

Appendix to report

Support for unaccompanied children and youth – effects, experiences and perceptions Report no 294 (2018)

Appendix 1 Included studies with qualitative design

First author	Aim and method	Population	All first level	Overall assessment of
Year		Setting	themes	methodological limitation
Reference				
Country				
Bates et al	Questions: What were the successes and	Participants: 33	1. Overall	Moderate
2005	challenges with the placements?	Sex: 28 males, 5 females	adjustment	
[1]	How could youth, foster parents and case	Age: Minor youth	2. School	Participant sampling is not
USA	workers have been better prepared?	Origin: Sudan	3. Family	clearly described.
	What are the implications for policy and	Setting: Foster care and	Relations	-
Sudanese Refugee	practice?	supervised independent	4. Characteristics	No ethical reasoning.
Youth in Foster		living.	of successful	
Care: The "Lost	The team conducted 5 youth focus groups. The	-	placements.	Data collection and analysis
Boys" in America	sessions were video and audiotaped. Transcripts	Additional information:		is partly unclear.
	were initially analyzed for themes of resilience	Males in foster homes; (2)		
	and copied by an investigator and 3 assistants (2	minor males in supervised		No reasoning about
	Kenyan and 1 other international). Each reviewer	independent living (receiving		researcher preunderstanding.
	independently identified themes, which were	casework and assistance but		
	then discussed with evidence.	living in apartments); and (3)		
		females living in foster		
	Overlapping themes were given higher priority	homes.		
	for discussion and recording. Three investigators			
	then reviewed these themes again to achieve			
	consensus on key ones. Investigators analysed			
	the transcripts again to focus on family relations.			
Chase	Aim: Considers how young people seeking	Participants: 54	Trauma and its	Moderate
2013	asylum alone in the UK conceptualised	unaccompanied children and	destabilising	
[2]	wellbeing.	young people	impact on self.	Participant sampling is not
UK		Sex: 29 females (girls and		clearly described.
	An inductive methodology based on the	young women), 25 males	Lack of status, loss	
Security and	grounded theory approach was adopted. The	(boys and young men)	of identity.	No reasoning about
subjective	young people were encouraged to talk openly	Age: 11–23 years		researcher preunderstanding.
wellbeing: the	about their lives and wellbeing in an integrated	Origin: 18 different countries	Mental health and	
experiences of	way, focusing on the life events and		insecurity.	

Table 1. Included studies with qualitative design.

• 1	· , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
unaccompanied	circumstances they considered most relevant.	Setting: Accommodated och		
young people	They were asked to think about 2 broad	previously accommodated by	Order, routine and	
seeking asylum in	questions: (i) the things that had made them feel	local authorities in London.	security.	
the UK	happy since arriving in the UK and (ii) the things			
	that had made them feel sad or created	Additional information:	Re-emergence of	
	difficulties for them. A topic guide was used to	seeking asylum and	insecurity.	
	draw out key aspects of young people's lives and	accommodated (or previously		
	experiences and helped to ensure that	accommodated) by local		
	comparative data were generated. The interviews	authorities in London.		
	were carried out between January and July 2007.			
Connolly	The article: First, it turns to that neglected	Participants: 29	Young people's	Moderate
2015	dimension of children's rights within the context	Sex: 20 males, 9 females	experiences at the	
[3]	of forced migration and to an in-depth	Age: 12–21 years	police station.	Participant sampling is not
UK	understanding of the mechanics of rights rather	Origin: Somalia, Democratic		clearly described.
	than making use of children's rights as surface	Republic of Congo, Sierra	Ports of entry:	
Seeing the	rhetorical devices. Secondly, this understanding	Leone, Sudan, Iraq, Iran,	Intersection places	Data analysis is partly
relationship	of how children's rights are or are not	Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ivory	between safety and	unclear.
between the uncrc	encountered throughout the asylum process,	Coast, Palestine, Uganda,	danger.	
and the asylum	from application to resolution, is shown through	Cameroon, Vietnam, Pakistan	-	No reasoning about
system through	the eyes of unaccompanied asylum seeking	and Afghanistan were	The 'home' office:	researcher preunderstanding.
the eyes of	themselves.	represented, the last of these	Yet another place	
unaccompanied		being the largest group. (Most	of paradoxes.	This is a part of the authors
asylum seeking	Purposive sampling. The stories that young	girls had travelled from	I	dissertation.
children and	people told were transcribed verbatim and	African countries and boys	The	
young people	analysed using qsr Nvivo 7. Thematic analysis	from Afghanistan)	phenomenology of	
	followed taxonomies of the different types of	Setting: Private foster care.	waiting.	
	'truths' that emerge through narratives and the	C		
	interviews were initially coded according to	Additional information: They	The unbelievable	
	historical truths, that is descriptions that give	were unaccompanied asylum-	and unbelieving	
	context to a particular place or event, such as the	seeking from across 4 local	home office.	
	who, what or where of things; "psychological	authority areas in England.		
	truths", the inner reality of things and what was			
	felt to be real; and "narrative truths",			
	explanations that pertain to the contingencies of			
	telling. Once the data was organised around			
L	tennig. Once the data was organised around		l	

