

Faculti Summary

<https://staging.faculti.net/trauma-in-the-uk-asylum-process/>

This video is a transcription of a discussion regarding the experiences of young asylum seekers, particularly from Albania, navigating the UK asylum process. The primary focus is on a research project titled "Lives on Hold, Our Stories Told," which examines the lived experiences of these individuals and how the asylum system impacts their mental health, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key points include:

1. **Trauma**: The research defines trauma as harmful or life-threatening experiences, distinguishing between pre-migration trauma (experienced in the home country), migration journey trauma, and post-migration trauma (experienced in the host country, particularly due to the asylum process).
2. **Impact on Mental Health**: The findings reveal that the asylum process can exacerbate existing trauma and lead to mental health issues, especially among young people. Challenges such as the lack of knowledge regarding rights, legal complexities, delays, uncertainty, language barriers, and social stigma can contribute to feelings of isolation and re-traumatization.
3. **Participatory Methodology**: The research employed a participatory methodology involving peer researchers to gather insights directly from asylum seekers, allowing them to share their experiences and contributing to the development of trauma-informed guidelines for improving the asylum process.
4. **Guidelines and Recommendations**: The recommendations emphasize the need for compassionate and humane treatment of asylum seekers, establishing trust, providing cultural sensitivity, and implementing trauma-informed training for professionals working with vulnerable populations. Organizations should also change their cultures to be more supportive rather than hostile towards asylum seekers.
5. **Broader Implications**: The discussion underscores the harmful trend of anti-immigration sentiment in the UK and Europe, advocating for a better understanding of asylum seekers' needs and the realities they face.

Overall, the research highlights the importance of trauma-informed practices and the need for systemic change in how asylum seekers are treated within the UK asylum system.