



Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women: Challenges, Changes, Choices

Wednesday, 23 March 2005
Regent's College, London

Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women: Challenges, Changes, Choices

Female asylum seekers and refugees have many special needs and the challenges they face are varied and complex. The Refugee Council is one of the leading organisations providing advice and support to these women. This conference aims to highlight some of the issues specific to female refugees and asylum seekers, to develop delegates' understanding of the challenges facing female refugees and asylum seekers, and suggest ways in which mainstream and specialist organisations and agencies can address these issues.

Women experience the types of persecution suffered by men, but they also often undergo forms of abuse specifically linked to their gender. It is sometimes harder for women to have their asylum claims accepted because issues of gender are not explicitly recognised by international refugee law. A lack of gender and cultural sensitivity in service provision can also make accessing essential services problematic or impossible.

The Refugee Council's Women's Strategy leads the way in improving gender-sensitive service provision and policy-making in an effort to overcome many of the obstacles faced by refugee and asylum seeking women in the UK. During the conference, delegates will be invited to consider a range of issues affecting integration and service provision and explore initiatives for improving support for refugee and asylum seeking women in the UK.

Aims and objectives of the conference

- To raise awareness of the barriers to protection facing women seeking asylum and women refugees
- To identify challenges in the areas of asylum and integration such as the application process, accommodation, security, social cohesion, domestic violence, personal safety, education, training and employment, health and legal restrictions
- To demonstrate practical examples in helping to solve and/or deal with these issues and overcome the challenges of gender bias in the UK
- To highlight the public and voluntary sector's work in addressing these issues
- To use the Refugee Council's Women's Strategy to explore issues facing women seeking asylum and women refugees and enable service providers to incorporate ideas for improving service provision and integration in their own work

The conference will include presentations, seminars and panel discussion that will:

- Highlight the particular challenges faced by women seeking asylum and women refugees
- Examine the government and non-governmental sector's role in addressing these issues and making changes in provision
- Provide basic information including definitions, statistics and myth busting
- Explore what more needs to be done to address and improve the choices open to service providers, women seeking asylum and women refugees
- Represent and present refugee women's views on the challenges they face

Benefits of attending:

- Learn about the issues affecting women seeking asylum and women refugees and how you can help and support them
- Understand the voluntary and public sector framework for assisting women seeking asylum and women refugees
- Develop ideas to improve service provision and integration, and put principles into practice
- Network and exchange information with colleagues in the sector



Supported by



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For enquiries call **020 7820 3049** or email **marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk**.

Promotional opportunities

To find out more about how you can promote your organisation or services and strengthen your relationship with the sector at this event contact 020 7820 3134. Exhibition space and delegate pack inserts are available.

Seminar topics

- Domestic violence
- Legal services for refugee and asylum seeking women
- Integration of refugee women
- Personal and community safety of refugee and asylum seeking women
- Education, training and employment for women refugees
- After the asylum process - the situation and the destitution
- International realities: reflecting women's experiences in country information
- Health issues faced by refugee women

Who should attend?

- NASS, IND and Home Office departments
- Local Authority Social Services
- Local Authority Asylum Seekers Teams and Asylum consortia
- Local Authority leaders and Chief Executives
- Local Education Authorities, schools and colleges
- Equalities Officers
- Health Authorities
- Well Women Clinics, Family Planning Advisors
- Mental Health Practitioners
- Accommodation providers and Housing Associations
- Refuge Staff
- Legal professionals and immigration advisers
- Employment services
- Race equality organisations
- Community partnerships
- Women's Centres
- Advice organisations
- Community safety organisations
- Police
- Trade Unions

How to book

Complete and return the booking form overleaf enclosing payment or indicating if you would like us to invoice you. Confirmation and joining instructions will be sent at least two weeks before the conference. If you have not heard from us within seven days of the conference, call **020 7820 3049**.

Fees

Full rate £295 (central government/business)

Reduced rate £245 (public/educational body/local government)

Supported rate £100 (voluntary organisation)

Terms and conditions

Fees include buffet lunch and refreshments but do not include travel costs or parking. Please note your place is not secured until payment is received. If you decide to cancel your booking up to and including fifteen days before the conference date you will receive a full refund minus an administration charge of £20. All cancellations must be in writing. Fourteen days or less before the conference, the full amount is payable for any cancellation, but we encourage you to send a substitute.

We reserve the right at anytime, and without prior notice to change the venue and/or the programme if necessary. If, for reasons out of our control, we have to cancel an event we will provide as much notice as possible and will provide a full refund of conference fees to all delegates. Please note this does not include the reimbursement of train fares or any other expenses you incur or expect to incur by attending the conference.

Conference Agenda

- 9.30 Registration and refreshments
- 10.00 Welcome and introduction to conference by Chair
- 10.05 Setting the context
Heaven Crawley
Director, AMRE Consulting
- 10.30 Legal perspective
Baroness Helena Kennedy, QC
- 10.50 The Corridor - extracts from this autobiographical film about the experiences of one Iranian women refugee, followed by a question and answer session with the director Zoe Neirizi
- 11.25 Refreshments
- 11.45 Government perspective
Harriet Harman MP, QC
Solicitor General
- 12.05 Health issues
Naaz Coker
Chair, Refugee Council
- 12.25 Refugee Council Women's Strategy
Maeve Sherlock
Chief Executive, Refugee Council
- 12.45 Questions to the morning speakers
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Seminars
- 15.30 Refreshments
- 15.50 Girl Child
A representative from UNHCR
- 16.10 Principles into practice - examples of work by refugee community organisations
- 16.30 Questions and closing remarks from the Chair
- 16.45 Conference close and refreshments

Venue: Regent's College, Regent's Park
Inner Circle, London, NW1 4NS

Conference booking form

Please return booking form by post or fax to:

Training and Events Officer
Refugee Council, 3 Bondway, London SW8 1SJ

Tel: 020 7820 3049
Fax: 020 7820 3107



Please photocopy this form if you would like to book more than one delegate place.

I would like to book a place on the conference:

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at the following rate:

- Full rate £295 (central government/business)
 Reduced rate £245 (public/educational body/local government)
 Supported rate £100 (voluntary organisation)

no VAT is payable on Refugee Council conferences

Workshop selection

Please prioritise your first three choices of workshop by numbering the relevant box 1 - 3 (1 being your first choice)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Integration of refugee women | <input type="checkbox"/> Education, training and employment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal services for women | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal and community safety | <input type="checkbox"/> After the asylum process |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International realities | <input type="checkbox"/> Health issues | |

Delegate name and contact details

Name

Job title

Organisation

Department

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

Fax

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

Special dietary, access or other requirements (please specify)

Payment

- I enclose a cheque made payable to Refugee Council for:

- Please invoice (invoice address if different from above)

Official order number (if applicable):

Terms and conditions

Please read the terms and conditions overleaf

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. 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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