

Gender-related vulnerabilities in the EU asylum procedures: setting the scene

Vulnerability and credibility

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UK definition

A vulnerable adult ...

is or may be unable to take care of him or herself,

or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation

because of mental or other disability, age or illness.

UNHCR

As vulnerable as asylum-seekers are, there are people within this group who face even greater risks, challenges, and problems, for example

- children who are orphaned or separated from their parents,
- traumatized individuals suffering from psychological problems,
- mothers and fathers raising children alone,
- victims of human trafficking,
- survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Vulnerable due to

- **Characteristics**

- woman
- temporary eg pregnancy
- permanent eg congenital disability

- **Situation**

- in FGM practicing community
- in a war zone
- fleeing persecution
- asylum applicant
- integration/resettlement

EU Qualification Directive

Member states to take into account situation of vulnerable persons such as

- minors,
- pregnant women,
- single parents with minor children,
- persons who have been subjected to physical or sexual violence.





Asylum Aid

Princess Onyeukwu

Supporting Women Project, Evelyn Oldfield Unit

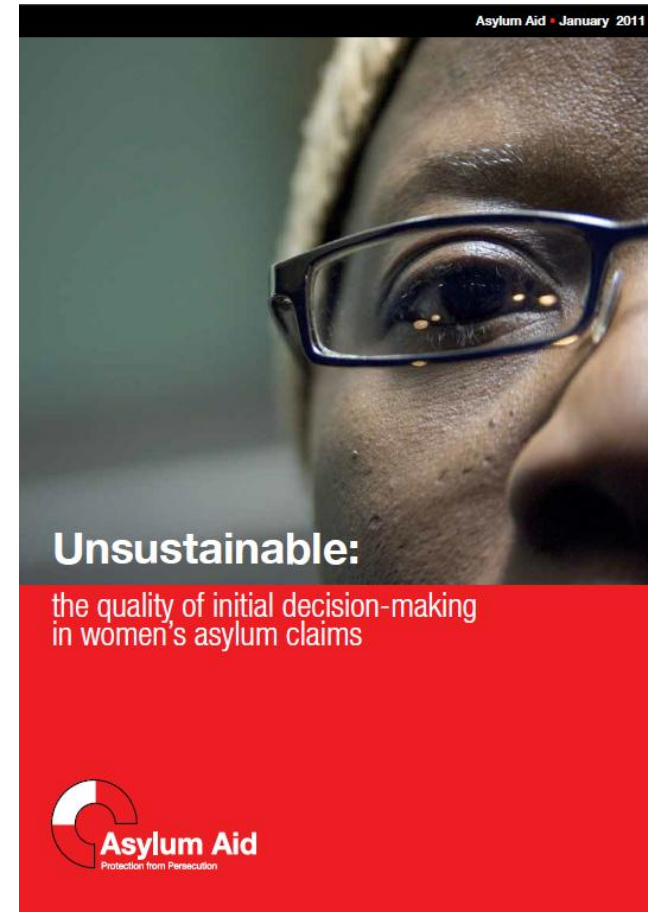
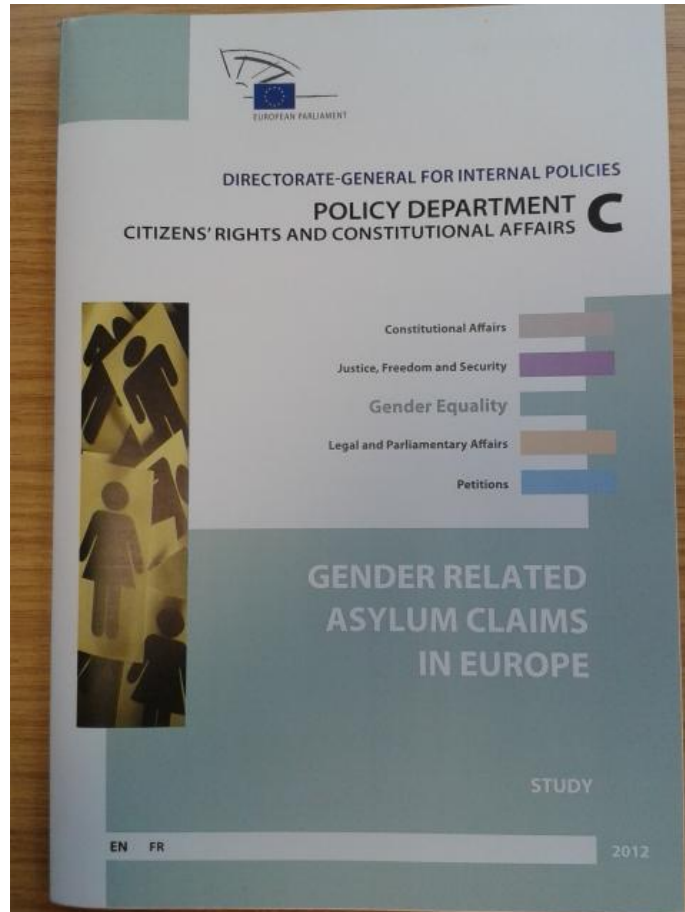
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO0B-C_EPI4&t=2m2s



