



There is no Sustainable
Development without
Community Development



Community Development

The purpose of community development is:

To collectively bring about social change and social justice by working with communities to

- > identify their needs, opportunities, rights and responsibilities*
- > Plan organise and take action*
- > Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the action*

All in ways which challenge oppression and tackle inequalities.

Community Development & Sustainable Development Goals

CD values:

- Social Justice
- Human rights
- Community empowerment
- Equality

SDG aims

- End poverty
- Protect the planet
- Ensure prosperity for all

End all forms of discrimination
against all women and girls
everywhere

Context for refugee women:

- ◉ Gender based persecution - Why do women flee?
- ◉ Sanctuary in UK? - Discrimination and extreme disadvantage – gender, race & religion

Community Empowerment

- ◉ Collective action to address community needs and aspirations
- ◉ Impact on the decisions that affect their lives
- ◉ Bring about positive change in the quality of community life

Example of CD practice



- Group of refugee and asylum seeking women
- Works together to affect positive change to policy and practice that affects their lives.

Holistic and grass roots CD - processes



- Understanding community
- Organisation

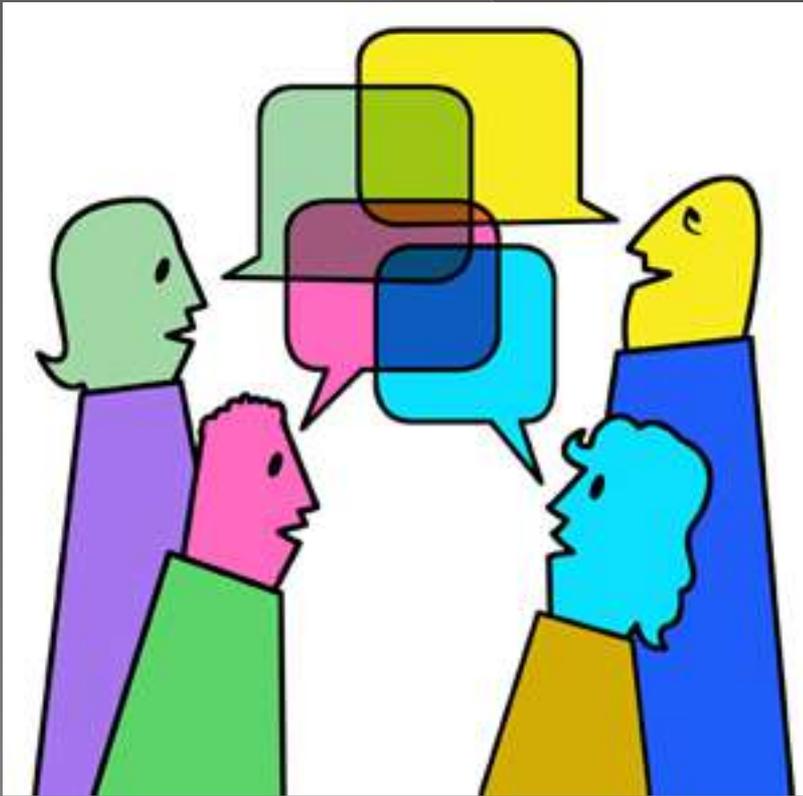
CD processes



● Motivation

● Relationship

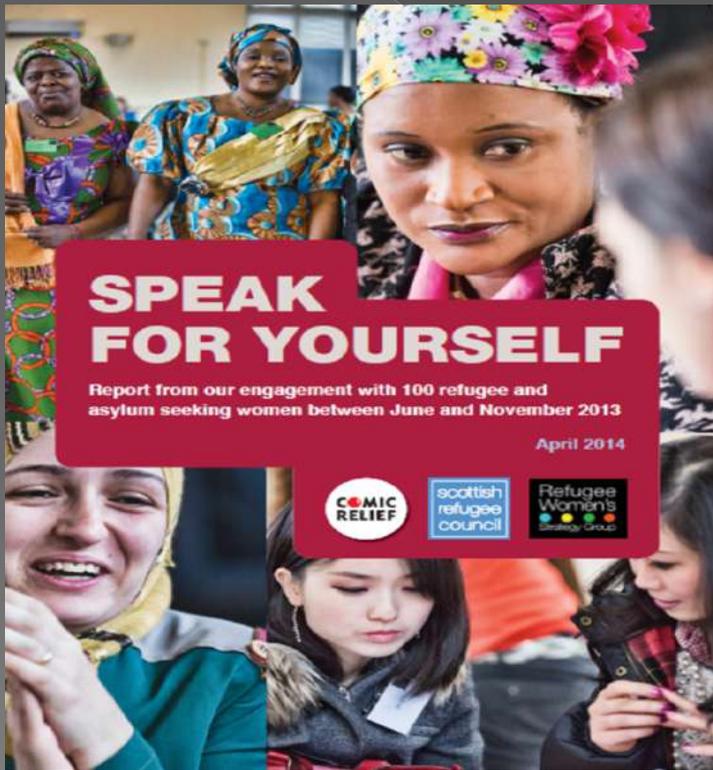
CD processes



- Analysis

- Engagement

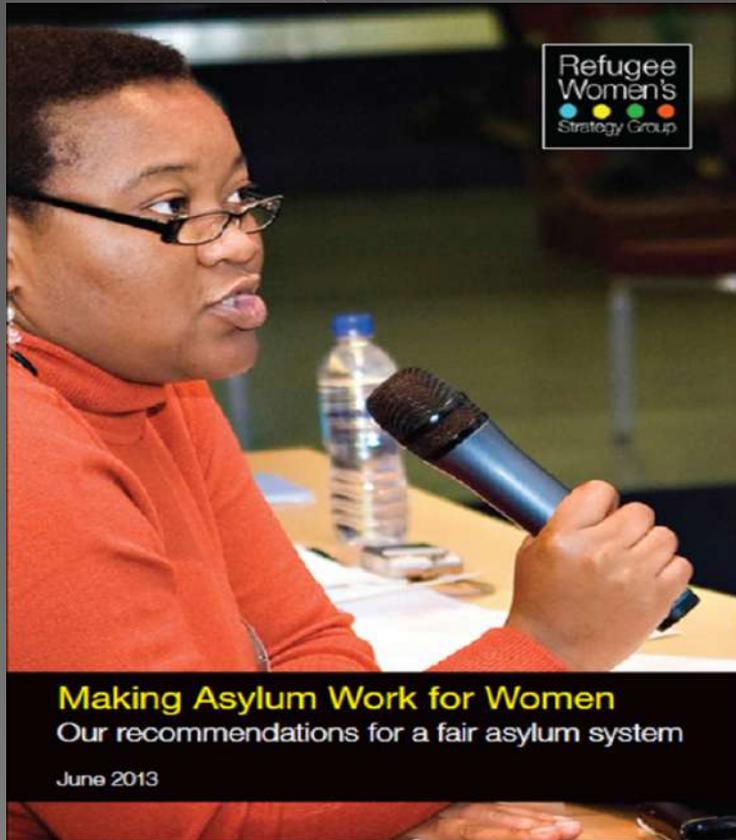
CD processes



Building skills and confidence

Nurturing

Analyse and Collectivise



