



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, LANGUAGES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

Assisting refugees and Scholars at Risk at UWE

CARA/SAR UK Universities Network
Pathfinder University Grants Scheme

CARA PATHFINDER PROJECT REPORT SEPT. 2008

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CARA Pathfinder Project*

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1. Executive Summary

University of the West of England (UWE) Refugee & Migrant Support Project

Background: UWE won a CARA Pathfinder grant in March 2008 to help create a sustainable structure within the university and its federation where refugees, migrant workers and scholars at risk (SARs) can find support such as training, mentoring, work placement, professional development, and work shadowing. The main aim of the CARA Grant is to identify existing and additional supporting structures, including in teaching and research, and set up a UWE Refugee & Migrant Support Project (RMS) that would address them (*see Annexes A and B for RMS tasks chart and Grant project work plan*).

Project Outputs, Outcomes and Beneficiaries:

- Respond quickly to calls from CARA and others to host refugees, migrant workers and SARs — reduce bureaucracy etc.
- Better understanding in UWE of the needs of refugees and SARs
- Good links with local refugee supporting community organisations
- Web site with links to UWE
- A UWE Refugee & Migrant Support Project (RMS) to start in Oct. 2008
- So far about 30 students/academics are in the process of being recruited

Needs of the Project:

- Single point of entry for refugees and SARs
- Project Coordinator with admin support
- Systems in place for qualification verification and recognition
- UWE financial support for a three year pilot after the CARA grant lifeline
- Intra-faculty financial support

Some supporting structures in UWE:

- Teacher, ICT and legal training
- Centre for Inter-Cultural Communication
- English for foreign students, including pre-sessional summer classes
- Outreach Centre and Widening Participation Department
- Centre for Psycho-Social Studies
- Equality and Diversity Manager and positive action manual

Some gaps/bottlenecks in UWE

- Defining who is eligible
- Outreach, Partnerships, and publicity to boost student recruitment and widening participation target only young students, mostly undergraduates
- No specific funding for refugees and asylum seeking students
- Student Advisors support not specific to needs of international students
- No international office to deal with foreign staff
- Euro-centric approach to curriculum design and delivery

Some benefits of the project to UWE

- Boosts University's commitment to human rights;
- Boosts student recruitment, especially the mature adults;
- Addresses issues of workforce diversity;
- Building links with diverse communities;
- Exposure of students to different cultural perspectives

2. Introduction: Project objectives, indicators and outputs, and methods

At the outset of the project, the key objectives were to:

1. Identify existing and additional institutional support for scholars at Risk, refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers;
2. Identify existing and additional teaching and research opportunities for the beneficiaries;
3. Identify, and build networks with, local and regional refugee supporting community organisations;

4. Identify the needs of the beneficiaries in our region through focus groups;
5. Source internal and external funding opportunities to sustain the project;
6. Compile and publish a report of the key findings and recommendations of the project.

The project Indicators and Outputs were:

1. Respond quickly to CARA calls to host threatened and refugee academics;
2. Reduced bureaucracy in efforts to cope with the needs of refugee and threatened academics;
3. Better understanding among academic and administrative staff of the needs of refugees and threatened academics;
4. Visible presence of UWE membership to CARA with a web link to report and further facilities or support;
5. Continuous consultation of focus groups;
6. Obtain a clear UWE commitment through some financial investment for administrative support for a duration of 3 years minimum; and
7. Provide a sustainable action to counter-balance the under-representation of BMEs in the UWE staff in the context of promoting it as an inclusive university

Methods:

1. Initial consultations and fact-finding meetings with University of West of England, Executives, academic and administrative staff;
2. Initial consultations and fact-finding meetings with local authorities, community organisations and voluntary agencies;
3. Surveys targeting University of the West of England staff and local community organisations and other stake holders.

The research was led by Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Postdoctoral Research fellow and UWE CARA Pathfinder Scheme Project Officer with the assistance of Dr Christien van den Anker, Reader in Politics, and Dr Marie-Annick Gournet, Senior Lecturer in French and Area Studies, as Project Line Manager and Advisor, respectively. Two Research Assistants, Lora Brisland, an MA in Human Rights student, and Forward Maisokwadzo, a PhD candidate in journalism studies, and a Business Consultant, Richard Thickpenny, were hired to help with the research.

3. Analysis of Key findings from consultative and fact-finding meetings with UWE staff

23 executive, academic and administrative staff in all were initially consulted for advice and information regarding the existing structures and gaps within the university to support the UWE CARA project (See Annexe C for full list). All of them received an outline of the project aims, objectives and targeted outputs ahead of the consultative and fact-find meetings, one of which was with a focus group of three (one academic and two admin).

Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty (SSH) Executive Dean and Pro Vice Chancellor Jem Thomas was the first to be consulted on 2nd April 2008. Expressing support for the project, he outlined the following existing supporting structures within his faculty that makes him feel the right place to locate such a project:

- English course for foreign students
- Centre for Inter-Cultural Communication
- Legal training (local and international)
- Teacher training
- Human rights experts
- Centre for Psycho-Social Studies (contact person Hen Wilkinson)
- Very good connections with local authorities

Jem identified the following needs of the project:

- Single point of entry
- Qualification recognition
- Web site with links to UWE
- Administrative Support
- Financial support beyond the Pathfinder six-month grant lifeline
- Intra-faculty financial support

But he observed that the needs of SARs and refugees or asylum seekers who may want to access Higher Education may be different, adding that SARs may not have problems or barriers such as language, IT etc while most refugees and asylum seekers may have them. Marie-Annick Gournet, who accompanied the Project Officer Ibrahim Seaga Shaw to this meeting, said not all refugees, asylum seekers, or migrant workers have such barriers saying that most are nevertheless confronted with the problem of having qualifications obtained in their home countries accepted by educational institutions in the UK.

Meeting her on April 7 2008, Head of School of SSH and Associate Dean (Research) Prof. June Hannam however expressed caution over the idea of having the project located in the SSH faculty since it is not clear whether the other faculties would be happy with the idea, and this coupled with the added concern that the cost of running the project may be left entirely in the hands of the faculty when it in fact has a university-wide benefit. Moreover, she identified the following gaps in the system that may hinder hosting at risk scholars and refugee academics:

- No co-ordinated staff development in the faculty
- No comprehensive research fellowship programme
- More opportunities in research than teaching for visiting research fellows
- Under-utilisation of certain supporting structures particularly in research

June nonetheless identified the following supporting structures for post graduate research and fellowship in the faculty:

- Office space with desks, PCs and phones for visiting researchers
- Graduate school that provides technical and administrative assistance
- The Erasmus exchange programme particularly in education
- PhD supervision
- Training for PhD thesis supervisors

She also recommended a focus group meeting with the Director and other staff of the SSH Graduate School. Christien van den Anker and Marie-Annick Gournet also attended this meeting. The latter who is keen to see the scope of the project broadened to benefit refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers said having people with diverse profile will boost the knowledge base of the university.

