



Refugee Council conferences

Building Communities: Equality and diversity in action

7 November 2007, Leeds
28 November 2007, London

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/conferences



Building Communities: Equality and diversity in action

The past year has seen massive developments in the fields of refugee integration, community cohesion and equality and diversity. This creates new challenges for those working with refugees and asylum seekers to facilitate integration, at a time when Government efforts to speed case-resolutions are already increasing pressure on the capacity of service providers to meet potentially conflicting demands.

These two distinct conferences are set in the context of the new Home Office model for processing asylum applications and its proposals for national refugee integration services; the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's report, *Our shared future*; and the launch of the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. The events will call for the distinct needs and experiences of refugees to be reflected in these developments and captured in policy making.

We will learn what is meant by community cohesion, and equality and diversity, as these ideas relate to asylum seekers, refugees and their communities, before focusing on the particular disadvantages they face when they try to integrate. The conferences will see the launch of new Refugee Council research, examining barriers from the perspective of refugees themselves.

Through the examples of education, housing, employment and enterprise, we will hear about some of the key dynamics for successful integration.

For each conference, the Refugee Council has brought together different sets of senior speakers including representatives of government and communities, and experts from services at the forefront of integration. Speakers will not only highlight the problems we all face and illuminate the issues; they will be asked to provide the solutions we need to encourage across the UK. The agenda is planned to include significant time for all speakers to answer questions, whilst the round table discussions and panel discussions will enable all delegates to have their say.

The conferences aim to

- Bring together front-line staff and policymakers from a range of NGO, business and public sector backgrounds
- Identify potential needs of refugees within the context of overall service provision
- Clarify the legislative and policy background to refugee integration, relating to broader themes of community cohesion and equality and diversity
- Determine the subjective and practical barriers faced by refugees in combating social and economic exclusion
- Discuss recommendations for ensuring access to mainstream and specialist services

Benefits of attending

- Update your knowledge around the needs of refugees
- Understand the current policy and practice relating to rights and entitlements to housing, post-16 education and employment
- Discuss the impact of changing asylum legislation on staff working with asylum seekers and refugees
- Explore examples of good practice and how they can apply to your work
- Network and exchange information with colleagues in the sector

Who should attend?

The conference is for people working in departments and agencies that may set policy, provide services for, or employ refugees and asylum seekers.

Particularly:

- **Local authorities: social services, asylum seekers teams and asylum consortia**
- **Regional Development Agencies**
- **Learning and Skills Councils, Further and Higher Education providers**
- **Jobcentre+, careers advisers, human resources professionals**
- **Trade unions**
- **Housing-associations and trusts**
- **Health authorities and services, counselling and advice services**
- **Legal services**
- **Policy institutes, policy researchers, civil servants**
- **Information advice and guidance agencies, libraries and museums**
- **Community groups, voluntary and charitable organisations**

Agenda Leeds

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- 09:45** Welcome and introduction by the Chair
Donna Covey, *Chief Executive, The Refugee Council*
-
- 10:00** City of Sanctuary: Building a culture of hospitality
Inderjit Bhogal, *Director, Yorkshire and Humber Faith Forum*
-
- 10:20** Equality and Diversity: Refugees and asylum seekers
Speaker from New Link Centre (invited)
-
- 10:40** Community Cohesion: Impact on the refugee sector
Jill Rutter, *Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)*
-
- 11:00** Morning refreshments
-
- 11:20** Round table discussion followed by panel discussion
1. Jill Rutter, 2. Berthin Paluku, *Refugee, Hull Gateway, 3. Bereket Loul*, *Touchstone Mental Health, 4. New Link Centre (invited)*
-
- 12:10** Refugees' experiences of integration
Hameed Hakimi, *Community Researcher, Refugee Council*
-
- 12:25** Lunch
-
- 13:25** Widening participation in Further and Higher Education
Professor Simon Lee, *Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Metropolitan University*
-
- 13:45** Refugee Employment: Fair employment
Patrick Wintour, *Director, Employability Forum*
-
- 14:05** New homes for new lives?
Professor Ian Cole, *Professor of Housing Studies and Director of CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University*
-
- 14:25** Building Communities: Equality and diversity in action
The Right Reverend John Packer, *Bishop of Ripon and Leeds*
-
- 14:55** Afternoon refreshments
-
- 15:15** Round table discussion followed by panel discussion
1. James Lee, *Policy Advisor, Refugee Council, 2. Fabian Hamilton*, *Labour MP, Leeds and North-East, 3. Jacqueline Stevenson*, *Principal Lecturer, Widening Participation, Leeds Metropolitan University, 4. Hussein Mohamed*, *Director, Taste by Design*
-
- 16:15** Closing remarks and close of conference
-

