

Women's ASYLUM NEWS

Refugee Women's Resource Project - Asylum Aid - Issue 35 Aug 2003

Also in this issue: ● UK News: campaign against proposals to cut legal aid funding; new ruling re: Section 55 ● UK Events/Projects ● International News from Slovakia, Kurdish Women, Iran, Morocco... ● New Publications ● New online resources ● Notice Board

African communities in UK may be unaware of legislation criminalizing returns to country of origin for FGM

The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Bill, which will soon become law in the UK, makes it an offence for parents and relatives to take girls out of the UK to have FGM performed on them, even in countries where it is legal. There are fears, particularly in the voluntary sector that the legislation will not protect women and girls and will not prevent FGM.

In a background and position paper produced by Womankind and endorsed by the Black Women's Health and Family Support, the legislation is examined. The paper underlines the fears of many ethnic communities and health experts that if legislation doesn't go hand in hand with awareness raising about changes in the law, family members from African communities may be criminalized and, as a consequence, families may be split up because they are unaware of the new law and its penalties.

Many people from the African communities in the UK feel excluded from the discussions and decision-making about what they perceive as a 'private' community issue. Feedback from these groups suggests this legislative change will not be a successful tool to encourage people to abandon the practice.

The paper says that the prevalence of FGM in Africa and the fact that many girls are at risk in the UK come from these countries and return there to have FGM performed means that the UK must adopt a 'joined-up' approach between domestic and international policy.

If the new Bill becomes law in the autumn, the maximum penalty will be increased from 5 to 14 years imprisonment.

Background Information According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), FGM is practised in 30 countries in Africa - with up to 98% of women affected in some countries in North East Africa and West Africa - and in the Middle East. It is also performed where African communities have migrated to, in Western countries.¹

WHO describes FGM (also known as female circumcision) as '*all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, religious or other non-therapeutic reasons*'. It distinguishes four types of

¹ Source: World Health Organisation, at www.who.int/health_topics/female_genital_mutilation/en/

FGM which range from the excision of the prepuce (with or without excision of part or all of the clitoris, type I) to the excision of part or all of the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening (also known as infibulation, type III). Type IV includes 'unclassified' practices such as pricking, stretching, piercing or incising of the clitoris and/or labia, cutting of the vagina, or introducing corrosive substances or herbs into the vagina for the purposes of tightening or narrowing it.

FGM has no health or medical benefit and has no religious basis either, although some communities believe it is a religious obligation. It is a traditional practice which can have serious health consequences with immediate, intermediate or long-term complications such as: haemorrhage, pain, infection, urine retention, pelvic infection, urinary tract infection, impaired flow of menstrual blood, childbirth trauma-tear during delivery, or infertility. Complications such as prolonged/obstructed labor and neonatal problems can occur during labour and delivery. In many cases women, who may also suffer from anxiety and depression, will experience a lack of sexual response. In a number of cases, FGM can also lead to death.

Often communities who practice female genital mutilation see it as a rite of passage to womanhood, or a way to promote chastity and prevent promiscuity, improve fertility and prevent infant and maternal mortality, or promote cleanliness. They do not see it as a form of abuse.

The Current Law in the UK In the UK, under the 'Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985', it is illegal to practice FGM which means anyone found guilty of performing the operation is liable to a fine or imprisonment. However there

has not been one single prosecution in the UK under the 1985 Female Circumcision Act whilst it is claimed by African community organisations to be a growing problem. The new Bill intends to change the legislation to close a loophole in the law and make it an offence for parents or relatives to take girls out of the UK to have FGM performed. An estimated 6,000 girls under 16 are believed to be at risk.

UK Support Services Unknown to many, there are services in the UK which offer reconstruction surgery (de-infibulation) where appropriate to both pregnant and non-pregnant women including girls (see list of contacts below).

The African Well Woman Clinic at Guy's and St Thomas Hospital Trust was set up in 1997 in response to the increasing number of circumcised women attending its delivery and family planning services. The clinic, run by a full-time specialist midwife and supported by a female consultant (specialist obstetrics & gynaecology), offers counselling, advice, information and support to women who suffered female genital mutilation, and where appropriate, reconstruction surgery. The Clinic, which takes referrals from all health care professionals, can make flexible arrangements to suit the needs of each woman. It also provides educational support to staff and outreach work for communities practising FGM (see contact details below).²

FGM list of contact and information sources (UK)

The African Well Woman Clinic, Comfort Momoh, Office 3, 6th Floor, North Wing, St

² The African Well Women's Clinic has produced a leaflet entitled 'Female Genital Mutilation also known as Female Circumcision, Information for Health Professionals', written by Comfort Momoh, FGM Specialist Midwife, 2nd Edition, 2003.

Thomas Hospital, London SE1 7EH,
contact tel: 020 7960 5595.

Harry Gordon Antenatal Clinic
Central Middlesex Hospital
Acton Lane, Park royal, London NW10
7NS
Tel: 020 8965 5733

Susan Dolman Antenatal Clinic, Northwick
Park & St Marks Hospitals, Watford Road,
Harrow, Middlesex HA1 3UJ, 020 8869
2880

Lydia Moore Multi-Cultural Antenatal Clinic,
Liverpool women's Hospital, Crown Street,
Liverpool L8 755

Black Women's Health & Family Support
(BWHAFS), 82 Russia Lane, Bethnal
Green, London E2 9LU, Tel: 020 8980
3503.

Foundation for Women's Health Research
& Development (FORWARD), 6th Floor, 50
East Bourne Terrace, London W2 6LX.

Rainbo, Unit 5, 121 Salisbury Road,
London NW6 6RS, Tel: 020 7625 3400.

Other UK News

Campaign against proposals to cut legal aid funding for asylum seekers

Are you worried about the proposed five-hour time limit on legal aid and other implications of the London Chancellor's Department (LCD) proposals on legal aid funding for asylum seekers?

We believe these proposals will result in 'quality' representatives closing down with an upsurge in poor or incompetent representation. This may have knock-on effects for your organisation?

Poor quality and incompetent representatives fail asylum seekers by significantly contributing to late or incomplete disclosure of an asylum claim; they are responsible for errors which misrepresent the detail or nature of an asylum claim; and they fail to obtain, and present, available evidence corroborating an asylum claim. The application of maximum limits threatens to exclude such asylum seekers from seeking further representation without payment. As many of those who disclose later and/or are poorly represented are women with claims that do not directly 'fit' into the Convention, women stand, once more, to be disproportionately affected.

Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) are likely to be inundated with the victims of poor representation who are excluded from further legal aided assistance. Many RCO's will not be OISC (Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner) competent and may be faced with either, advising outside their expertise, or turning these asylum seekers away.

If you feel strongly about these proposals and how they will affect asylum seekers and/or your organisation please write and complain to **Mr Muhammad Islam, Lord Chancellor's Department , Public Legal Services Division, 3rd Floor, Selborne House, 54-60 Victoria Street London SW1E 6QW**. You should send your letter before Wednesday, 27 August. Asylum Aid and others are currently organising campaigns, and will be making their own responses. However, any campaign will carry more weight the greater the number of responses sent in. Your letter is, therefore, important. Details of the proposals are on www.lcd.gov.uk/consult/leg-aid/asylum.htm.

Continued refusal of support 'degrading and unlawful', High Court rules (Section 55 case) In *S, D & T v SSHD* [2003] EWHC 1941 Admin, Maurice Kay J has granted three judicial review applications challenging the refusal of NASS support under section 55. This is a test case, and on the critical issue - in what circumstances will continued refusal of support violate Article 3 - the judge has granted the Home Office permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

The judge makes a number of interesting observations regarding extensive evidence compiled by solicitors representing the applicants. These can be found at paragraph 9 of the judgment, and are not repeated here.

The critical issue for the judge was whether the continued refusal of support violated Article 3. As regards this, he was clearly and rightly unsympathetic to the legal submissions advanced on behalf of the Home Office, elements of which he described as '*bizarre and distasteful*'. Importantly, he also cast doubt, though did not have to decide, upon the Home Office assertion that it was for the applicant asylum seeker to prove beyond reasonable doubt her/his current conditions were, or verged upon being, degrading to her/him.

The judge's conclusions can be found at paragraph 23 of his judgment. He concedes that refusal of support will not inevitably lead to an asylum seeker suffering degrading conditions. However, he makes clear that those who cannot obtain charitable or other support will likely soon find their predicament to be humiliating and an affront to their human dignity. This is especially so because they must inevitably face a lengthy and indeterminate wait for progress on their

asylum claim. In those circumstances, continued refusal of support will be degrading and unlawful.

A full copy of the decision can be found at: www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2003/1941.html.

UK Events/Projects

Gender and Cultural Diversity: European Perspectives The Gender Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is inviting academics, activists and policy-makers to a one-day conference (at the LSE, Friday 17 October 2003) to discuss the policy implications of the relationship between gender and cultural diversity.

Over the past decade, the UK has taken initiatives on a range of issues concerning women who are members of such communities, including: forced marriages; female genital cutting/surgery; 'honour crimes'; and miscellaneous privatised forms of regulation which occur within these communities, notably in the regulation of divorce. The conference will look beyond the UK to include perspectives from other Western European countries, in the hope of laying the ground for future cross-European communication and research.

Conference Papers will cover topics such as Shari'a Courts in relation to Divorce within Muslim Communities in the UK; UK Initiatives on Forced Marriage: Assessing the Exit Option or Female Genital Cutting/Surgery and the Limits of National Law, etc. For more details and booking form, please contact the Gender Institute, LSE, on telephone: 0207 955 7602. Places are limited so book early.

Time to close, Public Meeting & Question Time (Friday 5th September, 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm, Moir Hall, Mitchell Theatre, Granville Street, Charing Cross, Glasgow G3) for Anyone who wishes to join the call for an end to the detention of refugees in Scotland.

'Nobody calls it a detention centre. Everybody calls it prison because it's a prison with fences and barbed wires, where children can't go outside and have their freedom and enjoy themselves. Detention centres are very bad for their mental health ... everything. They can call it anything, but we don't call it a detention centre. We call it a prison. It's a disgrace to put children in a detention centre and I would say they should stop it immediately'. Beriwan Ay, 14 years old, August 4 2003. The Ay Family were imprisoned in Dungavel Detention Centre for a year. Their only crime was to be asylum seekers. They were deported on 5 August 2003.

Invited Speakers so far include: Rosie Kane MSP, Aamer Anwar, human rights lawyer, Sandra White MSP, STUC, Church leaders and others, Oxfam, Amnesty International. To find out more, contact Robina Qureshi on 0777 332 1727. Please notify your attendance by emailing home@paih.org.

Free training programme for refugee community housing advisers and volunteers in West Midlands. Hact (Housing Associations Charitable Trust) is organising this Birmingham based course as part of its refugee housing integration programme. It consists of seven training days and will run over a 7-week period from 4th September – 16th October 2003 to provide volunteers, mainly from refugee led community organisations, with the basic

information, skills and resources to improve the quality of advice and support they provide to their community members. The deadline for sending applications is 21 August 2003. For further information on the course and a copy of the application form, please contact Vicky Evans on 020 7247 7800 or email vicky.evans@hact.org.uk.

International News

Illegal Sterilization of Romani Women in Slovakia: NGOs call for an independent commission of inquiry In a joint statement released on 23 July, the nine non-governmental organisations, including five international human rights organisations, welcomed the government's response to launch an investigation into the illegal sterilisation practices against Romani women.³

They urge the government to look into the manner in which the criminal investigation is being carried out which, they say, needs to respect the rule of law and treats the victims with dignity. They call for the formation of an independent commission made of Slovakian and International medical and legal experts. The NGOs point to the fact that the criminal investigation *'appears to have reached hasty conclusions before investigating all relevant crimes in connection with sterilization, ignored key evidence, including absence of informed consent, and has created an intimidating atmosphere for victims that has tended to dissuade them from coming forward.*

³ Source: European Roma Rights Centre, *'Joint Statement on the Illegal Sterilization of Romani Women in Slovakia*, 22 July 2003. The NGOs are: Amnesty International, London, UK; Centre for Reproductive Rights, New York, USA; European Roma Rights Centre, Budapest, Hungary; Human Rights Watch, New York, USA; International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Vienna, Austria; Consortium Let's Do it, Bratislava, Slovakia; People Against Racism, Bratislava, Slovakia; Centre for Civil and Human Rights, Kosice, Slovakia; Slovak Helsinki Committee, Bratislava, Slovakia.

The allegations are based on testimonies published in the report '*Body and Soul: Forced sterilization and other assaults on Roma Reproductive Freedom*' by the Centre for Reproductive Rights and the Centre for Civil and Human Rights (2003). The Slovakian government initially announced it would commence criminal proceedings against the authors of the report either for '*failure to inform law enforcement authorities of criminal activities*' (if their findings were found to be true) or for '*spreading of false rumors and creating panic in society*' (if the findings were found to be false). Reporting to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in June, Slovakian officials confirmed they will not proceed with the criminal charges against the authors of *Body and Soul*.

