

# Action to address the distinct factors that deter Refugee and Asylum Seekers from reporting Hate

**MERWA ZEN**  
**Community Safety Working Group**  
**Regional Refugee Forum North East**

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Our work over the last year has been supported by



The Lempriere Pringle Trust





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- ❑ Update from presentation made by our Community Safety Working Group to the North East Race Equality Forum in October 2015 as part of national Hate Crime Awareness week
- ❑ 'RAS' = Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- ❑ 'RCO's' = Refugee-led community organisations (the membership of the Regional Refugee Forum)



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## Summary of distinctive factors that deter RAS from reporting hate

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- Fear reporting could lead to deportation
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- Fear of reprisal
  - Asylum seekers have to live in no-choice accommodation – can't remove themselves from local abusers



**October 2015**

**RRF Community  
Safety Working Group**

**presentation to the  
North East Race  
Equality Forum**

***'The Dilemma faced  
by RAS around  
reporting Hate Crime'***

**What actions can we take to address actual and perceived risks and tip the balance in favour of reporting?**

1. Increase knowledge within the asylum seekers and refugee community themselves
2. Produce narratives clarifying what *should* happen when someone reports Hate Crime
3. Provide clear option of anonymity when reporting
4. Focus on indirect contact: 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting routes
5. Responses that consider the preferred outcome of victims – avoid cycles of revenge
6. Understand and manage risks from conflicting policing agendas
7. Clarify in what circumstances information is shared between Police and UK Visas & Immigration
8. Long term steps to increase diversity within the Police
9. Training that utilises the power of the authentic voice
10. Scrutinise measures within the Immigration Bill 2015 with potentially discriminatory outcomes (e.g: Police powers to ask about immigration status and search for driving licences)
11. Other ways of hearing the experience of refugees and asylum seekers



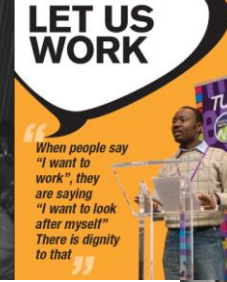


## October 2015: 5 asks

### Working in collaboration with the RAS community to remove unique and distinctive deterrents to reporting Hate Crime :

#### 5 Asks of the region's Police forces and Police & Crime Commissioners

1. Work with the Regional Refugee Forum's Community Safety Working Group to design a co-ordinated multi-strand strategy based on collaborative working which would over the next 12 months would deliver
2. a systematic and sustained engagement process at the operational and neighbourhood level with over 50 refugee led community organisations working across the region
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting and Hate Crime champions training for our members
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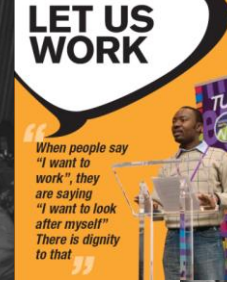
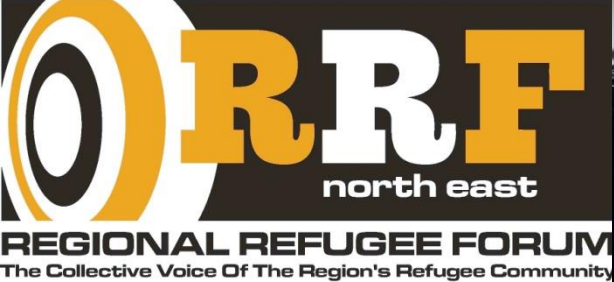
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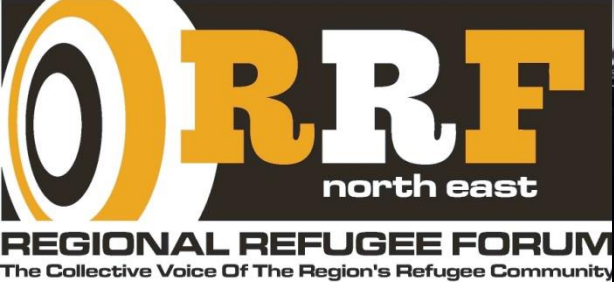
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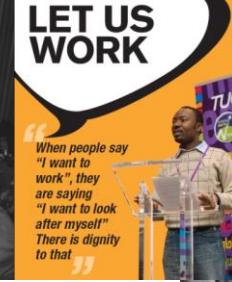
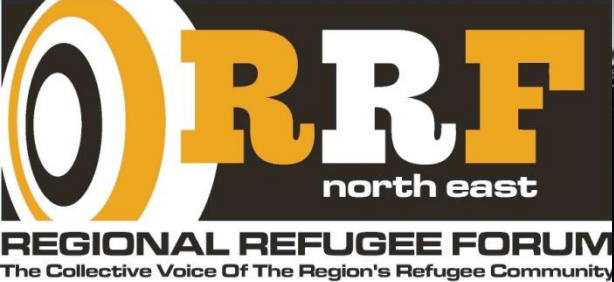
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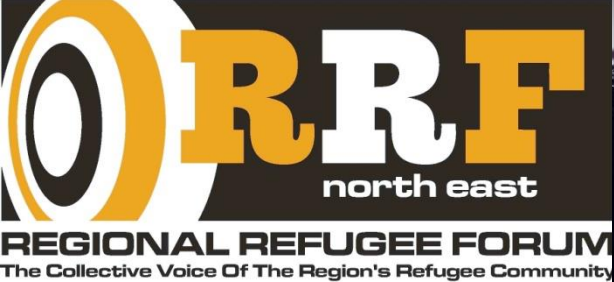
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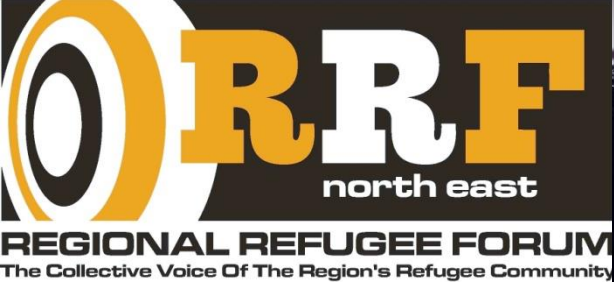
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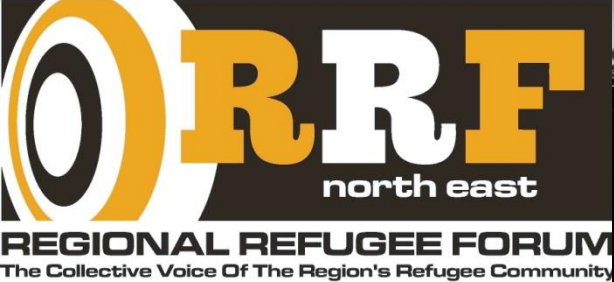
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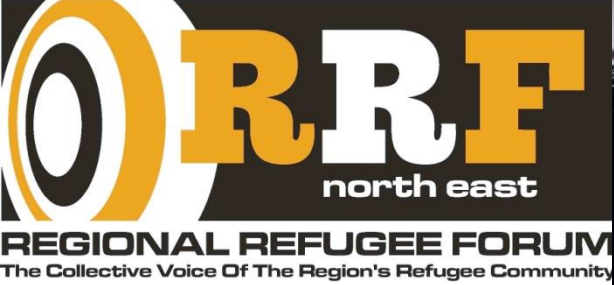
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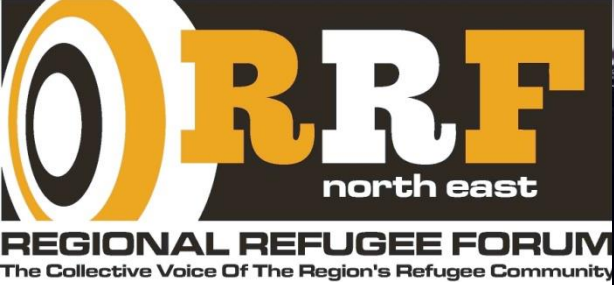


