



Finding a home in the UK: refugee onward migration and experiences of place in UK cities

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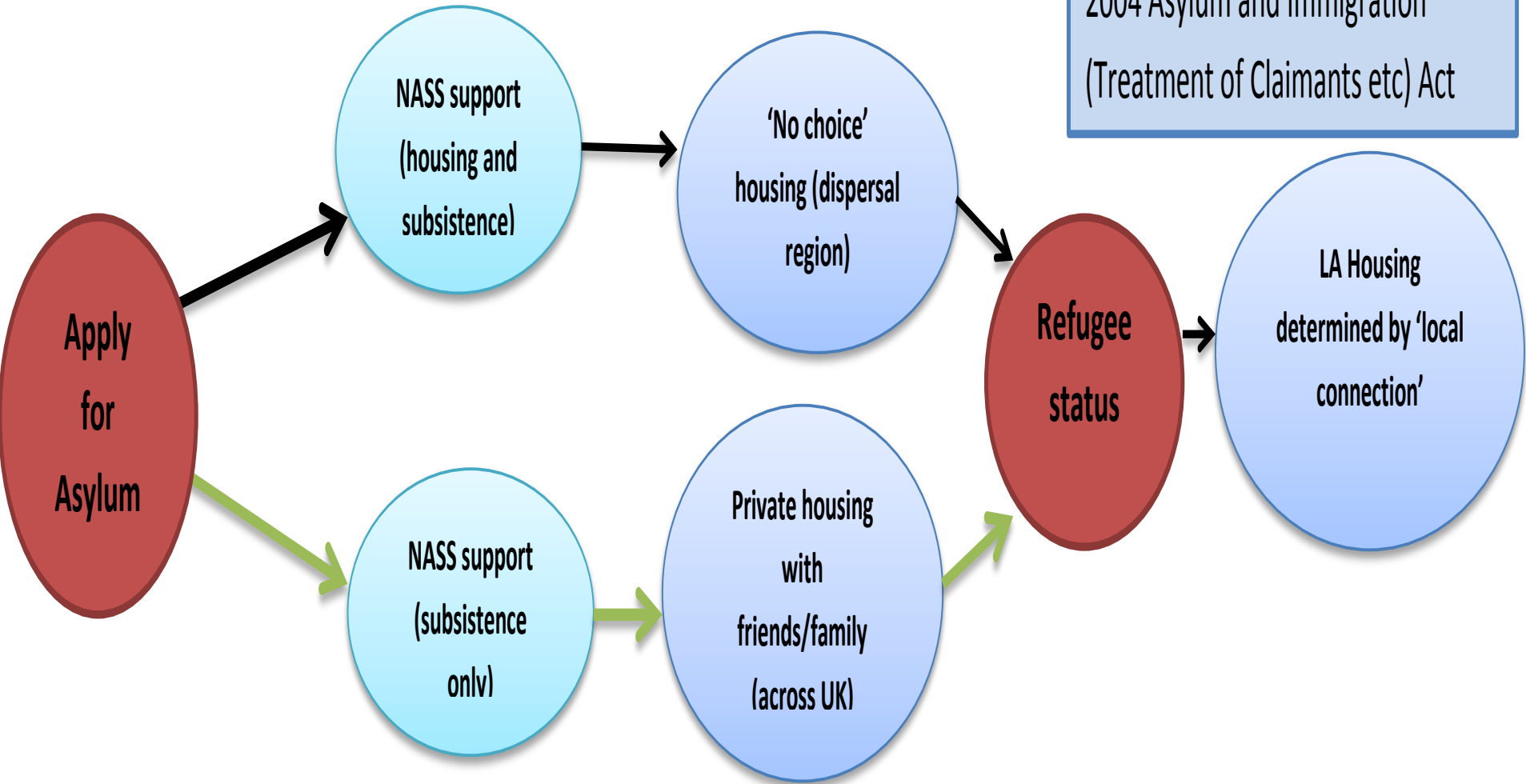
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UK dispersal policy

1999 Immigration and Asylum Act

2004 Asylum and Immigration
(Treatment of Claimants etc) Act



Background

- Critique of UK dispersal policy (Bloch and Schuster 2005; Anie et al 2005, Hynes 2011)
- Internal and secondary migration of refugees (EU, US, Canada, Australia)
 - Employment opportunities, family members, pre-existing ethnic minority populations
- Internal migration of immigrants and ethnic minority populations
 - Family, children and lifecourse

Refugee onward migration and place

- 80 in-depth interviews in Cardiff, Glasgow, London and Manchester

Table 1: Asylum seekers in receipt of Section 95 support, by local authority (quarter one, 2013)

City	In dispersal accommodation	Subsistence only	Total
Cardiff	877	7	884
Glasgow	1,809	15	1,824
London	931	1,838	2,769
Manchester	630	55	685

Source: UK Asylum Statistics

Refugee onward migration and place

Table 2: Estimated numbers of refugees

City	Number	Source
Wales	6-10,000	(Crawley, 2013)
Glasgow	20,000	(Shisheva et al., 2013)
London	600,000	(Greater London Authority 2009)
Manchester	20,000	(Refugee Action 2005)

Refugee onward migration and place

- 18 different nationalities (Iran, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iraq and Zimbabwe)
- 45% female, 55% male
- 44% had moved on, 56% had stayed in dispersal location/city

Refugee onward migration and place

- Context of reception and connection to histories of moving or staying
 - Operation of dispersal policy
 - Perceptions of place
 - Time in place
 - Experiences of place shaped by socio-demographic factors