Another meeting was held the same day (April 7) with Widening Participation Director and Head of the Outreach Centre Chris Croudace who expressed support for the location of the project in the SSH faculty because of its many supporting structures that can adequately be tapped into. He admitted that the project ties with the broader aims of the University Outreach Centre, particularly that encouraging BME communities to access higher education.

Marie-Annick, who has been working closely with the Outreach Centre in the area of raising aspirations of BMEs, and who also attended this meeting, stressed the need to have a one stop shop within the newly created Human

Rights Unit located in the SSH faculty to help raise awareness on the need to provide an adequate response to the needs of at risk scholars and refugees.

Chris identified the following “wider impacts” of the project:

- fostering links and knowledge exchange between the beneficiaries and the university staff and students;
- the difference it would bring to the university’s new strategic plan;
- drawing from the contacts and expertise of the beneficiaries.

Chris later offered the following supporting statement:

Dear Ibrahim,

Further to our recent meeting I am writing to confirm my support, as Director of Outreach, for the UWE CARA Pathfinder Project.

We are a relatively small central service employing a core team of 12 staff and around 400 students in part-time support roles as ambassadors, mentors and tutors. Our remit is to reach out to and open up opportunities for people from communities under-represented in HE through targeted outreach work aimed at raising aspirations, supporting attainment and encouraging progression to HE. Under-representation is closely connected with issues of equality and social inclusion, so we are particularly concerned with opportunities for disabled students and for mature students; and with equality of opportunity for men and women and those from minority ethnic communities.

The Outreach Centre therefore supports the CARA Pathfinder Project in its aim of helping to create a sustainable infrastructure within the University and its wider Federation where scholars at risk can find support such as training, mentoring, work placement, professional development and work shadowing.

With best wishes, Chris

The last meeting of the day (Monday April 7) this time held at the UWE Bower Ashton Campus with Paul Blatchford, Head of School of Creative Arts and Associate Dean (Research) was equally very fruitful. He outlined the following existing supporting structures within the School of Creative Arts:

- Clear and easy links for this project with the New Journalism programme in the school with important links with Media Wise and Exiled Journalists' Network
- Recognition by some of the programmes, including Fine Arts and Design, of the need to promote diversity in student and staff recruitment
- The existence of well established graduate programmes with about 200 postgraduate students
- Much easier to accommodate post graduate studies refugee students

Paul however identified the following bottlenecks or barriers:

- Euro-centric approach to curriculum design and delivery
- Skills teaching focus and not research strong
- Emphasis on undergraduate studies for example fine arts, media practice, drawing and applied arts, fashion textiles etc
- Cultural differences (which makes it necessary to negotiate and not just parachute people in)
- Resource Implications
- Difficulties to provide work shadowing and mentoring for refugee scholars with staff teaching work load at 18 hours per week in the School of Creative Arts, the highest in the whole university

Paul said despite these gaps in the system his faculty fully supports the CARA Pathfinder project.

He offered the following statement of commitment:

"The Faculty of Creative Arts would like to actively support the CARA project. Not only can this help the individual academics acclimatise to this academic culture but it would bring much needed diversity to our staff base and our student body".

Speaking on Monday April 14, Admissions office Partnerships Officer Susan Welsh commented on the importance of the CARA project and discerned the following existing supporting structures in their department:

- Heading Higher Passport Scheme gives 70 points of UCAS to student recruits with not much experience of Higher Education.
- Equality and Diversity Mentoring provided by Career Development (contact person Maggie Hogarth).
- £1,250 available as maintenance bursary grants for all students whose parents earn below £18,000 and £ 25,000 per annum
- Loans available to pay fees to the above group of students.
- English Language courses for foreign students.

- 100s of student recruits come through the non-traditional access pathway.

But she admitted that the following gaps do exist:

- Not aware of any specific funding for refugee or asylum seeking students.
- Focus of the partnerships programme on undergraduate students.
- Not sure whether more BMEs come to the University Open Days.

George Mann, Director of Centre for Intercultural Communication, expressed support for the project and identified the following supporting structures within his centre when consulted on Tuesday April 15:

- Provision of administrative support to organise conferences on human rights, particularly in the area of academic freedom.
- Centre is working to set up an international office that would provide pastoral service to overseas staff and students.
- Provision for hosting post-doctoral fellows, research fellows and PhD students starting next academic year.
- Possibility of providing match funding for fellowships and post graduate studies in the subject areas of the centre.
- Provision of a large pool of experts on inter-cultural communication.

He however identified the following gaps in the system:

- Resource implication such as providing office and logistics.
- Problem of providing mentors and work placement in subjects out side the centre.
- Focus of centre is not necessarily research.

The meeting with the newly appointed first ever Equality and Diversity Manager Angeline Carrozza on Wednesday April 16 was equally very fruitful. She identified the following existing structures:

- The creation of the post of Equality and Diversity Manager in the Human Resources Department for the first time;
- All faculties of the university are creating equality and diversity units to monitor equality and diversity targets in the coming years;
- Preparation and publication of Positive Action Training and Manual, respectively, by June 2008;

- Participation in the CARA project recognised as one of the activities of the faculties to achieve workforce targets;
- Commitment to undergo equality and diversity training;
- Equality impact assessments planned;
- Activity which promotes good race relations planned;
- Recognition of the need to counter-balance the current under representation of the ethnic minorities;
- Targeted increase from 5 to 10% of BME staff in the long term say by 2011;
- Solid BME profile within UWE student body.

Although Angeline sounded very optimistic about the success potential of the project she outlined the following bottlenecks:

- Widely held assumption that there is a very small pool of BME qualified academics;
- Lack of recognition of work experience acquired by BMEs in their home countries;
- Lack of an office in Human Resources to support international staff (visa, immigration etc.);
- Under utilised students support services for example wellbeing, careers, work experience for students and financial.

She recommended that the proposed structure be made to serve as a central networking hub with a coordinator and an admin support staff that will work closely with other stake holders of the university, as well as relevant local authorities and NGOs.

The Equality and Diversity manager later sent the following statement to register her support for the project:

I believe the CARA project could bring great benefits for UWE. In regard to the moral argument, this is obviously a project which demonstrates that UWE is serious about human rights and supporting academics who are unable to work in their country of origin because of political or security concerns. The high profile benefits of mainstreaming such a project may result in attracting staff and students who respect this position.

Hosting such academics at UWE will bring a wider experience of teaching and understanding of our programmes of study which can only benefit our student and staff experience. By providing placement and mentoring opportunities at UWE, CARA academics could get the experience and confidence they need to apply for academic positions at UWE. This has obvious benefits in regards to the recruitment and retention of black and minority ethnic academics which would

help address the under-representation of BME staff in our workforce and help us meet our workforce diversity key performance indicators.