	these taxonomies, it was further analysed			
	thematically through a process of open coding.			
Connolly	This article focuses on the intersection of	Participants: 29	Children entering	Moderate
2014	various issues and highlights what	Sex: 20 males, 9 females	the UK.	
[4]	unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with	Age: 12–21 years		Participant sampling is not
UK	experience of private foster care have said about each one.	Origin: Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra	Children's day-to- day experiences.	clearly described.
'For a while out	Purposive sampling. The stories that young	Leone, Sudan, Iraq, Iran,		Data collection, researcher
of orbit': listening	people told were transcribed verbatim and	Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Ivory		preunderstanding and data
to what	analysed using qsr Nvivo 7. Thematic analysis	Coast, Palestine, Uganda,		analysis is partly unclear.
unaccompanied	followed taxonomies of the different types of	Cameroon, Vietnam, Pakistan		I I J I I I I J I I I I I I I I I I I I
asylum seeking/	'truths' that emerge through narratives and the	and Afghanistan were		This is a part of the authors
refugee children	interviews were initially coded according to	represented, the last of these		dissertation.
in the UK say	historical truths, that is descriptions that give	being the largest group. (Most		
about their rights	context to a particular place or event, such as the	girls had travelled from		
and experiences	who, what or where of things; "psychological	African countries and boys		
in private foster	truths", the inner reality of things and what was	from Afghanistan)		
care	felt to be real; and "narrative truths",	Setting: Private foster care.		
	explanations that pertain to the contingencies of			
	telling. Once the data was organised around	Additional information: They		
	these taxonomies, it was further analysed	were unaccompanied asylum-		
	thematically through a process of open coding.	seeking from across 4 local		
		authority areas in England.		
Devenney	Aim: Explore how unaccompanied young people	Participants: 18	Coherent	Moderate
2017	(UYP) create biographical narratives of their	Sex: 15 males, 3 females	narratives of past,	
[5]	past, present, and future as they prepare to leave	Age: 17–23 years	present, and	Participant sampling is not
UK	care, suggesting that UYP who have settled	Origin: A variety of	future.	clearly described.
	immigration status create coherent biographical	countries, with the largest		
Pathway planning	narratives that reconcile the past with a positive	numbers originating from	Unimaginable	Data collection and data
with	imagined future.	Afghanistan and Eritrea	futures,	analysis is partly unclear.
unaccompanied		Setting: One local authority	unimaginable	
young people	The interviews were designed using visual	area.	pasts: disrupted	No reasoning about
leaving care:	methods. The findings presented here are drawn		biographical	researcher preunderstanding.
Biographical	largely from a section of the interview that	Additional information: UYP	narratives.	
narratives of past,	involved participants in creating a "time tree," an	who have sought asylum		

present, and	alternative to traditional time lining methods	alone in the UK without a		
future	designed to capture the dynamic and temporal	parent or guardian.		
	aspects of transition. Participants were provided			
	with a diagram of a tree in which the roots and			
	the trunk represented the past and present, whilst			
	the branches represented the multiple possible			
	futures the young person might imagine. The			
	creation of the time tree provided the basis for			
	the interview conversation. The interview and			
	visual data were analysed concurrently using a			
	narrative approach. Data on the individual level			
	were analysed initially, directed towards extra-			
	polating key themes within the individual's			
	narrative. Analysis was then undertaken across			
	the data set to create a thematic analysis across			
	participants with a particular focus on			
	understanding the effect of time across the life			
	course. The sample has been drawn from one			
	local authority area in northern England.			
Goodman	Aim: To explore how unaccompanied minor	Participants: 14	Collectivity and	High
2004	refugee youths, who grew up amidst violence	Sex: All males	the communal self:	
[6]	and loss, coped with trauma and hardships in	Age: 16–18 years	"What is	Minor uncertainties about
USA	their lives. Specific aims were to identify	Origin: Dinka tribe in Sudan	happening, is not	participant sampling.
	strategies the refugee youth used to cope and to	Setting: Private homes with	happening to me	
Coping with	examine the effectiveness of those strategies.	foster families or in a small	alone".	
trauma and		group home.		
hardship among	Interviews were conducted in English using an		Suppression and	
unaccompanied	unstructured interview guide consisting of broad,	Additional information:	distraction:	
refugee youths	open-ended questions designed to elicit each	Refugee youths from Sudan	"Thinking a lot	
from Sudan	adolescent's story. I began each interview with	who had been living in the	can give you	
	the following statement:	United States for 6 to 12	trouble".	
	I'd like to start by asking you to tell me in your	months. Recruited through a		
	own words the story of your life. And I want you	Boston area refugee	Making meaning:	
	to tell me about your life as if it's a story with a	resettlement agency. At the	"If god wishes,	
	beginning, and amiddle, and then how things	time of the study, all		

Groark et al	 will look in the future for you. There's no right or wrong way to tell the story. Just tell me in a way that's most comfortable for you. I also conducted participant observation of the unaccompanied refugee youths previous to and over the course of this study, during both formal and informal gatherings, to inform contextual understanding of the findings. Participant observation included volunteer work with resettling Sudanese refugees and facilitating a support group for Sudanese refugee youths. A case-centered, comparative, narrative approach to data collection and analysis of interview data. analyzed narrative data using descriptive narrative techniques. The narratives were analyzed with regard to content, theme, and structure, which helped me to interpret them in more complex ways. I paid attention to how things were said, including the linguistic devices the participants used to convey what they wanted to convey, as well as to what was said. Coherence between these two areas strengthened the interpretation of the refugees' stories. I analyzed narratives individually and compared them to each other, resulting in a description of individual life stories as they related to the larger social group and its sociocultural context. To gain an in-depth understanding of the 	participants were living either in private homes with foster families or in a small group home.	maybe I will be alive". Emerging from hopelessness to hope: "Now we feel like people - we have hope for the future".	Moderate
2011	experience of being a young person who is	Sex: 4 males, 2 female	Loss	wouldate
[7]	unaccompanied and seeking asylum in the UK.	Age: 16–18 years	Negotiating a new	Minor uncertainties about
UK	2. To gain an understanding of how past and	Origin: Africa (5), Asia (1)	way of life.	participant sampling.
	present life experiences impact on these young people's psychological well-being.	Setting: Cared for under sections 17 or 20 of the		

