

Bristol Refugee Rights response to Bristol Safeguarding Adults Board SILP Review:

Bristol Refugee Rights staff, volunteers and members were extremely shocked and saddened by the death of Kamil Ahmad. He was well known to our services and is missed by many.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to contribute to the SILP review and think it was a positive opportunity for statutory and voluntary sector organisations to come together, remember and learn.

It is positive that the report highlighted the risk of unconscious bias affecting how agencies work with people designated as “failed asylum seeker” or “refused asylum seeker” and that there is a risk that this designation leads to an often incorrect perception that there is an intention to deceive. We know as an organisation that many people are wrongly/incorrectly refused due to poor decision making and minor inconsistencies (which are normal from people experiencing trauma) and unreasonable evidentiary requirements and that many people who are “refused” or “failed” later go on to be granted status.

We further feel that it is positive that the report recognised Kamil was vulnerable because of his ethnic minority background. We strongly believe this vulnerability was exacerbated by his status as a migrant.

We hope that this report will lead to increased recognition of the role played by voluntary sector organisations in the lives and support networks of such individuals and hope that this will lead to closer working arrangements in the future.

Whilst the report did not criticise the support provided by Bristol Refugee Rights we have taken a number of steps to improve our working practices including building a partnership with SARI to ensure asylum seekers and refugees in Bristol have better opportunities to seek help against hate crime. BRR and SARI have also worked together to develop our own action plan for the voluntary sector based around our own internal learning from the death of

Bristol Refugee Rights

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Kamil Ahmad. We will also be taking part in an event to Honour Kamil and Bijan and bring together the Disability and Migration communities on June 29th June 2018.