

Annotated Bibliography

Literature Review April 2009 – December 2010

Scottish Refugee Council carried out an extensive literature review in winter 2008/2009. In order to ensure that this review was not too time specific we committed to ensure that all research about asylum seekers and refugees in Scotland would be reviewed and catalogued. This is the first of those updates. Our thanks to Emilia Pietka for carrying out this review.

1. GoWell (2010). Progress for People and Places: Monitoring change in Glasgow's communities. Evidence from the GoWell Surveys 2006 and 2008. Glasgow: Glasgow Centre for Population Health

GoWell project aims to investigate the impact of investment in Glasgow's regeneration on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities over a ten-year period. The 14 neighbours have been selected within this study.

The study highlight the lack of sense of belonging and feeling a part of community within the researched areas. It is especially true among refugee and asylum seekers living within regeneration areas. The study indicated that even though the social tension between the diverse group living in the areas decline, the ethnic minorities who were living in those areas felt that they do not feel included in the community they lived in.

2. Scottish Refugee Council, (2010), *One Day we will be reunited. Experiences of Refugee Family Reunion in the UK.* Available at:

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/0099/Family_reunion_research_someday_w_e_will_be_reunited.pdf

The study investigate the state of knowledge and experience of family reunion among asylum seekers and refugee living in the UK. The study investigates the barriers for family reunion and implication of family separation on refugees life.

The difficulties to provide documents proving family close relations has been identified as main formal barrier of family reunion. That is, provision of birth or marriage certificate, identity documents from refugee home country make the case even impossible. In addition, the study highlights that restriction on definition of family relatives can be problematic as well. As definition of a family only includes spouses and children under 18 years old, it does not take into account different and changing compositions of families abroad.

The research stressed that isolation from the family members has further integration within host community. That is, comparing to other migrant groups refugee have no other choice that family reunion to keep relations within the family. Indeed, refugee have no ability to visit or call family members who are living in their home country. The social isolation, feeling of not having close people around have serious

implications of refugees mental health and wellbeing. The separation from the family causes range of emotion including feeling of being helplessness to assist and care for family members, fear and anxiety for safety, welfare and financial security of other family members and the guilt of leaving family relatives behind.

3. Lindsay, K., Gillespie and M., Dobbie, L.(2010), Refugees'Experiences and View of Poverty in Scotland, Available at:http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0000/0963/Poverty_Oct_10_Full_Report.pdf.

The research explores the nature and experiences of poverty among refugees in Glasgow, It investigate the factors causing poverty among refugee population and its impact on integration into host community.

Whilst poverty is a multidimensional problem, being unemployed and difficulties in finding paid employment have been identified as one of the main cause of poverty. The report shows that refugee suffered from absolute poverty being unable to buy essentials such as food to feed themselves and their family, medications, household goods, phone cards, toiletries and children's clothing or pay for travel, health or legal services. The inability to provide for themselves and family cause feeling of anxiety and distress amongst users and contributes to the stigmatisation of asylum seekers and contributes to further social isolation.

**4. Sim, D., (2009), This is my village' now: Post-status refugee needs and experiences in Glasgow, University of West of Scotland, Available at:
http://communityinfosource.files.wordpress.com/2008/12/this_is_my_village_now.pdf**

The research focus on methods of negotiated the asylum process and the experiences of getting refugee status. The study provides overview of experiences of access to the services and overall sense of belonging. As waiting for the decision on asylum process may be a long process the study provides evidences of involvement of asylum seekers with local community. Although, there had been some problems with racist incidents, most of interviewed refugees considered Glasgow as a place they want to settle in. There was a growing indication that refugees were making friends and building networks of support within their local areas.

The study considers employment as one of the main causes of social isolation experiences by refugees. Although the refugee workforce has a large number of skills, it seems that they are not recognised by employers and therefore lost after arrival into the UK. In addition, providing a validation of professional qualifications is difficult, where individuals may have no personal records of their diplomas, work experiences or achievement.

Housing has been identified as the main issue for refugee families. The study reveals that many families were still living in their NASS / UKBA accommodation, which they believed to be inadequate both in terms of its size and its poor quality. Finally, health services were well used by refugees who appeared to be happy with their GPs, with most families staying with the same practice since their original arrival in Glasgow.