Currently UWE's overall BME staff profile is 5.59% ...;and...in some Schools such as the School of Education only 1.04% of staff are from a BME background and the (former) Faculty of Applied Science 0.99% of staff are from a BME background. Mainstreaming the CARA project, in my view may help to address issues of under-representation within the workforce and will certainly help in regards to the legal requirement placed on HEI's by the Race Relations Amendment Act to promote good race relations.

Prof Robin Means, Associate Dean (Research) Faculty of Health and Life Sciences also turned out to be very upbeat about the project when consulted on Thursday April 17. He talked about following supporting structures in their faculty:

- Policy of the faculty to provide mentoring for all new staff;
- Teacher training provided for all new staff with certificate awarded;
- Hiring of visiting lecturers mostly in the region
- Teaching opportunities for scholars at risk and PhD refugee students;
- Growing number of international post graduate students in public health from Ghana, Kenya, India and Malaysia;
- Centre for Learning and Workforce Research which recently concluded the evaluation of the Refugee Clinician Programme (contact person Prof Margaret Miers Margaret.Miers@uwe.ac.uk)

The HLS faculty associate dean was however very quick to point out the following problems/gaps in the system:

- Hosting of PhD candidates depends on certain criteria such as language support etc.;
- Lack of strong research profile on health and ethnicity issues.

He recognised that the structure proposed by the CARA Pathfinder project would help address these gaps in the system as knowledge from people of diverse backgrounds would be tapped into to benefit post graduate research students.

Another consultative and fact-finding meeting was held later the same day (April 17) with Roger Clewett, Academic Registrar, SSH faculty, who identified the following existing supporting structures:

- Language Courses and Language Centre in the main University Library
- A growing number of post graduate students particularly in Education
- Pre-sessional English classes in the summer holiday
- International officer for student exchange programmes such as ERASMUS
- Tradition of Welcoming new students during the induction period
- Faculty Student Advisors on personal problems ranging from fees to accommodation etc.

He equally outlined the following existing problems/gaps in the system:

- Publicity and promotion to boost student recruitment targets only the young and not necessarily mature students
- No Student Advisors' support tailored to the specific needs of international students
- No international office to deal with foreign staff

But he recognised that the structure proposed here will help address these gaps providing targeted promotion of courses offered by the University to adults and mature scholars at risk, refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers who may want to access higher education but may be facing some challenges. He said this will also have a knock-on effect of fostering links between the university and employers.

Following is Roger Clewett's statement of support:

Thank you for meeting with me last week, and providing more information about your project. Just to confirm what I said in the meeting, I can see a number of potential benefits of the project, including (but not only) in the recruitment of, and support for, particular groups of students. I wish you every success with the project, and look forward to hearing more about it as time progresses.

Speaking in a meeting Monday April 21, Prof Jane Arthurs, Head of Department, Media, Culture and Drama, promised to discuss the project with the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Creative Arts and to win his support for financial commitment to the project from the faculty. She recognised that her department and faculty should invest into such a project because most scholars here combine their academic work with that of practice in for instance: film making, animation, photography and journalism. She noted that the Faculty of Creative Arts is therefore most likely to receive more scholars at risk who may not necessarily have political problems because of their academic work but because of their practice-related work. She said that the faculty has a wide range of staff expertise to provide support in mentoring and work-shadowing.

Prof. Diana Jeater, Head of History and Madge Dresser, Reader in History, Steve Gardner (Sociology) and Kate Flyne (Politics) were among the first academics to write and praise the project following the mass circulation of the UWE staff survey. 'Wonderful News', wrote Madge; 'this is a really great project and I hope to be of as much help as possible', said Steve.

The Centre for Psycho-Social Studies (CPSS) is arguably one of the biggest assets the CARA project can tap into. It is holding a 2-day event at UWE in Spring 2009 entitled "Migrant Workers, Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Foreigners: Policy, Psychological Theory and Welfare Practice with People uprooted in the 'new' Europe". Described as an opportunity to examine and reflect on current ways in which trans-national migration is constructed and policy interventions are offered in the UK. This could provide a potential work placement opportunity for a SAR?

In an interview conducted by Research Assistant Lora Brisland, Director of CPSS Prof. Paul Hoggett said he had considered hosting a scholar at risk but was prevented by lack of funding. He said he would consider offering an unpaid post, training or mentoring provided experience of SAR was relevant. He however recognised that this would have to be on part-time basis as CPSS is a small research centre and there is not enough demand for work. Encouragingly, he said his centre could host a scholar with approximately 6 months notice. CPSS also runs relevant CPD (continuing professional development) short courses such as a 6-day course entitled 'Conflict' which can be completed as part of a Masters degree for practitioners. CPSS also has a mailing database of 600 people, and in the survey the CPSS director did indicate that he potentially would be willing to provide information about the CARA project on his departmental web page.

Moreover, Reader in Politics Dr Christien Van Den Anker said she was approached by CARA in 2007 to host an Iraqi scholar at risk but she could find "no institutional way to get this done". The university were unclear on funding and unaware of legal requirements involved and the placement fell through, despite the willingness of individuals involved to make it happen. But thanks to the CARA project, and the huge support it has received among the UWE staff, these problems would soon be history.

By far the most eventful support for the CARA project came from the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences Graduate School with a Declaration signed by its Director Prof. William Greenslade and posted on its web page following a focus group meeting:

CARA (Council for Assisting Refugee Academics) Pathfinder project

Following a recent meeting between Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Project officer for the UWE CARA Pathfinder Project, and the HLSS Graduate School, I am, as Director of the School, delighted to give the Project our full support. We recognise the important work which CARA is undertaking on behalf of threatened and refugee academics and are very aware of how UWE and HLSS, through its commitment to the study of Human Rights and Inter-Cultural Communication, is particularly well-placed to give assistance to CARA, by helping to facilitate academic and educational opportunities for refugee academics.*

*Professor William Greenslade
(Director of HLSS Graduate School)*

9 May 2008

** In attendance:*

*Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw
Professor William Greenslade
Jane Askew (Graduate School Manager)
Lesley Brock (Administrator PG and Research)*

Assistant Vice Chancellor Prof. Geoff Channon and Deputy Vice Chancellor Rob Cuthbert are the two high ranking university executives to unreservedly back the initiative of the CARA project. While suggesting the need to contact UWE Community Engagement Manager Raymond Raine and UWE Federation Director Jonathan Simmons, Geoff said the timing of the project is good because the university has just approved a one-year higher education training for all new teaching staff which he said would be very useful for beneficiaries of this project. In an email addressed to the University Vice Chancellor Professor Steve West and his two deputies (Rob and John), Geoff made a strong case for the project:

You probably do not know that as the Dean of HLSS I gave strong encouragement through Christien van den Anker and others to develop a full range of curriculum and other initiatives in the general area of human rights. One such initiative was CARA - a very influential organisation that started in the 1930s - with which Christien got involved.

