

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)[Migration](#)[Events](#)[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)

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

Landing in Kent – a Children’s Commissioner report on unaccompanied asylum seeking and trafficked children arriving in the UK

The report details how the Children’s Commissioner accessed Kent’s Millbank reception and assessment centre in Ashford to speak to newly arrived young asylum seekers and trafficked children, to learn about their concerns and experiences. The commissioner found Millbank to be a good model for reception and care of these children. Those young people the research team spoke to reported mainly positive experiences with immigration and police officials at the point of entry into the UK. The visit also showed that in these children’s countries of origin and in transit across Europe to the UK, some of their fundamental rights appear to have been breached. This raised concerns about existing and proposed UK policies which may lead to further breaches. It called on the government to review its policy of returning asylum seeking children to the European country where they were first fingerprinted and returning minors to third countries such as Afghanistan. Please follow this link to read the report in full, which makes recommendations about the way in which asylum policy could be better applied, in Kent, by UKBA, by national government and by local authorities who care for unaccompanied asylum seeking children: http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/content/publications/content_465

Please follow this link for related comment by Refugee Council:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2011/february/100211_press_statement_unaccompanied_children_report

Lives in the Balance: The quality of immigration legal advice given to separated children seeking asylum – Refugee Council report

The report looks at the quality of immigration legal advice provided to separated children in the asylum system. The research was conducted through interviews with the Refugee Council’s specialist children’s advisers and some of the children they work with. While they did find examples of excellent work, they also found poor practices, resulting in some children not getting the best possible help in the asylum application process. They make a number of recommendations, including the provision of training for legal representatives who want to work with children. Please see events for examples of forthcoming training in this field from ILPA, aimed at immigration lawyers and lawyers in other areas of practice who work with refugee children.

Please follow this link to read the report in full:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2011/livesinthebalance>

Something to smile about: Promoting and supporting the educational and recreational needs of refugee children – Refugee Council Project evaluation report

The Supporting and Mentoring in Learning and Education (SMILE) project was a three-year project set up by the Refugee Council in 2008. The project was funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and operated across three regions: Greater London, the West Midlands, and Yorkshire and Humberside. It supported asylum seeking and refugee children (both separated and in families) to improve their life chances by helping them to enjoy and achieve in education, and by raising awareness of their specific needs. A key part of SMILE was to provide one to one support to the children and young people through assigning them a mentor or befriender to provide individual, tailored support. The project evaluation makes a number of recommendations, aimed at education departments locally and nationally, schools, social care teams, UKBA and Refugee Council itself.

Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2011/smilereport>

Institute of Race Relations: News report into UKBA's asylum seekers' accommodation contracts

The article looks at the history of dispersal policy over the last ten years, explores the way in which accommodation provision is moving away from local authorities to the private sector and looks ahead to the impact they anticipate from this shift in provision. Please follow this link to read the article in full:

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2011/january/ha000029.html>

Migration

Work Matters: Work, worklessness and communities – background paper and research briefing from Keystone Development Trust and Flagship Housing, Thetford

'Work Matters' will look at the main issues around work and worklessness in the 21st century, such as low pay and in-work poverty, and at the challenges facing key groups within the work force. The publication of 'Work Matters' will be followed by primary research conducted in Thetford, which will aim to gauge opinion from residents, public sector service providers, unemployed people and employers on work issues in and around Thetford. In chapter 5, there is a section which focuses on migrant workers. The researchers would welcome feedback and examples of local interventions - in particular with those 'furthest from the job market' and involving the third sector. Please follow this link to read the document in full: <http://www.keystonetrust.org.uk/documents/131.pdf>

Settlement checking service – newly available in Hertfordshire

In partnership with UKBA, Cambridgeshire County Council, along with other local authorities in England and Wales, has been offering a 'settlement checking service' for applicants who are a spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner or same-sex partner of a person who is British or settled in the UK since October 2010. Applications are checked by a trained local authority officer to ensure that the application is fully complete so as to avoid unnecessary delays. The service does not offer immigration advice, but benefits applicants by checking and returning their valuable documents. Cases submitted through a local authority are quicker to decide, compared to standard postal applications. With immediate effect, this service is now available at Hertfordshire County Council, as well as a number of other local authorities across England and Wales. For more information about the service, please follow this link: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/february/41-scs-grows>

4Children report: Families new to the UK – confident families in cohesive communities

The report examines the experiences of families new to the UK, either by migration through the asylum route or through economic migration. It finds that migrant families are not homogenous, but that there are themes which emerge from migrants who face particular challenges in trying to build a successful life for their families in the UK, such as their ESOL needs, the difficulty in navigating an unfamiliar system and raising children in new cultural environment. The report makes a series of recommendations to national government, local authorities and other professional bodies. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://www.4children.org.uk/uploads/information/Families_New_to_UK.pdf

