

Refugee Integration

The Interface between Policy, Practice and Research

**A Conference Organised by Scottish Refugee Council
and the Institute for Advanced Studies.**

Friday 27 March 2009
Institute for Advanced Studies, Strathclyde University,
James Weir Building, Montrose St, Glasgow
9.00am – 3.30pm



Overview

Integration has risen in profile in recent years as a public policy matter, a practical challenge and an area of interest among the research community. While there are disagreements over definitions, integration is generally agreed to be of importance. It is in the field of asylum seekers and refugees that integration issues are most problematic, due in part to the different and evolving legal status of such groups, and thus the facilities available in order to aid integration.

This conference seeks to bring together policy makers, practitioners, refugees and researchers in order to consider the present multi-level policy making context at EU, UK and Scottish levels. It will reflect on current

developments such as the second stage of the Common European Asylum System, the UK Government's review of refugee integration policy and changes to citizenship as well as the Scottish Government's Race Equality Strategy. What are the implications of these policies and how can research address them?

By considering policy making and its effects as discreet but not separate fields, it is hoped that a synthesis can be developed that will aid future research and help to set priorities which will then inform future policy debate.

The programme is split into three sections. Policy – Practice – The Refugee Experience and Research.

Aims

The aims of this conference are to

- Inform delegates of the current policy-making agendas at EU, UK and Scottish levels
- Highlight the implications of changes to those working with refugees and asylum seekers
- Give delegates opportunities to feed their views into the development of research into refugee integration
- Highlight the work of service providers delivering refugee integration programmes and the experiences of refugees themselves
- Provide networking opportunities to delegates from across different fields

Who should attend?

- Scottish Refugee Council members
- Voluntary, community and statutory organisations working with asylum seekers and refugees
- Refugee Community Organisations
- Researchers in human rights, equalities, migration and refugee studies

Conference Agenda

Morning

9.00am **Coffee and registration**

Session 1

Refugee Integration Policy in a Multi-Level Context

Dr Geri Smyth, Institute for Advanced Studies

9.30am **The European Dimension to Refugee Integration** (tbc)

10.00am **Refugee Integration, the UK policy framework**
Speaker (tbc)

10.30am **The Scottish dimension to refugee integration**
Yvonne Strachan, Head of the Equality Unit, Scottish Government

11.00am **Plenary Session**

11.15am **Break**

Session 2

Refugee Integration in Practice

Mohamed Al Shagra – Chair of Refugee Policy Forum

11.45am **Delivering on refugee integration**
John Wilkes, Chief Executive, Scottish Refugee Council

12.15am **The View from the Integration Networks**

12.45am **Lunch Break**

Afternoon

Sessions will resume at 1.45pm after lunch

Session 3

Research and the Refugee Experience

Gary Christie, Policy and Research Manager, Scottish Refugee Council

1.45pm **Refugee experiences of integration** (tbc)

2.30pm **Reflections from the Institute for Advanced Studies, Refugee Integration Programme**
Dr Geri Smyth, Institute for Advanced Studies

2.50pm **Proposal for a longitudinal study of refugee integration**
Gareth Mulvey, Research Officer, Scottish Refugee Council

Summing up

3.15pm **What have we learned from today's proceedings?**
Sylvie Da Lomba Institute for Advanced Studies

3.30pm **Reception**

How to attend

This conference is free of charge but places are limited.

For further information and to book a place at this event please contact

Graeme Corbett

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0141 223 7930

Agenda as of 23 February, subject to change.

For further updates please visit
www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk



About the Scottish Refugee Council

Scottish Refugee Council is an independent charity which provides advice and information to asylum seekers and refugees living in Scotland. We also campaign for fair treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and to raise awareness of refugee issues. To find out more about our work or to make a donation please go to

www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk



the institute for advanced studies

About the Institute for Advanced Studies

The Institute for Advanced Studies Refugee Integration project is an inter-disciplinary research programme based at the University of Strathclyde. The programme adopts a 'lesson drawing' approach to the critical study of policy and practice in the specific area of refugee integration in multicultural/cosmopolitan societies. It aims to consider theoretical and conceptual issues and provide a learning framework for Scotland, based on experience in Australia, Canada, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden.