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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

UK Border Agency (UKBA) – interim assessment of family returns pilot – alternative to child detention

On 1 June 2010 the UK Border Agency began a review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. This led to the creation of a new returns process consisting of three stages:

- Assisted Return
- Required Return
- Ensured Return

Please follow this link to find out more about the pilot <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/strategic-migration-partnership/asylum-refugee-integration-Copy.aspx>

Please follow this link to read the findings of this interim review:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/26-end-child-detention/pilots-initial-assessment.pdf?view=Binary>

Suffolk Refugee Support Forum (SRSF), Ipswich – funding news

SRSF announced in their most recent newsletter that they have secured three year funding from the Big Lottery. Whilst this new funding does not cover all their running costs, they know that they will be able to continue to deliver a service for another three years, and are working hard to secure the balance of funds they need to run the full range of services they presently offer.

Unsustainable: the quality of initial decision making in women’s asylum claims – a report by Asylum Aid

This report examined the quality of initial decisions made by UKBA when women claim asylum. It also provides an in-depth study of the quality of decisions made under the New Asylum Model, introduced in 2007. The report found that women’s asylum claims present issues that can be complex and challenging, and 50% of initial refusals were overturned on appeal (compared to an average of all asylum claims of 28%). Amongst other findings, the report looks at the lack of adequate legal representation which, due to the funding of legal aid, discourages legal representatives from taking the most complex cases to appeal. UKBA looked at the findings of the report and confirmed that its own internal data indicated a disproportionately high number of refusal decisions for women being overturned on appeal and has agreed to examine the data further.

To read the report in full, please follow this link: <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/unsustainableweb.pdf>

High Court ruling: detaining two families held at Yarls Wood was unlawful

The High Court has ruled that two families held at Yarls Wood Immigration Detention Centre were unlawfully detained. *Suppiah and others v Secretary of State for the Home Department* concerned two mothers and their young children who were locked up last year after dawn raids on their homes. The judge also noted that ‘no one can seriously dispute that detention is capable of causing significant and in some instances long lasting harm to children’.

Please follow these links to read the press release from Liberty <http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/media/press/2011/yarls-wood-families-detention-ruled-unlawful.php> and an article from the Guardian reporting the case: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jan/11/yarls-wood-child-detention-unlawful>

Justice Secretary announces Morton Hall prison, Lincolnshire to become an immigration detention centre

Ken Clarke announced that Morton Hall, which has the capacity to hold 392 female inmates, is to become Britain’s ninth immigration detention centre, bringing the overall detention capacity in the UK to nearly 3500.

Please follow this link to see the story reported in the Guardian:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/jan/13/prisons-close-immigration-ken-clarke?>

Dublin System: returning asylum seeker to Greece ruled unlawful by the European Court of Human Rights

The case of M.S.S v Belgium & Greece concerned an Afghan asylum seeker who fled Kabul in 2008, entered the European Union through Greece and travelled to Belgium where he applied for asylum. According to the Dublin Regulation, the first Member State that an asylum seeker enters should be the one to examine the asylum application. So, Belgium returned M.S.S to Greece in June 2009, where he was detained in degrading and overcrowded conditions before living on the streets without any material support. The Court confirmed that MSS was exposed to inhuman and degrading treatment (in violation of Article 3 of the ECHR), and that his right to an effective remedy (Article 13 of the ECHR) was violated. Pending this judgment and other court challenges, some European countries including the UK, Sweden, Belgium, Iceland, Norway and the Netherlands had suspended transfers of asylum seekers to Greece. Germany took a similar step this week. Greece is undertaking efforts to reform its asylum system. Legislation has recently been adopted to establish procedures to deal with new asylum applications and the backlog of 54000 asylum claims pending examination. However, the country has not had a functioning asylum system for several years.

Please follow this link for details of the judgement and press release from European Council on Refugees and Exiles: http://www.ecre.org/resources/Press_releases/1702?

Refugee Council marks its 60th birthday

It is the 60th anniversary of the UN convention on human rights, and coincides with the birth of the Refugee Council. Please follow this link to see what is on the Refugee Council's birthday wish list:

http://refugeecouncil.typepad.com/poliblog/2011/01/a-birthday-wish-list-for-the-refugee-council.html?dm_i=l6P,CE6P,31R5LZ,Z5CF,1

Azure payment card information leaflet updated

The Asylum Support Partnership, a partnership of five refugee charities, has updated the Azure payment card leaflet. The card was introduced in early 2010 and enables people granted Section 4 support to buy food and essential items through an automated card payment system in those shops which have agreed to accept the card. The leaflet explains how the Azure card works and provides information on what to do if there are problems. It has been translated into a variety of refugee languages and is available at the Refugee Council's multi-lingual website: <http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/english/index.htm>

Migration

Migration Impact Fund report from London borough of Wandsworth – Housing and Environmental health

The report measures the scale and type of inward migration and looks at the issues faced with accessing housing by refugees, EU migrant workers and those coming under the points based scheme, and finds that those entering under the points based system lived in better quality housing than those entering via other routes. It has detailed sections which look at environmental health inspections in houses in multiple occupation, and also includes ESOL lessons devised to help raise awareness of housing rights and responsibilities.

