

RAL Update - February 2010

Welcome to the February 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 April 2010.

Many thanks for your continued support.

New Research

Community

[‘No right to dream’: The social and economic lives of young undocumented migrants in Britain](#)

This research explores the unique individual experiences of being an undocumented young migrant in contemporary Britain. The study employed in-depth interviews with 75 migrants (35 women and 40 men) living in London, the North West and the West Midlands, from five countries, including Brazil, China, Kurds from Turkey, Ukraine and Zimbabwe. Being an undocumented migrant in the UK has significant social, economic and practical impacts and influences the everyday lives of young people, including employment and job searching, housing and access to medical help and justice, as well as social networks and friendships.

[Socialisation strategies of African refugees in the United Kingdom](#)

This article explores the ways in which refugees from the Congolese and Somali communities in Britain attempt to make sense of their new social realities and rebuild their lives. The study uses qualitative methodology with in-depth interviews to 30 refugees from Congo (DRC) and Somalia. The participants were interviewed in South London. It was found that integration involves a process of psychological healing and various strategies include involvement in educational, community and religious activities as well as marrying and founding a family. The analysis assesses the extent to which the strategies used enabled the refugees to settle successfully.

Housing & welfare support

No voice, little choice. The Somali housing emergency in north and east London

This research gathered evidence about the extent of housing deprivation among Somalis in north and east London. It took place in 2008 and included a survey of 158 Somalis living in seven boroughs (Hackney, Haringey, Islington, Newham, Redbridge, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest). The survey explored the main problems linked to poor housing conditions, including difficulties in accessing appropriate advice and advocacy. The research was conducted with a view to providing key policy recommendations on what the Somali community, local authorities and the government can do to improve housing conditions for this population.

Health / Specific Needs

Psychological Needs, Service Utilization and Provision of Care in a Specialist Mental Health Clinic for Young Refugees: A Comparative Study

The study address the psychological needs, patterns and service provision of care in Young Refugee Mental Health Project (YRMHP), a specialist mental health service for young refugees and asylum seekers (RAS) in London. It examined 78 clinic attendees (49 unaccompanied minors –UAMs- and 29 accompanied children) aged between 0-18 years experiencing symptoms of PTSD, anxiety, depression, family and/or peer relationship problems. They were residents of the London Boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. The largest proportion of UAMs originated from Africa (82%), mainly from Ethiopia and some from Uganda, whereas most of the accompanied children were from Kosovo.

Somali women's experience of childbirth in the UK: Perspectives from Somali health workers

This is a qualitative study of the cultural and social differences in the pregnancy and childbirth of Somali health workers in the UK. The study was conducted in London, where all the participants were living. It used in-depth individual interviews with eight Somali women, ranged between 23 to 57 years old, who had worked in the health sector in the UK and/or in Somalia. The findings demonstrate that there are major concerns around the mismanagement of circumcised women, several communication aspects, the continuity of care from a single practitioner and the attitudes of the health professionals. This could affect women from other ethnic minorities in similar circumstances.



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

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