- Common issues
- Sense of belonging
- Affect change at policy level

Impact of CD – RWSG member

“I didn’t know about my rights; that you are free to speak out for yourself; I never used to do that. I was just scared. I thought maybe because I am an asylum seeker I am not allowed. But then being with RWSG... now we know our rights. Now we are free to speak out. We do not have that stigma, but other asylum seeking women still have this stigma, they are still scared. Since I have been involved with RWSG, I feel free. I feel I can do anything.” RWSG member

Impact of CD – RWSG member



“Because of community development support, we built the confidence to speak in front of powers like the House of Commons”.

Impact of CD – RWSG member

“We are trying to make the asylum process gender-sensitive. This has a positive impact...although we haven’t had the changes done, at least we have had our voices heard. They know that there is a group of women which is pushing for these issues. If we don’t get a positive response, we keep pushing. We don’t just drop it. We don’t give up. We haven’t succeeded yet. But I think it is a step in the right way.”

Impact of CD -Stakeholder

“After the first meeting, I remember feeling slightly alarmed at the extent of the barriers that are in place that I wasn’t quite aware of. It almost made me feel a little bit sad, to be honest. It has definitely opened my eyes. It feeds into loads of aspects of my work, just to have in the back of my mind how our customers feel and how they view us.”

More information on RWSG

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/search?q=raising+refugee+women+voices>