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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).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Support for Refugee Week 2011 organisers in the East of England

Refugee Week 2011 will take place 20 – 26 June 2011 and is a UK-wide programme of events celebrating the contribution of refugees to the UK. During Refugee Week hundreds of events exploring refugee experiences take place across the UK. These include exhibitions, music festivals, political debates, film screenings & conferences.

A Refugee Week toolkit has been devised for event organisers. It is a guide which covers a number of key issues that are valuable to anyone interested in organising an event for Refugee Week. It covers how to get started, information on fundraising, publicity, using the media and evaluation in PDF format online see:

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Week/Documents/PDF/Refugee%20Week%20Toolkit%202006.pdf> There are also a number of publicity and promotion materials that can be downloaded from the website. <http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Events/Promotional+Materials>

If you are interested in getting involved in event organisation for next year please get in touch with Refugee Week coordinator for the East of England, Shenaz Kedar, email: rweesk@gmail.com
For more information on Refugee Week see: www.refugeeweek.org.uk.

Being children and undocumented in the UK: A Background Paper – COMPAS, University of Oxford

This document is the first working paper for a collaborative research project into the lives and experiences of undocumented migrant children in the United Kingdom and the US. The research looks at two groups of children, those who accompany or live with close family members, and those who migrate alone. The policy areas that this project focuses on are: health, education and employment. This paper provides a context to this area of migration on which to base the research.

The full document is available via the following link:

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/WP1078_Sigona_Hughes.pdf

No recourse to public funds (NRPF) national network – latest bulletin available

The December bulletin has just been released and includes details of on developments in the area of NRPF, a summary of the judgement in new case law regarding former unaccompanied asylum seeking children, (SO v LB Barking & Dagenham Court of Appeal Judgement), new open access NRPF training dates and a new legal website detailing community care cases.

Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full:

[NRPF Network - December 2010 Bulletin.pdf](#)

Children's Legal Centre – Migrant Children's project December update issued

Please follow this link to find the update which has information about new resources, statistics, parliamentary updates, media reports and other news relating to advice and rights for asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children and their advisers.

<http://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=727f7cb511aa9ca211dde2fbc&id=ceea5b24ec&e=c66d5222e0>

Home Office research data published – children held in detention – October 2010, and years 2009 & 6 months of 2010.

Children entering detention held solely under Immigration Act powers, by age and place of initial detention, excluding Harwich. Please follow this link to access the October 2010 data:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/child-detention-oct2010.xls>

Responding to a parliamentary question, the comparative data for 2009 and first six months of 2010:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101119/text/101119w0002.htm#10111965000102>

Journal of Refugee Studies – December issue

Featuring a number of articles, including a piece about refugee teachers in Scotland, integration of refugees in Sweden and Norway, a UK perspective on legal status and refugee status and a paper about policy and politics relating to refugee integration in the UK.

Please follow this link to subscribe to the journal: <http://jrs.oxfordjournals.org/content/current>

Age assessment in UK asylum system - Refugee Studies Centre paper

Faced with rising numbers of undocumented asylum seekers claiming to be minors, age assessment is increasingly conceived as an integral part of asylum determination in Europe. Portrayed as a viable way to safeguard domestic asylum and welfare systems from adults posing as minors whilst concurrently ensuring that children are protected, age assessment has nonetheless been notoriously controversial in the UK. The appearance of 'age-disputed persons' as a discrete administrative category has fuelled existing debates around asylum-seeking children and triggered a politicised and progressively legalised process for assessing their age. This paper therefore seeks to address the underlying issue of why age assessment is so politicised in the UK and why it is that 'age-disputed persons' have become a salient political problem.

Please follow this link to read the paper in full: <http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/PDFs/RSCworkingpaper67.pdf>

EU Presidencies commit to reach a Common Asylum System by 2012

The Belgian Presidency, together with the four upcoming Presidencies Hungary, Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, presented to the Council a common statement on Immigration and Asylum. They underlined that in order to reach a Common European Asylum System by 2012, Member States need to reach a higher degree of legislative harmonization. Member States stressed the importance of the establishment of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and committed to make it fully operational by the end of 2011.

For more information, please follow this link for the broadcast, which includes Theresa May's response:

<http://video.consilium.europa.eu/index.php?sessionno=3209&pl=2&lang=EN>

LSE Migration Studies Unit publishes report on role of community centres in health of Iraqi and British elders

Please find below a link to "Bonds, Bridges and Links: Exploring the role of how a community centre can strengthen the social capital of Iraqi and British elders for improved health and psychosocial wellbeing", published by LSE Migration Studies Unit.

http://www2.lse.ac.uk/government/research/resgroups/MSU/documents/workingPapers/WP_2010_02.pdf

IOM releases World Migration report 2010

The report provides an overview of migration in the world today. The first part of the report focuses on six main areas of international migration where capacity challenges are expected: labour mobility, irregular migration, migration and development, integration, environmental change, and migration governance. IOM suggests objectives in each of these areas, providing examples of what can be done. The report also provides an overview of international migration trends. It notes that 7.6% of migrants are refugees, and that 4/5 of them are located in developing countries. In 2009, the total number of asylum seekers in developed countries remained stable but with disparities: the report shows an increase of 13% of applications in the Nordic Regions, but a decrease of 33% in southern Europe, mainly in Italy (-42%), Turkey (-40%) and Greece (-20%).

Please follow this link to obtain the complete publication:

http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=37&products_id=653

Migration

Forced migration – Trafficked women: Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and the Law, a guide

This guide has been produced by 'Rights of Women', a voluntary organisation seeking to inform, educate and empower women concerning their legal rights. As well as legal information, the guide gives advice on to how to identify trafficked women and practical guidance as to what to do. Please follow this link to download the document:

http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/pdfs/Legal/Trafficking_sexual_exploitation_and_the_law.pdf

Changes to student visa entrance criteria announced by government

Tougher entrance criteria, limits on work and an end to students staying in the UK to look for a job are just some of the changes proposed by Immigration Minister Damian Green this week as part of a shake-up of the student visa system. A public consultation on the reform of the student entry route to the UK will run for eight weeks, seeking views on a range of measures to reduce the number of students that can come into the UK. Proposals include:

- reducing the number of people coming to the UK to study at below degree level;
- introducing a tougher English language requirement;
- ensuring students wishing to extend their studies show evidence of academic progression;
- limiting students' entitlements to work and their ability to bring in dependants; and
- improving the accreditation process for education providers, alongside more rigorous inspections.

The Government is making changes across the immigration system to achieve its aim of reducing net migration. As the student route accounts for two thirds of migrants entering the UK each year, it is a focus for reform. The new proposals could see Tier Four - students coming to the UK under the Points Based System - restricted to those studying degree level courses and child students, except for 'Highly Trusted Sponsor' institutions. English language competence could become the indicator of someone's eligibility to complete a higher level course and all Tier Four applicants will have to pass an English language at intermediary level B2, up from the B1 currently required. The drive to ensure students return overseas after their course finishes will they will have to leave the UK and apply for a new visa to further their studies, and show evidence of progression to a higher course. It will also see the closure of the post-study route under Tier One. The Government is also looking at ways to improve the inspection and accreditation of the education sector, to ensure the courses offered by private institutions of further and higher education are of the highest quality.

The research report 'Overseas students in the immigration system: types of institution and levels of study' is available here - <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/pbs-tier-4/>

For more information, please follow this link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/dec/16student-visa-system>

To take part in the consultation, which closes on **31 January**, please follow this link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/students/>

Lin Homer, Chief Executive of UKBA, leaving to join Department for Transport

Lin Homer has been confirmed as the new Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport. She takes up her new post in January. This follows Robert Devereux's move to become Permanent Secretary at the Department for Work and Pensions. She held the Chief Executive post at UKBA since 2005, and may be known to newsflash readers having been deputy Chief Executive at Hertfordshire County Council and Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council. Please follow this link to read the story in full:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/clientmicrosite/Content/Detail.aspx?ClientId=202&NewsAreaId=2&ReleaseID=416935&SubjectId=36>

Red Cross tackles migration issues with launch of educational toolkit

A host of new educational resources are now available online thanks to the launch of an updated version of the British Red Cross Positive Images toolkit. The new downloadable toolkit at www.redcross.org.uk/positiveimages is for teachers and anyone working with young people aged 12 and up, and includes lesson plans, games, videos and interactive activities, all aimed at promoting discussion and understanding of issues around migration and development. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Teaching-resources/Teaching-packages/Positive-Images/news>

UKBA – updated guidance for employers to prevent illegal working

The UK Border Agency has published an updated version of their summary guidance to help employers understand the law on illegal working and what they need to do to comply. The summary guidance includes details of document checks that employers are advised to undertake, and aims to be a quick reference tool. It must be read in conjunction with the comprehensive guidance for employers on preventing illegal working, which was itself updated in November.

Please follow this link to download both the documents:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/preventingillegalworking/>

Events

Asylum Voice annual event – 7 January, Norwich

The annual community event will take place at St Augustine's church at 5pm. For more information, please contact MENTER, Norwich: 01603 617076

Information exchange event from Strategic Migration partnership – addressing the issues around rough sleeping A8 Nationals - 18 January, Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Following feedback to our survey, we were asked to provide more training and expertise sharing on a regional basis, so are pleased to be offering this event.

