



UNHCR's response to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Integration's Inquiry

- 1) UNHCR welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the second stage of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Integration's Inquiry. Referring to Principle Three of the APPG's *Interim Report into Integration of Immigrants*, namely that "Government must reassess its current "one size fits all" approach to immigration policy", UNHCR's submission will focus on considerations relating to persons falling within UNHCR's mandate, namely refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons. This will include addressing issues relating to English language provision.
- 2) UNHCR has been entrusted with the responsibility for providing international protection to refugees, and together with governments, to seek permanent solutions to their plight. As set out in the 1950 Statute of the Office of UNHCR¹ (paragraph 8(a)), UNHCR fulfils its mandate by, *inter alia*, '[p]romoting the conclusion and ratification of international conventions for the protection of refugees, supervising their application and proposing amendments thereto.' UNHCR's supervisory responsibility over the implementation of international instruments is also reflected in Article 35 of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and Article II of its 1967 Protocol (1951 Convention),² obliging State Parties to cooperate with UNHCR in the exercise of its functions; and is further found in European Union law.³ UNHCR has also been formally mandated by the UN General Assembly to prevent and reduce statelessness around the world, as well as to protect the rights of stateless people.⁴

UNHCR and Integration

- 3) UNHCR's interest and involvement in integration stems from its mandate to seek permanent solutions to the plight of refugees. The 1951 Convention explicitly enumerates refugees' social and economic rights and Article 34 obliges States, as far as possible, to facilitate the "assimilation and naturalization" of refugees.⁵ UNHCR has produced various materials relating to integration, including the handbook to guide reception and integration of resettled refugees,⁶ and several publications to facilitate refugees' integration in the European Union.⁷ Additionally,

¹ UN General Assembly, *Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*, 14 December 1950, A/RES/428(V), available at: www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3628.html.

² UN General Assembly, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 28 July 1951, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 137, available at: www.refworld.org/docid/3be01b964.html.

³ See, for example, European Union, Declaration on Article 73k of the Treaty establishing the European Community, OJ C 340/134 of 10.11.1997, Declaration 17; Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status, OJ L 326/13 of 13.12.2005, Article 21(c).

⁴ See UNHCR *Note on the Mandate of the High Commissioner for Refugees and his Office*, October 2013, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5268c9474.html>.

⁵ UN General Assembly, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 28 July 1951, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 137, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3be01b964.html>. See also *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 31 January 1967, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 606, p. 267, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3ae4.html>.

⁶ UNHCR, *Refugee Resettlement. An International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration*, September 2002, available at: www.refworld.org/docid/405189284.html. See also www.unhcr.org/uk/local-integration-49c3646c101.html.

⁷ See, for example, UNHCR *Note on Integration of Refugee in the European Union*, May 2007, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/463b462c4.pdf>; UNHCR, *A new beginning: Refugee Integration in Europe*, September 2013, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/52403d389/new-beginning-refugee-integration-europe.html>; UNHCR, *Rights of Refugees in the*

UNHCR's Executive Committee (ExCom) issued a number of conclusions related to integration, such as UNHCR's 2005 ExCom Conclusion No. 104 on Local Integration.⁸

- 4) On 19 September 2016 the New York Declaration adopted by the world's leaders recognized the need for a humane, considered and comprehensive approach to tackling the realities of displacement. The Declaration stresses the need for refugees' integration and inclusion, "with particular reference to access to education, health care, justice and language training".⁹ States signatory to the Declaration, including the United Kingdom, committed to reducing the risk of marginalization of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons, and fighting xenophobia, racism and discrimination, while globally supporting the development of national policies relating to integration and inclusion.¹⁰ UNHCR commends the abovementioned materials to the APPG for its consideration.

Defining integration

- 5) Integration is the end product of a dynamic and multifaceted two-way process with three interrelated dimensions: a legal, an economic and a social-cultural dimension.¹¹ UNHCR fully concurs with the need for integration to be a "two way street" process, as defined by the APPG on Social Integration *Interim Report into Integration of Immigrant*, or, as UNHCR also describes it, a "social contract" between refugees and host countries.¹² While refugees should evidently follow the host country's laws and values, the host societies need to do everything possible to ensure a more effective integration of refugees, while also respecting their cultural identity. This process is thought to rely on 'adaptation' of one party and "welcome" by the other. It does not require beneficiaries of internal protection to relinquish their cultural identity as integration differs from assimilation.