Understanding	3. To explore the psychological processes these	Children Act, living in inner	Experience of	Data collection is partly
the experiences	young people use to manage or cope with the	city borough.	distress.	unclear.
and emotional	difficulties they experience.			
needs of		Additional information:	Process of	No reasoning about
unaccompanied	The semi-structured interview was developed	Participants had been in the	adjustment.	researcher preunderstanding.
asylumseeking	following a review of the literature and	UK between 6 months and 1	-	
adolescents in the	discussion with professionals working in the	year (mean length of stay 9		
UK	field and with one young asylum seeker to	months). 4 lived in shared		
	develop the interview in a contextually relevant	accommodation; 3 sharing a		
	way. Open-ended questions were used in the	room with another person, 2		
	interview to elicit a wide range of experiences.	participants lived in their own		
		flats. 5 participants were		
	The research study employed Interpretative	single and 1 had a partner and		
	Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), a qualitative	a young child. 4 participants		
	methodology that aims to capture the quality of	had been granted leave to		
	an individual's experience and gain some	remain for a set time period. 1		
	understanding of the meanings held by the	participant was waiting to		
	participant. It was hoped that this would lead to a	hear about a Home Office		
	wider exploration of young asylum seekers'	asylum appeal. 1 participant's		
	experiences, and an in-depth understanding of	asylum additional information		
	phenomena involved in their psychological well-	was unknown.		
	being and adaptation. IPA involves an analytic			
	process from which understandings about	All participants reported		
	internal cognition are deduced by the researcher	having attended school prior		
	from the verbal reports of participants. This is	to coming to the UK although		
	accomplished through encouraging the	this had been disrupted. 5 of		
	participant to discuss their view of the topic	the 6 participants attended		
	under investigation in their own words. The	college at the time of the		
	researcher engages with the participant's account	interview.		
	of their experiences, identifying prominent			
	themes from what they have said and grouping			
	these themes into meaningful clusters in an			
	attempt to "unravel" the meanings contained in			
	them.			

Kaukko et al	Aim: To investigate the participation of	Participants: 11	Age,	Moderate
2017 [8] Finland and Sweden Belonging and participation in liminality: Unaccompanied children in Finland and Sweden	 unaccompanied asylumseeking and refugee children in their living units in Finland and Sweden, paying attention to how they position themselves in terms of age, gender and status and how they view their participation in relation to a sense of belonging. The Finnish study was a participatory action research project. After the project, semi- structured, thematic interviews were undertaken focusing on themes such as participation and children's rights. A participatory data analysis with all the girls was performed. The study explores unaccompanied asylum-seeking girls' perspectives on children's participation during the asylum process in Finland. 	Sex: 9 females, 2 males Age: 16–19 Origin: No information Setting: Group homes for unaccompanied children or had recently moved to more independent living units with some degree of assistance from care workers. Additional information: Participants had been granted residency in Sweden. Data from the respective studies is not presented here.	 (in)dependence and status. Positionings of age and (in)dependence. Gender and belonging – The living unit as a gendered place. 	Participant sampling, data collection and data analysis is not clearly described. The ethical reasoning and the reasoning about researcher preunderstanding is not clearly presented. This is a part of the authors disstertations.
	The Swedish study was based on qualitative interviews that were thematic and focused on different aspects of the participants' everyday lives, social relationships and sense of belonging. The study focuses on unaccompanied refugee children and youngsters' negotiations of belonging in Sweden.			
Kohli et al 2010 [9] UK Food and its meaning for	Aim: Attempt to develop a framework of understanding that children seeking asylum and their foster families can use as they look for safety, belonging and sanctuary within the UK. The process of data collection was iterative, with several meetings with each young person. Initial	Participants: 30 Sex: No information Age: 12–21 years Setting: 4 Children's Services Departments in England.	Food and survival Food and asylum Food as the first refuge Feeling found and reclaimed	Moderate Participant sampling and data analysis is partly unclear.

asylum seeking children and young people in foster care	engagements focussed on building trust and companionship, with subsequent encounters allowing the young person to reflect on, among other aspects of resettlement, their experiences of food. All tapes were transcribed, and data analysed using qualitative data analysis software.	Origin: Afghanistan but also from other countries where conflict and disorder have long prevailed. These included particular conflict zones in the Middle East, the Eastern Horn of Africa and West and Southern Africa.	Reinforced replacement Morsels of freedom	Ethical reasoning and researcher preunderstanding is not clearly presented. This is a part of the authors disstertations.
		Additional information: The majority had experienced long journeys brokered by agents, a few had been trafficked and others had been brought to the country under private fostering arrangements.		
Luster et al	Aim: Examine the adaptation of the youths 7	Participants: 18	Youths	Moderate
2010	years after initial resettlement when most had	Sex: 6 males, 2 females	perspectives of	
[10]	become adults and some were beginning to form	Age: $18-26$ years (mean = 22	sucess:	No ethical reasoning.
USA	their own families. In addition, we examine	years; $SD = 2.31$)	Youths	
	factors that contributed to individual differences	Origin: Sudan	perspectives on	No resoning of researcher
Successful	in adjustment among Sudanese unaccompanied	Setting: Living in foster	differences in	preunderstanding.
adaptation among	minors from both the youths' and the foster	families after living in peer	adaption	
Sudanese unaccompanied	parents' perspectives.	groups in the camps.	- Individual attributes	
minors:	In-depth interviews with youths and foster	Additional information: At	- Relationships	
Perspectives of	parents regarding factors that contributed to	the time of the interviews, all	- Resources and	
youth and foster	successful adaption. After all the responses to	but 4 of the youths were	opportunities	
parents	key research questions were transcribed, 3	enrolled in school or had	- Culture	
-	members of the research team conducted	completed at least 1 degree. 4	- Alcohol use or	
	thematic analysis. A 3-step coding procedure	of the youths were parents	avoidance.	
	was used: open, axial and selective coding.	themselves, including both		
	First, 3 authors did 'open coding,' an 'open'	females.		
	process in that the researchers fracture the data			

			1	
	into discrete units of analysis, assign initial			
	labels or codes and note themes emerging from			
	the data, without making any prior assumptions			
	about what may be discovered . Next, the			
	researchers conducted 'axial coding,' i.e.			
	grouping the codes and concepts into higher			
	level conceptual categories, which deepens the			
	theoretical framework underpinning the analysis			
	Finally, we conducted 'selective coding,' a			
	process in which the researchers integrate the			
	categories to form a theoretical structure of the			
	analysis through making comparisons and			
	contrasts and then selecting the stories that best			
	illustrate the lived experiences of the			
	participants. The coders then held a meeting with			
	the larger team to discuss the key stories told by			
	the participants and the most effective ways to			
	represent these stories. As a check on the			
	trustworthiness of the data, a draft of the			
	manuscript was reviewed by 2 foster parents and			
	2 of the youths who participated in the study and			
	by the supervisor of the unaccompanied refugee			
	minor program at the resettlement agency. All of			
	these reviewers confirmed that the findings and			
	our interpretation of the findings were consistent			
	with their experiences and observations.			
Luster et al	The study goal was to describe the Sudanese	Participants: 18	Relationships with	Moderate
2009	minors' experiences living in foster care families	Sex: 16 males, 2 females	the foster parents	
[11]	in the United States based on their accounts of	Age: $18-26$ years (mean = 22	while living in the	Selection bias among
USA	their experiences and relationships and their	years; $SD = 2.31$)	foster home.	participants.
	interpretation of those experiences.	Origin: Sudan		
The Experiences	1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Setting: Foster care.	Having parental	No ethical reasoning.
of Sudanese	Semistructured interviews that took about 2	8	authority figures	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Unaccompanied	hours were audiotaped and transcribed. A	Additional information:	after living in peer	
	phenomenological approach was used.		groups.	
l	r approach was about		0-0-PS.	1

Minors in Foster		Refugees who had been		
Care	The first 3 authors coded all of the transcripts	placed through a foster care	Conflicts,	
	independently. The following data analysis steps	program for unaccompanied	concerns, and	
	were followed:	minors in the United States.	misunder-	
	(a) The 3 coders read all the transcripts and		standings.	
	gained a general sense of the interviews;	7 years after settlement.	-	
	(b) Next, natural meaning units (i.e., portions of		Changing foster	
	the text that are judged to relate to an identifiable		homes.	
	theme) were delineated from each interview			
	transcript, coded, and transformed into themes.		Current	
	The meaning units were then coded as "parents		relationships with	
	telling youth what to do" and "conforming to		foster parents.	
	household rules";			
	(c) These codes, along with other related codes,			
	were then transformed or grouped into a theme,			
	like "parental authority".			
Majumder et al	Aim: To appreciate the views and perceptions	Participants: 15	Theme 1:	Moderate
2015	that unaccompanied minors hold about mental	Sex: 14 males, 1 female	Descriptions of	
[12]	health and services.	Age: 15–18 years	mental health.	No resoning of researcher
UK		Origin: Afghanistan, Iran,		preunderstanding.
	Face-to-face semi-structured interviews were	Somalia and Eritrea	Theme 2:	
'This doctor, I not	audiorecorded to allow an exploration of issues	Setting: A specialist child and	Mental health	
trust him, I'm not	from the participant's perspective.	adolescent mental health	associated with	
safe': The		service (CAMHS) for	asylum-seeking/	
perceptions of	Data were transcribed verbatim and	'looked-after' children.	refugee status.	
mental health and	independently coded to improve reliability.			
services by	Categories were examined systematically to	Additional information: The	Theme 3:	
unaccompanied	identify core issues to address the aims of the	adolescents and their carers	Experiences of	
refugee	research.	were referred to a specialist	using services.	
adolescents		child and adolescent mental		
	Data were analysed using thematic analysis,	health service (CAMHS) for	Theme 4:	
	allowing meaning to be drawn from data through	'looked-after' children	Opinions of	
	the emergence of patterns .	following problems	treatments.	
		encountered at 'home' or		
		school. Depression, PTSD,		

		self harm and other diagnoses.		
Malmsten 2014	Purpose: How unaccompanied minors perceive the time they spend in transitional houses in	Participants: 11 Sex: All males	"It is good that we have something to	Moderate
[13]	Malmö in southern Sweden.	Age: 14–17 years	do" – children's	No resoning of researcher
Sweden	Manno III Southern Sweden.	Origin: Afghanistan (9),	voices	preunderstanding.
5 Weden	The interviews were semi-structured and focused	Somalia (2)	101005	preunderstanding.
Unaccompanied	on the following themes: Living conditions,	Setting: Transitional houses	The local context.	
children living in	network and social community, activities and	and permanent residences.	The social context.	
transitional	leisure, wellbeing and care and understanding of	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	The legal context.	
houses – voices	the asylum process. The interviews took between	Additional information: 8	8	
from Sweden	38 minutes and 1 h and 41 minutes and were	boys living in transitional		
	recorded and transcribed. The empirical data	houses and 3 boys living in		
	were thereafter categorized in accordance with	permanent residences. The		
	the outline of the study as stated above: the local,	first group had been living in		
	social and legal context, and in some cases	transitional houses between		
	divided into subcategories within each context.	3–12 months, the latter		
	Theme's that were reoccurring or seemed to be	between 6 weeks and 6		
	of special interest for the children were	months and they had been in		
	identified. Thereafter the analysis is based on the	Sweden approximately 2		
	empirical data and findings from other studies	years.		
	about unaccompanied minors and discussed in			
	relation to theoretical concepts such as			
	salutogenesis and sense of coherence.			
Mels et al	Aim: To explore how unaccompanied asylum-	Participants: 15	Social support in	Moderate
2008	seeking children in Belgium perceive different	Sex: All males	the asylum centre.	
[14]	kinds of social support provided by a variety of	Age: 15–18 years (mean =		No resoning of researcher
Belgium	actors, and what this implies for both buffering	16.3, SD = 1.22)	Social support in	preunderstanding.
	and main effects of social support.	Origin: Afghanistan (3),	school.	
Social support in		Pakistan (2), Burundi (2), 1		No ethical reasoning.
unaccompanied	Semi-structured in-depth interview.	boy from respectively	Social support in	
asylum-seeking		Mongolia, Syria, Albania,	leisure time.	
boys: A case	After literally transcribing the interviews, the	Tibet and Iraq		
study	qualitative data were coded into themes and			
	ordered in a coding framework by the researcher,			

