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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

The Wages of Fear: risk, safety and undocumented work – a report by Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PARFAS) and the University of Liverpool

The report examines the experiences of undocumented workers – mainly refused asylum seekers – who live at the margins of the workforce. The report finds that while they recognise that if they are discovered working, they risk sanctions by UKBA, including deportation, but this fear of discovery acts as a disciplinary mechanism that reaches into all aspects of the labour process: the enforcement of low wages, long working hours and poor safety conditions.

Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://www.pafras.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/The_Wages_of-Fear.pdf

Impact Report 2009/10 – Refugee Council

The report sets out the impact that the Refugee Council's work has had on its client group in 2009/10, and looks forward to plans for 2010/11, its 60th anniversary year. It also sets out essential financial facts about the cost of providing its services.

Please follow this link to read the document in full: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/about/impact>

UKBA not to renew housing contract in north east England

UK Border Agency had decided not to renew the contract of the North East public sector consortium, which currently provides accommodation and support to 1100 asylum seekers throughout the north east region and has done so for ten years. The Consortium is made up of seven local authorities with extensive experience of settling asylum seekers into communities. The contract renewal was due in May 2011 and has been awarded to a private contractor.

For more information please contact the North East Strategic Migration Partnership on info@nesmp.org.uk or telephone: 0191 277 1654

Migration

A review of evidence of the equality strands in the East of England – a report from MENTER and Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) Equalities Group

This report is the first review focussed on specific issues within a region and it follows the publication of a national review of information around the protected characteristics done by the National Equality Partnership in 2008. The report's findings were presented to an international audience at the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion conference in Vienna prior to its publication. Readers may find its regional focus on protected characteristics a useful tool to evidence a need when applying for funding or lobbying on behalf of a specific disadvantaged group.

Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://menter.org.uk/sites/default/files/June%202010_A_review_of_Equalities_Evidence.PDF

Migration review 2010/11 – a report from Institute of Public Policy and Research (IPPR)

The review forecasts that despite the government's efforts, net immigration to the UK looks unlikely to fall significantly in 2011. If the UK economy continues to recover, they even expect to see increases in some forms of immigration for work, despite the cap. Other forms of immigration – such as refugee flows, family migration and the return of British nationals to the UK – also look set to continue at roughly their current levels. The report concludes that the likely continuation of net immigration at relatively high levels will put further pressure on the government policy agenda. Politically, they expect the government to come under fire from anti-migration groups (if immigration numbers continue to rise) and from the employers, universities and communities who will be directly affected by policy changes.

Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=797>

World Migration Report for 2010 – from International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

IOM has recently published this report, highlighting the main migration related issues that arose throughout 2010 and their forecast of likely trends in the near future. According to the report, there are an estimated 214 million international migrants, which could reach 405 million by 2050 if growth continues at the same pace. It is expected that migration will therefore continue to challenge States and societies in the years ahead. The report identifies environmental change, labour migration, irregular migration, migration and development, integration and migration governance as the areas expected to undergo the greatest transformation in the future. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/WMR_2010_ENGLISH.pdf

How fair is Britain? A report from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

Every three years the EHRC is required to report to Parliament on the progress that society is making in relation to equality, human rights and good relations. It brings together evidence from a range of sources, including Census data, surveys and research, to paint a picture of how far what happens in people's real lives matches up to the ideals of equality. In essence, it helps answer the question, how fair is Britain today? Through this process the EHRC has identified 15 significant challenges, grouped under five major objectives which speak to what we believe are fundamental values in our society: that every individual should have an equal chance to make the most of their talents, capabilities and endeavour; and that no one should have poorer life chances because of where, what or to whom they were born.

Please follow this link: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/triennial-review/online-summary>

Scottish Parliament launches 'myth-busting' campaign to dispel migrant misinformation

The Scottish Parliament's report, *Equal Opportunities Committee Report: Inquiry into Migration and Trafficking* calls for a campaign because the inquiry revealed a lack of awareness about migrants and their reasons for coming to Scotland, and that this has helped to fuel negativity towards them. For example, the committee heard that terms such as "bogus asylum seeker" and "illegal immigrant" are often used as generic terms by the public to describe all migrants – who may have come to Scotland for a variety of reasons, including to work or study. The committee heard how migrants contribute hugely to their economy, however this is generally either not known or acknowledged.

Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-10/eor10-05-00.htm>

Events

Migrant Rights Network (MRN) Annual General Meeting – 27 January, Kings Cross, London

MRN invite those who are active in work supporting the rights of migrants to join them on 27 January to the launch of their 2010 annual report and their work for 2011. This will be both an opportunity to catch-up with colleagues and to discuss the progress of the movement for the rights of migrants in the UK. The focus of the evening will be how to meet the challenges in the year ahead and beyond. Rob Berkeley, the Director of the Runnymede Trust – the policy group working on the issue of race equality in the UK, will be speaking to provide his reflection on immigrant struggles for rights and against racism over the past 50 years.

This meeting is free and the event will start at 6.30PM at the Hub @ Kings Cross. Please follow this link to register to attend: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1076089613/mcivte>

Anne Frank exhibition to mark Holocaust Memorial Day – week beginning 31 January, HMP Whitemoor March PE15 OPR

The exhibition will be hosted on behalf of the Anne Frank Trust in the staff mess building, outside the main prison building. While the exhibition looks back at the life of Anne Frank and the rise of Nazism, it examines contemporary themes around migration and diversity in Britain and hate crimes. The exhibition is suitable for those aged 13 or over. Additionally, a Holocaust survivor, Eva Clarke, is a guest speaker on 1 February. Groups are welcome to attend, but need to make a booking first, by contacting one of the following:

Martin Butler	e: martin.j.butler@hmpps.gsi.gov.uk	t: 01354 602354
Gina Butler	e: georgina.butler@hmpps.gsi.gov.uk	t: 01354 602839
John Storm	e: john.storm@hmpps.gsi.gov.uk	t: 01354 602460
Pete Singleton	e: pete.singleton2@hmpps.gsi.gov.uk	t: 01354 602451

For more information about the exhibition, please follow this link: <http://www.annefrank.org.uk/node/50>

Funding

BT Community Connections – funding for free broadband for a year

This is an award scheme which offers community groups the chance to get online and help people discover the wonders of the internet. Groups which help the community access the internet and improve people's ICT skills are eligible to apply for a year's free broadband. Applications should be received by 13 January. Follow the link below for more information and to apply:

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/BTCommunityconnections/index.htm>

LandAid's Annual Grants Programme for disadvantaged or homeless people

LandAid's annual grants programme has now opened and is inviting applications for funding. Those organisations which have projects which helps disadvantaged or homeless people, especially the young, can apply for up to £25,000 to provide accommodation or assist in meeting accommodation needs, refurbish or renew facilities or deliver training, life skills or other educational programmes. The deadline for applications is 31 January. For more information, click on this link: <http://www.landaid.org/latest-landaid-news/landaid-grant-programme-opens.html>

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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