DVD for RCOs in production



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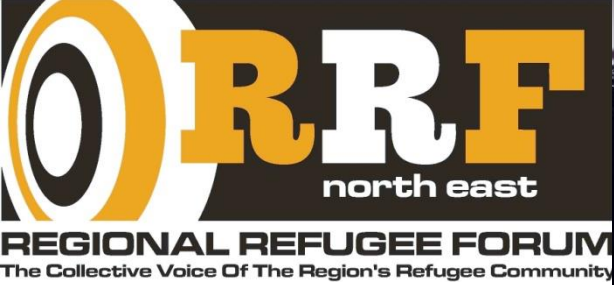
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  - Can open the door to collaborative working on other criminal justice strands
- ❑ Help the Police, victim support agencies and Local Authorities increase their own understanding of RAS safety and deliver support that is more responsive to their needs
  - RAS, as local residents, can have equal outcomes from local services



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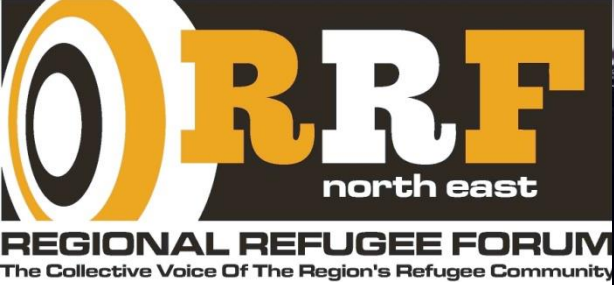
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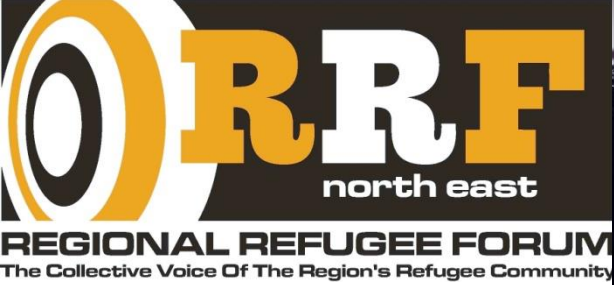
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4. Distinguish Hate from bullying in schools
5. For agencies with a role in community safety to present a clearer more joined up map of support, from a community perspective, that responds to different victim and community priorities



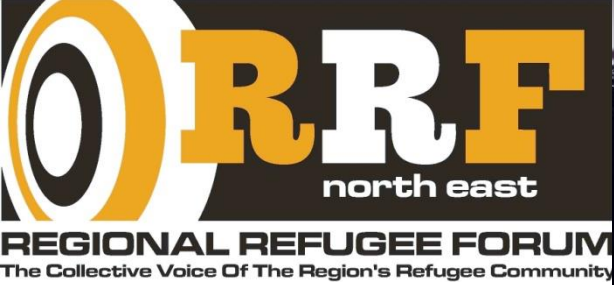
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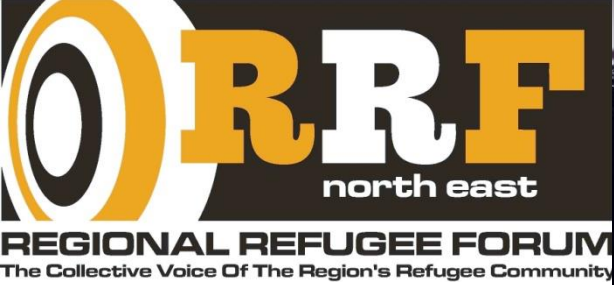
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