The position of female asylum seekers in the Netherlands

Summary

This report contains the findings of a study into the position of female asylum seekers in the Netherlands. For random samples drawn from three cohorts of asylum seekers - those who had entered an asylum procedure in the years 1983-1989, 1990-1992, and 1993-mid 1998 - we investigated whether males and females had equal chances of being accepted in the Netherlands.

With the exception of one cohort (1990-1992) in which female asylum seekers had a greater chance to obtain one type of admission (a residence permit), it turned out that no relation could be established between acceptance and sex. This result was sustained when differential background characteristics of male and female asylum seekers (e.g. age, marital status and having children) and less easily quantifiable characteristics of their cases (e.g. credibility of their flight narratives), were taken into account.