



**Donnerstag, 15. Juni 2023 / Thursday, 15 June 2023**

**16.30 – 17.15h Keynote 4**

**Pat Cox** *Pre-empting uncertainty and risks: A micro-perspective exploration of some of the challenges in meeting the sexual and reproductive health rights and needs of young sanctuary seekers in migration societies (English)*

**Institution:** University of Central Lancashire

**Place:** Preston, United Kingdom

#### **Abstract**

As noted in the Call for Papers (IRM, 2023), present day pluralistic societies have been formed, and are being formed, by migration: 'a topic of discussion, debate and dispute.'

One topic where discussion and debate can be said to be 'significant by its absence', is the exploration of the sexual and reproductive health needs of young sanctuary seekers /young migrant people. For young people who are seeking safety within receiving nations which are not their societies of origin, their rights and needs in relation to meeting their individual sexual and reproductive health often are not considered, are overlooked, or are ignored. Yet positive sexual and reproductive health are integral to young people's developing their individual identity; integral to processes of their self-positioning among their peers, and with significant adults, and integral to their ability to form and maintain fulfilling relationships. It is contended that attention paid to young sanctuary seekers' rights and needs in this regard can support their movement from merely surviving, to flourishing.

Young sanctuary seekers are a heterogeneous group, and thus the concept of intersectionality (Crenshaw, 2015) including, but not limited to - age, gender, sexuality, displacement, vulnerability and earlier life experiences - is requisite when supporting their sexual and reproductive health rights and needs.

Drawing from a mapping study of existing research examining sanctuary seekers' sexual and reproductive health rights and needs (McDonald et al, 2023, forthcoming), and an exploration of the likely needs of young Ukrainian sanctuary seekers in the UK (Cox et al, 2022), in this paper some of the unanticipated and unaddressed challenges which young sanctuary seekers and their supporters may face are explored and reviewed.

#### **CV**

Pat Cox is an affiliate member of the MIDEX (Migration, Diaspora & Exile) Research Centre at the University of Central Lancashire UK, and an independent research consultant.

She has numerous migration-related publications, including two short papers addressing challenges for Ukrainian refugees in the UK, and conference presentations (ORCID number 0000-0003-2565-4564).

Together with Thomas Geisen and Zvi Bekerman, she co-edits the book series: 'Migration, Minorities and Modernity' and also co-edits the Journal of International Migration and Integration, where she has editorial responsibility for journal special issues.