British Council/Institute of Community Cohesion launch online intercultural dialogue guide

The British Council and Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo) have launched a new guide on difference. The Intercultural Dialogue (ICD) online resource guide aims to give policy makers and practitioners advice and good practice examples to support work on ICD. The online resource guide looks at the factors which contribute to intercultural dialogue and the challenges and opportunities this agenda presents for those working to improve understanding within and between communities. It highlights how projects in areas such as sports and the arts bring people together to build relationships of trust and mutual respect. It makes clear that, given the challenges around the ebb and flow of migration throughout the world, short-term interventions within communities are unlikely to be enough; broader-based intercultural dialogue supports the development of longer exchanges to improve communication and provide the opportunity to tackle hostility to all forms of difference. Follow this link to access the online resource guide: <http://www.cohesioninstitute.org.uk/Resources/Toolkits/InterculturalDialogue>

Ministry of Justice submissions on subject of Legal Aid reform consultation – Migrants' Rights network

Last week's newsflash reported on submissions made by the east of England Local Government Association's (EELGA) Strategic migration partnership and the Refugee Council (links provided below for comparison) to the Ministry of Justice consultation, which closed on 14 February. Another submission on the same matter has been made by the Migrants' Rights network. Please follow the link to read their submission in full:

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/MRN-Legal_Aid_February_2011.pdf

EELGA:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/Response%20to%20Ministry%20of%20Justice%20Legal%20Aid%20consultation%20Feb%202011.pdf>

Refugee Council: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2010/Legal+aid>

Events

ILPA – Working with migrant children: immigration law training for family lawyers, London, 2 March

This course will take place from 4-7.15pm and will give family law practitioners an introduction to immigration law. It will look at the general context of immigration law so that practitioners understand the framework within which children's cases sit. It will assist in embedding the 'specialist vocabulary' such lawyers learn through their work on particular cases within the general grammar of immigration law. The course will examine the interplay of family law and immigration Law and highlight the differences between the timescales, procedures and treatment of children across the courts. It will deal with procedures and strategies to employ when dealing with a variety of cases, including care proceedings, child protection issues, age disputes and family reunion.

Please follow this link to find out more about the course and to book a place: <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/children.html>

ILPA – Working with refugee children: immigration law training for community care lawyers, London, 14 March

This course will take place from 4-7.15pm and will give community care lawyers an introduction to the immigration law and policy framework relating to refugee children. It will look at the general context of immigration law so that practitioners understand the framework within which children's cases sit. Thus it will assist in embedding the 'specialist vocabulary' such lawyers learn through their work on particular cases within the general grammar of immigration law. Practitioners will develop competence in understanding the basic categories of immigration rights and in turn the ways in which immigration status impacts on with social welfare rights and entitlements. The course will examine the provision of support for eligible, qualifying, relevant and former relevant children as well as considering the consequences of age disputes and support for people leaving care.

Please follow this link to find out more about the course and to book a place: <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/children.html>

Funding

The Hilden Charitable Fund – closing date for applications 25 February

The aim of the fund is to address disadvantages, notably by supporting causes which are less likely to raise funds from public subscriptions. Their current grant making priorities in the UK are: homelessness, penal affairs, asylum seekers and refugees and community based initiatives for disadvantaged young people. The next application for grants deadline is **midday 25 February**. Please follow this link for more details of the fund and how to apply:

<http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/index.htm>

European Union through UK Border Agency calls for proposals – European Refugee Fund

The European Refugee Fund is aimed at organisations involved in setting up projects that assist the integration of refugees or people who have been granted Humanitarian Protection (HP) or who have been resettled through the Gateway Protection Programme. About £1.8m is available for new projects in 2010 in the following areas:

- Innovative refugee specific entry level English language provision;
- Innovative solutions to housing for newly granted refugees.

The minimum amount that can be applied for is £75,000 per year per project, and the maximum is £350,000 per year per project. Eligible applicants include NGOs, charities, academic institutions, local government, inter-governmental organisations, limited companies and any partnership made up of these organisations. Under EU Funding rules, the amount applied for must be matched with funds from other non-European Union sources (either 25% or 50%, depending on whether specific priorities are met, as described in the application pack).

