

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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The Newsflash is a weekly round up of publications, information, events, funding and jobs relating to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers for anyone who wants to keep up to date with the latest developments.

The newsflash is produced in partnership with the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### **The Garage – creative volunteering for young refugees in Norwich**

The Garage is looking for young refugees aged 16-25 who would like to volunteer making a creative project that will benefit their community, working with a group of young volunteers from Norwich. The project will involve film, animation and creative writing, and run from December 2010-February 2011. There will be different things to get involved in, from coming up with ideas, helping to create the content and helping to organise a sharing event to maximize the community impact of the project. There will be an opportunity to work towards a level one or 2 qualification in Arts Practice and Leadership. The creative team will meet regularly to shape the project, but there is also the opportunity for young people to get involved at different stages as short term volunteers.

Anyone wanting to learn more should contact Catherine Taylor at The Garage, [catherine.taylor@thegarage.org.uk](mailto:catherine.taylor@thegarage.org.uk) 01603 283382.

### **Asylum seekers cannot be forced to lie about their political beliefs**

On 18 November, the UK Court of Appeal ruled that asylum seekers cannot be forced to lie about not holding political beliefs when returning to their home country. The case concerned four Zimbabwean asylum seekers. They did not hold strong political beliefs but the question was whether it would breach their human rights to send them back to Zimbabwe if they were then forced to join the ruling party. The Court adopted the reasoning in the HJ Iran v Secretary of State for the Home Department case where the UK Supreme Court found that forcing a homosexual person to suppress his/her sexuality is to deny them their fundamental identity.

To read the judgement in full, please follow this link: <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2010/1285.html>

### **Beneficiaries of international protection will be able to enjoy long-term resident rights – Council of EU**

The Council has agreed that beneficiaries of international protection who have lived in the EU for more than five years should be able to apply for a Long-Term Residence (LTR) permit. This permit gives the holder the right to reside in another Member State, and the right to equal treatment with nationals in several areas, including access to employment, education, social security and social assistance. At least half of the period of the asylum procedures will be taken into account for the calculation of the 5 years required for the long-term residence status. If the asylum procedure takes more than 18 months, the whole period should be taken into account.

The European Parliament is expected to confirm its agreement on the text at its December plenary session.

To read the council's directive in full, please follow this link:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2007:0298:FIN:EN:PDF>

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## Migration

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### **Latest immigration and asylum statistics**

Estimated net long-term migration to the UK in the year to March 2010 was 215,000. This continues the increase since the year to December 2008, when net migration was 163,000. The rise has primarily been driven by the recent fall in emigration.

573,000 National Insurance numbers (NINOs) were allocated to non-UK nationals in the year to March 2010, a decline of 17 per cent on the year to March 2009. 157,000 NINOs were allocated to A8 nationals in the year to June 2010, a fall of 16 per cent on the year to June 2010. In the year to September 2010 the number of A8 nationals successfully applying to work as an employee in the UK via the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) was 111,000, an increase of 2 per cent on the year to September 2009 (109,000).

The number of applications for asylum, excluding dependants, was 13 per cent lower in Q3 2010 (4,440) compared with Q3 2009 (5,110).

For further details see the following documents:

[Migration Statistics Quarterly Report Statistical Bulletin - November 2010](#)

[Migration Statistics 2009 Statistical Bulletin](#)

[Population by Country of Birth & Nationality, Apr 2009 to Mar 2010](#)

[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom - Third Quarter 2010](#)

[Main excel tables Q3 2010](#) [Supplementary excel tables Q3 2010](#)

NINo allocations: [Analytical report](#) (annual to March 2010) [Summary tables](#) (quarterly to June 2010)

[Monthly Asylum Statistics - September 2010](#)

[Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age and place of initial detention, \(excluding Harwich\), October 2010](#)

## **Home secretary announces annual limits for tier 1 and tier 2 visa applications, effective from April 2011**

As well as limiting the number of skilled non-EU workers businesses can bring into the country, the Home Office is tightening the intra-company transfer route which will sit outside the annual limit, and restricting Tier One of the Points Based System (PBS) to all but entrepreneurs, investors and people of exceptional talent.

The Government has committed to:

- introducing an annual limit of 21,700 for those coming into the UK under the skilled and highly skilled routes - 20,700 under the skilled route and 1,000 under the new 'exceptional talent' route;
- raising to £40,000 the minimum salary for those coming through the intra-company transfer route for more than 12 months;
- restricting the highly skilled tier of the PBS to all but entrepreneurs, investors and the exceptionally talented; and
- requiring occupations in Tier 2 to be at graduate level.

For further details please follow this link to the UKBA webpage:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/35-t1-t2-annual-limits>

## **Consultation on Tier 4 of points based system (PBS)**

A consultation will be launched before the end of the year focusing on Tier 4 of the PBS - the student route - which currently accounts for two thirds of migrants entering the UK each year. The consultation, which will run for eight weeks, will seek views on a range of measures to reduce the number of students that can come into the UK including:

- for adult students, focusing Tier 4 on higher level courses and those offered by Highly Trusted Sponsors;
- introducing tougher entry criteria such as English language competence;
- ensuring students wishing to extend their studies show evidence of academic progression;
- limiting students' entitlements to work and sponsor dependants; and
- improving the accreditation process for education providers, alongside more rigorous inspections

To find out more, please follow this link: [http://www.thegovmonitor.com/world\\_news/united\\_states/uk-outlines-first-annual-limit-for-non-european-workers-43134.html](http://www.thegovmonitor.com/world_news/united_states/uk-outlines-first-annual-limit-for-non-european-workers-43134.html)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/78-first-annual-limit>

## **Independent Chief Inspector of UKBA reports on effectiveness of civil penalties**

The Civil Penalty scheme was designed to create a hostile environment for those who seek to benefit from the abuse of immigration control and employ illegal migrant workers. The inspector found that the UK Border Agency had a largely passive approach towards the Civil Penalties scheme and was too accommodating towards attempts by employers to reduce penalties, failing to create a real deterrent to others. Additionally, he found a disparity between the publicised amount of penalties issued and the payments actually collected, meaning that using figures of fines issued as a measure of effectiveness is misleading when a much smaller percentage of the total is actually recouped.

Please follow this link to read the report in full:

[http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Inspection-of-CPCT\\_Illegal-Working.pdf](http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Inspection-of-CPCT_Illegal-Working.pdf)

**Runnymede Trust's Autumn Bulletin now available**

The Runnymede Trust is a leading UK race equality think tank. This bulletin has a particular focus on race equality as experienced by women, and features an article by Jane Basham from Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality. Please follow this link to download the bulletin:

[http://www.runnymedetrust.org/bulletin?utm\\_source=The+Runnymede+Trust&utm\\_campaign=b626694a2c-ONLINE\\_MAGAZINEAutumnBulletin2010&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.runnymedetrust.org/bulletin?utm_source=The+Runnymede+Trust&utm_campaign=b626694a2c-ONLINE_MAGAZINEAutumnBulletin2010&utm_medium=email)

**Cities of Migration – conference handbook**

A conference was held in October to share good practice in improving outcomes for migrants in cities across the globe which have experienced high levels of inward migration. Practice offered for sharing from the UK included an ESOL citizenship course from the police in Wales, a diabetes health improvement programme from London and a 'peacemaker' scheme in Oldham, to overcome racial self-segregation.

The contact details for practitioners featured are included in the document, so please follow the link to read the report in full: <http://citiesofmigration.ca/wp-content/uploads/citiesofmigration-marketplace-workbook-2010.pdf>

**Norfolk Police Authority – be part of their virtual community**

Norfolk Police Authority is the 'voice' of the people of Norfolk ensuring the Norfolk Constabulary provides an efficient and effective local police service. The Authority's vision is to provide the best police service for the County, meeting the needs of all communities. Independent of Norfolk Constabulary and made up of 17 members and a small group of staff, the Authority acts in the role of regulator, scrutineer and critical friend.

The Authority appreciates that not every member of the community wants to attend meetings in order to have an input, so are offering an alternative way for people to become involved in the Authority's consultation work, by joining their virtual community. Anyone happy to be contacted by email on a regular basis to share their views on policing issues affecting their local community should contact the Police Authority on

[virtualcommunity@norfolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:virtualcommunity@norfolk.pnn.police.uk)

**New fees for immigration effective from 22 November – UKBA**

Following Parliamentary approval, new immigration fees are effective from 22 November 2010 for those applying to study, visit, work in or stay in the United Kingdom. Applicants should ensure that any applications made are accompanied by the correct fee. UKBA will return any applications where the incorrect fee is paid. A full table of all UKBA fees is set out on the UK Border Agency website - <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/fees/>

**IPPR report – capping immigration: where next?**

This briefing focuses on the proposals and options for capping and reforming the routes which govern immigration for work from outside the EU. Since all routes for low-skilled immigration for work are currently closed, this means Tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system (PBS), which govern skilled immigration for work. There is a direct trade-off between setting the cap on Tiers 1 and 2 of the PBS at a level that is low enough to have a substantial effect on total net immigration and setting it in such a way that it doesn't damage businesses, public services, universities and the economy.

Please follow the link to read the briefing in full: <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=788>

**Revised policy guidance from UKBA following Pankina judgments**

The UK Border Agency has published revised policy guidance for applicants under the points-based system whose applications were refused solely because they did not meet the maintenance (funds) requirement. If they made their application within a certain time period, they can ask UKBA to review their decision to refuse. The revised guidance is under 'Related documents' on the page shown below. It replaces the guidance previously published on 23 July 2010. Anyone who has previously requested a review of UKBA's decision, but was refused because the person appealing did not have valid permission to stay in the UK when requesting the review, UKBA will automatically review the decision. Anyone who has not received an updated decision by 31 January 2011, should contact the address given in the revised policy guidance.

Please follow this link to the page where the revised guidance can be found:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/nov/75-revised-guidance-pankina>

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## Events

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### **'Chat and Chill' for women with English as an additional language – Ipswich, every Thursday**

Ipswich Library arranges weekly Chat and Chill group for women who speak English as an additional language. The activities are aimed to promote basic language skill collection, bring more people from EAL community to the library, give them confidence about using the library and share any useful information. The sessions take place every Thursday from 10-11.30, in Ipswich county library IP1 3DE.

Anyone wanting to learn more or offer suggestions should contact Vinaya Kulkarni on 01473 583713 [vinaya.kulkarni@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:vinaya.kulkarni@suffolk.gov.uk)

### **Human Rights Day – 10 December**

The Refugee Council is campaigning for supporters to host 'RefuTEAs', fund raising events which centre on sharing food and drink, on Human Rights Day, to raise awareness of the human rights of asylum seekers and to raise funds for the work of the Refugee Council. To request a host pack, please email [refuTEA@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:refuTEA@refugeecouncil.org.uk) or to find out more, please telephone 020 7346 1203.

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## Funding

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### **Society for the Assistance of Ladies in Reduced Circumstances – funding for organisations**

The Society's trustees have decided that although their principal charitable activity will remain the making of grants to individual women, in 2011 they will make £50,000 available for grants to other organisations which support projects which are for the exclusive benefit of women in financial need.

The closing date for applications is **25 March 2011**. For more information about the society and eligibility criteria, please follow this link: [http://www.salrc.org/guide\\_to\\_grants\\_for\\_orgs.htm](http://www.salrc.org/guide_to_grants_for_orgs.htm)

### **Woodward Charitable Trust**

The Trustees favour small-scale, locally based initiatives. Funding is primarily for one-off projects, but the Trustees are willing to consider funding for start-up or running costs (including core costs and salaries). Eligible organisations must be a registered charity, school or church.

There 8 current areas of priority grant-making, 4 of which may be of particular interest to newsflash readers, set out below:

- Social and ethnic minority groups, including young people at risk of exclusion or isolation, refugees, asylum-seekers, gypsies and travellers. Projects that promote integration and community cohesion will be favoured;
- Homelessness, especially affecting young people and women, and covering facilities such as women's refuges;
- People experiencing violence or abuse;
- Addiction, including projects tackling the social exclusion elements and preventative programmes and projects supporting families of addicts.

Additionally, they offer grants for summer play schemes.

Please follow this link for more details of eligibility, other grant priority areas. Note that the next round of funding closes **30 November**. The Summer play scheme funding closes **1 April 2011** and the second general funding round of the year closes **31 May 2011**. <http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/guidelines.html>

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## Jobs

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There are no job updates in this edition

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