5. Kum, H., Manter, I., Smyth, G., (2009) Changing the face of the Scottish teaching profession? The experiences of refugee teachers, *Irish Educational Studies*, Vol. 39, No 3, pp 321 -338

Through the result of in-depth interviews with a sample of refugee teachers in the West of Scotland, the article provides evidences from research project explored key barriers for refugee teachers in accessing teaching profession. As such, the study identifies differences in educational systems, curricula and pedagogies between countries of origin and Scotland as a main challenges faced by refugees when attempting to move into teaching in Scotland. The paper argues for the importance of overcoming such barriers in order to enable a more linguistically and culturally diverse teaching profession in Scotland.

6. Smyth, G., Kum, H., (2010), When They don't Use it They will Lose it': Professionals, Deprofessionalization and Reprofessionalization: the Case of Refugee Teachers in Scotland, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp 504 - 522

This article discusses issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland who were teachers in their country of origin as they seek to re-engage professionally in the UK. In addition, the article discusses the impact of the process of accessing the teaching profession on refugee's identity and their professional capital.

The study identifies difficulties in formal registration with General Teaching Council, especially Disclosure Scotland clearance, obtaining references from countries of origin or original documentation and certificates as main challenges preventing refugees from being a teacher in Scotland. Apart of formal registration with regulatory body for teaching profession in Scotland, identified barrier preventing refugees from practicing teaching professions were around differences in education system and method of teaching.

Interviewed refugee teachers did express feelings of inadequacy about their own teaching qualifications and the need to repeat teaching training. Feelings of frustration and discouragement were expressed by the teachers who had many years of experience of teaching in their home country. This inability to pursue one's profession due to legal status increase frustration and isolation around interviewed refugee teachers. The study provide evidence that through levels of personal, cultural, institutional and structural barriers, the refugee teachers have been denied the ability to use their existing professional capital and this in turn limits their capacity to build social capital networks beyond their own communities and have impact on refugee self-belief, identity and integration.

The paper argues that the interruption of refugee professional practice between leaving their country of origin and arriving in Scotland, coupled with structural, institutional, cultural and personal barriers to employment in Scotland and the lack of access to professional networks, combine to deprofessionalize of this group.

7. Ager, A., Strang, A., (2010), Refugee Integration: Emerging Trends and Remaining Agendas, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 4, pp 589 - 607

The article use the foundation of the conceptual framework for notion of integration proposed by Ager and Strang (2004a, 2008) to reflect on the focus and findings of recent studies in refugee studies. As such, the paper focus on recent evidence from Europe and elsewhere on how notions of nationhood and citizenship determine understandings of integration. It argues that rights and citizenship construct the 'foundation' for integration and shape the social space available to refugees with regard to 'belonging'. Secondly, the paper analyse the use and adoption of concepts of social capital in framing components of social connection in the context of integration. In fact, greater attention is paid to the manner in which bonds, bridges and links establish forms of reciprocity and trust in social relations as forms of social connections. Finally, the paper examine the notion that integration as a 'two way' process, and suggest how this might be expanded to embrace the multiplicity and fluidity of social meaning and identity. The article argues that while rights and citizenship construct 'foundation'; language and cultural knowledge, social capital providing 'social connection' and safety and stability are perceived as 'facilitators'; and finally, factors such as employment, housing, education and health are noted as both 'markers and means' of integration.

8. Mulvey, G., (2010), When Policy Creates Politics: the Problematism of Immigration and the Consequences for Refugee Integration in the UK, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 4 , pp 438 - 462

The article explores the impact of restrictive immigration and asylum policies upon refugee integration, in particular how legal and policy frameworks have impacted upon the main processes of refugee integration. It argues that New Labour policy frame asylum seekers as 'undeserving' migrants what allows more in terms of control measures and encourage hostility within the general population towards asylum. This continued to problematise the policy field, aided by language and symbols in the form of framing which

characterised asylum seekers as a threat to security, welfare system and community cohesion. Thus the 'right' to seek asylum has been limited in numerous asylum controls that have been linked by the Government to the overall legitimacy of the immigration system.

9. Da Lomba, S., (2010), Legal Status and Refugee Integration: a UK Perspective, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Vol. 23, No 4., pp 415- 436

The article focuses on the legal dimension of integration and investigates the interface between legal status and refugee integration in the UK. It explores whether changing legal status through refugees' journey from asylum seeker to citizen as set out in UK migration law, supports their integration in the UK.

The paper argued that restrictive immigration and asylum policies exclude individuals from the integration process which in effect delayed the process until international protection status is granted. Secondly, the paper argues that UK migration law construes access to a secure legal status as a reward for successful integration which in consequence put citizenship or alternatively permanent residence a subject to onerous prescriptive integration requirements. As a consequence, this approach adopted on integration together with the underpinning on earned citizenship make the journey to British citizenship a one-sided integration process.