The event explores how to assess the scale of the problem of rough sleeping by foreign nationals in your local authority area, how to work with third sector to provide help to get people off the streets and if a reconnection to the country of origin service is something your area needs to offer. There will be presentations and an opportunity to put questions to a panel of experts, made up of Sarah Hebblethwaite from the Reconnection Service in Peterborough, Chris Fielden from CRI who operate a reconnection service in March, West Norfolk, Breckland and Kings Lynn, and Joanna Krotofil a researcher from CRONEM with experience in conducting research into the link between addiction and rough sleeping amongst A8 nationals.

For more information about the event and how to book your place, please follow this link:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2592>

The Big Conversation: Faith as a Local Partner – 19 January conference, Cambridge

A free half day conference (9.45-1.30) organised by the East of England Faiths Council and GO-East to explore the ways in which faith and inter-faith groups can engage fully with civic life in a changing political and social landscape. Delegates are invited from local faith and inter-faith groups who want to take an active role in civic life as well as from local authority and other public sector partnership officers and all those who sit on LSPs and LEPs.

The conference will be held at GO-East's offices, Eastbrook, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8DF

For further information or to book a place please Contact Lesley or Jenny on 01223 421606 or

Email: eefc@cambcatalyst.co.uk

Refugee week 2011 conference – 21 January, Amnesty headquarters, London

The aim of the day is to provide a forum where those involved in events in 2011 can develop and share ideas, get inspired and share their experiences with others.

The programme features speakers sharing good practice and ideas – but the day will be more about participants' and their experiences! The event will be participatory and features five workshops covering a range of issues:

- Promoting events in the press: How to get local media interested
- Exploring ways of using 'Simple Acts' to engage children and young people in RW events
- Promoting and exploring ethical practice in participatory arts
- Making the most of social media: How to promote events, spread the word and involve communities
- Exploring 60 years of contribution - Stories and ideas swap shop

Delegates are invited to come along and take part in the 2011 conference. Due to space restrictions at the venue the conference is limited to 100 spaces which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The event is FREE. Register here:

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Events/conference-2011/conference-Registration.htm>

Training event from Shelter hosted by the Strategic Migration partnership – Robust Housing Assessments for foreign nationals – 1 February, Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

If you work in support of migrants who are presenting with housing needs and you find it difficult to assess what different nationals are entitled to, then this event is a must. Delivered by Richard Lee from Shelter, the course will use case studies to walk you through a range of 'pathways to housing' guides to demonstrate how robust, consistent and legally compliant housing entitlement decisions can be made for foreign nationals. The event will

conclude with a round table discussion of forthcoming issues and their implications - such as what plans your organisations have made for the demise of the workers' registration scheme in May 2011.

Please follow this link to find out more information and to register to attend the course:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2602>

Funding

Suffolk Foundation new funding streams launched – Transforming Suffolk Community fund & Transforming Suffolk Innovation fund

Grants of up to £5000 are available from the community fund for projects across four different themes which aim to make Suffolk a place where everyone is helped to achieve their full potential, benefit from and contribute to Suffolk's economic prosperity and be actively involved in their community.

Of the four themes launched, two may be of particular interest to newsflash readers:

- Safe, healthy and inclusive communities
- Learning and skills for the future.

The innovation fund offers grants up to a maximum of £50000 either as a lump sum or over three years for delivering new services or new ways of delivering services which are innovative, inspirational and collaborative and support Suffolk's Community Strategy. For full details of how to apply for these funds, please follow this link:

http://www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=64%3Atransforming-suffolk&catid=6%3Alatest-news&Itemid=40

European return fund and UKBA – grant to provide voluntary assisted returns schemes - £17m – reminder from newsflash November 15-19

NGOs, charities, companies, inter-governmental organisations or partnerships of eligible applicants are invited to apply to run the service to return about 5000 people to their countries of origin, on a voluntary basis.

The scope of the service will include three schemes:

- Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP)
- Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC)
- Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM)

Further details about the call are available on the UKBA website:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/workingwithasylum/assistedvoluntaryreturn/european-return-fund/>

The application pack and workshop registration form are available via the Home Office Emptoris e-procurement site. To register for Emptoris please contact EUFunding@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

The closing date for applications for the fund is **16:00 4 January 2011**.

