



After Return policy recommendations:

- 1) When considering forced returns, care-leaving former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children should be considered as a particular social group, and not forcibly returned where there is no evidence they will be successfully reintegrated into a family unit:**

The research carried out for the After Return report has demonstrated that forced return to Kabul is neither safe nor sustainable for this particular group. Young people have been proved to be at risk simply as a result of their status as a forced returnee, regardless of the nature of their original asylum claim. In this context, relocation to Kabul has not proved viable for young people unable to re-join their families. Given the substantial gap between the Government's stated desired outcomes for care-leavers and the outcomes for care-leavers forcibly returned to Kabul, we propose that, like women, this particular group should not be forcibly returned if there is no evidence that they will be successfully re-integrated into a family unit.

- 2) Care leaving former unaccompanied asylum seeking children with verifiable mental health issues should not be forcibly returned to Afghanistan:**

The young people monitored for this research who were forcibly returned to Afghanistan despite having documented mental health difficulties experienced a rapid and severe deterioration in their mental health post removal. We propose that this group of young people are not forced to return to an environment where their mental health has been shown to suffer further.

Contacts:

To discuss these recommendations in more detail, including possible practical next steps, please do contact Emily or Catherine from RSN on the details below:

Emily Bowerman (Programmes Manager): ebowerman@refugeesupportnetwork.org

Catherine Gladwell (Director; on maternity leave from September 2016):
cgladwell@refugeesupportnetwork.org