UK dispersal policy, ethnic diversity and place

- “If you look at the period that I came, that was really a time where there weren't many [asylum seekers]... the Home Office was now starting to bring people over to Scotland, but we were one of the few people. You would go in to the street and you were like, I haven't seen a black person the whole day today ... People's attitudes have changed. It [dispersal policy] changes people's attitudes ... it has been quite beneficial that you get other foreigners coming over because it changes people's attitude. I think you integrate with other people. You don't know why but when you get to know them then you start to change as well.” (Nikki, Zimbabwe, F, Glasgow)

UK dispersal policy, ethnic diversity and place

- “I think the people also are getting used to this inflow of different colour and the things that awaited for me are not there for these kids now ... I am thinking that Glasgow is now opening up for everybody.” (Samuel, Ethiopia, M, Glasgow)

UK dispersal policy, ethnic diversity and place

- “[In Manchester] I found all the people on the bus were from different countries. That means that area is multicultural area, and you can find just maybe three or five English people on the bus. But here [Glasgow], you can find just yourself and a few strangers in the bus. Down in England, I think people are more experienced dealing with different cultures or different people who come from outside, rather than here.” (Nouri, Sudan, M, Glasgow)

UK dispersal policy, ethnic diversity and place

- “I think Manchester is moving towards cosmopolitan kind of situation, just like in London. Me, I’m part of that On the whole, London integrates better because of their history with immigrants ... while Manchester comes in second, they are moving towards that direction. It is a process, and we have to be patient.” (Rodrick, Zimbabwe, M, Manchester)

Perceptions vs realities of place

- “Because I don’t know UK, I don’t know which one is good, which one is not good, so just I’m here following the crowd because I don’t know places here.” (Birhane, Eritrea, M, Glasgow)
- “There are no jobs here. All the people that are leaving, they couldn’t find a job. All people are moving. It’s true. Because there were friends here, they looked for a job and couldn’t find and they left. Three, four months [they searched] ... [There are jobs in] Sheffield, Newcastle. Another one, Manchester. If I find job, I’m going to stay here. If I not find, what can I do? They say Glasgow is beautiful and nice place, but just there is no job.” (Sara, Eritrea, F, Glasgow)

Perceptions vs realities of place

- “I think about leaving Cardiff because most of my friends are in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds. They get council houses after getting their status but I must wait seven years for one here. Also jobs in Cardiff are not good. My friends say the health system is very good there. They say everything is better in England. Housing, health care, job opportunities, everything is better. They moved to England and found a better life.” (Dyako, Iran, M, Cardiff)

Perceptions vs realities of place

- “I had no interest to stay in Glasgow because of the weather and even now I’m currently in London but I’m looking for to go somewhere else. I don’t like London as well. London is very overcrowded, very busy ... I just came because of my friends. At first I was planning to move to London, but slowly, gradually I find out that living in London is very expensive and London is very busy and it’s not a good place for me to stay. That’s why I changed my mind and I’m wishing to go somewhere else.” (Adam, Sudan, M, London)

Perceptions vs realities of place

- “He [friend] tell me, to take care for your health come to Manchester. It is the best for you.” (Elwasila, Sudan, M, Manchester)
- “I like to stay here [but] ... I have wife and she’s coming. Maybe if she would like to stay here it’s best for me, and if she want to move for another city [I will have to move].” (Elwasila, Sudan, M, Manchester)

Perceptions vs realities of place

- “My son wanted to play at park with other children, they wouldn't play with my son, they wouldn't, other children. For example, in the park, and also if neighbours' children wanted to play they were preventing their children to play with my child, so there was a disconnect.” (Reza, Iran, M, London)

Time in place: becoming connected?

- “That time I start to like it in Glasgow and got used to it. I’ve already been five years now ... If I can settle here, I don’t think I can go and live in other place. I used to Glasgow. I feel at home here, I used to the place. Only thing is there is no work here, no jobs.” (Goitom, Eritrea, M, Glasgow)

Time in place: becoming connected?

- “It's funny how I used to say when I was an asylum seeker, as soon as I get my papers I'm not staying in Cardiff, I'm going back to London because to me London is my home. My teenage life was there, I've got my friends over there. After I got my refugee status, I don't know what made me stay in Cardiff at that point, but now looking at it I think it's the friends, it's the life that I've started already in Cardiff even though it was unintentional, it was me that was put in that place, but I found myself used to it, like it's home. I do miss London, I love London ... but I come back home. I feel like it's home now. Cardiff is home, I've got my friends like small family.” (Maya, Sudan, F, Cardiff)

Time in place: becoming connected?

- “Honest to God, Daventry was very nice. But the problem is that I was suffering and I want to forget bad times. It was so difficult there in the beginning and I had so many problems starting my life that the memories were very bad for me. I discussed this with my wife and she encouraged me to move, to go somewhere new to start fresh and to make new memories that are better.” (Joude, Iraq, M, Manchester)
- “I’m like a fish. If you take a fish from the water, it will die. If you take me out of Manchester, I will die. It’s like all of Manchester is my house and I take care of it.” (Joude, Iraq, M, Manchester)

Conclusions

- Impact of dispersal policy upon urban landscape
- Time in place fosters stability and increases propensity to stay (28 day policy mitigates against this)
- Multiple, poorly informed moves can cause instability, homelessness and negative personal impacts
- Refugee (un)employment in dispersal sites
- Role of family re-unification

Conclusion

- Onward migration website:
www.onwardmigration.com
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