

RAL Update - June 2010

Welcome to the June 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 September 2010.

Many thanks for your continued support.

New Research

Education and Employment

[Marking Difference and Negotiating Belonging: Refugee Women, Volunteering and Employment](#)

This article was based on a research aimed at documenting the experience of refugee women as volunteers, identifying whether they could build on this experience to access employment and to recommend how their concerns could be incorporated into organizational employment and equality policies and practice. The article explores experiences of exclusion and belonging for refugee women in the pathways from voluntary work into paid employment, showing how these interplay with discourses of multiculturalism and diversity and how they use these difference markers both as a way to give meaning to their experience, but also as a strategy to overcome barriers to inclusion.

Specific needs

[FGM is always with us: Experiences, Perceptions and Beliefs of Women Affected by Female Genital Mutilation in London](#)

The aim of the research was to gain in-depth insights from women originally from high-prevalence FGM countries, looking at the impact of FGM on their lives, and assessing how these women interact with health services. The study used a Participatory

Ethnographic Evaluation and Research (PEER) method to discuss issues such as motivations behind FGM practices within these communities in the UK, family dynamics around the practice, women's views of male perceptions of FGM, the impact of education and awareness and the the impact of moving to the UK, as well as the availability of information on FGM. The research was conducted in London in July and August 2008 with women currently living in and around Westminster.

Levelling the playing field. A report into provision of services to unaccompanied or separated migrant children in three local authority areas in England

This UNICEF UK report aimed at analysing the factors (for example, immigration and care legislation, economics, politics, racism and discrimination) that increase or decrease the ability of unaccompanied or separated children to access local authority accommodation and health and education services. It identifies which particular children, or groups of children, are most and least able to access a full range of services. It also documents examples of good practice and make policy recommendations to ensure that the rights of unaccompanied or separated migrant children can be respected. This report covers 3 major local authorities in the UK (Kent County Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council - the West Midlands and the London Borough of Harrow). The research revealed a variety of good, but different, practices in each of the three local authority areas in response to the needs of unaccompanied or separated migrant children in their areas. This summary will focus on results from the London Borough of Harrow. To explore the accounts from the other regions refer to the full report



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