One result is the pathfinder award to investigate how UWE might support scholars at risk. Ibrahim Shaw, Postdoctoral Fellow in the School of Politics, is leading the research.

I hope that SMG will give this strong endorsement and resource support for at least three years, urging faculties to offer mentoring and

placement opportunities for CARA academics at UWE, possibly also giving them 'free' places on training courses such as the APD. The project will collect these and other possibilities and come up with a sustainable, flexible and responsive model.

The advantages to UWE are obvious - the moral argument about the University's commitment to human rights; addressing issues of workforce diversity; building links with particular communities; exposure of students to different cultural perspectives etc. There might be some risks (defining who is eligible) but one purpose of the project might be to see how these might be minimised.

I understand that a paper will be brought to UMG shortly.

Rob replied by saying: *'I have spoken to Ibrahim in the past and I strongly support this'.*

4. Analysis of Key findings from survey targeting UWE staff

Summary of findings: The findings show an overwhelming support for the CARA project among members of staff who participated in the survey although there were few concerns raised that need to be addressed if the project is to succeed.

The electronic software survey monkey was used throughout the survey targeting the UWE staff. Each question from the survey is analysed in turn, with the statistics in bold and discussion of points of interest extracted from the comments box.

i. Identification: Who took part?

127 UWE staff took the online survey beating the target of 100, 33% of which fully completed all questions.

Most respondents were senior academic staff with the majority coming from the faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH).

ii. Teaching of Refugee Issues:

33% of respondents said their department does conduct teaching or research regarding refugee issues, the rest answering 'No' or 'Don't know'.

The SSH again was the most quoted faculty with Christien Van Den Anker's name being mentioned several times; in particular her association with the MA in Human Rights and her own research. Other lecturers such as Steve Garner (Sociology) and Kate Flynn (Politics) were also mentioned by some respondents. Some respondents also offered comments: the head of history stated "we look at the history of refugees both locally and in a European context..." while Associate Dean of Bristol Business School noted "Anna Pollert's work on East European workers".

Education, Primary and Early Childhood Studies, in SSH is the only other department mentioned in the survey that conducts teaching of refugee issues.

iii. Working with SARs

As no SAR has yet been hosted at UWE all respondents skipped this section.

iv. Suggestions for future SAR work programme

There was majority support for university-wide centrally administered finances. This would ensure equitable access across departments, and ensure parity and monitoring and make the success of the venture responsible to the university. Others mentioned the importance of a single interested person to keep the project on the agenda while others suggested the scheme also needs a 'champion' at executive level so that it does not get de-prioritised. Suggestions for funding were the Home Office, grant giving bodies, Refugee Action, Local authority, Student Union, CARA, Specific consultancy/research funding schemes.

v Opportunities for SARs

60% of respondents on average thought it would be possible for their department to accommodate SARs in the future in Research, Admin and Teaching positions.

vi. Unpaid Posts

A third of respondents said their department would consider offering training, work shadowing or mentoring opportunity on an unpaid post to an asylum seeking academic although there were repeated concerns how unpaid labour could be reconciled with ethics if the university would be gaining from unwaged SARs, and above all this will depend on skills of SARs and decision making at top academic and executive levels

vii. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

60% of respondents said their department does have a (CPD) programme for staff?

***There are also:
English Language classes
Short Courses
Research Methodology
Staff study sessions***

All respondents said fluency in English would be a prerequisite for hosting a SAR. 9 respondents however offered suggestions as to how language barriers could be overcome.

viii. Support Services

The table below shows that respondents thought the majority of the responsibility for welfare of refugee staff and students lies with the university and community groups.

1. Who do you believe should be responsible for providing the following support to potential SARs, refugees, asylum seekers, or migrant workers?					
	University	School/Department	SAR/refugee student	Community Group	Response Count
Housing arrangements	48.5% (16)	3.0% (1)	30.3% (10)	45.5% (15)	33
General Living Costs	42.4% (14)	9.1% (3)	36.4% (12)	39.4% (13)	33

1. Who do you believe should be responsible for providing the following support to potential SARs, refugees, asylum seekers, or migrant workers?					
Spouse Support	28.1% (9)	9.4% (3)	43.8% (14)	34.4% (11)	32
Child Care	48.5% (16)	3.0% (1)	33.3% (11)	33.3% (11)	33
Counselling services	68.8% (22)	0.0% (0)	6.3% (2)	43.8% (14)	32
Medical/Trauma healing	37.9% (11)	0.0% (0)	17.2% (5)	58.6% (17)	29
Refugee Community Issues	22.6% (7)	0.0% (0)	12.9% (4)	77.4% (24)	31
Immigration issues (visas/permits)	54.5% (18)	9.1% (3)	21.2% (7)	33.3% (11)	33

ix. Concluding Remarks

67% of respondents said they would be happy to be contacted again regarding this project.

60% said they would like to participate in any future programmes and a further 31% were unsure at present.

Of those who were willing to participate, 90% said they would distribute information, and 36% said they would display information on their Departmental webpage.

5. Discussion of findings from UWE Staff consultation, fact-finding and survey

Most of the findings from the UWE staff consultation, fact-finding and survey point to an overwhelming support for the project and the existence of more supporting structures than gaps or problems that may hinder its future

implementation. Although some respondents recommended a university wide central financial control of the programme, most of the key findings confirm that the SSH faculty is potentially well placed to play a lead role in the implementation of the programme. Most staff consulted and surveyed supported the idea of having a single point of access service to respond to the needs of refugees, scholars at risk, asylum seekers and other disadvantaged migrants.

6. Analysis of key findings from consultative and fact-finding meetings with local community groups.

From the outset the UWE Refugee & Migrant Support Project that is to emerge out of the CARA project was modelled on the Refugee Education project in Sunderland which also won the CARA pathfinder grant in 2007. This project, which has so far assisted many asylum seekers and refugees by breaking the barriers preventing them from accessing higher education, has won an award and nominated for many national awards. Following is what Sunderland University Refugee Education Project Coordinator Mirabel Lavelle said in an interview on 23rd July 2008:

Q: What systems do you have in place to verify the qualifications of refugees/asylum seekers who have no written records of their qualification?

A: www.naric.org. Organisations pay a membership license to use.

Q: How do you go about assessing the English language needs of these beneficiaries?

A: Our EAP department at Forster building, Chester Rd SR1 3SD will test against IELTS standards. The manager is Dr Felicity Breet. Those whose levels are 5.5 or lower will join short EAP UP courses or a full year course. www.sunderland.ac.uk Please visit our website for more information.

Q: How is your project funded ?

