

QUESTIONING FRAME FOR KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS

INTRODUCTION

Who we are, what we're interested in.
ESRC funded independent academic work.

Outline and emphasise informed consent and confidentiality/anonymity ask if required

Do you want your org. identified?

OK to record for transcription?

PART 1 BACKGROUND

Brief outline of position with org and their org's role

Prompts: Could you outline your position within XXXXX?
How would you describe this organisation's role?
Outline the sort of work your org does?
Who funds the org? Any conditions attached to your funding, any time limits?

To get at Leeds background info/statistics

Prompts: How many asylum seekers are there in Leeds?
Where are they located?
Nationalities?

PART 2 WELFARE ISSUES: CURRENT PROVISION (PARTICULARLY IN RELATION TO SS AND HOUSING).

What would you identify as the key issues in relation to the welfare of forced migrants in Leeds?

Key issues in relation to meeting day to day necessities and costs?

Prompts: Food, transport, clothing etc.
How adequate are current welfare benefits?
Are needs being met? Which ones?
Everybody's needs, some groups and individuals?

Key issues re housing provision?

Prompts: How adequate is current housing provision?
Are needs being met?
Everybody's needs some groups and individuals?

Does formal immigration status effect the welfare of forced migrants?

Prompts: To what extent does an individual's immigration status constrain their ability to meet their needs?
In your opinion how are the housing and social security rights of different categories of displaced migrants enhanced or limited by the acquisition of a particular immigration status?

Are there any other issues in relation to the welfare of your clients that you would like to raise?

PART 3 COPING STRATEGIES OF FORCED MIGRANTS

How would you describe the welfare rights currently available to forced migrants?

Prompts: How important is formal welfare provision to forced migrants?
Do they rely solely on their welfare entitlements/welfare rights, access to housing and social security from NASS etc?

Are there other places they can go to get support?

What role does more informal welfare play in providing accommodation and social security for forced migrants needs?

Prompts e.g. charitable/voluntary organisations, RCOs, familial support, friends or community?

Have you come across any other things they do to support themselves?

Prompts: Informally supporting each other? (positive)
Beg? Steal, Shoplift, Prostitution?(negative)

Is there anything that forced migrants themselves can do to improve their financial position or housing situation?

Prompts: How do they manage?
What strategies are open to asylum seekers and refugees in order to try meet their housing and financial needs?
Do options and possibilities vary across different groups? Why?
enhancers and constraints?

Do any forced migrants you come into contact with engage in paid employment?

Prompts: What types of work?
Legal employment? illegal employment?
Voluntary work?

Do you have any views on allowing asylum seekers to take paid work while their claim is being assessed?

Part 4: WAYS FORWARD

How might the welfare of forced migrants be improved in the future?

Prompts: Which policy option(s) should be prioritised?
Extending the right to paid employment to all asylum seekers?
Improving social security benefits and quality of accommodation?
Would it be more effective/appropriate to increase funding to informal non state providers of welfare?

Would you like to add anything else before we finish?

Thanks

END

QUESTIONING FRAME - FORCED MIGRANTS

Introduction

Full explanation of what we're doing

Independent academic work

Outline and emphasise informed consent and confidentiality/anonymity

Anonymous, confidential first /false name terms etc.

Recording ok?

Assurances

Payment

Background

Can we start by asking your name?

How old are you?

What is your current status?

Prompts: Asylum seeker, refugee, ELR/ discretionary leave/ humanitarian protection, failed/'overstayer'

Are you awaiting a decision about your application?

How long have you been in the process? What stage?

How long have you been in the UK?

Prompt: When did you arrive in Leeds?

Could you tell us about your experiences both when you first arrived in this country and up until now in Leeds?

Prompt: As we've already said we're particularly interested in your day to day life in Leeds

Housing

We now want to talk to you about housing

Can you tell us about your experiences concerning housing here in Leeds?

Prompts: Where are you living now?

How long have you lived there?

Where did you live before?

Do you live alone?

Who provides the housing?

Prompts: Is it the Council, Angel, Clearsprings, Safehaven, friends, family, community

What do you think of the standard of your current accommodation/ housing?

Prompts: Adequate/ inadequate?

Furniture, heating, general repair.

What sort of condition is in?

What about the area about the area in which you now live?

Prompts: What about the neighbours?
Do you speak to them?
Friendly? Supportive? Hostile?

Have you got any particular issues or concerns about your housing that we haven't covered?

Meeting basic needs?

We want to move on and talk about how you meet your day to day living expenses

How do you support yourself here in Leeds?

Prompts: Do you receive NASS benefits? How much?
Do you make your own arrangements?

How do you manage in terms of food, clothing, transport and other necessities?

Is the money you receive enough to meet these basic needs?

Are there places that you go to get help with day to day necessities?

Prompts: Who do you turn to if you have a problem in meeting your basic needs?
Voluntary organisations, refugee communities?
friends, family, other migrants?

Are there any other ways you can help yourself/manage to get by?

Coping strategies

We want to move on to talk about how you spend your time

Could you describe what you do during a typical day?

