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COMPAS Research Project:
“Changing status, changing lives? The socio-economic
impact of
EU accession on low wage migrant labour in the UK”

**IN DEPTH INTERVIEW
HOST FAMILIES OF AU PAIRS**

(March 2004)

1. Are you (*please circle*): Male Female

2. Are you (*please circle*): Under 18 18-21

22-30 31-40

41-50 51-60

61-70 71+

3. Are you (*please circle*):

Single Married, living together

Separate Married, living apart

Divorced Co-habiting with man

Widowed Co-habiting with woman

4. Do you have children living with you (*please circle*):

Yes

No

If yes, please write their ages:

5. What is your nationality? _____

6. What is your occupation?

7. Would you describe yourself as (*please circle*):

Black	White	Other
Asian	Mixed	Decline to answer

8. Do you have any of the following:

GCSE 'O' Levels or equivalent

GCSE 'A' Levels or equivalent

Degree

Post graduate qualification

9. Please indicate your household's annual income:

Under £20,000

£20,000-50,000

£50,000+

10. When did you first host an au pair, and how many au pairs have you hosted?

Objective: to map history of hosting au pairs, in particular any changes such as switching agency or nationality

- was this associated with any family changes (e.g. children)?
- What have been the different nationalities you have hosted?
- Have you ever hosted a male au pair?
- How much pocket money do you give your current au pair, and what does she do in return?
- Do you have any household employees?

11. How is hosting an au pair different from employing a live-in nanny or a foreign domestic worker?

Objective: to understand how host families imagine the au pair scheme, what the benefits are of using non-UK nationals for childcare and housework.

- What sorts of households host au pairs and how are these different from those that employ live in migrant domestic workers or nannies?
- Would you describe your au pair as being a part of the family?
- If it were possible, would you prefer to have an au pair type arrangement with a UK national? Why/why not?
- Do you think families should be able to host young people from countries outside Europe and the US? Why/why not?

12. What are the disadvantages of having an au pair?

13. Are there nationalities that you prefer to host? Are there some nationalities that you would never consider hosting? Why?

Objective: To see if host families discriminate on the grounds of country of origin or of religion and how they explain any discrimination. To relate this to agencies as gatekeepers and purveyors of ideas about nationalities.

- what are the key factors that determine the nationalities of au pairs you host?
- does the religion of the au pair matter to you?
- how influential are agencies in determining which nationalities you host?

14. Do you have any grounds for selecting one au pair agency over another? What would these grounds be?

Objective: to see if they have any requirements for au pair agencies

- what do you think makes a good au pair agency?
- what would ring warning bells for you?
- Do you think au pair agencies should be regulated, or is self-regulation enough?
- Have you had any bad experiences with au pair agencies and what did you learn from them?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of using an agency (rather than direct hire)

15. Do you think that accession will have any impact on the au pair system?

- do you think it will affect your relationship with your au pair?

16. Do you have any recommendations that you would like to make to policy makers regarding the au pair system?

Thank the host family member for their time.

Explain again that the interview is completely anonymous and we are not interested in their personal details, but that if possible we would like to interview them again in September and would they consider participating. Say you would like to contact them closer to the time to see if they would be prepared to do this, and ask them if this would be possible. If so, what would be the best means of contacting them?

Your name:

Your email address:

OR

Your phone number:

OR

Your mail address:

OR

IF NONE OF THE ABOVE ARE GIVEN:

How do you suggest we get in touch with you in the summer?

Please give us a “password” that you will remember in the summer: _____
(EXPLAIN THAT THIS IS NECESSARY FOR US TO “MATCH UP” INTERVIEWS FROM WAVE 1 AND 2)