

[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

Migrant Children's Project - training for staff working with refugee and asylum seeking children

The Migrant Children's Project at the Children's Legal Centre aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals understand the rights and entitlements of this group of children. Training covers the rights, laws and benefits that affect refugee and asylum seeking children, and how their needs can be best addressed.

Training can be tailored to the specific needs of the client and is offered on site or at the Colchester office of the Children's Legal Centre. A maximum of 20 staff can participate in single training session.

For further information about this training and to discuss your requirements, please contact: Kamena Dorling, Legal and Policy Officer, Migrant Children's Project on 0207 5801664, email kadorl@essex.ac.uk

Refugee Council briefing on Home Office asylum statistics for 2011 (October 2011)

Each quarter the Home Office statistics bulletin on immigration includes details of applications and decisions made under the asylum process. This briefing pulls out the asylum statistics for the second quarter of 2011 and collates the figures from the four bulletins into annual totals.

Refugee Council briefing:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/briefings/Asylum%20Statistics%20Updated%20Oct11.pdf>

Report on an unannounced short follow-up inspection of Haslar Immigration Removal Centre in Portsmouth

A report into Haslar Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Portsmouth has shown that while conditions in the centre have improved over the last two years, there has been no progress on immigration casework, and the welfare of vulnerable detainees, including young people and torture survivors, has been put at risk.

Full report:

[Report on an unannounced short follow-up inspection of Haslar Immigration Removal Centre \(31 May - 3 June 2011\) by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons](#)

Asylum applications in industrialized countries rise in first six months in 2011

Industrialized countries saw a 17 per cent increase in asylum applications in the first half of this year, with most claimants coming from countries with long-standing displacement situations. UNHCR's "Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, First Half 2011" report also shows that 198,300 asylum applications were lodged in the period between 1 January 1 and 30 June, compared to 169,300 in the same period in 2010. The United States had more claims (36,400) than any other industrialized nation, followed by France with (26,100), Germany (20,100), Sweden (12,600) and the United Kingdom (12,200).

Further information:

<http://www.unhcr.org/news-and-views/news-list/news-detail/article/asylum-applications-in-industrialized-countries-rise-in-first-six-months-in-2011.html>

"Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, First Half 2011" – full report:

<http://www.unhcr.org/4e9beaa19.html>

Migration

Russian Language School, Teremok, Hitchin – all students welcome

Russian language school "TEREMOK" Hitchin, Hertfordshire invites students age 2 to 99 who want to learn or improve their Russian language skills, and gain an understanding of Russian traditions and culture. Their classes

are open to children from 2-17 who are native Russian speakers, for anyone aged over 7 who wants to learn Russian as a second language or for those who are over 7, from bi-lingual families who don't yet know Russian. Classes are between 11am and 2pm on Saturdays at St Andrew CoE Primary School, Benslow Lane, Hitchin, SG4 9RD. For more information please contact Galyna on 07735 023755.

Forced Labour and UK Immigration Policy – study from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

This paper from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation:

- investigates the links between immigration status and migrants' vulnerability to forced labour;
- explores how socio-legal status (specific rights to residence, work and social welfare) impacts on migrants' risk of forced labour, and;
- reviews UK immigration policy, to assess how far it may reduce or facilitate the use of forced labour.

Please follow this link to read the study in full: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/forced-labour-and-uk-immigration>

Reduction in jobs available to migrants

Specialist jobs that are no longer required in the UK will be removed from a government-approved list that helps to ensure the UK only accepts migrant workers that the country needs.

The shortage occupation is part of the Tier 2 immigration route via the Points Based System. Highly skilled migrants from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) seeking to work in the UK must apply for visas via this route.

On 18 October the government accepted recommendations from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) that will see the number of jobs covered by the list drop by 40,000, bringing the total down from 230,000 to 190,000. Only a minority of these jobs will be filled by migrant workers.

Further information and new shortage occupation list (valid from 14 November 2011):

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/october/45-migrant-jobs-reduction>

'Thinking Behind the Numbers: Understanding Public Opinion on Immigration in Britain' – The Migration Observatory report

To try to build a more detailed understanding of public attitudes to immigration the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford commissioned polling firm Ipsos MORI to ask a series of questions about immigration and immigrants to a representative sample of 1,002 adults living in the Britain. The survey took place during 2-8 September 2011.