See also: European Roma Rights Centre, '*ERRC Action as Slovakia Comes before UN Review Body*', 17 July 2003 at www.errc.org.

Turkey and the Kurdish Women's Campaign for Democracy

(The following article is an edited version of a speech made by Monireh Moftizadeh, member of the Women's Commission of the Kurdistan National Congress (KNK) and member of KNK's Executive Committee, at a meeting entitled '*Turkey and the Kurds after the Invasion of Iraq: Repentance of Reconciliation*' which took place at the National Assembly of Wales on 17 July, 2003).

Kurdish women belong to the largest stateless people in the world. Their homeland Kurdistan has been divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria since the end of WWI. Ever since, the Kurds have been struggling to retain their identity

and to gain their legitimate rights. But with the exception of the Kurds in Iraq, the plight of about 30 million Kurds in Turkey, has not yet been taken seriously by the world whilst in the past, the West often directly and indirectly assisted the oppressive regimes in their policy of exploitation and extermination of the Kurds, including atrocities committed against women and children.

Indeed, in all parts of Kurdistan women and their children have suffered brutal forms of violence by the states in their homeland. They have been subjected to deportation, forced settlement in non-Kurdish areas (in particular in Iraq and Turkey), harassment, persecution and torture including rape as a weapon of repression against the Kurds. They have experienced political, social and economic deprivation under the domination of the aggressive regimes in Kurdistan as well as the patriarchal system.

In the face of this adversity, Kurdish women have started to defy the oppressive states. For over two decades they have actively been campaigning for their own rights and the rights of the Kurds. They are mobilised in women and political organisations in all parts of Kurdistan and elsewhere and have obtained some political and social recognition.

For example, in Turkey, when the government recently introduced the '*Repentance Law*', Kurdish women organised a series of campaigns demanding political and social reconciliation and democratic changes in Turkey. The law which views the democratic demands of the Kurds as unfounded and consider their existence in Turkey as a criminal entity demonstrates the continuous effort by Turkey to circumvent essential changes in the Constitution which would recognize the rights of the Kurdish people.

But while Kurdish women's campaigns and activities have intensified significantly in Turkey, their actions have made them the main target for the state's policy of persecution, even today when Turkey is trying to enter the European Union.⁴

Leyla Zana, the first Kurdish woman MP elected to the Turkish parliament in 1991, was arrested and imprisoned in 1994 with three of her colleagues because of her campaign for peace and democracy in Turkey. She is still in jail, whilst Amnesty International has considered her a prisoner of conscience and the European Court of Human Rights ruled her trial unfair in July 2001. A report on her re-trial on 18 July this year, by the Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL), stated that: Ankara State Security Court was still not '*a fair and impartial tribunal as it did not respect the principles of equality of arms and the presumption of innocence*'.⁵

State persecution against Kurdish women activists in Turkey was also recently illustrated by the case of Gulbahar Gunduz, A peace activist and member of DEHAP Women's Section Istanbul Committee. In June 2003, Gunduz was abducted, tortured and raped by Turkish officials (see WAN No. for full story). The case of Gunduz caused widespread outrage and condemnation by human rights organisations. Rightly, such actions against individual Kurdish women activists

⁴ The country is however struggling to meet the Copenhagen Criteria, according to which: '*Membership requires that the candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and, protection of minorities...*'. See also

<http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/cig/g4000a.htm>.

⁵ Information provided by the Kurdish Human Rights Project, 7 July 2003. Original source: CIJL of the International Commission of Jurists, 5 August 2003. The CIJL will continue to monitor hearings in this case - the next hearing will take place on 15 August.

should be considered as a violation of the rights and dignity of all Kurdish women and all women activists in the world.

Canadian Journalist tortured to death in Iran⁶ Zahra Kazemi, a freelance journalist of Iranian origin based in Montreal, died on 11 July 2003, less than three weeks after she was detained for taking photos outside a Tehran prison during student-led protests. An initial report by the Iranian authorities suggested that she had died from a stroke but Iranian Vice-President Mohamed Ali Abtahi publicly admitted on 16 July that her death was caused by a blow to the head after she had been beaten.

Further investigation into the circumstances of her death which remain unknown (despite an autopsy and the set up of a commission of enquiry by the government) have been strongly opposed by Iranian legal officials. The journalist was buried in Iran on 23 July compromising another autopsy by independent experts.

