



Asylum seekers and refugees

Lisa Doyle

Refugee Council

Duty, Duty, Duty: Bridging Race Equality, Community Cohesion and Well-Being in Schools – 4th December 2008

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Mobility

- Forced migration
- Interrupted education
- Asylum determination process
- Dispersal

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Problems faced in the UK

- Difficulties in accessing school places
- Experiences of bullying/racism
- English language
- Mobility
- Unfamiliar with the education system

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Community cohesion

"Engagement and extended services – to provide reasonable means for children, young people, their friends and families to interact with people from different backgrounds and build positive relations, including: links with different schools and communities; the provision of extended services; and opportunities for pupils, families and the wider community to take part in activities and receive services which build positive interaction and achievement for all groups."

Guidance on the duty to promote community cohesion

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Working with Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs)

- RCOs provide support for refugees and asylum seekers
- Usually run by refugees
- Often undertake educational activities
- Can be a link between schools and refugee communities

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Inclusive Secondary School Project

- Supported partnerships between schools and community organisations
- Activities included:
 - ESOL classes for Somali mothers
 - Production of DVDs
 - Counselling service
 - Mentoring for parents

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Conclusion

- Bringing together different areas of expertise can improve support and contact with refugee communities.
- Can help to break down barriers and challenge myths around asylum
- Working towards the same goal – integrated and happy communities

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