

Conference Programme

Event Title: Voices of resilience: addressing the psychosocial needs of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK

Venue: Hospitality Suite, Cardiff School of Management, Cardiff Metropolitan University, Llandaff Campus, CF5 2YB

Dates: Tue 12th May – Wed 13th May 2026

Day 1: Tuesday 12th May 2026

9:00 – 9:30	Arrival and registration
9:30 – 9:45	Welcome and introduction to the event Dr Heidi Seage and Dr Mike Wells
9.45 -10:25	Keynote presentation #1 Susie Ventris-Field CEO Oasis <i>Understanding the challenges and needs of asylum-seekers and refugees</i>
10:30 -12:00	<i>Psychosocial context of refugee families and minors</i> Chair: Dr Heidi Seage , Programme Director, MSc Health Psychology, Cardiff Metropolitan University.
10:30 -11:00	Dr Laura Shobiye , Research Associate (Representation Mattera), University of Manchester. <i>Narratives of transitions and resilience: displaced mothers experiences of learning and education in Wales.</i>
11:00 -11:30	Dr Roda Madziva , Associate Professor in Sociology (ESRC Research Fellow), University of Nottingham.

	<i>A cross-sector approach to assessing the needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking minors (UASMs) and marginalised young refugees in Nottinghamshire.</i>
11:30 -12:00	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH & NETWORKING
1:00 – 3:45	<i>Pathways to integration: language, health and wellbeing</i> Chair: Dr Clare Glennan , Senior Lecturer in Social Psychology and Qualitative Methods, Cardiff Metropolitan University
1:00 – 1:45	Keynote presentation #1 Dr Mike Chick Professor of ESOL/Refugee Champion, University of South Wales <i>Migrant language education: A means for immigration control or a vehicle for inclusion, empowerment and democratic participation?</i>
1.45 -2.15	Dr Sofia Vougioukalou , Research Fellow, Cardiff University. <i>Access to health and social care services</i>
2.15 - 3.00	Dr Anna Varadi and Dr Sara Jones , Widening Participation, Lifelong Learning, Cardiff University <i>Success for All: Improving Access, Progression and Belonging for Sanctuary Seekers.</i>
3.00 - 3.15	COFFEE BREAK
3.15 - 3.45	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Closing remarks: Dr Clare Glennan
3.45 - 5.00	Optional networking opportunity-Refreshments

Day 2 Wednesday 13th May 2026

9:30-10:00	Registration, reflections and coffee
	<i>Pathways to integration: education, employment and social support networks.</i> Chair: Dr Heidi Seage , Programme Director, MSc Health Psychology, Cardiff Metropolitan University.
10:00-10:30	Dr Clare Glennan , Senior Lecturer in Social Psychology and Qualitative Methods, Cardiff Metropolitan University. <i>From Waiting to Belonging: Rethinking Refugee Integration Pathways in Wales through International Learning.</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Dr Sandy Kyaw , Reader in applied international economics, Cardiff Metropolitan University. <i>Financial inclusion of refugees in a devolved Nation of Sanctuary.</i>
11:30 – 11:45	COFFEE BREAK
11:45 – 12:15	Lived Experience- Ms. Judith Nkwopara, Founder, Bridging the Gap <i>Bridging the Gap: Psychosocial Pathways and Higher Education Access for Asylum Seekers and refugees in the UK.</i>
12:15 – 12:45	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS Chair: Dr Heidi Seage
12:45 – 1:30	LUNCH & NETWORKING
1:30 – 2:30	Panel discussion <i>The way forward: future directions: Street hawking and forced migration, social support networks, community assets to support wellbeing, preventing criminal exploitation, legal assistance-fair hearing.</i>

	<p>Chair: Dr Clare Glennan, Senior Lecturer in Social Psychology and Qualitative Methods, Cardiff Metropolitan University</p> <p>Dr Nzubechukwu Okeke</p> <p>Dr Mike Wells</p> <p>Dr Sofia Vougioukalou</p> <p>Dr Daniel Stubbings</p> <p>Ms Judith Nkwopara</p>
2.30 – 3:00	<p>Plenary and close</p> <p>Dr Clare Glennan</p>