

Appendix: Interview Guide 1. Applicants and Partners

Part 1: Introduction:

I have asked you to participate in a project about marriage migration to Norway. I am interested in knowing about everything you would like to tell me about this issue. I will tape the interview and make some notes throughout your story to be able to follow up. I would like it to be an open interview, where you tell me what you think is important. In the beginning, I will not ask a lot of questions, and please take your time and elaborate. When you do not have anything more to say, I would like to follow up with some questions. Before we finish, I would like to make sure that I have all the necessary information about your background. Does this sound alright to you?

Main question: So, would you tell me about your experiences of applying for family immigration and the relationship you applied on the basis of?

Part 2: Follow up:

Expectations of the application process:

- How did you experience the application process? Was it as expected?
- Where did you receive information about how to apply?
- What has been most frustrating about the process?
- Did you have any problems with fulfilling the subsistence requirement? What did you do to meet this requirement?

The relationship:

- How did you meet?
- When did you get married?
- The Directorate of Immigration is instructed to consider 'the age difference between the parties' as a part of the application process. What is the age difference between you?

Norms about marriage and relationships:

- How would you describe an ideal relationship? What is important to you? (reflections on intimacy, communication, friendship etc).
- What is an ideal progression for a relationship?
- How would you define 'love'?
- Who do you define as a part of your 'close family'?

About immigration regulations:

- Do you think that the regulations on family immigration are too strict or too liberal, or good as they are?

Discrimination

- Have you experienced discrimination based on race, religion or ethnic background throughout the application process?

Media and public debate:

- Marriage of convenience has been much debated in the media recently. What are your thoughts about marriage of convenience and the debate?
- There has also been a lot of public debate about arrange marriage as a contrast to love marriage. What are your reflections?

National background:

- Does national background seem to have consequences for the application process?

Gender difference:

- Does the informant presents reflections on gender difference in relation to the application process or the relationship it selves?

Three year rule:

Del 3: Background

Personal information

- Name
- Contacts (phone, cell, e-mail)
- Married?
- Sex
- Citizenship and national background
- Work position and education
- Children?
- Age
- Type of permit, now and first time

About the application process

- When did you apply for family immigration?
- When did you get married and where?
- How long did it take before you had a decision?
- Did you have an interview at the UDI? When?
- Did you complain to the UNE?
- Did your wife/husband apply from her/his country of origin or from Norway?
- Have you applied for other permits for other family members?
- What kind of documentation did they want for the application process?
- Have the situation in your country of origin caused problems for the application process?

Appendix: Interview Guide 2. Interviews with Bureaucrats.

- Kva du skildra kva du gjer i løp av ein vanleg arbeidsdag? (Can you describe what you do throughout an ordinary day at work?)
- Korleis føregår saksbehandlinga? Kan skildra ein typisk saksgang? (How do you do case assessment? Can you describe the typical procedures?)
- Kva oppfatar du som dei største utfordringane knytt til ditt arbeid med å handsama søknader om familieinnvandring på grunnlag av ekteskap? (Opent hovudspørsmål). (What are the major challenges with regard to assessing applications for marriage migration? (main question))
- Kva andre lovar, reguleringar og rundskriv er mest sentrale? (What are the most central laws and regulations?)
- Kva er, etter di vurdering, dei vanlegaste grunnane for avslag? (What are the main reasons for rejecting applications for family migration?)
- Korleis går de fram for å kontrollera og eventuelt avdekka om eit ekteskap er proforma? (What do you do in order to show whether it is a marriage of convenience?)
 - Rundskrivet omtaler mellom anna ekteskap som er ”atypiske”. Kan du fortelja litt om korleis du tolkar dette og eventuelt nokre døme på kva saker de kan vera snakk om? (The regulations use the phrase ”atypical marriages”. Could you tell me about how you interpret this and perhaps give an example of such a case?)
- På kva grunnlag vurderer de om eit ekteskap er eit tvangsekteskap? (On what grounds do you consider whether a marriage is a forced one?)
- Har du vore borti tilfelle der ein avslår/ønskjer å avslå/vurderer å avslå søknader fordi de meiner de er fare for at søkjaren vil bli mishandla i forholdet? (Have you ever worked with a case where you considered rejecting the application because you feared that the applicant or her children subject to abuse from her partner?)
- Kva type landinformasjon er relevant, og på kva måte, i forhold til handsaminga av søknader om familieinnvandring på grunnlag av ekteskap? (What information relating to the applicant's country of origin is considered relevant, and in what way?)
- Syns du det er ein fordel eller ei ulempe at du ikkje møter søkjarane andlet til andlet? Kva informasjon blir vidareformidla av politiet? (Do you think it is a drawback or an advantage to case assessment that you do not meet the applicants face-to-face?)
- Familiebilder, brudebilder etc, korleis blir denne forma for dokumentasjon vurdert og brukt? Kva får ein til å fatta mistanke? Manglande bilete, korleis blir det tolka? (How do you assess pictures, for instance family pictures and wedding pictures attached to

the application? What would make you suspicious? If there are no pictures attached, how do you interpret that?

Jobb: fortid og framtid (work, pas, future).

- Kor lenge har du jobba i avdelinga? (How long have you worked in this unit?)
- Framtidsutsikter? Halda fram i UDI? Andre arbeidsoppgåver, stillingar? (Plans for the future? Continue here? Other tasks and positions?)