European Year of Volunteering 2011 (EYV11) – website launched and work programme announced

The Office for Civil Society is seeking European Commission approval for the national work programme for the European Year in England. The work programme has been prepared in collaboration with members of the voluntary and community sector in England. It focuses on four national priorities with five themes. The themes would take place during two spotlight months over the year. The themes and priorities which may be of interest to newsflash readers are:

Priority 1 - Encourage and enable individuals to make a contribution within their communities and help solve social issues by volunteering.

- Children and Young people – March and April
- Health and social care – November and December

Priority 4 - Promote good practice in opening the doors to volunteering opportunities to those traditionally less likely to volunteer (e.g. disabled people, those from minority ethnic backgrounds, the unemployed etc.).

The intention is to identify partner organisations to lead on the priorities and themes. OCS is establishing the process for identifying these partners. Further information on how organisations can apply to take part will be available shortly. The OCS has set up an email address for queries related to the national work programme for England and EYV11 in the UK: eyv2011@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk.

The official EYV11 campaign website (europa.eu/volunteering) was launched on the 2 December to provide information on all aspects of the campaign for the European Year. It also provides a facility for organisations and

individuals to share stories about volunteering, a calendar of events, resources and information related to volunteering across Europe and a press pack. The site includes a campaign toolbox where organisations can access material to enable them to use the year to support their work, including logos.

Outstanding learner awards – Adult Learners’ Week award, 14-20 May 2011

The awards celebrate learning in all its forms, giving recognition to inspirational adults who have changed their lives through learning and the organisations who have supported them. There are two awards:

- Outstanding individual learners
- Inspiring learning projects

All entered for the award will receive a certificate of achievement and they may also be eligible for awards from a range of sponsors, such as the European Social Fund award, the Digital Participation award (sponsored by the BBC) and Apprentice of the year award (sponsored by Pearson publishing) plus others. The winners will receive a learning voucher valued at between £200 and £1000.

For more information, please follow the links below – early bird nominations received before **20 December** will be entered into a prize draw for learning vouchers. The closing date for nominations is **5pm 28 January**.

www.alw.org.uk/learning-awards or contact the Campaigns and Promotions team at NIACE at alw@niace.org.uk or on 0116 2044200

Jobs

Cambridge University Press (CUP) English Language Teaching (ELT) Development Editor, Blended Learning £24098 - £26333

CUP is looking for an editor to work across all ELT publishing strands to help develop their ELT Blended-Learning courses list. The successful candidate will be responsible for taking online and face-to-face materials through all stages of development, from shaping content to copy-editing and seeing materials through electronic production. This will involve both electronic and print copyediting and proofing, planning and creative input for new electronic product concepts. The role will entail close cooperation with our electronic operations team.

Applicants must have:

- a recognised ELT/English as a Foreign Language (EFL) qualification;
- a sound understanding of the educational technologies;
- experience of EFL teaching;
- experience of editing, writing or using electronic materials.

Experience in publishing is desirable but not essential as full training will be given. Candidates should have an eye for detail as well as excellent organisation and communication skills.

Please write full c.v., quoting LW10/160, to Lizzy Wall, Cambridge University Press, Senior HR Officer, The University Printing House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8BS or by email to jobs@cambridge.org

The closing date for applications is **10 January 2011**.

For more information, please follow this link: http://www.cambridge.org/about/global_vacancies.asp?id=254400

Migrants Rights Network (MRN) – Public Affairs Officer, full time, to January 2012 with possible extension after, £24157, London EC2A

The MRN public affairs officer will work to support the MRN policy officer in implementing and monitoring the MRN policy workplan for 2011. This will include organising meetings, compiling briefings and relationship-building with key stakeholders in the field of immigration including Members of Parliament, peers, think tanks, relevant NGOs and media. This person will be a key player within the MRN team and will need to work flexibly as and when required. S/he will also be periodically required to travel outside London.

MRN are looking for a candidate with:

- at least 18 months of previous work experience using relevant skills. Previous parliamentary or policy experience desirable,
- a good understanding of the UK political environment, including parliamentary procedure,
- outstanding communication skills in English,
- ability to work on own initiative as well as part of a team to deliver projects to a high standard,
- strong interpersonal skills, including the ability to establish credibility quickly with MRN stakeholders,

- the ability to supervise the work of interns and volunteers in an appropriate manner,
- support for the broad values of key partners such as the trades unions, the business sector, faith organisations, public services and local government, and the not-for-profit sector; appreciation for the value of improved networking with key partners,
- a firm commitment to supporting the rights of all migrants, irrespective of nationality, immigration status, or other matters.

The closing date for applications is **5pm 5 January 2010**. Interviews will all be held on **20 January 2010**.

For full details of the post and application form, please follow this link:

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/MRN_Public_Affairs_Officer-Job_Description.pdf

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