

Mike Lewis

Discussion structured around questions about a. how concepts and categorizations contribute to discriminatory treatment of displaced children and b. what changes in law, policy and practice are required.

Joint Panel 1: Non-discrimination	In your work, what different conceptualizations and categorizations do you see regarding children who have been displaced across borders?	In what ways do current policies or practices treat children more or less favorably according to those categories and conceptualizations?	If you could identify two key aspects of policy or practice that need to be changed to ensure displaced children are not discriminated against, what would you recommend, and why?	If you could identify one critical question that future research should investigate to address challenges with “nondiscrimination”, what would that be, and why?
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My key issues which cover all of the questions

1 Building the narrative of good practice so that it becomes ‘normal ‘ in day to day work of agencies . How to use Professional Codes of practice as tool of change . What is the role of qualifying training and post qualifying training in raising awareness before improving practice.

2 The challenges of labelling which lead to agencies ignoring the needs of vulnerable children . How can we move the narrative within agencies so that they do what they should do (not skirting around in poor practice)

3 Does labelling as ‘victim ‘ get better outcomes . As a strength based practitioner I struggle with the need to demonstrate vulnerability – but often its only strategy that works ?

4 Re policy changes – regulator do something about poor practice / celebrate what we do well

5 Are there better labels than non discrimination – how can research reframe our narrative?

Mike Lewis Biog

Mike qualified as a social worker in 1986. Between 1986 and 1995 he worked in children’s services specialising in working with looked after children and in child protection. He has held a number of management posts with Action for Children, Save the Children and Children in Wales . Between 2007 and 2013 he was CEO of the Welsh Refugee Council. He now runs his own consultancy Hawliau www.hawliau.co.uk which focuses on ethics ,values and rights within public services . He is also a visiting lecturer in Social Work and Social Policy at Cardiff University and

the University of Rovaniemi ,Finland and at IPC within Oxford Brookes University. He has had significant experience of training on the new Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014

He is a registered social worker with a B.Sc. in Psychology, a MA in Social Policy. MsC in Research Methods and a Postgrad Certificate in Management.

He is a former trustee of WCVA and Linc Housing Association and is currently Chair of Cardiff and Vale Children's Contact Centre.