Ní Raghallaigh 2011 [15] Ireland	assisted by a colleague. Data were assigned to the framework using WinMAX98, a qualitative software package with the aim to 'identify patterns in social regularities and to understand them in the sense of controlled Fremdverstehen (understanding the other)' Aim: To address the way in which unaccompanied minors living in the Republic of Ireland use religious coping methods.	Setting: Moderate-sized rural asylum centre organized by the Red Cross. Additional information: A mean of 326 days (SD = 233.72, range 73–745) since their arrival in Belgium. All boys were unaccompanied at arrival in Belgium, except 1. They lived at a moderate- sized rural asylum centre organized by the Red Cross. Participants: 32 Sex: 14 males, 18 females Age: 14–19 years Origin: 13 countries in Africa	Social support provided by the family. Social support and psychological well-being. Religious coping: 'relatively available'.	Moderate Participant sampling is not clearly described.
Religion in the	Semi-structured interviews.	(30), Asia (1), and Europe (1) Setting: A hostel where the	Religious coping: 'Relatively	Data collection and data
lives of unaccompanied	Open, axial and selective coding was used to analyse the transcribed interview data. These	unaccompanied minors live.	compelling'.	analysis is partly unclear.
minors: An available and	codes were attached to lengthy paragraphs and dialogues rather than to specific words or			Limited ethical reasoning.
compelling coping resource	phrases . This ensured that the voices of the participants were privileged. Through this process, diverse narratives were identified. These included narratives about religion and religious coping.			No resoning of researcher preunderstanding.
Ní Raghallaigh et al	Aim: Examine experiences of young people placed with at least one foster carer from the	<u>The Irish study</u> Participants: 21	Young people's perceptions on the	Moderate
2015	same country of origin and/or religion as well as	Sex: 13 males, 8 females	importance of	Data collection and data
[16] England and	those placed 'crossculturally'. The article is based on two studies, and Sirreyhe	Age: 11–19 years (mean 15,8)	culture	analysis is partly unclear.
Ireland	interviewed in both studies.		Communication and language.	No resoning of researcher preunderstanding.

<i>culture in foster</i> Interviews were digitally recorded, transcribed Africa (6), Middle Africa (2), Food.	
<i>care placements</i> and analysed thematically using the NVivo Southern Africa (1), Asia (2)	
for separated software package. Setting: Foster care.	
refugee and	
asylum seeking <u>The English study</u> : Interviews and focus groups. Additional information: 18	
<i>young people in</i> Digitally recorded, transcribed and analyzed were currently living in foster	
<i>Ireland and</i> using the software package MAXQDA. care and had been in their	
<i>England</i> current placements between 4	
months and 6 years. 3 had	
previously lived in foster care	
and reflected back on their	
experiences. All had been	
living in Ireland for 6 months	
or longer at the time of	
interview. 2 young people	
had been granted refugee	
status at the time of	
interview; the remainder were	
at various stages of the	
asylum determination	
procedure.	
The English study:	
Participants: 21	
Sex: Males	
Age:13–18 years	
Origin: 7 countries including	
Afghanistan	
Setting: Foster care.	
3 focus groups:	
Participants: 19	
Sex: 2 male groups, 1 female	
Age: 15–19 years	

		Origin: 7 countries including		
		Afghanistan.		
		Additional information: Been		
		in England for 10 months to 5		
		years. 4 had refugee status,		
		the others had a temporary		
		leave to remain.		
Oppedal et al	Aim: To examine vocational identity	Participants: 30	Significant others	Moderate
2017	developmental processes underlying the	Sex: 26 males, 4 females	The family	
[17]	educational choices of unaccompanied minors	Age: 17–26 years (mean =	The friends	Participant selection and
Norway	who have received asylum and residence in	20.15, SD = 2.21)	Other significant	data collection is partly
	Norway.	Origin: Afghanistan (46.7%),	adults.	unclear.
Vocational		Sri Lanka (13.3%), Somalia		
identity	Phase 1:	(10%), and Iraq (10%), while	Core themes, and	No ethical reasoning.
development	1. Do demographic factors, pre-migration	20% came from 4 other	contextual	
among	trauma, and post-resettlement acculturation and	countries	barriers emerging	No resoning of researcher
unaccompanied	mental health predict variation in their	Setting: At time of arrival,	from the ISIs	preunderstanding.
refugee minors	educational aspirations?	institutions/group homes and	Age, time and	
		some foster care.	economy	
	Phase 2:		Mental health	
	2. To what extent do unaccompanied refugees	Additional information:	Transnational life	
	engage in identity forming processes of	Average length of stay in	Realistic	
	exploring and committing to vocational	Norway of 4.30 years (SD =	assessment of	
	possibilities, values and roles? Are they active	1.19), range 2–11 years.	contextual	
	partners, resulting in moratorium or achieved		barriers.	
	vocational identity statuses, or do they tend to			
	follow the advice of perceived significant others,			
	resulting in a high prevalence of foreclosed			
	identity statuses? Does the high level of mental			
	health problems contribute to disinterested and			
	disengaged ways of dealing with educational			
	choices, thus resulting in diffused vocational			
	identities?			

	3. What common core themes and common barriers related to structural, economic, social, and cultural factors underlie the vocational identity formation process of unaccompanied refugees? Recorded semi-structured interviews to distinguish issues impacting the vocational identity formation processes. The analyses of the interviews also involved meaning categorization analysis by which the interviews were coded into categories, identifying recurring themes, patterns and variations within the data set in relation to the study questions. Using QSR International's NVivo 10 Software and categorization techniques, a number of broad categories of events impacting vocational identity decisions were identified, and all data fragments that were related to each category were rearranged into new data sets. In this way, long sentences and narratives reflecting the minors' experiences and perspectives were reduced and structured into categories such as "education in the country of origin", "discrimination," and "significant others in Norway" that could be linked with scientific theory in the field . These categories appear as main themes in the results from Phase 2 of this investigation.			
Pastoor 2015	Aim: To explore whether school – an institution that educates young refugees on how to become	Participants: 40 Sex: 32 males, 8 females	School as an arena for socialisation.	Moderate
[18]	competent participants in society – may have a	Age: 16–23 years		Participant selection is not
Norway	role 'beyond education', that is to say, a	Origin: Afghanistan (24),	School as an arena	clearly described.
	mediational role in supporting the psychosocial	Somalia (6), Eritrea (2),	for integration.	2
	transitions the refugees face upon resettlement.	Ethiopia (2), Iraq (2), Iran (1),		No ethical reasoning.