10% discount for booking onto both conferences

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/conferences

London

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- 09:45** Welcome and introduction by the Chair
Donna Covey, *Chief Executive, The Refugee Council*
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- 10:00** Building communities: Equality and diversity in action
Meg Hillier MP, *Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office*
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- 10:30** Equality and Diversity: Refugees and asylum seekers
Nicky Gavron, *Deputy Mayor of London, GLA (invited)*
-
- 10:50** Community Cohesion: Impact on the refugee sector
Danny Sriskandarajah, *Director of Research Strategy and Head of Migration, Equalities and Citizenship, IPPR*
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- 11:00** Morning refreshments
-
- 11:20** Round table discussion followed by panel discussion
1. Danny Sriskandarajah, 2. Nicky Gavron, *(invited), 3. Councillor Nargis Khan*, *Commission on Integration and Cohesion, 4. Olivia Fellas*, *Head of Asylum and Refugee Service, Islington Council*
-
- 12:20** Lunch
-
- 13:20** Refugees' experiences of integration
Hameed Hakimi, *Community Researcher, Refugee Council*
-
- 13:35** Building Communities: Equality and diversity in action
Nahid Majid OBE, *Deputy Director, Department of Works and Pensions (invited)*
-
- 14:05** Widening participation in Further and Higher Education
Roger Kline, *National Head of Equality and Employment Rights, University and College Union*
-
- 14:25** Refugee Employment: Fair employment
Jon Williams, *Senior Project Manager, LORECA*
-
- 14:45** New homes for new lives?
Heather Petch, *Director, Hact*
-
- 15:05** Afternoon refreshments
-
- 15:25** Round table discussion followed by panel discussion
1. Roger Kline, 2. James Lee, *Policy Adviser, The Refugee Council, 3. Heather Petch, 4. Theodros Abraham*, *Birckbeck Lecturer and Director of Reconnect*
-
- 16:15** Closing remarks and close of conference
-

Conference booking form

Please return booking form
by post or fax to:

**Training and Events Officer
Information and Marketing
Refugee Council
240-250 Ferndale Road
London SW9 8BB**

**Fax: 020 7346 6730
Tel: 020 7346 6737**

- I would like to book a place on the Leeds conference, 7 November 2007**
Met Hotel Leeds, King Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, England, LS1 2HQ
- I would like to book a place on the London conference, 28 November 2007**
New Connaught Rooms, 61 – 65 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5DA
- I would like to book a place on *both* the Leeds and London conferences,
7 and 28 November 2007**

At the following rate (no VAT is payable on Refugee Council conferences):

- Full rate **£339.00** (*central government/business*)
- Reduced rate **£299.00** (*public/educational body/local government*)
- Supported rate **£130.00** (*voluntary organisation*)

- Please calculate 10% discount for attending both events**

Delegate name and contact details

Name:	Job title:
Department:	Organisation:
Address:	
Postcode:	Email:
Telephone:	Fax:
Additional dietary or access requirements? (Please specify):	

- Please tick here if you do not want your contact details to appear on the delegate list

Payment

<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a cheque made payable to Refugee Council for: £ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Please invoice (if you do not include a cheque with this form, you will automatically receive an invoice. Please indicate who we should invoice if different from the details above):
Official order number (if applicable):	

Terms and conditions

For terms and conditions, please refer to the website: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/conferences

Your details will be held on a computer database so that we can send you information about new courses. We may also send you details of other Refugee Council publications and events. If you do not wish us to hold your details for this purpose, please tick here

We may also disclose your name and address to third parties that wish to send you information about products or services that may be of interest to you. If you would rather your details were not used in this way, please tick here

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