On the same date, the case was handed over to a military prosecutor by Said Mortazavi, considered a '*hardline*' Teheran prosecutor also accused of being directly responsible for the journalist's death. The commission of enquiry confirmed that Mortazavi had attended the interrogation of Kazemi shortly after her arrest. He denies his department was involved in the death but said that errors may have been committed by the intelligence services or security forces.

⁶ Sources: Le Monde, 'La journaliste irano-canadienne Zahra Kazemi a été enterrée à Chiraz', 23 July 2003, at www.lemonde.fr and Reporters without Borders, 'Call for European Union to break with Iran over journalist's death' 25 July 2003 at www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=7640.

However any military trial will be held in secret with no guarantee of impartiality and without the presence of independent observers. With the military now in charge of the case, any trial will be held in secret without independent observers and without any guarantee of neutrality or impartiality. According to Reporters Without Borders, *'23 journalists are currently imprisoned in Iran (...) thirteen of them are believed to be held (...) in the same place where Kazemi was interrogated. They are not allowed visits from family or lawyers and are held in very bad conditions'*.

Violence Against Women in Morocco raises OMCT's concern⁷

In its alternative country report entitled *'Violence against Women in Morocco'*, and submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women,⁸ the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) expresses its grave concern at reports of widespread violence against women in the private and community spheres.

According to OMCT, Morocco's obligations under international law to provide protection against all violence against women, and prosecute and punish perpetrators, have not been fulfilled at the national level:

'Discrimination against women persists in Morocco in both de jure and de facto forms. (...) Moroccan legislation discriminates against women with regard to the minimum marriageable age, ability to

⁷ OMCT Press Release, *'OMCT expresses its concern regarding violence against women in Morocco'*, Twenty-Ninth Session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Geneva, 15 July 2003. See www.omct.org/.

⁸ The UN Committee began in July its examination of Morocco's implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

contract a marriage, polygamy, and divorce, among other areas. Women in Morocco also display lower literacy levels than men and low levels of participation in higher segments of the labour market'.

The report states that domestic violence *'appears to be a serious problem'*, which remains little documented and seldom reported. It identifies several barriers that prevent women from reporting domestic violence, including: *'traditional social beliefs concerning the inferiority of women; the social unacceptability of denouncing your husband; the lack of specific legislation on violence against women in the family; and the lack of sensitivity on the part of law enforcement officials.'*

'Furthermore, there is a lack of adequate structures to shelter and help battered women and women face difficulties in obtaining a judicial divorce on the grounds of harm and proving physical assault in the domestic sphere as this requires a medical certificate as well as the testimony of a witness'.

Legislation to protect women from other forms of violence, such as rape and trafficking in women and girls, is also either missing, inadequate or criminalises victims. In a context where there is widespread social stigma regarding the loss of virginity, rape victims may choose not to lodge a complaint as they could be *'charged with having had unlawful sex when they are pregnant and cannot prove that they were raped'*.

OMCT expresses its concern at the increase in trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation and domestic slavery and notes that prostitutes may be *'doubly victimised; first forced into prostitution and then detained since prostitution is illegal'*.

For further information (including on OMCT's programme on Violence Against Women) please contact Carin Benninger-Budel at + 41 22 809 4939 or cbb@omct.org.

Human-trafficking scandal tarnishes reputation of Montenegrin government and its judiciary⁹

The scandal came to light after a woman from Moldova who had escaped from a brothel last November, accused the deputy state prosecutor and three other officials of involvement in her trafficking, rape and sexual exploitation. Doctors confirmed she had been sexually abused. Police arrested the men on suspicion of involvement in human trafficking; they were released two months later pending a decision of the public prosecutor on whether to press charges. He ruled in May that there was insufficient evidence to start legal proceedings, a claim strongly denied by the woman's lawyer and other human rights activists.

Under international pressure and public outcry to what was seen as a cover-up, the Montenegro's government invited an OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) commission in the country with the task of establishing the truth about the human-trafficking scandal. The expert team, composed of four international experts, conducted an extensive enquiry to gather relevant information on the handling of the case and on the measures taken against the trafficking of human beings.

⁹ Sources: OSCE, 'International experts complete Montenegro visit on human trafficking case' at: http://www.osce.org/news/show_news.php?id=3446.

