

RAL Update - November 2009

Welcome to the November edition of the [Researching Asylum in London](#) (RAL) Update. This service brings you up-to-date with the latest research on refugee and asylum issues in the capital. Summaries produced by the RAL team are available by clicking on the research titles.

If you are aware of any new research that has not already been included in the RAL database, please do get in touch and we will add it to our next Update in January.

Many thanks for your continued support.

New Research

Asylum Law and Policy

[Refugees' Experiences of Home Office Interviews, a Qualitative Study on the Disclosure of Sensitive Personal Information](#)

This research explores the factors involved in the disclosure of sensitive personal information during Home Office (HO) interviews in the UK and tests the assumption that late or non-disclosure of sensitive personal information is a result of fabrication by the asylum claimant. The study employed semi-structured interviews with 27 refugees and asylum-seekers with traumatic histories, collected between December 2004 and May 2005. Participants were recruited from a central London traumatic stress clinic and two London based community services. Key factors identified that facilitate disclosure include interviewer's qualities of empathy, patience, acceptance and non-judgmental listening.

Housing and welfare support / Specific needs

[Agency and Silence: Young People Seeking Asylum Alone in the UK](#)

The paper presents findings from a Department of Health-funded study into the emotional well-being of young people seeking asylum on their own in the UK, analysing the factors influencing their decisions, and the reason why they only share information with others about the circumstances of their quest for asylum. Research participants came from eighteen different countries and were identified through a single London local authority and London-based voluntary sector agencies. The main areas covered were related to the factors perceived positively and / or negatively on the emotional well-being of unaccompanied children and young people who seek asylum in the UK as well as what type of health and social services are available for them to promote the emotional well-being and mental health.

Health

[Evaluation of Sexual & Reproductive Health and Relationships Information Workshops for Young Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants in Hounslow](#)

This report aims to share the lessons from a project providing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) workshops for students studying English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at West Thames College in Hounslow, London during April 2009. 235 students aged 16-20 took part in the project, encompassing 40 different nationalities. The workshop discussions threw up interesting cultural differences in attitudes and practices concerning sexual health and reproduction and created a suitable environment for these differences to be examined and questioned.

Community

[Transnationalism Within: internal diversity in the Iranian diaspora](#)

The article examines the differential reproduction of homeland class relations in the Iranian Diaspora in Sidney, London and Vancouver, exploring how, alongside national affiliation, they create connections by socioeconomic status, class, religion, generation and time of settlement. The research is based on qualitative interviews with the children of Iranian migrants from Baha'i and Muslim backgrounds in the three cities. It was found that Class is used as a means of separation, generally related to successful social mobility within the new societies.



The Researching Asylum in London (RAL) team is based at the Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR), City University

Telephone: 020 7040 4596
E-mail: icar@city.ac.uk
<http://www.icar.org.uk>

