

Semi-Structured Interview Protocol

Informed Consent

- A letter of information describing the project and providing assurances of confidentiality will be provided to all participants. (See Letter of Information).
- Written consent will be obtained from all participants. (See Consent Form).
- Any participant may withdraw their consent at any time, including after the fact; contact information will be provided.

Data Storage

- All interviews, where possible, will be digitally recorded. Recordings will be downloaded every day onto the PI's laptop, and stored in an encrypted folder. They will be backed up on the secure QUB server.
- All interview recordings will be supplemented by hand-written notes. Notes will be kept in a notebook on the PI's person, or in a secure location.
- At no time will identifying information or names be stored in the same location as recordings, notes or transcripts.

Interview Questions

The interviews as designed are semi-structured, with five questions for each group of participants that will be asked in all sites. Follow up questions will vary according to the answers provided.

International Governmental and Non-Governmental Actors

- 1) How important is intergovernmental cooperation to successfully addressing the challenges of refugee migration and protection in the current era?
- 2) How receptive are governments to cooperation and bi- or multi-lateral agreements? Why?
- 3) In your view, are the challenges of the maritime space different at all to those presented by migration over land?
- 4) In your view, is the experience of migrating over sea different from over land in ways that affect the decision making structures of refugees and asylum seekers?
- 5) In your view, how important are the current international laws and treaties (specifically the 1951 Convention, and the Law of the Sea)? Are they effective?

Advocacy and Support Workers

- 1) In your view, how has the support and protection environment changed for refugees in recent years? (Is this for the better or worse?)
- 2) To what degree are support organisations involved in policy or legislative changes?
- 3) What do you think the most pressing advocacy issue is in the refugee sector?
- 4) In your view, are unauthorized boat arrivals different that other forms of arrival? Why, and in what way? (In other words: why do legislators react so strongly to boats?)
- 5) In your view, is international cooperation important in this sector? Why, and how?