To read the report in full, please follow this link:

http://www.barkauk.org/news/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/MIP_Report.pdf

FAQs sheet: rights for A8 nationals after May 2011, from the Aire Centre and Migrants' rights network

The Aire Centre and Migrants' Rights Network have compiled this document to address questions about eligibility to welfare benefits that will change when the Workers' Registration Scheme (WRS) ceases on 1 May 2011. Please follow this link to read the document in full:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Migrant%20workers/FAQs%20rights%20of%20A8s%20after%201%20May%202011.pdf>

Institute of Public Policy & Research (IPPR) challenges MigrationWatch cost of 'bogus students'

A recent MigrationWatch report used data from the Home Office to estimate the cost of non-compliance at £500m per year. This article from IPPR challenges this figure and the assumptions made by the MigrationWatch report's authors. Please follow this link to read the article in full: <http://www.ippr.org/articles/?id=4300>

Events

Mental Health awareness training for Norwich BME community groups, 16 February, Norwich - Mind

This workshop examines myths and misconceptions around mental health issues, signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar affective disorder and self harm, responding to mental health issues as well as looking at what help is available and what helps and hinders recovery. The workshop is free of charge and takes place at Mind's offices, 50 Sale Road, Norwich, NR7 9TP between 9:30 and 4:00 on 16 February. Anyone interested in attending should contact Dr Joy Barredo on 01603 432 457 ext 7 or e: joybarredo@norwichmind.org.uk If an interpreter is needed for a participant, please let Mind know and they will arrange for interpretation to be provided.

Budget cuts seminar: Managing change. 22 February, Kings Cross, London

This half day seminar is for public sector commissioners, partnership managers and voluntary sector organisations delivering public services. It comes at a time when publicly funded organisations of all sectors are being forced to make drastic changes to their budgets and activities. Time allowed to this is short, and organisations already under pressure are struggling to achieve financial efficiencies at the same time as delivering high quality services. This seminar looks at how to manage change and continue to plan strategically in this challenging climate. The event is to be chaired by Brian Horner, Voluntary Norfolk, and features presentations from Thames Reach and Merton VCS, runs from 2pm to 5pm and costs members of NCVO £35, non-members £50. Please follow this link for more information and details of how to register: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/psd/managingchange>

Working with migrant children: Immigration law training for family lawyers from Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA). London, 2 March

This course 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. Thus it will assist in embedding the 'specialist vocabulary' such lawyers learn though 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 register and find out about other ILPA training courses:
http://www.ilpa.org.uk/?dm_i=i6P,CE6P,31R5LZ,Z9QH,1

New certificate of management for charities and social enterprises from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), Cambridge: March 2011

Anyone working in a charity, social enterprise, or voluntary organisation who wants to improve their skills while studying for an accredited qualification in management will be interested in this opportunity from Anglia Ruskin University's new Certificate in Higher Education: Charity & Social Enterprise Management. This new pathway begins in March 2011, and has been designed with the busy third sector professional (and his or her organisation) in mind. There will be modules on third sector management, marketing, finance & funding, social impact, social enterprise, and HR management. Learning will take the form of a 'blended approach' - a one day workshop every four weeks, supplemented by online learning and tutorials. The course is part-time over two years and it will be launched in Cambridge, although subsequent venues may be elsewhere in the region depending on students' locations. The first intake of students will benefit from funding from the university's Higher Skills @Work programme, meaning that they will be entitled to a 50% discount on fees. To find out more, please contact ARU on: t: 0845 196 6888 e: 3rdsectorfutures@anglia.ac.uk w: www.3rdsectorfutures.co.uk

Funding

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) grant funding programme 2011-12 to 2014-15. Up to £150000 per year.

The programme will focus on funding voluntary and community sector organisations that provide advice and support for HMRC customers who need help meeting their obligations and claiming their entitlements. The closing date for funding applications is **9 March 2011**. The funding programme categories are:

- Providing advice and support
- Capacity building

- Efficiency, productivity and innovation

The focus of the strategy is to support HMRC customers who need help complying with its requirements and claiming their entitlements. The customers may:

- have low literacy have poor financial skills
- lack English language skills
- be coping with disabilities
- be coping with mental health issues, or
- need help to cope with key life events – such as household breakdown, going in and out of work, preparing for retirement, going into long term care, or bereavement

Anyone interested in applying must first complete an on-line eligibility assessment by **25 January**.