In a statement, the OSCE said the state of the legal process '*raised the issue of the ability of the Montenegrin legal system to cope with the complexity of cases related to human trafficking*'.¹⁰ It is believed that the OSCE will severely condemn the decision of the public prosecutor, thus gravely tarnishing the reputation of the courts and the government.¹¹ The Montenegrin authorities will be given an opportunity to respond to the report's conclusions and recommendations, and indicate which measures they intend to take with respect to the experts' recommendations.

New Publications

Women's rights endangered in Southeast Afghanistan A new report released at the end of July by Human Rights Watch (HRW) documents '*army and police troops kidnapping Afghans and holding them for ransom in unofficial prisons; breaking into households and robbing families; raping women, girls and boys; and extorting shopkeepers and bus, truck and taxi drivers. The report also describes political organizers, journalists and media editors being threatened with death, arrested and harassed by army, police and intelligence agents*'.

'Killing You is a Very Easy Thing For Us. Human Rights Abuses in Southeast Afghanistan' (July 2003) warns that efforts to adopt a new constitution and conduct national elections in mid-2004 are threatened by the spread of '*violence*,

¹⁰ Quoted by Boris Darmanovic, 'OSCE probe into human trafficking case implicating top officials could severely embarrass the authorities', in Welcome to IWPR's Balkan crisis report, No. 448, July 30, 2003.

¹¹ It is not known when the mission's report will be released but it will be addressed to the Secretary General of the OSCE and to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.


political intimidation, and attacks on women and girls' by Afghan warlords and political strongmen supported by the United States and other nations. According to HRW, this climate of fear is '*discouraging political participation and endangering gains made on women's rights in Afghanistan over the last year*'. The report is available online at: <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/afghanista0703/afghanistan0703.pdf>

'Colours of Hope' is a new book - written and illustrated by a group of Roma refugee children in London. Share in this unique opportunity to listen to this vulnerable, voiceless community speak about issues of racism, life in England, culture, identity, family and the future. Use it as a tool in schools and amongst the community to promote tolerance and a better understanding of this fascinating culture. To Order Colours of Hope by post send a cheque payable to Roma Support Group for £5 (plus £1.50 shipping and handling, £4 for orders of more than five, £7 for orders of more than 10) to: Roma Support Group, P.O. Box 23610, London, E7 0XB.

'Spreading the Burden"?'¹² is a comparative studies on dispersal policies in the UK, the Netherlands and Sweden. According to Pr. Vaughan Robinson of the Migration Unit at the University of Wales, Swansea, in the UK the policy has been used to '*appease a fearful white electorate*'¹³ but is both costly and inefficient (one in five dispersed asylum

seekers move back to London or go to Birmingham or Manchester, mostly due to racist intimidation or the isolation). His study highlights that the selection of dispersal areas is determined by the availability of cheap housing.¹⁴

Online resources

Providing a Safe Haven - housing asylum seekers and refugees  (PDF file size 522kb) is a report produced by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) in association with the Community Cohesion Unit. It looks at maintaining and developing community cohesion when accommodating asylum seekers and refugees (more at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/comrace/cohesion/what.html).

'A comparative Analysis of the Anti-trafficking legislation in Foreign Countries: Towards a Comprehensive and Effective legal Response to Combating Trafficking in persons' is a statement of Mohamed Y. Mattar, S.J.D., Co-Director, The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (25 June 2003) available online at: www.sais-jhu.edu/mattar_testimony62503.pdf

UNHCR's recently issued **guidelines on Internal Flight or Relocation Alternative** within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.¹⁵ These

¹² Policy Press, July 2003, Paperback ISBN 1 86134 417 1, £22.99 (US\$38.95), hardback ISBN 1 86134 418 X, £50.00 (US\$75.00). Source:

www.bris.ac.uk/Publications/TPP/pages/bm022.htm.

¹³ Quoted by Alan Travis, 'Asylum seeker dispersal "a waste of money"', Wednesday July 30, 2003, *The Guardian*, at: <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/>.

¹⁴ The two other authors are Roger Andersson, Institute for Housing and Urban Research, Uppsala University (Sweden) and Sako Musterd, Study Centre for the Metropolitan Environment, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands).

¹⁵ Direct web site link:

guidelines supersede UNHCR's position paper of February 1999 (The So-Called 'Internal Flight Alternative' or 'Relocation Principle'). In UK domestic law, the decision of the Court of Appeal in AE & FE [2003] EWCA Civ 1032 will be how internal relocation falls to be treated.