A National Strategy for Integration of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Stateless persons

- 6) UNHCR recognises the positive work undertaken in Scotland and Northern Ireland to implement integration strategies.¹³ However, while the Home Office issued strategies for

Context of Integration: Legal Standards and Recommendations, June 2006, POLAS/2006/02, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/44bb90882.pdf>; UNHCR, *UNHCR comments on the European Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum - COM (2016) 271*, December 2016, available at:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/585cde7a4.html>; and UNHCR, *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally: UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity*, December 2016, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/58385d4e4.html>.

⁸ UNHCR, *Conclusion on Local Integration*, 7 October 2005, No. 104 (LVI) - 2005, available at: www.refworld.org/docid/4357a91b2.html.

⁹ UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants: resolution/adopted by the General Assembly*, 3 October 2016, A/RES/71/1, paragraph 39, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/57ceb74a4.html>.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ UNHCR, *A new beginning: Refugee Integration in Europe*, September 2013, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/52403d389/new-beginning-refugee-integration-europe.html>. See also UNHCR, *Rights of Refugees in the Context of Integration: Legal Standards and Recommendations*, June 2006, POLAS/2006/02, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/52403d389/new-beginning-refugee-integration-europe.html>.

¹² UNHCR, *Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally: UNHCR's proposals to rebuild trust through better management, partnership and solidarity*, December 2016, p. 19, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/58385d4e4>.

¹³ The Scottish Government launched their *New Scots: Integrating Refugees in Scotland's Communities (2014 – 2017)* strategy, available at: www.gov.scot/Resource/0043/00439604.pdf. The initiative has been running in parallel with the Holistic Integration Service, the second interim evaluation report of which is entitled *Insight into Integration Pathways, New Scots & the Holistic Integration Service*, whilst the evaluation report of year three is titled *Rights, Resilience and Refugee Integration in Scotland* (www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/policy_and_research/research_reports). The 2014 Northern Ireland Assembly also commissioned the *Report on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland* (available at:

refugee integration in 2000,¹⁴ 2005¹⁵ and 2009,¹⁶ it has not done so on a national basis since then. There has also been no widespread systematic evaluation of the integration of refugees since the *Survey of New Refugees in the United Kingdom*, between 2005 and 2009, which was published in July 2010.¹⁷

- 7) UNHCR underlines the importance of having a comprehensive published integration strategy and systematic monitoring and evaluation of integration.¹⁸ Without this the specific situation of beneficiaries of international protection and the barriers or facilitators to their integration risk being overlooked. Further, the expert support needed to assist this group in becoming economically productive, self-reliant and to help ensure dignity may be diminished.
- 8) Below, UNHCR identifies issues relating to asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons that the Government may wish to take into account in developing and implementing a National Integration Strategy, including those relating to the provision of English language.

Recommendation:

- I. The UK Government, together, where applicable, with the devolved administration, should introduce a coherent integration strategy pertaining specifically to beneficiaries of international protection and systematically monitor and evaluate their integration trajectories.

English language and schooling

- 9) Knowledge of the hosting state's language facilitates the active participation of children in school and is important for adults to access employment in the host country. Language training should ideally be provided during the asylum procedure, unless it is reasonably foreseen that the asylum-seeker will stay in the country for a period not exceeding a few weeks. To increase its efficiency, language training should be adapted to the divergent learning capacities of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons and convey key information about the host society and its functioning.¹⁹

ESOL provision

- 10) UNHCR welcomes the September 2016 announcement by the Home Office that the Government would commit £10 million in new funding towards ESOL for Syrian resettled refugees. It should, however, be recalled that this new funding will not benefit all resettled refugees or others with international protection needs in the UK; consideration should be given to strengthening English language provision more widely.

www.migrationni.org/DataEditorUploads/RAISE%20Refugees%20and%20Asylum%20Seekers%20in%20NI.pdf), which, *inter alia*, identified a range of concerns relating to asylum-seekers and refugees.

