



National Refugee Teachers Database Executive Summary to May 2007

- 151 people registered up to the end of May 2007. The amount of registrations has exceeded the target for the year, and continues to grow steadily. It is hoped that, by upgrading the database to allow other providers to input clients' details in a more time effective way, the total number for England and Wales will significantly increase. A rough estimate suggests the amount would then be closer to 350 teachers.

Please note 2 providers in London have stated they have 158 teachers registered themselves. Empower Teachers have 105; Refugees into Jobs have 53 graduates registered. Some of these clients may be registered with RiT; however, both providers have said that due to data protection they cannot pass on client details, and that therefore clients voluntarily choose whether to re-register with the database – for many clients, there are issues in registering many times over, but not receiving services which actually result in them obtaining a job. Many applicants have unrealistic and/or high expectations of registering and/or the process of obtaining a job.

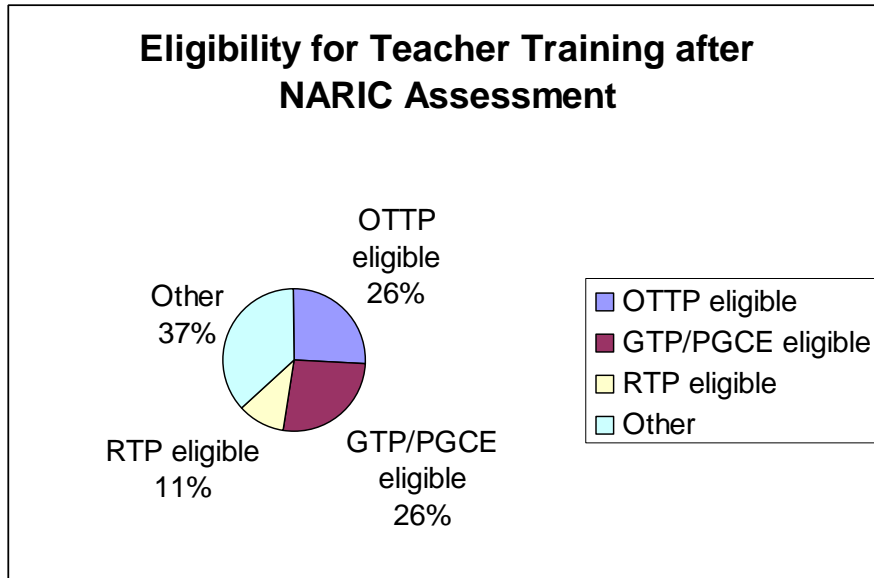
- The percentage of women on the database has declined from 38% to 36%. The overall percentage of women gaining a decision on their claim in the UK is around 28%¹ but the slight weighting to more women is likely due to the nature of the teaching professions in their countries of origin. In many countries represented on the database, teaching is a strongly female preserve², and the statistics reflect this.
- 43% of those registered (65 people) on the database have had their overseas qualification assessed by NARIC.³ Of these 63% are eligible or pre-eligible to undergo teacher training (RTP, GTP, OTTP or PGCE).⁴ Please see chart below for a breakdown of their eligibility for teacher training:

¹ Home Office UK Asylum Statistics 2005 <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1406.pdf> (please note these are the most recent statistics available, 2006 will be available by the next report).

² Please see UK NARIC teacher training reports, compiled as part of the Refugees into Teaching project.

³ More teachers may have since had their qualifications assessed by NARIC as part of the project, but this data was unavailable to the Referral and Admin Officer for reporting purposes.

⁴ 95% of teachers who hold both a degree and a teacher training qualification come from Zimbabwe. This reflects the similarity of the education system to the UK, compared to countries such as Somalia or Iran, which follow different systems. For more information, please see the NARIC country report on Zimbabwe.



- Just under half of the teachers on the database (72) are interested in teaching priority subjects, mostly Maths and Science. Of these teachers, 60% have had a NARIC assessment, and of these teachers, 67% (29 teachers) have a degree and wish to teach a priority subject. From the data available, 9 teachers have a degree, teacher training and wish to teach a priority subject. While this number may seem low, it should be noted that there may be considerably more after the NARIC assessment information has been updated.
- 48% of teachers on the database have had some type of school experience in the UK, highlighting an ongoing barrier to employment. Through both the statistics, and through direct contact with clients, it has become apparent teachers struggle to gain experience in a UK school, either as they are unaware of the system, or because schools have been unwilling to take them.⁵
- 56% of teachers have had a CRB check completed during their time in the UK. While we remain concerned that CRB checks may be putting schools off taking on refugee teachers, it is encouraging that just over half the teachers have been able to complete one successfully.⁶

⁵ It is unclear at present exactly why schools have not got back to teachers, but, anecdotally, it may be due to capacity issues, or wariness over CRB checks.

⁶ James Lee, Policy Advisor on Employment and Training at the Refugee Council, continues to work on CRB disclosure, particularly relating to the DfES guidelines and their wording on checking refugees. His work has been presented to the Refugee Teachers Task Force for consultation <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Final%206836-SafeGuard.Chd%20bkmk.pdf>