Counselling Website for Victims of violence in the Arab World¹⁶

Reaching out through cyber-space to abused women in the Arab world, a Jordanian non-governmental organisation is an on-line counselling service offering all forms of guidance. The service is being provided by AmanJordan website, run by the Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI) and its Amman Resource Centre on Violence Against Women. In its launching, 16 Arab legal, social, religious and psychological experts expressed readiness to offer electronic counselling services to needy women in the Arab world.

For any type of help anyone can log onto the website - www.amanjordan.org -, fill out a form with their problems or questions, and be provided an expert's answer.

Multi-lingual resource links are now available on the Electronic Immigration Network's website in 16 different languages which include links to human rights organizations and other organizations dealing with the rights of migrants and refugees. Click on the following link
www.ein.org.uk/resources/flindex.shtml

www.unhcr.ch/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rsd/rsddocview.pdf?CATEGORY=RSDLEGAL&id=3f2791a44. Also found at www.unhcr.ch/ under

Research/Evaluation, then click on 'Legal Information'.
¹⁶ Source: *Women in the Middle East*, Number 15, August 2003, Bulletin of Committee to Defend Women's Rights in the Middle East. Web site: www.middleeastwomen.org.

and click on the language of your choice for a full list.

Galleries of war & peace. The Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) has launched a project to highlight the human cost of conflict. Visit:
http://www.iwpr.net/galleries_index.html

New digital archive...Moving Here is the ultimate database of digitized photographs, maps, objects, documents and audio items recording migration experiences of the past 200 years.
<http://www.movinghere.org.uk/>.

Notice Board

European Conference on Refugee Women Refugee Women's Legal Group members have agreed for the Refugee Women's Association (RWA) and the Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP) to take forward the European Conference on Refugee Women initially planned for this year. The Conference will now take place in Spring 2004. More details in forthcoming WAN issues.

Help needed for Book on migrant women Pamela Whitby is a South African freelance writer and Contributing Editor to Intermedia, the journal of the International Institute of Communications. She is currently working on a series of interviews with women for a book on migrant mothers in the UK. She would like to get in touch with mothers who either gave birth here in the UK or arrived with children. If you are interested in her project, please contact her on telephone: 020 - 8540 2167 or mobile: 0779 189 1993.

Please send us any information that you would like to see published in our next bulletin by Wednesday 10 September 2003 (see address on back cover).

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Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Tel _____

Email _____

I would like to become a **MEMBER** of Asylum Aid

STANDARD

£4 / month = £48 / year

UNWAGED

£20 / year

Benefits

- Receive a copy of our annual report free of charge
- An invitation to attend Asylum Aid's AGM
- Opportunity to stand for election to the board of trustees
- Right to vote at the AGM election
- Free subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- Access to member-only section of website
- Up to date campaigning information emailed directly
- Invitations to Asylum Aid events, eg. open evenings
- Buy copies of Asylum Aid's reports at a reduced price

I would like to become a **FRIEND** of Asylum Aid

STANDARD

£2 / month = £24 / year

UNWAGED

£10 / year

Benefits

- Receive a copy of our annual report free of charge
- Free subscription to our quarterly newsletter
- Invitations to Asylum Aid events, eg. open evenings

I wish to make a gift of £ _____

Asylum Aid - STANDING ORDER FORM

To: The Manager, _____ Bank,
(Address of Bank) _____

Please pay **ASYLUM AID** the sum of £_____ each
month/quarter/year (delete as appropriate) until further notice
and debit my account no. _____

sort code: _____ starting on (date) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

[FOR OFFICE USE] To: NatWest Bank plc, PO Box 3AW, 104
Tottenham Court Rd, London W1A 3AW. Sort Code: 56-00-31,
account no. 63401711

Gift Aid Declaration

Asylum Aid

Registered Charity no. 328729

If you are a UK taxpayer, Asylum Aid can claim back 28p for every £1 you donate, making your donation worth almost a third more at no extra cost to you. Please complete and return this declaration.

Name _____

Address _____

I would like Asylum Aid to treat my donations as Gift Aid donations (please tick)

Signature _____ Date _____

Your declaration covers all donations you have made to Asylum Aid since April 2000 and any donations you might choose to make hereafter. You must have paid as much tax (or more) in this year as we will reclaim on your donations.