¹⁴ Home Office, *Full and Equal Citizens: a strategy for the integration of refugees into the United Kingdom*, 2000.

¹⁵ Home Office, *Integration Matters: a national refugee strategy for refugee integration*, 2005.

¹⁶ Home Office, *Moving on Together: government's recommitment to supporting refugees*, 2009, available at: <http://goo.gl/Tb4Fnz>

¹⁷ Home Office, *Spotlight on Refugee Integration: findings from the survey of new refugees in United Kingdom. Home Office Research Report 37*, 2010, available at: <http://goo.gl/8Vz4Ti>

¹⁸ UNHCR, *A New Beginning: Refugee Integration in Europe*, September 2013, available at: www.refworld.org/docid/522980604.html.

¹⁹ UNHCR, *Note on the Integration of Refugee in the European Union*, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/463b462c4.pdf>.

- 11) UNHCR's ongoing survey of the initial reception and integration for Syrians resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS)²⁰ indicates that there are areas in the provision of English language for Syrian resettled refugees that should be improved. In the absence of available alternative child-care and/or child-friendly class times, attending classes is problematic for refugees who have children.²¹ Further, consideration should be given to increasing involvement in English language courses of low participation groups, specifically, women with young children, men aged between 17 and 24 years old and elderly refugees. The survey is also raising questions about the most successful format of delivery of language provision; absolute beginners, for example, appear to be facing challenges with English only immersion classes that do not provide interpretation support.²²

English for employment

- 12) Reception policies for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons should be designed to minimize isolation and separation from host communities and should provide for effective vocational skills development, and assistance to pursue employment.²³
- 13) UNHCR's ExCom has recognized that promoting the self-reliance of refugees from the outset will enhance the sustainability of any future durable solution,²⁴ and vocational training is welcomed by UNHCR. Such courses can have an empowering effect as they enable refugees to meet the host population on equal terms rather than as recipients of services. Vocational training may also be beneficial for re-integration upon return of rejected asylum-seekers, as it can open new employment opportunities in the home country. Additionally, the workplace offers opportunities for positive socialization. Employment provides the individual not only with an income but also with independence, social status, and recognition.

Welcoming asylum-seekers and refugees

- 14) In addition to English lessons, to facilitate integration and success at school, children should also feel welcomed in their classes. UNHCR recognizes that introducing students to refugees, asylum and migration can be a challenging task and has developed teaching toolkits and education material to support teachers in explaining facts, concepts and definitions relating to asylum and migration in Europe.²⁵ UNHCR encourages the APPG to consider the valuable role these materials may play for persons of concern to UNHCR.

²⁰ Due to be finalized by mid-2017.

²¹ In addition to childcare responsibilities, language provisions should also take into account others factors such as refugees' employment needs and level of literacy, as it has also been pointed out also in Home Office, *English Language training for refugees in London and the region*, available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr1403.pdf>.

²² See also Refugee Action, *Challenges and opportunities to improve language provision to refugees in England*, May 2016. Available at: <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/letrefugeeslearnfullreport.pdf>.

²³ UNHCR, *Note on the Integration of Refugees in the European Union*, May 2007, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/463b462c4.pdf>.

²⁴ The preamble of the UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion on Local Integration, No. 104 (LVI) – 2005, argues that self-reliance is “beneficial if promoted before official recognition as a refugee”, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/excom/exconc/4357a91b2/conclusion-local-integration.html>. See also UNHCR Executive Committee, Conclusion No. 93 (LIII), 2002 para (b)(vii), which has recognized that “reception arrangements can be mutually beneficial where they are premised on the understanding that many asylum-seekers can attain a certain degree of self-reliance, if provided with the requisite opportunities”, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/exconc/3dafdd344/executive-committee-conclusion-93-2002-conclusion-reception-asylum-seekers.html>.

²⁵ See for example www.unhcr.org/uk/not-just-numbers.html and www.unhcr.org/teaching-about-refugees.html.

