

A network to centre refugee women in international law, policy and practice

Workshop: Gender Sensitivity in Asylum Interviews

Date: Thursday 11 June 2026

Time: 09:00-11:00 BST/ 08:00- 11:00 UTC (please adjust for your own time zone)

Zoom link: <https://universityofsussex.zoom.us/j/84589268496>

Research and experience show that gender-sensitive asylum interviewing is critical for women and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) to feel able to give a full account of the reasons for their claim. Without this, there is a risk of poor communication, re-traumatisation, misunderstanding, failure to collect relevant evidence and – consequently – an unfair decision. Due to limited guidanceⁱ and failure to implement existing guidance, evidence suggests that many claimants do not have a good experience at their interview.ⁱⁱ

To support improved understanding and good practice, WiRL is holding a participatory workshop in which experts from academia and the field will share knowledge and provide guidance based on their own experience as the basis for interactive work with participants.

Agenda

Introduction (Moira Dustin, Co-convenor, WiRL)

Part 1. Interviewing and decision making

Comfort break

Part 2. Gender-sensitive interviews

Part 3. Group activity- Case study

Concluding remarks and workshop evaluation survey (Moira Dustin)

Participants: This workshop is for advocates and caseworkers who work with asylum-seeking and refugee women and survivors of GBV, as well as for academics who conduct semi-structured interviews with these groups as part of their research.

Follow-up: this is a closed workshop for a limited number of participants, however materials from the event will be published on the WiRL website after the event.

ⁱ Hungarian Helsinki Committee. (2015) *Credibility Assessment in Asylum Procedures - A Multidisciplinary Training Manual, Vol 2*; UNHCR. (2005) *Ensuring Gender Sensitivity in the Context of Refugee Status Determination and Resettlement. Module 2 (Resource Package)* <https://www.refworld.org/reference/manuals/unhcr/2005/en/40043>.

ⁱⁱ Bögnér, D., Brewin, C., & Herlihy, J. (2010). Refugees' Experiences of Home Office Interviews: A Qualitative Study on the Disclosure of Sensitive Personal Information. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 36(3), 519–535.