A: We apply for funding from various bodies.

Q: How many staff are involved in the project and how long has the project been going on?

A: The project started in February 2007 and has grown from strength to strength having been short listed for 3 awards and later being an award winner as part of the HR/Equality and Diversity team. I am the only Refugee Support Officer and I work part time mainly Wednesdays to Fridays. Our Equality and Diversity Chair, Prof. Peter Smith and our Manager Paul Andrew are actively involved in supporting my work.

Q: How many community groups/voluntary organisations have you been working with on this project?

A: Over 200 have been helped

Q: How many community groups/voluntary organisations have you been working with on this project?

A: Over 25

Q: Have you been able to source funding to support beneficiaries with bursaries to help them with fees and maintenance allowance?

A: Yes

Q: Have you been running some special courses/workshops for beneficiaries by way of addressing gaps in education?

A: Yes

Director of Bristol-based *Pierian Centre* June Burrough expressed profound support for the UWE CARA project saying that the timing of having a project like this here is right as her organisation is in partnership with other community organisations planning a big event in 2010 celebrating Bristol as a city of sanctuary. June offered to have her organisation serve as one of the referral agencies for the UWE CARA project as they often assist many refugees and asylum seekers. Elinor Harris, Area Manager for *Refugee Action* said their organisation is very willing to partner the UWE CARA project but cited the Home Office policy of not providing assistance for refugees integration once they have been granted the status to stay as not very helpful. She however recognised that all will change in October 2008 when the Home Office has promised to start referring refugees to them to help them with their integration process, including accessing educational institutions and support. She said from then on they would be in a better position to access the skills and training the refugees would need to integrate into British society once they have been granted their status, and she

promised to from then on serve as a potential referral agency for the UWE CARA Project.

Sue Scott of the *Bristol Refugee Rights*, who also teaches English as a foreign language at UWE, offered to have her organisation serve as a referral agency for the UWE CARA project especially for asylum seekers who access their services. Sue has so far signposted two potential beneficiaries to the UWE CARA project. Paul Barnett of the *Bristol Legacy Commission* in the *Bristol City Council* also expressed support for the project and promised match funding. Another organisation that has agreed to partner the UWE CARA project is the Prisoners of Conscience which provides support for refugees to access higher education .

7. Analysis of key findings from survey targeting local communities

Summary of Findings

The main consensus was that different organisations have a role to play in providing a variety of support services to scholars at risk (SARs). However, it was felt the University can also play an important supporting role by creating a structure within the University and its federation where SARs , refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers can find respite and support in specific areas such as training, mentoring, work placement and professional development.

The key themes to emerge from the findings are:

1. The need to assist SARs in rebuilding their lives and careers.
2. The need for more funding to support SARs who want to further their studies.
3. The need for more work collaboration among the Universities, Local authorities, refugee agencies and Refugee Community Organisations in order to provide adequate support to SARs.
4. The University needs to continue its vital work of education (training), providing knowledge, skills and good practice as well as work at a strategic level to encourage a creative approach to releasing more resources for more effective services targeting SARs.
5. There is a need for University to market itself, and promote its services in particular to SARs.

The Response of RCOs, Local authorities and refugee agencies

All of the respondents were positive about the initiative to set up a structure within UWE where SARs will find support. Most of the refugee agencies and Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) expressed great interest in working with the University in one way or the other to implement the project. They can help by distributing information about the project to some of their community members, refer SARs within their communities who desperately want to enrol at Universities but currently fail to do so because of funding problems. Some established groups and organisations such as the Bangladesh Community Association and Refugee Action can provide work placement and volunteering opportunities to SARs.

About 80% of the respondents felt the University should take responsibility in making housing arrangements for SARs as well as providing general living costs. About spouse support, a similar number of respondents felt if a student is a refugee, support should lie with the state through the usual channels that are open to other refugees. However, in cases where a student is not a refugee, then responsibility for this lies with the spouse themselves.

The same was on child care/schooling where if the student is a refugee this should be provided by the state through the usual channels that are open to other refugees; if not a refugee, then they have to take care of their own child. On counselling services, 20% of the respondents agreed that this can be done by either the University, School/department or community group depending on the nature of the counselling being sought.

About providing medical/trauma healing assistance 85% of the respondents agreed that the NHS should take responsibility. However, 10% of the respondents said community groups and university can also help to make referrals or identify such problems. *Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture*, *Dart Centre for Europe* and other charity organisations can also provide support on issues of trauma. Community groups can also play a supporting role by making referrals or identify some of its members that require such support.

On immigration issues (visa/permits) most of the respondents agree this should be dealt with by the Home Office and / or if needed by an independent Immigration Advice Service. However, there are not enough of these, but there ought to be. Some respondents felt this could be provided by the University if there were specialist staff who understood the issues. The main concern was that Immigration issues can not be left to universities and or community groups alone because there are other important actors like local authorities, solicitors, charities and other agencies mandated to deal with refugee and community issues who could help in providing supporting service on this issue.

All of the respondents were positive that Community groups can take responsibility on refugee community issues. However, a significant number of respondents raised concerns that they do not favour a model that would dump much of the above onto a refugee (or other single-identify) community group. The reasons being community groups are often already overstretched, some may not have the skills or best access to services for some of the issues (e.g counselling, trauma issues); and also there is an increasing move now away from single-group funding towards more integrated services and activities- so again, respondents felt collaborative work will indeed help to implement the project. Although most of the community groups are under funded, they are often a 'first port of call' for many, especially from ethnic minority groups; hence their responsibility should be signposting people back to mainstream or specialist service providers.

Issues raised by Service providers

The issues raised by service providers reflected the range of interests represented by the respondents. The results of these surveys have been collated and reproduced in the following format to show the variety of concerns expressed. The results are useful in that they generate pointers toward some of the gaps in provision. The figures in brackets indicate how many times an issue was mentioned.

Issues facing refugees in Bristol...

The need for adequate and appropriate **housing** mentioned by 8 respondents.

The need for appropriate **medical /health** assistance was mentioned by 4 respondents, 3 said this was necessary especially to deal with traumatic stress.

Problems of **integrating with other minority** groups in Bristol were identified by 3 respondents.

Racism and xenophobia were mentioned by 2 respondents.

Interpretation and translation services were mentioned by 5 respondents.

Limited resources to undertake further studies resulting in many RCOs being overstretched.

The long-term needs of refugees...

Equal access to public services such as employment, training & health (8)

Housing (5)

Holistic support services (2)

The most urgent long term needs...

Rebuilding their lives and careers: - Getting SARs into training and education to broaden their chances of employment.

8. Discussion of findings from Local Community/external groups consultation, fact-finding and survey

The findings from local community groups consultation, fact-finding and survey reflect a general willingness on their part to cooperate with the running of the project, largely as referral and funding agencies. There is also consensus that UWE CARA Pathfinder Project will indeed provide a valuable and useful service not only to SARs but to the City as a whole. In the current situation where we have a big migrant community in Britain with a significant percentage being SARs, it is vital that universities such as UWE not only tap into these potential students who will bring in revenue in terms of fees to the University but also help to rebuild people's battered lives and careers. Most of those consulted and/or surveyed agreed that UWE and local community organisations should provide most of the pastoral services for SARs and refugees accessing higher education.

This is why UWE needs to work with potential partners such as local authorities, refugee agencies and refugee community groups to set up a structure within the university which provides an opportunity for affirming good practice, and promote high standards of learning to SARs. Some bottle necks such as those associated with the Home Office, housing, racism etc. were also highlighted but it is hoped that the CARA project would help address them.

8. Conclusion--Evaluation of the Project Outcomes: Activities, impact, effectiveness, visibility and sustainability

During the course of this project, the following activities took place:

- Over 30 consultations and fact-finding meetings with UWE staff and local community organisations;
- Electronic survey with 127 UWE staff participating
- Electronic survey with 25 staff of local community organisations participating
- Identification of basic existing and needed infrastructure and resources within UWE for the project
- Identification of bottlenecks and how to address them

The impact, effectiveness, visibility and sustainability of the project can be measured by the following developments that emerged during its timescale:

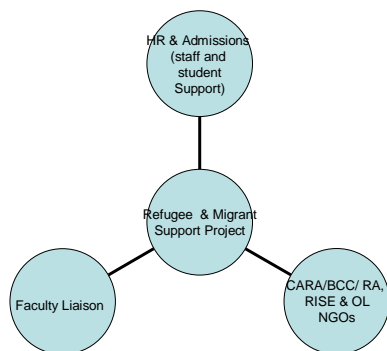
- A proposed UWE Refugee & Migrant Support pilot project creating a single point of access service for refugees and scholars at risk (SARS), asylum seekers, migrants and other targeted groups into UWE to facilitate academic and educational opportunities for refugee academics and minority communities.
- Increased awareness in UWE and Bristol of CARA's work and the Pathfinder project made possible by the consultations, surveys, and the publication of a press release on the University web site (See Annex D).
- Provisional Commitment from UWE executive staff to support the pilot project starting in October.
- Commitment from local community organisations, local authorities and other external partners to collaborate and provide support needed to sustain the project.
- Findings of consultations, fact-finding meetings and survey indicate considerable willingness in UWE and among external holders to aid the success of the project.
- Publication of a strong statement of support for the project on the SSH faculty web page and commitment to have a PDF format of the UWE CARA Pathfinder Report on the UWE web site.
- So far about 30 students/academics are in the process of being recruited through the pilot project.

In view of the above critical success factors of the project this report concludes on a positive note that, despite the few existing bottlenecks, it has the potential to be sustained and bring the following benefits and more to UWE: boosts University's commitment to human rights; boosts student recruitment, especially the mature adults; addresses issues of workforce diversity; building links with diverse communities; exposure of students to different cultural perspectives.

10. Annexes A,B,C,D,E and F

Annex A

The UWE Refugee Support Project



- **Refugee & Migrant Support Project** – coordinator and admin support
- **Human Resources-** equality and diversity, positive action, recruitment, international staff support (placement, mentoring, training, visa, immigration etc); & **Admissions-** partnerships, Student Support (international students recruitment)
- **CARA** (Council For Assisting Refugee Academics, **RA** (Refugee Action); **BCC** (Bristol City Council); **RISE** (Refugees in Sustainable Employment) & **OL NGOs** (other local Non governmental organisations)
- **Faculty Liaison**—All UWE faculties and federation (deans, heads of departments, academic registrars, Outreach centre etc.

Annex B

UWE CARA Pathfinder Project Work Plan

Project Officer: Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, Post-doctoral Fellow

Project Line Manager: Dr Christien van den Anker, Reader in Politics

Project Advisor: Dr Marie-Annick Gournet, Senior Lecturer, Languages and Area studies

Background: The UWE CARA pathfinder project seeks to create a sustainable structure within the University and its federation where scholars at risk can find support such as training, mentoring, work placement, professional development, and work shadowing. The project will address the lack of adequate existing structures to cope with the specific needs of scholars at risk, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers. The main aim is to identify already existing, albeit largely underutilised, supporting structures, and gaps in the system that inhibit efforts by UWE to respond to the needs of scholars at risk.

Aims and Objectives: To achieve the above, the project will pursue the following set objectives:

7. Identify existing and additional institutional support for scholars at Risk
8. Identify existing and additional teaching and research opportunities for scholars at risk
9. Identify, and build networks with, local and regional refugee supporting community organisations
10. Identify the needs of scholars at risk in our region through focus groups
11. Source internal and external funding opportunities to sustain the project
12. Compile and publish a report of the key findings and recommendations of the project

Project Indicators and Outputs:

- Respond quickly to CARA calls to host threatened and refugee academics;
 - Reduced bureaucracy in efforts to cope with the needs of refugee and threatened academics;
 - Better understanding among academic and administrative staff of the needs of refugees and threatened academics;
 - Visible presence of UWE membership to CARA with a web link to report and further facilities or support;
 - Continuous consultation of focus group;
 - Obtain clear UWE commitment through some financial investment for administrative support for a duration of 3 years minimum; and
-

- Provide a sustainable action to counter-balance the under-representation of BMEs in the UWE staff in the context of promoting it as an inclusive university

Method: These objectives will be met by conducting research, especially through surveys, and holding consultative and fact-finding meetings with deans and heads of schools, departments, relevant administrative departments, focus groups, academics, community organisations and local authorities.

Activities Timeline

April 1-30: Consultative and fact-finding meetings with deans and heads of relevant university departments and focus groups

May 1-31: Online fact-finding questionnaire survey to relevant administrative departments, heads of departments, academics, students and holding focus group meetings

June 1-30: Consultative and fact-finding meetings with, and online questionnaire to, community organisations and other key partners and funding bodies

July 1-31: Focus group meetings with heads of relevant university departments and identified collaborating community organisations to share findings and solicit commitment to sustaining the project

Aug 1--Sept. 30: Preparation of the Pathfinder Project Report, 'Assisting refugees and Scholars at Risk at UWE': and circulating to key stakeholders for comment. The final report will be printed and circulated among collaborating departments, academics, and community organisations while the electronic PDF version will be made available on a dedicated page on the UWE website

Gantt chart

Date			01- April	01- May	01- June	01-14 July	15-31 July	1-31 Aug	01-30 Sept	
Task										
4 Meetings with AVC/ Deans/A. Deans			***							
5 Meetings with Exe/senior Admin staff			***							
1 meeting with H of Dept.			***							
1 focus group			***							



meeting									
Report to Dean SSH		***							
Meeting with two research assistants			***						
Compiling survey data				***					
Analysing survey data				***					
Meeting in Sunderl and Report to Dean SSH				***					
Meeting with local authorities etc.					***				
Meetings with comm. orgs					***				
Questionnaire survey					***				
Two meetings in London					***				
Holding focus group meetings						***			
Consultative meetings with UWE executives							***		
Final Report								***	***

Subsequent developments

SSH Faculty executive and University Management Group meetings will consider the report's findings and follow up action.

Annex C

List of University of the West of England (UWE) Staff consulted:



1. Dr Christien van den Anker, Reader in Politics
2. Prof Jane Arthurs, Head of Department, Media, Culture and Drama
3. Jane Askews, Graduate School Manager, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
4. Prof. Gaynor Attwood, Head of Planning and Resources, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
5. Paul Bilito, Business Manager, Faculty of Social Sciences and
6. Paul Blatchford, Head of School of Creative Arts
7. Lesley Brock, Research Administrator, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
8. Angeline Carrozza, Equality and Diversity Manager
9. Prof. Geoff Channon, Assistant Vice Chancellor, University of the West of England;
10. Roger Clewett, Academic Registrar, Faculty of Social Sciences And Humanities;
11. Chris Croudace, Director of Widening Participation and Head of Outreach Centre;
12. Prof. Rob Cuthbert, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of the West of England;
13. Madge Dresser, Reader in History
14. Dr Kate Flynn, Senior Lecturer in Politics, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
15. Dr. Steve Garner, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Criminology.
16. Dr Marie-Annick Gournet, Senior Lecturer, French and Area Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
17. Prof. William Greenslade, Director of Graduate School, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
18. Mark Haith, Senior Lecturer in Mental Health, Faculty of Health and Social Care
19. Prof. June Hannam, Head of School of Humanities and Social Sciences & Associate Dean of Research
20. Prof. Paul Hoggett, Director, Centre for Psycho-Social Studies
21. George Mann, Director of Centre for Inter-cultural Communication
22. Prof. Robin Means, Associate Dean (Research) Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

23. Jem Thomas, Pro vice Chancellor and Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
24 Susan Welsh, Partnership Officer, Admissions Office

Annex D

News 2008

UWE wins CARA Pathfinder grant award

Issue date: 03/04/2008



The University of the West of England has won a pathfinder award for £10,000 from the Council for Assisting Refugee academics (CARA) and Scholars at Risk Network to create a sustainable structure within the University and its federation where scholars at risk can find support for training, mentoring, work placement, professional development and work shadowing.

Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, UWE Pathfinder Grant Scheme Project Officer and Post-doctoral Fellow in the School of Politics, said, “We will investigate current supporting structures and plug any gaps in the system that might inhibit efforts by UWE to respond to the needs of scholars at risk.

“The focus will centre on identifying existing and additional institutional support, as well as teaching and research opportunities by building networks with local authorities and local and regional supporting community organisations. We will publish a report of the key findings and recommendations.

“The project will also help UWE to respond quickly to CARA calls to host threatened and refugee academics; reduce red-tape in efforts to cope with the needs of refugee and at risk scholars; provide a sustainable means of counter-

balancing the under-representation of black and ethnic minorities in the UWE staff and provide a visible presence of UWE membership through a web link.”

Reader in Politics and Human Rights expert, Dr Christien van den Anker, said, “This fits UWE's goal of playing an exemplary role in the region in making Higher Education contribute in helping people from diverse backgrounds flourish.”

Dr Marie-Annick Gournet, Project Advisor and Senior Lecturer in French and Area Studies, said, “Helping people in these categories to achieve their full potential through education and employment will not only help promote UWE's human rights image but will also boost widening participation which will have a knock on effect on expanding overall student recruitment.”

-ENDS-

For further information please contact.

Jane Kelly or Mary Price, Press Officers

Bristol UWE

Tel: 0117 32 82208, Fax 0117 32 82341

E-mail: jane.kelly@uwe.ac.uk or mary.price@uwe.ac.uk

Annex E

BUDGET ESTIMATE

Salary for six months (March 15-September 14)

Project Officer: Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw	£6,338.00
Two research assistants	£840.00
*Research assistance	£1,000.00
Secretarial Assistance	£624.00
Sub-total	£8,802.00

Resources

Contribution to publishing of the Project Report: £800.00
Sub-total £800.00

Meetings

Cost of travel £340.00
Refreshments for meetings £ 50.00
Sub-total £390.00

Total £9,992.00

**This will be used to pay any freelance researchers (about 10 expected for this kind of project) commissioned to carry out small research work to meet the benchmarks of the project*

Annex F

Projects and organisations in Bristol supporting asylum seekers and refugees and useful information sources

RAP – Refugee Awareness Project – Refugee Action project of asylum seekers and refugees with host country volunteers delivering awareness raising sessions. The project also supports organizations to welcome refugees and asylum seekers to Bristol. Contact Claire Stern Tel: 0117 941 5973 or rapbristol@refugee-action.org.uk

Move-on Project – Refugee Action project, pairing new refugees with a mentor to support them through the process of accessing mainstream benefits, accommodation, education and training opportunities. Contact Linda Joynes Tel: 0117 941 5960 or lindaj@refugee-action.org.uk

Time Together project – based at Volunteering Bristol – befriending project matching refugees with mentors, contact Tom Blower, Project Worker on 0117 9279636 or email tom@volunteeringbristol.org **No longer taking referrals from November 07**

Tackling Racism Refugee Support Project- Advice service for Refugees living in Barton Hill, Lawrence Hill, Redfield and the Dings. Managed by Citizens Advice Bureau in partnership with Community At Heart. Advice service available throughout the week at different locations, call Bristol CAB on 0870 121 2134

Refugee Women of Bristol – support group for refugee and asylum seeking women. Drop in every Tuesday 10am – 3pm at the Woodward Community Centre, Alexander Park, off Fishponds Rd. For full information about drop in sessions, Tel 0117 353 3288 or email: Melissa.rwdropin@gmail.com

Somali Voice - The only Somali newspaper in the UK. This Bristol based community co-operative produces a bi-lingual free independent monthly paper servicing the UK's Somali community. <http://www.thesomalivoice.co.uk/>, Contact Kayse Maxamed, tel: 0117 941 4432
Mob: 07960236638, E-mail: somalivoice@europe.com

Bristol Refugee Rights – Drop In Centre for asylum seekers and refugees – Wednesdays 10am til 12.30pm and Thursday 10am – 3.30pm at Congregational Hall, Newton Street off Stapleton Road. Conversation, refreshment, English classes, advice, art and craft activities, gardening and much more. Contact Caroline Beatty on Tel: 0117 9080844 or 07968 092747 or email: dropin@hotmail.co.uk