Recommendations:

- II. More focus on and, where needed, greater enhancement of access to the quality provision of ESOL for all refugees should be facilitated. The UK Government may wish to consider broadening efforts to strengthen ESOL beyond refugees resettled under the VPRS, including for other refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons.
- III. The UK authorities should re-examine what format of delivery has been the most successful in terms of ESOL attendance and learning success.
- IV. English lessons to facilitate employment and vocational training should be supported and, where needed, strengthened.

Addressing the Consequences of Trauma

- 15) Persecution and displacement can have a serious impact on the mental and physical health of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons. Inadequate reception and integration policies can exacerbate or perpetuate the effects of trauma. It is important to adequately address these issues, especially as incorrect actions may cause significant impairment and long-term suffering.²⁶ UNHCR highlights, in particular, the importance of those working on integration with vulnerable individuals to be suitably qualified.

Recommendation:

- V. Specific training should be organized for professional working in areas linked to integration, particularly in the areas of health, education and employment, to assist social workers in dealing with refugees' psycho-social needs, reactions to traumatic experiences and pathological conditions

Discrepancies between Official Dates of Births

- 16) Some beneficiaries of international protection originate from countries where birthdays are not culturally or administratively significant and the precise date of birth may have never been recorded or the persons do not possess any forms of identity which indicate a specific date of birth. In these situations the Home Office may provide that an individual's date of birth is 1st of January of a given year. However, the Department for Work and Pensions has been known to designate the same individuals with a 31 December date of birth. The discrepancy in having two officially endorsed dates of birth creates undue hardship whilst navigation through important administrative matters. In the worst case scenario, individuals may face sanctions owing to imputed fraudulent activity by presenting with official documentation showing contrasting birth biometrics.

²⁶ UNHCR, *Note on the Integration of Refugees in the European Union*, May 2007, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/463b462c4.pdf>.

Recommendation:

VI. The UK authorities should ensure that the date of birth given to beneficiaries of international protection is consistent between government departments and on official documentation issued.

Documentation and access to services

17) Requirements on schools, landlords, banks and general practitioners' surgeries to verify the immigration status of foreigners may negatively affect the reception and integration of persons of concern to UNHCR. These types of documentation carried by asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless people as well as those with subsidiary or complementary forms of protection can be varied and complex, and could overburden service providers and create misinterpretation about the legality of the individual's status. These challenges may result in unintended consequences such as the denial of housing and other services to asylum-seekers and beneficiaries of international protection, including those who have been resettled. In particular, access to banking facilities can be problematic for a range of reasons including those pertaining to credit history, the poor implementation of banking guidelines and unintended consequences of international sanctions.²⁷

Recommendation:

VII. The types of documentation issued to those recognised by the UK as being in need of international protection should clearly and consistently be explained to service providers by the UK authorities. Access to banking facilities and other services needs to be monitored and acted upon where deemed appropriate

Immigration Detention

18) Detention can have a negative impact on detainees' integration prospects, as it may severely deteriorate the physical and mental conditions of those who experience it.²⁸ UNHCR believes that immigration detention should apply only when necessary, reasonable and proportionate,²⁹ and, whenever possible, alternatives to detention should be implemented.³⁰ The Shaw Review on the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons, a report to the Home Office published in January 2016, argues that immigration detention powers are "currently being used excessively, harmfully and ineffectively",³¹ and it recommends that the Home Office investigate the

²⁷ See for example "The Guardian", *Refugees unable to open UK bank account facing debt and destitution*, 6 January 2016, available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/06/refugees-unable-to-open-uk-bank-accounts-facing-debt-and-destitution>.

²⁸ This is well-documented in the Joint Inquiry of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration, *Report of the Inquiry into the Use of Immigration Detention in the United Kingdom*, 2015, available at:

<https://detentioninquiry.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/immigration-detention-inquiry-report.pdf>, and in the Stephen Shaw, *Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons*, 2016, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf.

²⁹ See UNHCR, *Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention*, 2012 (Detention Guidelines), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/503489533b8.html>.

³⁰ See UNHCR, *Back to Basics: The Right to Liberty and Security of Person and "Alternatives to Detention" of Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, Stateless Persons and Other Migrants*, April 2011, PPLA/2011/01.Rev.1, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4dc935fd2.html>. See also UNHCR, *Beyond Detention: A Global Strategy to support governments to end the detention of asylum-seeker and refugees, 2014-2019*, 2014, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/53aa929f6.pdf>.