Executive summary:

<http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/understanding-uk-public-opinion/executive-summary>

Full report:

[Download the report in PDF format](#)

Migration and Global Environmental Change – final project report

A new international report, published on 20 October by Foresight, reveals that the major challenges associated with migration and environmental change have been underestimated. By focusing solely on those that might leave vulnerable areas, we risk neglecting those that will be 'trapped' and those that will actually move towards danger.

It also shows that migration can have a transformative role in helping communities adapt to hazardous conditions.

This is a critical finding for policy makers working to avert costly humanitarian disasters in the future.

Executive summary and full version of the report are available on:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/foresight/our-work/projects/current-projects/global-migration/reports-publications>

Events

British Institute of Human Rights - a free-to-attend Human Rights Tour – 1 November, Norwich

MENTER work with the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) to make human rights happen. BIHR is running a free-to-attend Human Rights Tour, visiting 16 UK cities from September to December 2011. Events will celebrate the Human Rights Act, look at how human rights relate to the Coalition's plans, and address human rights issues both nationally and specific to each region visited. The tour is part funded by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

In the East of England, MENTER, working with BIHR and the English Regions Equality Network, are running an event at the King's Centre, Norwich on 1 November 2011. 70 people have already booked for this event. To get a place, you need to register as soon as possible by visiting:

<http://www.bihar.org.uk/events/bihar-national-human-rights-tour-information-page>

Please note that in order to make the Human Rights Tour possible, each event is likely to be *BYOL* - Bring Your Own Lunch.

Amnesty International Ely City Group Lecture – 1 November, Ely

On Tuesday 1 November at 7.30pm in the South Transept of Ely Cathedral, Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe from the Institute of Criminology, University of Cambridge will give a lecture entitled "Hidden victims: the criminalisation of migrant women". Entry is free and there will be refreshments afterwards.

The Inclusion Conference: Pathways to Wellbeing, 9:30am-4:00pm, 16 November, The King's Centre, Norwich

Join the Inclusion Project team at Norwich Mind for this free event to look back on 3 years of the Inclusion Project, and celebrate best practice in working with BME communities in Norwich. The day will feature special guest speakers, as well as interactive workshops teaching you complementary therapies and other skills for personal wellbeing. There will also be a launch of 'the Inclusion Book' – a wellbeing guide and reference book for people who come to Norwich from different cultural backgrounds.

Attendance is free and a delicious international lunch will be provided

To book a place on this exciting event, please contact Inclusion on 01603 432 457 (option 6) or email alex.sheppard@norwichmind.org.uk

MENTER's AGM – 21 November 2011

MENTER's AGM will take place on Monday 21 November, from 4pm, at St. Luke's Barn, French's Road, Cambridge CB4 3JZ. The focus of the AGM will be on how to tackle the rising poverty levels in BME communities in the East of England.

At the time when MENTER members are facing funding cuts, the organisation is interested in what it can do to better support the development of the BME organisations and partnerships in the East of England.

Please contact MENTER for more information on 01223 355034.

Funding

Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Supported Options Fund

The Supported Options Fund aims to provide support and advice to young people (up to 30 years of age) and children in the UK who do not have regular immigration status. Many of these young people often feel that they are unable, or for various reasons are unwilling, to approach organisations for help. There may also be only very limited options available through which they can seek to address their situation.

The fund was established by the PHF Social Justice programme with support from US-based organisation Unbound Philanthropy, with the hope that, through innovative approaches, it may be able to help bring about the creation of trusted and reliable means through which these young people can seek help. They are now inviting expressions of interest from organisations who may wish to apply to this Fund, which is open to those anywhere in the UK.

The closing date for expressions of interest, which should be a maximum of 6 pages, is 5pm on **15 November**.

Please follow this link for more information: <http://phf.org.uk/page.asp?changes=0&latest=1&id=884>

Cambridgeshire County Council - 2012 Small Grants for celebrations and events Helping you celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Cambridgeshire County Council has funding to help local groups and organisations create activities and events that will celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in the local community. Your celebration must be inspired by London 2012, but it does not have to be a new event or activity.

We would like you to devise celebrations in your community that 'welcome the world' or involve and inspire young people and create a lasting and positive legacy in the community. Grants will be up to a maximum of £500 and additional funding or support in kind will be expected.

Guidelines and application form:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/olympics2012/Small+Grants+2012.htm>

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

If you have had this passed on to you and you want to receive e-mail updates yourself, you can subscribe by emailing louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk

If you wish to unsubscribe from the Newsflash please email louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk

