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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, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Family wing at Yarl's Wood detention centre to close

Children will no longer be held at Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre in Bedfordshire, the government has pledged. Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg told parliament the government would "close Yarl's Wood Detention Centre for good". The Home Office then had to clarify that only the family unit would close, but the adult facility would stay open.

Follow the link for the report on the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-10715149>

Settlement protection for refugees

From August 2005, refugees and those granted humanitarian protection were given five years limited leave to remain (LTR) and that leave is due to expire from August 2010 onwards.

This means that refugees or those – and their dependants - who have been granted humanitarian protection and continue to need protection must all apply for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) before the leave expires.

For more information on who this affects and how to apply, please follow the link to the [Asylum section](#) of the UKBA website.

Home Secretary commits to ending violence against women

Theresa May told the audience at the annual Women's Aid conference, in her first speech on this issue, that violence against women would be a priority for the government and committed to continuing, to the end of this financial year, the pilot scheme which helps victims of domestic violence who have no recourse to public funds because of their immigration status – and committed to finding a long-term solution to ensure victims are protected after that. The scheme provides support to victims in the UK on a spouse or partner visa who have been forced to flee the family home because of domestic violence.

For full details, please use the following link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/ending-violence-against-women>

European regions and local authorities for asylum and immigration (ERLAI) newsletter

The new edition (issue no. 25) of the ERLAI newsletter is now available on ERLAI website, and includes latest developments in the field of "unaccompanied minors".

A separate briefing note by Lucie Gallagher, East of England European Partnership on the issue around unaccompanied minors is available on the EELGA website, via the link below.

http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/Briefing%20on%20the%20EU%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Unaccompanied%20Minors_July2010_.pdf

Follow the link for further details:

<http://www.emiliaromagnasociale.it/wcm/emiliaromagnasociale/home/immigrazione/Erlai/Presentation/Newsletter/Last.htm>

Ireland has one of the lowest EU rates of granting refugee status

Only 14 asylum seekers have been granted asylum at first instance in Ireland this year, out of a total of 1,014 applications. This is an acceptance rate of only 1.38% according to the Office of Refugee Applications

Commissioner (ORAC). Previously in 2009 Ireland already had the second lowest rate of recognition of refugees in Europe, with an overall acceptance rate of just 6% according to the 2009 Eurostat report. Only Greece had and still has a lower rate with 1.2%. In contrast, the European average recognition rate is 27%.

UNHCR issued a statement expressing concern on the “low” acceptance rates, which also highlighted the need to engage with the government to further understand the contributory factors behind the current rates.

Source:

- Irish Times, '[State has EU's lowest rate of granting refugee status](#)'

For further information:

- ORAC, '[Monthly statistics](#)'

- ORAC, '[Annual Report – 2009](#)'

- Eurostat, '[Around 261,000 asylum applicants from 151 different countries were registered in the EU-27 in 2009](#)'

Stars across the globe raise their hands to stop child trafficking

A petition calling for the UK Government to put the safety and wellbeing of young victims of trafficking at the heart of their plans launched last week spearheaded by ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) UK and The Body Shop. The campaign has already secured a raft of high level support from the UK and beyond with stars such as Rob Lowe, Matt LeBlanc, Robert Pattison, Sienna Miller, Joanna Lumley, Yoko Ono, Naomi Campbell, Sir Ben Kingsley, Claudia Winkleman, Jo Wood, Martine McCutcheon, Craig David and Gordon Banks all submitting their handprints to support the campaign.

The Body Shop and ECPAT have partnered in a three year global campaign to stop the trafficking of children and young people, uphold their rights to be protected from exploitation and inspire long-term change to strengthen the protection offered to these children and young people.

In the UK, the Government is being called on to offer greater care and protection to child victims of trafficking by ensuring every child is provided with a guardian to look after them.

The Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People Petition will be activated in some 66 countries around the world. Those interested in signing the petition can follow the link at www.thebodyshop.com/stop or sign in any The Body Shop store. For the full press release, follow this link: http://www.ecpat.org.uk/press_01.html

Migration

New fee for the reconsideration of naturalisation and citizenship applications

From 1 September 2010, UKBA will introduce a fee of £100 to reconsider applications for naturalisation and British citizenship that have previously been refused.

From then, all requests for the reconsideration of these applications must be accompanied by a fee of £100. Applications that are not accompanied by the appropriate fee will be deemed invalid and will be returned. If the original decision taken on the application is upheld, the £100 fee will be retained to cover administrative costs. However, if the original decision made on the application is considered incorrect and the application is then approved, £80 will be retained to cover the cost of the citizenship ceremony (if applicable) and £20 will be refunded to the applicant.

See below for full details:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/30-reconsideration-fee>

New secure English language tests for students

On 12 August 2010 the UK Border Agency will implement secure English language tests for students under Tier 4 (General) of the points-based system. Students' Tier 4 sponsors must ensure that they are competent in English language at a minimum of level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference.