³¹ Stephen Shaw, *Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons*, 2016, p.22, available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf.

development of alternatives to detention.³² UNHCR welcomes this recommendation and encourages the Government to expand the use of alternatives to detention for refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons in the UK. UNHCR also notes that detaining stateless persons is often ineffective as their removal is subjected to extensive delays and sometime it is even impossible, due to their lack of national identity.³³

Recommendation:

VIII. The Government should urgently explore expanding the use of alternatives to detention and ensure that detention is only used when necessary, reasonable and proportionate.

Transition Period

19) The Home Office has responsibility for reception and support arrangements during the asylum process and for beneficiaries of international protection newly receiving status until the end of the 28 day move-on period. This transition requires the issuance of documents and the following of a complex administrative process, as well as intra-governmental co-ordination between relevant departments. Various reports have been published on coordination issues and gaps in providing support during this period, including by the British Refugee Council and the British Red Cross.³⁴

Recommendation:

IX. Work to address the coordination problems in transferring individuals from Home Office support to mainstream welfare support services should continue and be concluded in a timely manner

Family Reunion

20) It should be emphasised that family separation affects a multitude of areas relating to integration for beneficiaries of international protection. Furthermore, enduring isolation and grief in the absence of family members reduces an individuals' ability to function;³⁵ while living with family members can promote integration by reinforcing the social support system of refugees.³⁶ In addition, increased and enhanced family reunion channels could remove a powerful incentive for many third country nationals to embark on risky irregular travel and move onward

³² Stephen Shaw, *Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons*, 2016, recommendation 63, p.190, available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf.

³³ See European Network on Statelessness, *Protecting Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention*, 2016, available at: http://www.statelessness.eu/sites/www.statelessness.eu/files/ENS_Detention_Toolkit.pdf. See also UNHCR, *Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons*, 2014, par 112, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/53b698ab9.pdf>. See also Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons Conclusion on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons, No. 106 (LVII) – 2006, Executive Committee 56th session. Contained in United Nations General Assembly document A/AC.96/1035 Available at <http://www.unhcr.org/453497302.html>.

³⁴ See British Refugee Council, *28 days later: experience of new refugees in the UK*, 2014, available at: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0003/1769/28_days_later.pdf, and British Red Cross, *The move-on period: an ordeal for new refugees*, 2014, available at <http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/About%20us/Research%20reports%20by%20advocacy%20dept/Move%20on%20period%20report.pdf>.

³⁵ UNHCR, *A new beginning: Refugee Integration in Europe*, September 2013, p.127, available at:

<http://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/52403d389/new-beginning-refugee-integration-europe.html>.

³⁶ UNHCR, *Note on the Integration in the European Union*, 2007, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/463b462c4.pdf>.

in the European Union.³⁷ UNHCR continues to advocate for the strengthening of family reunification standards and procedures in the UK.

Recommendation:

X. In March 2016, UNHCR released a briefing paper on family reunion in the UK, in which there are twenty-two recommendations made that are also highly pertinent to integration and this inquiry. UNHCR recommends careful and favourable consideration of these recommendations by the UK Government.

Challenges faced in the asylum process and statelessness determination procedure

- 21) Due to their precarious legal status, asylum-seekers may experience a certain degree of uncertainty concerning the assistance from the government that they are entitled to receive while their asylum claim is processed. This is particularly evident in the case of the provision of health care assistance³⁸ and concerning asylum-seekers' right to rent a property.³⁹ An additional challenge in the UK is that asylum-seekers can only apply for permission to work to fill a shortage vacancy if they have been waiting for over twelve months for an initial decision on their asylum claim.⁴⁰
- 22) Stateless determination procedures are an essential mechanism to help facilitate the integration of stateless persons and to reduce their risk of prolonged and arbitrary detention. Whilst UNHCR very much welcomes the introduction of the statelessness procedure in the UK,⁴¹ it should be noted that the statelessness determination procedure does not provide applicants (and their dependents) with recourse to any form of accommodation or financial assistance, and that the process is long and burdensome for some applicants.⁴²

Recommendations:

I. Work to guarantee that asylum claims are processed fairly and efficiently; ensure that asylum-seekers and service providers are adequately briefed on asylum-seeker

³⁷ UNHCR, *Briefing Paper: Family Reunion in the UK*, 2016, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/basic/576019c67/family-reunion-in-the-united-kingdom-briefing-paper-2016-576019c67.html>.

