



Providing training and research on gender related human rights to support women refugees and their legal representatives in making gender based asylum and human rights claims

Are you a lawyer representing women's asylum or human rights claims?

Are you a woman seeking asylum?

Does your organisation work to support women asylum seekers?

Are you interested in the treatment of women in countries of origin?

Gender and Country of Origin Information – Researching women's asylum and human right claims

Our courses cover key skills needed in researching women's asylum and human rights claims

Our training covers issues in researching gender related human rights in countries of origin in relation to asylum and human rights claims. Country of Origin Information (COI) is used as 'objective evidence' to help determine asylum and human rights applications. COI refers to information about political, legal, cultural, economic, social and human rights conditions.

Our courses:

- Explore the need, challenges and consequences of research on human rights conditions for women in countries of origin
- Explore how country of origin information is used within the refugee status determination process
- Develop research skills and strategies
- Examine what is meant by 'gender persecution' and how women's experiences of persecution are different to men's
- Examine types of gender persecution, their impact on women, socio-cultural justifications and patriarchy
- Examine legal protection available in theory and reality, and relevant international and national laws.
- Example topics include; female genital mutilation, trafficking, rape and sexual violence, honour crimes, reproductive health and rights, sexual orientation, marriage, domestic violence
- Our training uses practical exercises and case studies drawn from real experiences.

Courses can be adapted to meet organisational needs.

We offer outreach case research support for refugee women, one-to-one or in groups, supporting women in researching their own cases.

For more information on our training programme and outreach sessions;

Call: 0207652 1458/ 07906 832 952

Email: info@cori.org.uk

Visit: www.cori.org.uk

The need

Women experience forms of persecution which are different to men, based on their gender, however researchers in the field often assume that the male experience is indicative of human rights conditions in a country of origin.

This generates a lack of reference to types of gender persecution and their impact on women in COI reports, making women's asylum and human rights cases more difficult and time consuming to research.

Who should attend?

Courses are aimed at those involved in researching women's cases including; Legal Representatives, Asylum Seekers/Refugees, COI researchers, Support workers, Social workers, Detainee Visitors groups, Volunteers, Teachers, Health professionals, Women's organisations and Refugee Community Organisations.

Course leader: Bethany Collier

Bethany has eight years experience in the human rights field, working on children's, refugee and women's rights. In the last six years she's specialised in gender related issues researching, writing, campaigning and training on gender persecution in a global context. As a Country Information Officer she set up and managed a specialist information unit on women's human rights and managed and delivered a public research service supporting refugee women, legal representatives and their supporters in researching women's claims. Her latest publication is 'Country of Origin Information and Women: Researching gender and persecution in the context of asylum and human rights claims', Asylum Aid, London, 2007, available to download from www.cori.org.uk