The mediational	The school study involved ethnographically	Chechnya (1), Nigeria (1) and	School as a	No resoning of researcher
role of schools in	oriented case studies in 5 schools. The present	Zimbabwe (1)	salutogenic arena.	preunderstanding.
supporting	article particularly focuses on the psychosocial	Setting: Schools/classroom.	-	
psychosocial	role of school, beyond its educational role. The			
transitions among	school dataset consisted of audio recorded	Additional information:		
unaccompanied	interviews with refugee students and school staff	Refugee students who had		
young refugees	conducted during fieldwork in 4 'lower	been granted residence and		
upon resettlement	secondary schools' (i.e. grades 8-10 of the	were resettled in a Norwegian		
in Norway	compulsory school programme) and 1 ordinary	municipality. All were under		
	upper secondary school, as well as field notes.	18 years upon arrival in		
		Norway. 26 attended the		
	The school dataset consisted of audio recorded	compulsory school		
	interviews with refugee students and school staff	programme available to		
	conducted during fieldwork in 4 'lower	newly resettled refugees,		
	secondary schools' (i.e. grades 8-10 of the	while the remaining 14		
	compulsory school programme) and 1 ordinary	attended upper secondary		
	upper secondary school, as well as field notes.	school.		
	The different kinds of data allow for			
	triangulation between data sources, which	The same population as in the		
	facilitate a deeper and broader understanding of	study of Pastoor 2017 [19].		
	the topic under study and enhance the reliability			
	and validity of the collected data and analysis.			
	The researcher visited the school several times,			
	so the teachers, the students and the researcher			
	could become acquainted. Subsequently, the			
	students who were identified as unaccompanied			
	refugees were invited to take part in the study.			
	Each interview transcript was first coded			
	'vertically', focusing on one interview at a time,			
	to identify tentative units of meaning. Then they			
	were coded 'horizontally' (across interviews),			
	which brought about broader analytical			
	categories. Psychosocial categories identified as			

	having an impact on school functioning were, for instance, 'loss and separation', 'psychological and traumatic stress', and 'need for guidance and support'. However, the themes or patterns discerned did not simply emerge; they were actively discovered. The categories identified were related to the model of critical psychosocial transitions faced during resettlement, an analytical framework developed by the author during the research project. The 'critical transitions model consists of the following theoretical constructs: socialisation, integration and rehabilitation			
Pastoor 2017 [19] Norway <i>Reconceptualising</i> <i>refugee</i> <i>education:</i> <i>exploring the</i> <i>diverse learning</i> <i>contexts of</i> <i>unaccompanied</i> <i>young refugees</i> <i>upon resettlement</i>	Aim: Exploring the out-of-school learning contexts unaccompanied young refugees participate in upon resettlement, gives rise to the following research question: How may diverse learning contexts – in and outside of school – promote young refugees' opportunities for meaningful learning and social inclusion? The study adopted a qualitative, ethnographically oriented, case study design, based on interviews and participant observation in schools and residential care facilities for unaccompanied young refugees (group homes and semi-dependent accommodation) in 3 municipalities. 5 schools participated; 4 of them offered the adapted compulsory school programme, while 1 was an upper secondary school. The present study drew chiefly on the transcribed interviews with the young refugees and social workers in the residential care facilities, while the field notes are used as	Participants: 40 Sex: 32 males, 8 females Age: 16–23 years Origin: Afghanistan (24), Somalia (6), Eritrea (2), Ethiopia (2), Iraq (2), Iran (1), Chechnya (1), Nigeria (1) and Zimbabwe (1) Setting: schools/classroom. Additional information: All were under 18 years upon arrival in Norway. Refugee students who had been granted residence and were resettled in a Norwegian municipality. The same population as in the study of Pastoor 2015 [18]	Living in a group home. Working part-time. Involvement in NGOs. Participation in sports.	Moderate Participant selection not clearly described. Data collection is partly unclear. A more detailed presentation is found in Pastoor 2015 but is not referred to. No ethical reasoning.

	supplementary information. The initial analysis of the collected data involved recurrent reading of the transcripts to become familiar with their content as well as making annotations of emerging topics. Then, all the interviews were coded to identify tentative units of meaning. Subsequently, noteworthy broader patterns of meaning and themes emerging from the data-set were identified. The potential themes were then reviewed in relation to the aim of this study, that is to say, exploring the diverse learning contexts of unaccompanied young refugees – in and out of school – with a particular focus on learning contexts beyond school.			
Qin et al	The current study seeks to clarify these issues	Participants: 19	Staying connected	Moderate
2015	(i.e. the transition into a Western culture where a	Sex: 17 males, 2 females	to home and	
[20]	protracted period of emerging adulthood is	Age:18–26 years (mean $= 22$	preserving the	No ethical reasoning.
USA	developmentally normative) by examining the	years; $SD = 2.31$)	culture:	
	adaptation patterns of unaccompanied Sudanese	Origin: Dinka, the largest	"remembering	No resoning of researcher
"My culture helps	refugees who were resettled in the United States	ethnic group in Sudan (18)	where we came	preunderstanding.
me make good	during adolescence and emerging adulthood after	and 1 from another smaller	from". Making	
decisions":	experiencing protracted periods of physical and	tribe.	good choices.	
Cultural	psychological trauma as children and	a		
adaptation of	adolescents.	Setting: Foster care.	Not becoming too	
Sudanese Refugee	Data for this article were drawn from in-depth		Americanised.	
Emerging Adults	interviews with Sudanese emerging adults. We	Additional information:	A	
	conducted semi-structured interviews with the	At the time of resettlement,	Accomodation.	
	emerging adults, which took approximately 2	the mean age of the youths $15 \text{ wars } (SD = 2.2)$ the	Cultural	
	hours to complete. The interviews focused on their adaptation and adjustment in the United	was 15 years (SD = 2.3), the youngest child was 11.		
	their adaptation and adjustment in the United States, their experiences in foster care, and their	At the time of the interviews,	appropriation.	
	identity. Data for this article were drawn mainly	12 were enrolled in college, 2		
	from the first section, which asked the	had graduated from 4-year		
	from the first section, which asked the	nau graduateu from 4-year		

