



There is no Sustainable  
Development without  
Community Development



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

# 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



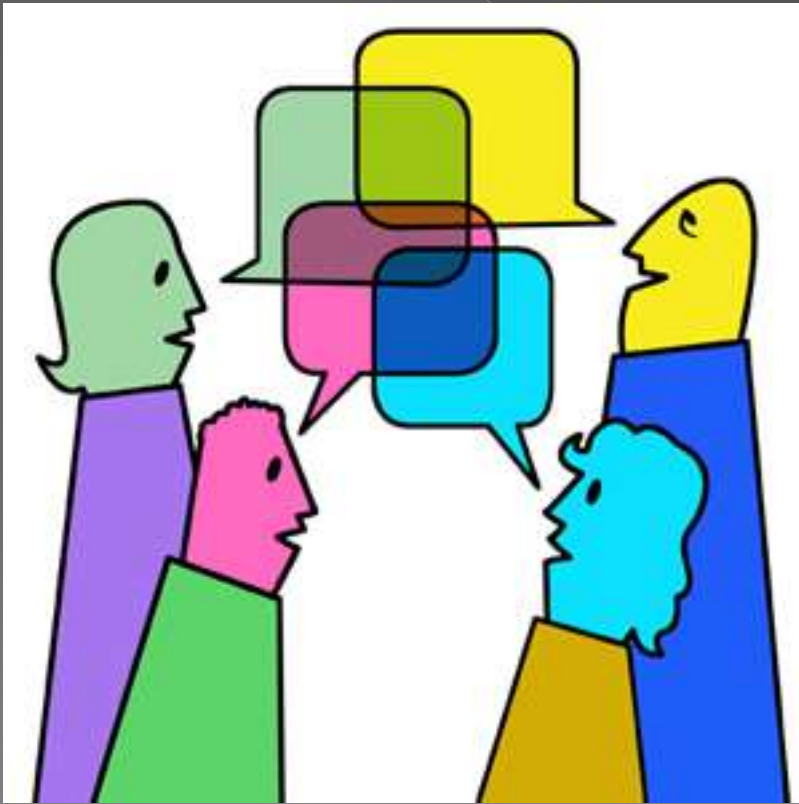
# CD processes



● Motivation

● Relationship

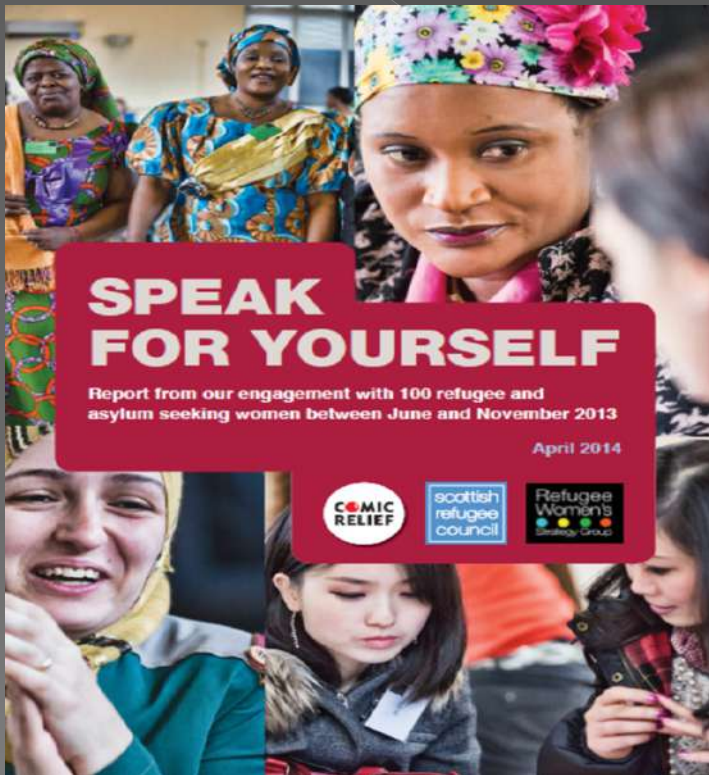
# CD processes



- Analysis

- Engagement

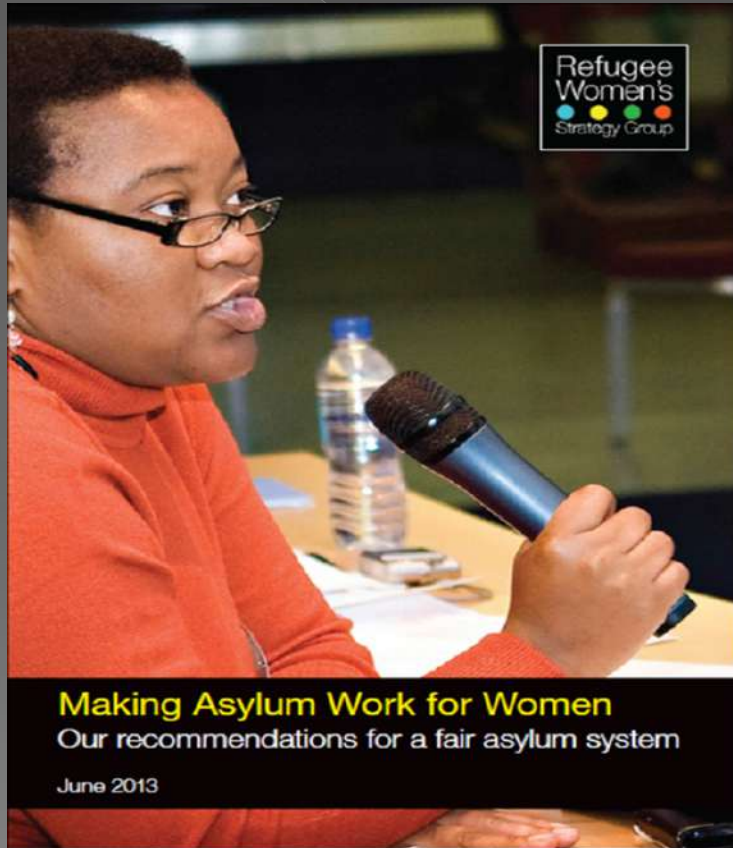
# CD processes



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>