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Credibility in women's asylum claims







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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UO0B-C_EPI4&t=11m36s



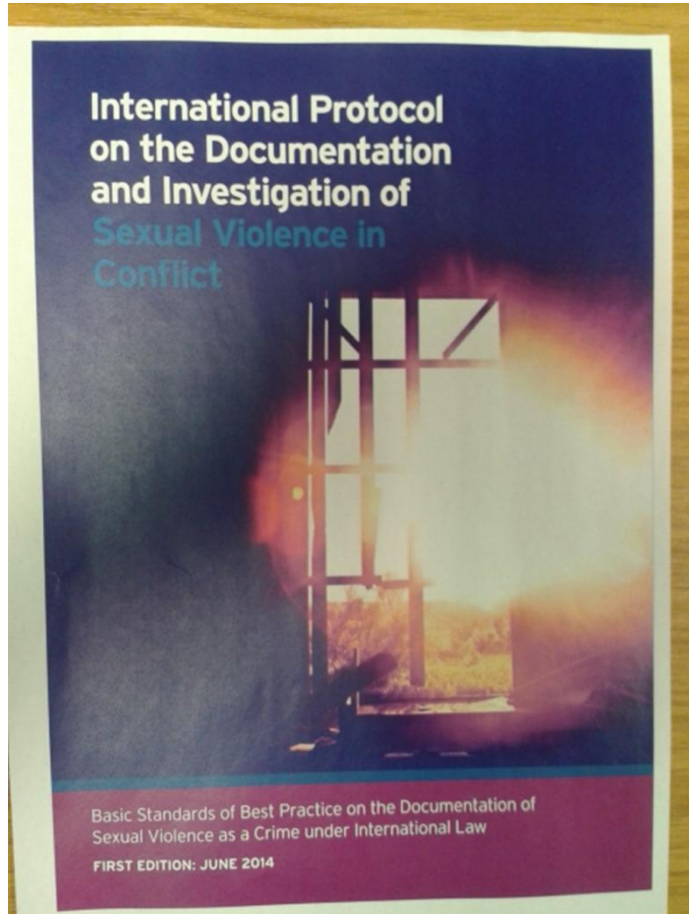
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Culture of
disbelief

Double standards



DIRECTIVE 2012/29/EU OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL

of 25 October 2012

establishing minimum standards on the
rights, support and protection of victims
of crime



guarantee and publicise the
right to request a female
interviewer and interpreter



deliver comprehensive and
mandatory training for interviewers
and interpreters on sexual violence,
trauma and memory



provide childcare
during screening
and asylum interviews



provide trauma counselling for
women who have experienced
gender-based harm



provide information about the
asylum process, rights and
entitlements specific to women
seeking asylum









European Parliament resolution of 8 March 2016 on the situation of women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU





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