Projects can last for up to three years. The closing date for applications is 4pm **7 April 2011**. The application pack is available via the Home Office Emptoris e-procurement site. To register for Emptoris please contact

EUfunding@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. To assist bidders in preparing their applications, one-day workshops will be held in March 2011 and limited spaces will be available on a first come, first served basis. Further details will be provided after registering on Emptoris. Please follow this link for more information:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/39-erf-eif>

European Union calls for proposals – European Integration Fund

The European Integration Fund is aimed at organisations involved in setting up projects that assist in the integration of third-country nationals who have entered the UK with a view to settlement. Approximately £5.33m is available for new projects in 2010 in the following areas:

£4.4m for projects which:

- Address capacity issues in respect of language learning;
- Develop process and programmes that help new migrants to become full and active members of UK society;
- Enable newly arrived third-country nationals to fulfil the criteria for citizenship;
- Develop programmes that provide opportunities for third-country nationals and members of the receiving community to interact with each other;

A particular focus is the provision of these activities to domestic workers currently in the UK.

£465,000 for projects which:

- Develop actions which enhance the knowledge and skills of national and local government officials in developing policy concerned with integration and building intercultural competence, e.g. written guidance and training programmes.

£465,000 for projects which:

- Will evaluate existing initiatives to support the involvement of legal migrants in volunteering and identify what works best. The information could be used to develop good practice guidance for use by future projects in the UK and could also be shared with other Member States seeking to introduce similar initiatives.

The minimum amount that can be applied for is £100,000 per year per project; there is no maximum amount.

Eligible applicants include NGOs, charities, academic institutions, local government, inter-governmental organisations, limited companies and any partnership made up of these organisations. Under EU Funding rules, the amount applied for must be matched with funds from other non-European Union sources (either 25% or 50%, depending on whether specific priorities are met, as described in the application pack). Projects can last for up to three years. The closing date for applications is 4pm **7 April 2011**. The application pack is available via the Home Office Emptoris e-procurement site. To register for Emptoris please contact EUfunding@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

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Comic Relief – cycle 6 due to open in April

The Comic Relief UK Grants Making programme makes grants of between £25,000 and £40,000 per year for up to three years. The project focuses have been defined for the period 2009 – 2012 and relate to:

- Young People with Mental Health Problems
- Sexually exploited and trafficked young people
- Domestic and sexual abuse: young people
- Mental health
- Young people and alcohol
- Older people
- Refugee and asylum-seeking women
- Sport for change

They will fund revenue and capital costs for eligible projects, to organisations from all sectors apart from religious bodies which would use the funds to promote their religion. The next cycle of applications for grants will open on **8 April 2011** and close on **1 July 2011**. For more information, please follow this link:

<http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/apply-for-a-uk-grant>

Jobs

CINTRA – non-Executive Directors needed (voluntary unremunerated posts)

Cintra Ltd is a leading agency providing high-quality interpreting and translation services to the public sector in the East of England and East Midlands. They are recruiting new non-Executive Directors as they are actively seeking to expand their operations. They are looking for people with business and entrepreneurial skills and experience, as well as experience in the health, criminal justice or local government sectors, to complement the range of business, interpreting, educational and public sector experience of the current Board.

Applicants should be strategic and creative thinkers with good team working skills and a strong track record in business or public sector development. In return, Cintra can offer a key role at Board level in a dynamic, growing

company with plenty of scope for expansion, and the opportunity to make a valuable contribution to an important social enterprise. While these posts are voluntary and not remunerated; expenses are paid.

For an informal discussion, please contact Tess Wright, Chief Executive, on 01223 346877. For general information, see www.cintra.org.uk. For an application pack e-mail recruitment@cintra.org.uk or contact Chris Sibellas, HR Administrator, on 01223 346875, at Cintra Ltd, 8 Wellington Mews, Wellington Street, Cambridge CB1 1HW. Closing date for applications: **7 March 2011**. Interview: 7 April 2011

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Tutors – International Academy, Colchester £3,675 per 5 week block plus 10.77% pro rata holiday pay

Applications are invited for qualified and experienced EAP tutors to work on the pre-session courses run by the International Academy this summer. Candidates must have an appropriate teaching qualification (RSA Diploma/PGCE in ELT or equivalent). A Masters degree in a relevant discipline is also highly desirable. Applicants who have experience of teaching in tertiary education in the UK are particularly welcome. Applicants who can also offer EAP experience in working with specific academic disciplines are strongly encouraged to apply.

The essential criteria for the post are:

- Advanced practical qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (for example: Cambridge/RSA Diploma TEFLA; Diploma TESOL (Licentiate) Trinity College)
- Extensive and varied experience of TEFL, TESP/TEAP experience
- Ability and willingness to teach a range of ELT skills to an advanced level
- Satisfactory professional references
- Ability to work under pressure and as part of a team of teachers under a course leader
- Ability to keep clear records and give oral and written feedback

Applicants should send a CV and covering letter summarising suitability for the post to the address below by **30 June 2011**.

