

RESEARCH PROJECT

# Young Undocumented Migrants *in Britain*

**Young Undocumented Migrants** is a research project commissioned by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to a research team led by Dr Alice Bloch (Department of Sociology, City University) and Professor Roger Zetter (Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford) to explore and understand the lives and livelihoods of young undocumented migrants from their own perspectives.

The project team will work in partnership with a number of organisations involved with young undocumented migrants, as well as the Evelyn Oldfield Unit, who is an advisory partner. These partnerships are crucial both to the success of the research project and in facilitating the wider capacity building and networking objectives that will enable organisations to work more effectively with young undocumented migrants - a key component of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Social Justice Programme, launched a year ago.

The research is based in three regions – London, North West and the Midlands. A regional approach is central to the research to ensure that metropolitan, town and rural areas are included and will allow for an exploration of livelihoods in different types of employment sectors.

Sixty in-depth interviews and 20 testimonies will be carried out with young undocumented migrants. The research aims to build up a picture of interviewees social and economic lives in the UK and the ways in which their undocumented status impacts on their lives and choices. Young undocumented migrants from Zimbabwe, Brazil, China, Turkey (including Kurdish migrants) and Ukraine are included in the research. The five countries of origin will allow both very recent and less recent migrants to be interviewed, enabling a better understanding of how experiences are shaped and choices are made by young people over time.

The research is built on a successful scoping study (April- July 2007) which undertook focus group interviews with individuals and organisations in contact with young undocumented migrants. The focus groups highlighted the need to understand at first hand the complexity of the life processes, decisions and choices of young undocumented migrants, set within the context of their undocumented status.

The research will therefore focus on the voices of young undocumented migrants about which little is known and will explore and develop the key themes around lives and livelihoods including: experiences of employment; social networks; community involvement; links and obligations with friends and family in their country of origin; how being undocumented impacts on their lives and the longer term goals and aspirations of young undocumented migrants.

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