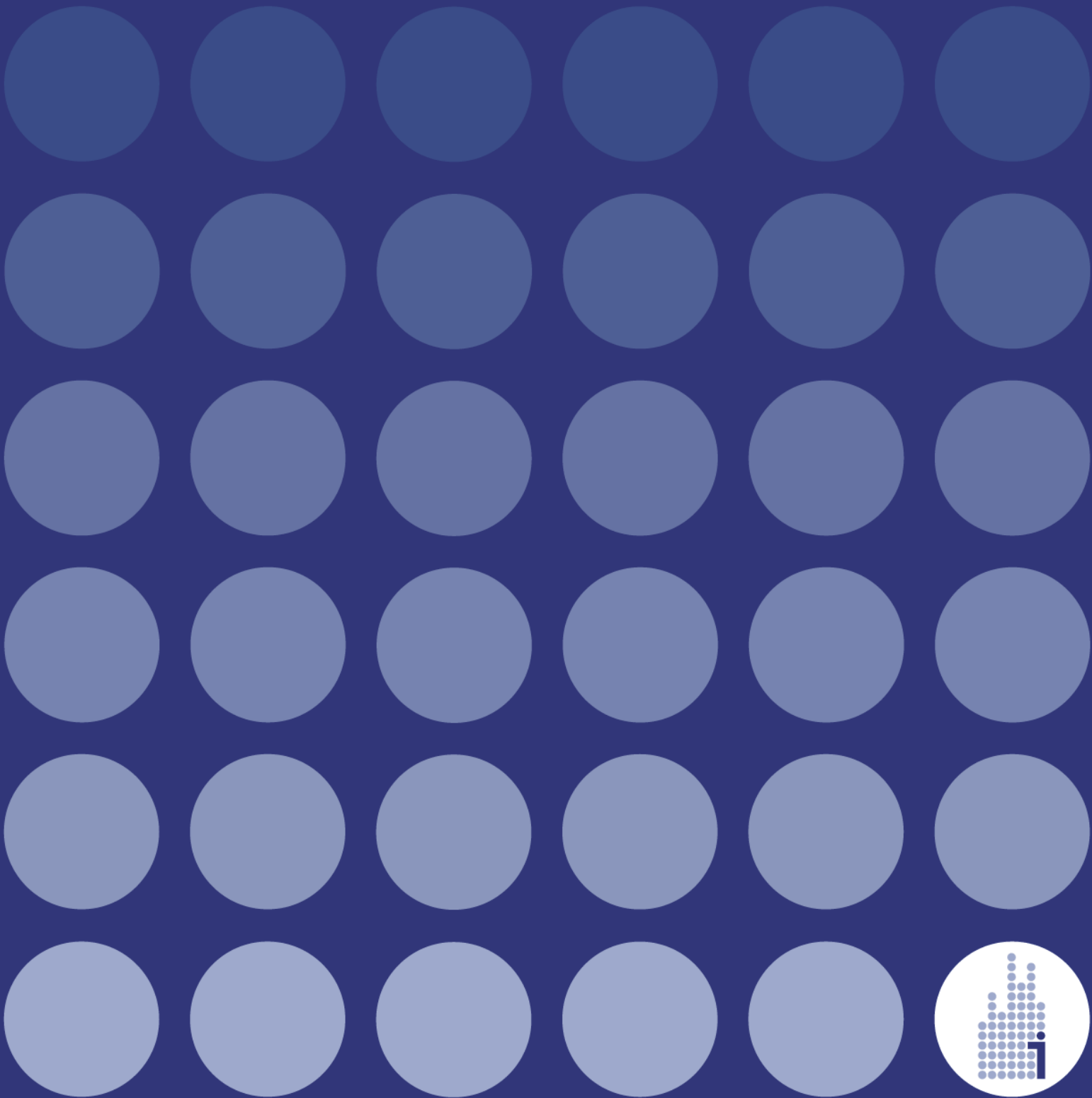
ICAR is financed by a number of charitable trusts and organizations, which donate money for core staff costs as well as specific project related expenditure. Many of these projects continue into 2005/2006

ICAR account statement | August 2004 - 31 July 2005

Expenditure	£
Total staff costs	170,604.00
Consultancy	53,198.36
Staff recruitment and training	1,706.37
Seminars and Conferences	2,702.57
Books, publications and newspapers	1,098.71
Information technology	311.38
Travel	3,566.63
Hospitality and Subsistence	2,314.11
Stationary and Postage	1,712.85
Telephone	1,990.12
Printing	870.52
Art and design	6,000.62
Office equipment and furniture	372.07
Room hire	786.25
KCL overheads	31,785.69
Miscellaneous	83.75
Total expenditure	279,104.00
Income	407,127.98
Balance at end 2004/2005	143,629.78

Additional information

KCL administers its research/project grants through a central accounting system. Each ICAR research/project account is earmarked for specific purposes either by the terms of the grant or by ICAR.



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Design by *Bananadesign* www.bananadesign.co.uk

Front cover quote taken from McDowell. C. (2005) *Complex jigsaw of asylum* BBC online