Please follow this link for more information:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/vcs/grant-funding-news.htm?dm_i=IMP,CJ4Z,3039NF,ZKVM,1

Department for Education (DfE) Social Work Practice pilots (SWPs) for looked after children

The Department for Education (DfE) is piloting social work practices for looked-after children in England. Five pilots are already running in Kent, Liverpool, Hillingdon, Staffordshire and Blackburn, with Darwen, which started in 2008. Additional pilots have been approved by the minister to start in 2011, with the aim of seeking ways of improving the experiences and outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in care. The Social Work Practices Pilot programme has enabled the creation of independent, social-worker led organisations to deliver services for looked-after children and young people. Social workers have moved out of public sector employment to form their own employee-owned social enterprise. The pilots are testing out whether social work practices can provide a better experience and better outcomes for looked-after children, effective and innovative ways of working and increased job satisfaction for social workers. Independent evaluation of the first five pilots will be carried out. SWPs are a leading model in the Government's wider agenda of the Big Society and a key commitment of the Coalition Government to give public sector workers the right to form employee-owned cooperatives and to bid to run the services they provide.

Applicants in the Eastern region should submit an expression of interest to the Peterborough City council contact below by the closing date of midday on **4 February 2011**. A provider bidder day will be held on **31 January 2011**, where additional information to support potential bidders will be provided. This will be an all day event starting from 10am. To book a place, please contact socialwork.practices@education.gsi.gov.uk by **26 January 2011**. The DfE are currently offering two places per provider on a first come, first served basis up to 55 places. An agenda and venue information will be made available prior to the day.

Michelle O'Connor - Peterborough City Council T: 01733 864357 E: michelle.o'connor@peterborough.gov.uk

For more information, please follow this link:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguarding/socialworkreform/a0068761/social-work-practice-pilots-swps-additional-pilots>

European partner search for lifelong learning programme

Agenzia per lo Sviluppo dell'Empolese Valdelsa spa. is an Italian organisation managed by local municipalities and social partners, specialising in adult education, vocational training and career guidance. In addition it also manages an intercultural centre addressed to migrants and carries out educational activities in local schools. They are proposing to submit a number of multilateral projects under this year's lifelong learning call and would be interested to hear from anyone in need of partners.

Anyone interested in becoming a partner should contact as follows: Mr. Leonardo Evangelista,

Agenzia per lo Sviluppo dell'Empolese Valdelsa spa, Via delle Fiascaie, 12- 50053 EMPOLI

t: +39 3384640194 f: +39 0571 725041 e: leonardo@orientamento.it www.asev.it

Jobs

Part-time Library Assistant (5hrs per week) Near and Middle Eastern Department (Part Time)

University Library Vacancy Reference No: VE07686 Salary: £15,292-£17,606 pa, pro rata

Applications are invited for the part-time post of Library Assistant working in the Near and Middle Eastern Department of the University Library. The successful applicant will contribute to the effective running of the Department assisting with processes relating to the accessioning and cataloguing of new publications. There are also clerical and manual tasks which form part of the duties.

Applicants should have good communication and IT skills and a good level of general education (equivalent to GCSE level or above). Previous experience of work in a library environment would be an advantage and some knowledge of at least one Middle Eastern language is essential. The post requires a methodical and accurate working style, flexibility and the ability to work as part of a team. Familiarity with academic literature and the use of academic libraries by staff and students would be useful.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by:

Yasmin Faghihi e:yf227@cam.ac.uk or Catherine Anson e:caa1@cam.ac.uk

Further details and a CHRIS/5 application form can be downloaded from their website

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Vacancies/index.htm#553>

or are available from the Library Offices, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DR, telephone (01223) 747453, e: admin@lib.cam.ac.uk. Applications should be returned to the Library Office, at the above address either by post or electronically to admin@lib.cam.ac.uk (but not both) and must be made on the form supplied. Closing date: **9 February 2011**, 12 noon.

European Council on Refugees and Exile (ECRE): Events internship paid for 11 months (brutto 708 euro) (Belgian Contract – “Contrat belge d’immersion professionnelle”), Brussels

ECRE is looking for an Events Intern to assist them in fulfilling its organisational objectives by contributing to the achievement of activities within its activities plan and to assist the Training Officer to carry out its tasks by assisting with logistics when organising meetings and training programmes. The successful candidate needs to have a first degree, be fluent in English and have knowledge of one other European language.

Please follow this link for more information: http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Events_Internship_2011.pdf?

Anyone interested should send their cv with a covering letter by **4 February** to Ronald Simon (rsimon@ecre.org)

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