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# **OBSTACLES TO THE SETTING UP OF BUSINESSES BY REFUGEES**

# INTRODUCTION

- ✘ Stigmatisation of refugees and asylum seekers;



- ✘ Europe now a gated community (Houtum and Pijpers, 2007);



- ✘ Importance of Refugee Community Organisations clear. Much depended on grants. Thus with recession..... Big Society;
- ✘ Given this context and we hoped that University could support ‘development’ for these communities.



# INITIAL WORKSHOPS



- ✘ Discussion with Key community leader set-up two workshops (i) 'Starting a social enterprise' (ii) 'Planning your business (ad)venture';



- ✘ **First workshop** 30 participants (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Guinea, Iran, Somalia, the Sudan, Pakistan, Uganda, Zimbabwe);

- ✘ 14 owned business in home country and only 1 in UK. But during workshop all indicated that second workshop on business start-up was needed;

- ✘ **Second workshop** 22 participants (Cameroon, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Pakistan, Zimbabwe) involved *PNE Consultancy Group* and *Entrust Newcastle*.



# IMMIGRATION POSITION

- ✘ Refugees and asylum seekers
- ✘ Art 1A of the Geneva Convention – well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion
- ✘ If accepted as a refugee may work and/or claim benefits



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

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- ✘ WERS
- ✘ EAASSG (now closed)
- ✘ Poor English
- ✘ Loss of homeland and family
- ✘ Feel beholden already
- ✘ A number
- ✘ Stress
- ✘ Not treated as vulnerable adults
- ✘ Mental health/  
emotional issues
- ✘ Employed well below  
capacity
- ✘ Cultural differences –  
don't know where to  
start
- ✘ Small community

# TYPES OF BUSINESSES

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- ✘ Hairdressers
- ✘ Food shops
- ✘ Cleaning businesses
- ✘ A band