	participants about their general adaptation, challenges, educational experiences, and future goals. More specifically, we asked the participants what helped them in their adjustment and why some of the Sudanese emerging adults seemed to be adjusting well while others were experiencing more challenges. Analysis: The phenomenological inquiry approach, which focuses on understanding and describing the human experience in the contexts of families, communities, and cultures . The authors followed the steps of phenomenological inquiry.	universities, 1 had obtained a training certificate from a community college, and 4 were not currently enrolled but planned to return to school. 4 were parents themselves, including both females. The same population as in the studies of Rana and Luster.		
Rana et al 2011 [21] USA Factors related to educational resilience among unaccompanied Sudanese minors	Aim: To explore the factors associated with educational resilience among unaccompanied Sudanese refuge who experienced extreme trauma and chronic adversity prior placement in American foster families in 2000–2001. The data for this article were drawn from the section that focused on the youths' educational experiences in the United States. The semistructured interviews took approximately 2 hours. The transcribed interviews were coded thematically. A 3 step coding procedure was used: open, axial and selective coding. First, the 3 authors did open coding, an "open" process in that the researchers broke data apart and outlined concepts to stand for blocks of raw data. Next, the researchers grouped the codes and concepts into higher level conceptual categories that	Participants: 19 Sex: 17 males, 2 females Age: 18–26 years (mean = 22 years; SD = 2.3) Origin: Dinka, the largest ethnic group in Sudan (18) Setting: Foster care. The same population as the studies of Qin and Luster. Additional information: Interviews are made 7 years after resettlement. At the time of resettlement, the mean age of the youths was 15 years (SD = 2.3), the youngest child was 11.	Goals of youth. Educational attainment. Risk factors in USA. Protective factors in USA.	Moderate Participant selection bias. No ethical reasoning. No resoning of researcher preunderstanding.

Sinha et al 2008 [22] UK 'I had to cry': exploring sexual health with young separated asylum seekers in East London	deepened the theoretical framework underpinning the analysis . Finally, they conducted selective coding, a process in which the researchers integrated the categories to form a theoretical structure of the analysis through making comparisons and contrasts and then selecting the stories that best illustrated the lived experiences of the participants . To support the achievement of positive sexual health for this group within a hostile social and political environment. Methods 8 one to one interviews and 4 small focus groups with 2–3 participants. All data were recorded and transcribed by ourselves. We listened to the recordings and then examined transcriptions to increase the reliability and validity of our data. We used the framework approach for data analysis involving preliminary readings of the data to familiarise and immerse ourselves in it. Then, a framework of key patterns and themes that related to our research questions and aims for both young people and professionals was identified. This allowed us to identify similarities and differences in responses between them . We used these themes and subcategories to code the data and then analysed them by looking at each code and the responses grouped under it. Part of this process involved researchers independently coding some of the same transcripts.	Participants: 17 Sex: 8 males, 9 females Age: 15–18 years Origin: Burundi (1), Congo (7), Ethiopia (1), Guinea (1), Jamaica (1), Kosovo (1), Nigeria (1), Sierra Leone (1), Somalia (1), Vietnam (2) Setting: Cared for by social services and 2 who were not.	Sex and relationships. Sex education and knowledge. Sexual exploitation. Accessing sexual healthcare.	Moderate Participant selection is not clearly described. No resoning of researcher preunderstanding.
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Sirriyeh	The aims of this study were to	Participants: 21	3 models of	Moderate
2013	• Describe the fostering experiences of young	Sex and age: (Case study with	relationships in	
[23]	people and foster carers	males aged 13–18 years and	foster care.	Participant selection, data
UK	• Identify specific features of the fostering task	had been in the UK for		collection and data analysis
	in the broad resettlement needs of young people	between 10 months and 5	Developing	is partly unclear.
Hosting	• Assess the support provided to young people	years), 19 participants (2	relationships.	
strangers:	and preparation, training and support of foster	male groups and 1 female		No ethical reasoning.
hospitality and	carers	group aged 15–20)		
family practices	• Identify factors that facilitated or constrained	Origin: Afghanistan (14) and		No resoning of researcher
in fostering	the making of placements.	other countries (6.		preunderstanding.
unaccompanied		Setting: Foster care.		
refugee young	Case study interviews and 3 young people's			
people	focus groups.	The same population as in the		
		study of Ní Raghallaigh		
	Interviews and focus groups were digitally			
	recorded, transcribed and analysed using the			
	software package MAXQDA (VERBI GmbH,			
	Berlin, Germany).			
Spiteri	Aim: To focus on the experience of	Participants: 12	"Who am I?"	Moderate
2012	unaccompanied minor asylum seekers who	Sex: All males		
[24]	recently travelled to Malta and who aspired to	Age: 16–17 years	"Where am I	No ethical reasoning.
Malta	journey on from there to mainland Europe. It is a	Origin: Ethiopia, Somalia and	going?"	
	phenomenological study of people who are on	Nigeria		No resoning of researcher
The evolving	the move and in transition.	Setting: Residents of Dar ix-		pre understanding.
identities of		Xemx, a hostel.		
unaccompanied	In-depth interviews were recorded using a tape-			
young male	recorder and was subsequently transcribed. The			
asylum seekers in	analysis combines grounded theory and			
Malta	discourse analysis to explore how language			
	served to frame these young people's ideas of			
	themselves, their travels, and their lives.			
Sutton et al	Aim: To explore the process of positive change	Participants: 8	Search for	Moderate
2006	and post-traumatic growth within a sample of 8	Sex: 1 male, 7 females	meaning.	
[25]	unaccompanied minors living in UK.	Age: 16–20 years	-	Participant selection
UK	Semistructured interviews that lasted	Origin: No information		somewhat biased.