Amana Education Trust- runs supplementary school and provide other educational services to Somalis in Bristol. Contact 122 Grosvenor Road, St Paul's Bristol BS2 8YA

African Voices Forum-a network of African and African-Caribbean community organisations based in Bristol. Contact 122 Grosvenor Road, St Paul's Bristol BS2 8YA

CEED Charity Ltd -Centre for Employment and Enterprise Development-Contact 97-107 Wilder Street, Ujima House, St Paul's, Bristol BS2 8QU contact@ceed.co.uk Tel: (+44) 117 942 9555 Fax: (+44) 117 942 6999
website: <http://www.ceed.co.uk>

Expo Network –ICT training and services Contact 97-107 Wilder Street, Ujima House, St Paul's, Bristol BS2 8QU.
EMAIL: info@exponetservices.com Tel: (+44) 117 942 9555

Avon & Bristol Law Centre Butterfly Project – free advice service for migrant women based in Stokes Croft. Aims to provide women with information about their rights and their family's rights regarding health care, education, employment, support and benefits. Contact Victoria Long to make an appointment, Tel: 0117 916 7709, email: victorial@ablc.org.uk. There is also an outreach session at Bristol Refugee Rights on a Wednesday

The Exiled Journalists' Network (EJN) - this groundbreaking organisation helps journalists who have fled to the UK to escape persecution because of their media work. The group- the first of its kind anywhere in the world- organised by and for exiled journalists, it aims to promote press freedom around the world and assist both

asylum seeking and refugee journalists. www.exiledjournalists.net) Contact: Forward Maisokwadzo Tel: 0845 002 0167 or ejn@mediawise.org.uk

The Bristol Defend Asylum Seekers Campaign – The campaign welcomes new members. Locally meetings are held monthly and campaigns on the rights of asylum seekers and refugees. More information and contact details at <http://www.asylumbristol.org.uk>

International Organization for Migration (Bristol)- Assist asylum seekers and irregular immigrants with travel arrangements for voluntary return to their homes. Can also advise on entitlements to reintegration assistance for refused asylum seekers wishing to voluntarily return. Advice is confidential and free. Contact Jason Matthews Tel: 0117 907 4777

Kurdistan Lounge – a community centre/café in Easton for the Bristol Kurdistan Community. For more information call 0117 951 6491

Bath Centre for Psychotherapy and Counselling - Service provides asylum seekers and refugees with access to specially trained counsellors and psychotherapists in Bristol and Bath. Interpreters are also provided if required. The service is totally free to clients, being funded by grants. For more information, please contact the Referral Service on 0845 223 5267 or email referralservice@bcpc.org.uk. <http://www.bcpc.org.uk/>

BRIAF – Bristol Refugee Inter-Agency Forum – Forum for stakeholders, meet every quarter. Contact Katie Hope, Deputy Manager, Development, Refugee Action Tel: 0117 941 5960

SAP – Somali Advice Project – Project based at St Paul's advice centre with bi lingual advice workers supporting Somali people living in Bristol. Tel 0117 9413889

The Haven - Holistic health assessment for newly arrived asylum seekers based at Montpelier Health Centre, PCT funded. Contact Ginny Burdiss or Dr Liz Murphy on 0117 942 6811

British Red Cross – Provide gentle therapeutic massage for people at times of personal crisis to promote a sense of well-being and relaxation, hand care and hand message or neck and shoulder massage given through clothes. International tracing And messaging service - to help refugees and asylum seekers trace family members or send messages home. Lucho Corrales, Refugee Programme co-ordinator icorrales@redcross.org.uk, 0117 301 2600 - 0117 353 3293, 07740 762356

Womankind –counselling service to support refugee and asylum seeking women who have experienced trauma and exile. Women can self refer or agencies can refer by ringing the Womankind Helpline on 0845 458 2914.

Shelter – Homeless to Home - offer help for families making the transition from homelessness to a settled home. Tel: 0117-944-5695

Young people specific projects

Fabu Café - Somali youth project working on integration and opportunities for Somali youth on Ashley Rd. Tel: 0117 935 1894

EMAS – Asylum Seeker and Refugee Team - part of the local education authority. Provide support to new arrivals and their parents/carers as well as other services to ethnic minority students. Tel: 0117 903 1365

African Initiatives, Global Education Development – provides training and resources for teachers and young people on global citizenship issues. Have a resource centre and catalogue listing of organisations that can support your development education work. York Court, Burnswick Square, St Pauls, 0117 916 6452 or deved@african-initiatives.org.uk

Bristol University STAR – Student Action for Refugees group which organises various volunteering and campaigning projects. Contact Donagh at os4074@bristol.ac.uk if you would like to get involved

Young Bristol –Camelot funded project in conjunction with Brunel Academy and City Academy to support young asylum seekers and refugees. Tel: 0117 953 7921 or email info@youngbristol.org

Leading Edge Initiative, Children’s Society – project to support young refugee and asylum seeking people and their families participate fully in school. Run by Right Track. Contact Nisha Hirani on 0117 935 1515 or nih@childsoc.org.uk

BWERANI Multicultural Resource Library - Wide selection of play and education, resources which encourage children and young people to develop respect for cultural diversity and global issues. Available on loan to parents/carers, schools & groups in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Contact: Sue Lowney, 20-23 Hepburn Road, St Paul’s, Bristol BS2 8UD. Tel: 0117 915 9805 Email: bwerani_project@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.kuumba.org.uk

Salamander Project – based at Childtime, is a free counselling service for asylum seeking and refugee families and their children Tel: 0117 929 1533

NATIONAL projects / organisations

Refugee Action – Refugee Action is an independent national charity that works with refugees to build new lives in the UK. <http://www.refugee-action.org>

ICAR – the Information centre about asylum and refugees in the UK <http://www.icar.org.uk/>

Student Action for Refugees (STAR) visit www.star-network.org.uk. STAR has groups all around the UK for students and other young people aged over 16.

Don't believe the type a campaign website to counter press coverage of asylum issues.
<http://www.dontbelievethetype.org.uk/>

RefEd (list serve on all issues related to asylum seekers/refugees and education) To join refed - the refugee education email discussion list - please go to <http://www.refed.org.uk> or send an email to: refed-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

HARP Health for Asylum Seekers and Refugees Portal) website designed to enable you to easily access the wealth of information, practical tools, and articles that have been written by health care professionals, NGOs, academics and research bodies with expert knowledge of working with asylum seekers and refugees, both in the UK and other countries. <http://www.harpweb.org.uk/>

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims against Torture

Founded in 1985, the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture provides care and rehabilitation to survivors of torture and other forms of organised violence. <http://www.torturecare.org.uk/>

To be included in this list and for further information, advice or support please contact: **Claire, Refugee Awareness Project Coordinator, 0117 941 5973, claires@refugee-action.org.uk**