Prompts: Education, training, English
Do you work? (Paid/voluntary)
Do you do any social activities?
Do you have any friends that you spend time with?

Work

We want to talk a little more about the issue of work.

Can we start by asking what you work you did before arriving in the UK?

Prompts: Qualifications, training, recognition

Have you any experience of working in this country?

Prompts: Yes: What do (did) you do? Paid? voluntary? Full-time/ part-time?
Helping people on a casual basis?
Paid work in the home?

Legal or illegal? Were you legally permitted to work?

No; not at all?

What about helping people on a casual basis away from the home?

Work in the home?

Voluntary work?

What is stopping you from working?

Prompts: Status – not allowed to?

Informal care work?

Did you have any hopes or expectation about finding paid employment when you came to this country?

Would you like to be able to work?

Ways forward

What would you identify as the biggest problem in terms of your day to day life in Leeds?

Are you able to take any action that would improve your present situation?

Prompts: In relation to Housing? Financial wellbeing? Something else?

If you could change one thing to improve your day to day life in the UK what would it be?

Prompt: Why is this particularly important to you?

Is there anything we've not mentioned in relation to your day to day life that you want to bring to our attention/discuss?

Thank you for taking the time to talk to me.

It is appreciated.

Do you want to ask me any questions?

END

Table 1. Forced migrant respondents¹

Respondent	Immigration Status	Interpreter (Y/N)		Initial contact through	Duration (minutes)
FM1	Spouse of work permit holder²	No		LASSN	61
FM2	Refugee Status				
FM3	Refugee Status	Yes		Boston Towers Drop-in	65
FM4	ELR	Yes		Boston Towers Drop-in	59
FM5	Overstayer	No		A Refugee Community Organisation in Leeds	54
FM6	Overstayer				
FM7	Overstayer	No		A Refugee Community Organisation in Leeds	54
FM8	Refugee Status	No		Boston Towers Drop-in	44
FM9	ELR	Yes		Boston Towers Drop-in	66
FM10	Asylum Seeker	Yes		Health Access Team	72
FM11	ELR	No		Boston Towers Drop-in	120
FM12	Overstayer	No		St. George's Crypt	46
FM13	Asylum Seeker	No		Refugee Action	80
FM14	Refugee Status	No		Positive Action 4 Refugees/ ESOL teacher,	70
FM15	Overstayer	No		Positive Action 4 Refugees	56
FM16	Asylum Seeker	No		Health Access Team	66
FM17	Discretionary Leave (=ELR)	Yes		A Refugee Community (RCO)	60

¹ Additional information including country of origin, age, gender, marital status/family situation was also collected in the study. This information has been removed from table 1 in order to protect the anonymity of individual respondents (see ethics section of research report for a fuller discussion).

² In a strict sense this respondent was not a forced migrant and has not been counted as a full respondent within the study. However, the respondent had become involved in work to support destitute fellow nationals who were forced migrants resident in Leeds and provided valuable insights into the work of RCOs.

Respondent	Immigration Status	Interpreter (Y/N)		Contacted through	Duration (minutes)
FM18	Asylum Seeker (s.55)	No		Health Access Team	83
FM19	Asylum seeker	No		Positive Action 4 Refugees	96
FM20	Refugee Status	No		Positive Action 4 Refugees	65
FM21	ELR	No		ESOL teacher, A Leeds FE college	49
FM22 FM23 FM24	Asylum seeker Asylum seeker ELR	No		Refugee Action	150 Mini focus group

Table 2. Key Respondents and Organisations

No.	Job Title	Organisation and role in provision of welfare
KR1	Nurse Specialist	Health Access Team for Asylum Seekers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide health screening to all new asylum seekers in Leeds and run drop-in centres. Supporting asylum seekers in accessing mainstream healthcare services
KR2	Team Manager, Yorkshire and Humberside Region	Refugee Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National charity which in Leeds provides the One-Stop Service for asylum seekers and refugees. This includes a range of advice on applying asylum, NASS support queries, accessing legal advice and information
KR3&4	KR3 – Leeds Project Manager KR4 - Community Development Worker	Refugee Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Charity which in Leeds provides a Community Development scheme and Voluntary Returns project
KR5	Acting Operation Manger	Leeds Refugee and Asylum Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authority housing provider of NASS accommodation for asylum seekers
KR6	Project Manager	LASSN (Leeds Asylum Seeker Support Network) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of voluntary, community and faith groups providing English at Home Scheme and Befriending scheme and community projects for asylum seekers and refugees
KR7	Advisor	RETAS (Refugee Education and Training Advisory Service) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and guidance to assist refugees into education, training and employment
KR8	Co-ordinator	ShortStop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides emergency housing for destitute asylum seekers in volunteers' homes for a maximum of 6 nights
KR9	Deputy Manager	Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Consortium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium of 10 regional Local Authorities, co-ordinating dispersal to the region through a contract with the Home Office
KR10	A NASS officer	NASS (National Asylum Support Service) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Home Office, provides housing and support to some asylum seekers
KR11	Group Facilities Manager	Angel Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private housing provider of NASS accommodation for asylum seekers