

## **Keeping it All Together? Somali Women's Roles as Household Heads and Remittance Senders**

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Somali women are disproportionately represented as heads of households in many countries to which they have migrated. In the UK, many women are de facto heads of household, with men either permanently or temporarily absent from the homes. At the same time they face pressures from their relatives and clans in Somalia and Somaliland to send remittances and other support. This paper, based on interviews with several Somali women living in London, will explore the pressures that women face both in the country of settlement and towards their country of origin. It will consider the role of remittances in maintaining social networks across great distances and will question whether responsibilities in two (or more) places may be contributing to a change in the construction of gender roles amongst Somali communities.