³⁸ See Concluding Observations, 58th session of the Committees on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, held in Geneva from 6-24 June 2016, available at:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGBR%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en

³⁹ See Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, *Passport Please: The impact of the Right to Rent checks on migrants and ethnic minorities in England*, February 2017, available at: https://www.jcwi.org.uk/sites/jcwi/files/2017-02/2017_02_13_JCWI%20Report_Passport%20Please.pdf.

⁴⁰ House of Commons Library, Commons Briefing Papers SN01908, Should Asylum seekers have unrestricted rights to work in the UK? 11 May 2016, available at: <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN01908>.

⁴¹ The UK is a signatory of the *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* and the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (See UN General Assembly, *Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, 28 September 1954, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 360, p. 117, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3840.html>; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*, 30 August 1961, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 989, p. 175, available at:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b39620.html>) and the implementation of policies to facilitate the integration and naturalization of stateless persons "must be seriously considered by states which are committed to finding durable solution to statelessness" (The Equal Rights Trust (ERT) *ERT Guidelines to protect Stateless Persons from Arbitrary Detention*, 2012, Guideline 60, p.153, available at: <http://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/guidelines%20complete.pdf>)

⁴² See the British Red Cross, *Can't stay. Can't go. Refused asylum seekers who cannot be returned*, in particular p. 30, available at: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/~media/BritishRedCross/Documents/About%20us/Research%20reports%20by%20advocacy%20dept/Cant%20stay%20Cant%20Go%20webready.pdf>.

rights and entitlements; consider expanding access to employment for asylum-seekers.

II. Statelessness claims should be processed in a timely manner with adequate support provided to applicants (and their dependents) during the process.

Resettlement

- 23) UNHCR projects that 1,190,000 individual refugees will be in need of resettlement in 2017.⁴³ UNHCR has and continues to call on States to create or expand legal pathways for admission.⁴⁴ UNHCR is extremely grateful to the UK Government, both at national, devolved and local levels, as well as civil society, for the international solidarity shown through the introduction and implementation of the various UK resettlement programmes.⁴⁵
- 24) Although the report is yet to be finalised, observations from UNHCR's joint survey on initial reception and integration for Syrians resettled under the VPRS to-date have been positive of the coordinated and operational response of Local Authorities and regions as well as the politically backed commitment from the Home Office and other relevant government departments to deliver the VPR. The study has, however, indicated potential challenges for Syrian refugees. These include those related to possible misconceptions in relation to family reunification; in isolated cases, access to timely medical care; access to employment and adequate English language tuition.⁴⁶
- 25) Further, the level of integration support, type of legal status (refugee or humanitarian protection) and availability of travel documentation for resettled refugees varies in the UK depending on the resettlement scheme utilized. This, in turn, may contribute to expectations that are difficult to manage, create divisions between categories of resettled individuals, and between those resettled and those recognised as being in need of international protection 'in country' contributing to disaffection.
- 26) The survey and report on initial reception and integration for Syrians resettled under the VPRS will be finalised by mid-2017.

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⁴³ UNHCR, *UNHCR report puts projected resettlement needs in 2017 at 1.19 million*, 13 June 2016, available at: www.refworld.org/docid/575f97844.html.

⁴⁴ UNHCR, *Global Responsibility Sharing through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees*, 2016, available at: <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/56f29f579.pdf>

⁴⁵ The traditional Gateway Protection Programme and Mandate Refugee Scheme (www.refworld.org/docid/54339eb45.html); as well as the expanded Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, which now also has a recently initiated Community Sponsorship component; together with the new Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

⁴⁶ As mentioned already, UNHCR welcomes the UK's recent announcement to commit £10m towards language tuition to help Syrians resettled to integrate into British society.