Judith Herbert, International Academy (REF: PS2011)
University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex C04 3SQ
Email: jherbert@essex.ac.uk

Please follow this link for more details of the posts:

http://jobs.essex.ac.uk/fe/tpl_essex01.asp?s=FGpRoUZwJhYKpMmYhe&jobid=55671,2202257261&key=37760723&c=416215493412&pagestamp=seirenpvulusanosnn

Amnesty International (AI)- Campaign Coordinator - Make International Justice Real. Temporary post, 5.5 months, full time - £32,256, Central London

Amnesty International is looking for a Campaign Coordinator to join its *Make International Justice Real* campaign. The campaign builds upon almost two decades of work to build a system of international justice that can step in when national authorities fail to investigate and prosecute crimes under international law: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, torture, extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances. The role is to develop and implement campaign strategies on international justice issues. The successful applicant will manage and coordinate the campaign actions while supporting, liaising and providing expert advice to other programmes within the international secretariat, the AI movement and outside networks to ensure maximum impact of the campaign.

AI are looking for an enthusiastic campaigner with substantial experience of developing campaign strategies and objectives, who will have experience of campaigning on and understanding international justice and human rights issues. S/he will have proven knowledge of leading and implementing campaigns at the national & international level to help deliver the needs of the campaign and have innovative and creative campaigning techniques to inspire existing activists and appeal to new audiences across the globe. S/he will also need to have sensitivity to different cultures, effective writing and communication skills and a working knowledge of Arabic, French or Spanish would be an advantage. For more information, please follow this link:

https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim_jobdetail.asp?partnerid=25219&siteid=5255&jobid=762047

The closing date for applications is **27 February 2011**.

Amnesty International (AI) Assistant Legal Adviser. Fixed term to 31 October 2011, full time, £32256, Central London

The assistant legal adviser reports to the Senior Legal Adviser and will make a significant contribution to the work of the Law and Policy Programme including providing advice on country and thematic issues, assisting with implementing campaign strategies with international organizations such as the UN and helping to develop productive relations with our supporters and membership. S/he will also monitor international law developments and its implementation at national level and develop relations with other NGOs to promote and work towards AI's goals. The successful candidate should have a strong knowledge of international human rights law and will have knowledge of the UN human rights system and international courts. S/he will combine an instinctive feel for evaluating and analyzing situations with an objectivity, impartiality and sensitivity in carrying out the work. S/he will also have the energy and dynamism to work with others and on their own, to develop and implement campaign and lobbying strategies.

For more information, please follow this link:

https://sjobs.brassring.com/1033/ASP/TG/cim_jobdetail.asp?partnerid=25219&siteid=5255&jobid=769035

Closing date for applications is **23 February 2011**.

Please also follow this link to find out about **Legal Adviser** and **Senior Legal Adviser** posts also available:

http://www.amnesty.org/en/jobs_all/vacant-positions?

Administrative Assistant - Policy and Partnership Section, Central Services, West Norfolk Partnership - Salary in the range £14139 - £17457, Kings Court Offices, West Norfolk

The successful applicant will provide general administrative and clerical support for the Policy & Partnerships Team and West Norfolk Partnership to aid the smooth and effective operation of the team and its work programme. Applicants should be highly organised with a good knowledge of administrative procedures, keyboard skills, computer systems (including Word, Excel PowerPoint and Outlook), and filing. S/he will have excellent communication skills including the ability to effectively deal with members of the public both face to face and on the telephone.

Application packs are available by contacting Personnel Services at personnel@west-norfolk.gov.uk or on 01553 616662. Anyone needing recruitment literature in another format should please contact West Norfolk directly. The closing date for applications is **3 March 2011** and the interviews will be held 14 March 2011.

West Norfolk Partnership Data Analyst, Policy & Partnership - starting salary between £16962 and £21054 - Kings Court Council Offices, West Norfolk

This role is ideal for someone who wants to see data and numbers practically applied to help identify and solve problems. In this role within the West Norfolk Partnership team, the successful candidate will prepare reports and area profiles that do just this. S/he will interpret data from a wide range of sources and organisations and will help the partnership address local issues and track the impact of its work. S/he will also help the partnership to develop their data observatory (<http://dawn.localknowledge.co.uk/>). Applicants should have an inquiring mind and knowledge of statistical analysis, research methods and data presentation, and experience of using technology to support this.

Application packs are available by contacting Personnel Services at personnel@west-norfolk.gov.uk or on 01553 616662. Anyone who requires recruitment literature in another format should contact them directly. The closing date for applications is **3 March 2011** and interviews will be held **15 March 2011**.

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