	approximately 40 minutes were recorded and	Setting: Looked after by	Dislocation and	
A qualitative	transcribed.	social services.	loss.	No ethical reasoning.
study exploring				
refugee minors	Interpretative phenomenological analysis was	Additional information: 5	Social support.	
personal accounts	used. This involves a 4-stage process of analysis.	were Christian, and 3 were		
of post-traumatic		Muslim.	Activity.	
growth and	1 The first author engaged in a process of			
positive change	reading and rereading the interview transcript,		Religion.	
processes in	jotting down notes in the left hand margin			
adapting to life in	concerning initial thoughts and observations in		Positive changes	
UK	response to what was read.		in self perception.	
	2 The emerging themes were given titles, written			
	in the right-hand margin of the transcript, which		Desire to live a	
	reflected her interpretation of the essential		purposive life.	
	quality of the participant's expressed meaning.			
	3 The emergent theme titles were then listed on a			
	separate piece of paper and examined to see if			
	any of the themes were connected or related to			
	each other. Some themes were clustered together			
	to capture a specific category of meaning. These			
	superordinate themes were then given a separate			
	label.			
	4 The themes and superordinate themes, together			
	with the location of relevant quotes, were then			
	summarised in a table. Tracing back each theme			
	and superordinate theme to the relevant quote			
	ensures that the data are grounded in the			
	participant's account.			
Söderqvist	Aim: To examine unaccompanied minors'	Participants: 11	(a) Cultural	Moderate
2014	experiences of leaving care, and to explore the	Sex: All males	baggage;	
[26]	experience in relation to perceptions about	Age: 18–22 years	(b) Isolation;	No resoning of researcher
Sweden	ethnicity and culture within a transnational	Setting: One residential care	(c) On the go;	preunderstanding.
	space.	unit	(d) Just an	
		Origin: The majority of the	ordinary life.	
	In particular, we want to answer:	respondents'origin was		

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Leaving care with	(a) How unaccompanied minors define their	Afghanistan, but some also		
"cultural	identities throughout the process of transition	came from Kurdistan and		
baggage": The	from care; and	Iraq.		
development of an	(b) How unaccompanied minors perceive the			
identity within a	meaning of their ethnic minority backgrounds in	Additional information: All		
transnational	relation to the transition into adulthood after	had been issued permanent		
space	leaving care.	residency and been in Sweden		
		for 3 to 5 years at the time of		
	Interviews were carried out. An interview guide	the interview. They had		
	was prepared and the participants were asked to	experienced leaving care after		
	reflect on the themes presented. The interviews	being received in a Swedish		
	lasted 60–90 minutes, were taped and transcribed	municipality as		
	verbatim. Both the manifest and the latent	unaccompanied minors.		
	content of the interviews have been considered	*		
	through a process of condensing meaning units			
	into codes, and transferring the codes into			
	categories that after further analysis were			
	developed into certain themes.			
Thommessen et al	How do unaccompanied refugee minors	Participants: 6	1. From danger to	Moderate
2015	experience arriving to the Swedish host-society	Sex: All males	safety	
[27]	and what do they find particularly helpful and	Age: 18–19 years	2. Living in limbo	Some gaps in method
Sweden	challenging after their arrival?	Setting: A refugee center	3. Guidance and	discussion.
		Origin: Afghanistan.	social support	
Experiences of	Based on individual semistructured interviews,		4. Striving to fit in	No resoning of researcher
arriving to	an interpretative phenomenological analysis was	Additional information had	and move	preunderstanding.
Sweden as an	carried out to explore the perceived risks and	been granted refugee status,	forwards.	provinceristance.g.
unaccompanied	protective factors during the first months and	and had arrived to Sweden as		
asylum-seeking	years in the host-society	unaccompanied minors		
minor from		between the ages of 15 and 16		
Afghanistan: An		years.		
interpretative		jours.		
phenomenological				
analysis				
unutysis				

Wernesjö	Aim: Explore how unaccompanied young	Participants: 9	Everyday life in	Moderate
2015	refugees living in a rural village in Sweden make	Sex: 7 males, 2 females	Barnsele –	
[28]	sense of home and belonging.	Age: 16–19 years	peaceful and	Data analysis partly unclear.
Sweden		Setting: A rural group home	boring.	No ethical reasoning.
	The interviews were thematic, and they focused	Origin: Afghanistan (5),		
Landing in a	on the participants' everyday lives and social	Somalia (4).	Living outside the	No resoning of researcher
rural village:	relationships. The analysis is inspired by Back's		'normal'	preunderstanding.
home and	(2007) conceptualisation of 'sociological	Additional information:	childhood –	
belonging from	listening' that links the experiences of	Participants had been in	contrasting the	
the perspectives	individuals to larger social and political	Sweden between 1–2.5 years.	group home with	
of unaccompanied	processes and that avoids reducing the		living in a family.	
young refugees	complexities of the social world to simplified			
	images (p.15, 23). My approach to the analysis		Friendships and	
	was abductive, and informed by what Lundström		conditional	
	(2007, 51) describes as 'theoretically charged		belonging in	
	empirics' and 'empirically charged theory' (my		Barnsele.	
	translation), meaning that the empirical material			
	has been analysed with a theoretical framework			
	that both informed the analysis of the empirical			
	material and evolved during the course of			
	analysis.			
Vervliet et al	Aim: Shedding light on unaccompanied refugee	Participants: 20	Facing	Moderate
2014	mothers perspectives and acknowledging the	Sex: All female	constrained/	
[29]	complexity of their lived experiences.	Age: 15–23 years (mean =	constraining daily	Participant selection is not
Belgium		18.10 years)	living conditions.	clearly described.
	In a first step, in-depth thematic analysis of the	Setting: Asylum center, youth		
	mothers' narratives reveals several central	care, and living alone	Experiencing	No ethical reasoning.
	themes. Second, we adopt intersectionality as an	Origin: 12 different countries,	emotional	
	analytical perspective and confront these themes	mostly Africa (17).	difficulties.	No resoning of researcher
That I live, that's	with the 4 social categories ('refugee',			preunderstanding.
because of her':	'adolescent', 'unaccompanied' and 'mother')	Additional information:	Creating	
Intersectionality	that are frequently used in research and	Unaccompanied refugee	connectedness.	
as framework for	migration policies concerning the target group.	mothers with 17 children		
unaccompanied		were born in Belgium (out of		
refugee mothers		21), aged 1–57 months. 10		

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