See the website for full details: http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/july/44-secure-english-tests?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+UkbaEmployersNews+%28UK+Border+Agency+news+for+employers+and+education+providers%29

European Commission proposes scheme for intra-corporate temporary transfer of non-EU skilled workers

The European Commission proposes a new directive with the aim of facilitating for multinational companies to temporarily transfer third-country national skilled workers from a company located outside the EU to branches or subsidiaries in EU Member States, according to Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Home Affairs.

Intra-corporate transferees are a highly relevant category of workers for the EU economy: they are typically specialists and managers, possessing sought-after knowledge specific to the company, for whom no substitute could be found. The transfer of these qualified employees to the EU has the potential to increase investment flows, strengthen management effectiveness, expand EU exports, and enhance the competitiveness of EU entities in overseas markets as well as the competitiveness of the Union as a whole.

However, barriers to such temporary migrations remain. Companies outside the EU face different rules and procedures when they want to send key staff to their subsidiaries within the different EU Member States. Procedures for getting work permits in some EU countries can also be slow and complex and intra-corporate transferees face difficulties in moving between Member States.

The Commission proposes to create a common set of rules for a new fast-track entry procedure (30 days time-limit, combined residence/work permit) for a targeted group of highly specialised staff ('manager', 'specialist' and 'graduate trainee') from non-EU countries. The proposal also aims at establishing more attractive residence conditions for these staff and their families and an easier system for non-EU transferees to facilitate their mobility within the EU. This would be complemented by a clear legal status including the same working conditions as workers posted by an EU company.

For more information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/931&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Eurobarometer survey on geographical and labour market mobility

A new Eurobarometer survey released last week sheds light on Europeans' attitudes to worker mobility. The survey found that:

- most Europeans think moving countries or regions is good for EU integration, half think it's good for the economy, labour market and individuals, but fewer think it's good for families.
- 10% of Europeans say they have lived abroad for work either within or outside the EU at some point in their lives, while 13% have done so for education and training. 41% know a friend or relative who has either worked or studied abroad.
- 17% of Europeans envisage working abroad in the future, ranging from 51% in Denmark to just 4% in Italy. 34% of Europeans rate the chances of finding a job abroad better than at home.
- unemployment is a powerful reason to move: 48% of Europeans would consider moving regions or countries for work if they lost their job.

For the full press release from the European Commission, please follow the link:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=847&furtherNews=yes>

UNODC Report: "Smuggling of migrants into, through and from North Africa"

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has released in a report entitled "Smuggling of Migrants into, through and from North Africa: A thematic review and annotated bibliography of recent publications."

The publication "focuses primarily on the patterns and dynamics of migrant smuggling, as it concerns the North African region." The publication examines the patterns and trends concerning the smuggling of migrants, into, through and from North Africa, and highlights the need for further research on specific issues – such as information on the organization of travel, the treatment of migrants by smugglers, the logistics of the transportation of people, or on smuggling networks. The review is complemented by an annotated bibliography of recent relevant publications.

Sources:

- UNODC, '[Smuggling of migrants into, through and from North Africa: A thematic review and annotated bibliography of recent publications](#)'

- Migrants at Sea, [UNODC Publication: Smuggling of Migrants into, through and from North Africa](#)

Events

Excellence in equality & diversity: can housing providers improve their service? 8 October, Cambridge

An event run jointly between CIH Eastern Region & the Equality & Human Rights Commission.

This year's theme has been chosen because:

- The Housing Inspectors believe that most housing organisations could do better
- The EHRC intends to promote and enforce high standards in the enactment of the equality legislation.
- The TSA's new Regulatory Framework (which the Government intends to adopt) has Equality & Diversity as one of its themes.
- Large parts of the Equality Act 2010 come into effect in October.
- The event should be relevant to everyone involved with housing services.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please use the link to book a place.

<http://www.cih.org/documents/events/EDConferenceadvert.pdf>

Norwich Mind's diversity team's annual event - Festival of Cultures 2010

This year's Festival of Cultures presents a programme of multi-cultural music, dance, performance, workshops, free complementary therapies and food. Participants will be issued with a 'passport to the world' to visit their cultural village, where they can visit many destinations within several continents. Enjoy the opportunity to celebrate the linguistic and cultural diversity of the local community!

Date & Time: Saturday, **14 August 2010**, 11.30 am to 4 pm

Venue: Norwich Mind, 50 Sale Road, Norwich, NR7 9TP

Cost: FREE

Funding

European Commission call for proposals – DG EAC No 10/2010

The objective of the call is to award a grant for the organisation of two competitions for short audiovisual productions in two successive years (one competition in 2011 and one in 2012). The competitions and the resulting audiovisual short productions are aimed at the promotion of language learning with a focus on the benefits of Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity.

This Call for Proposals follows the publication of the announcement in the Official Journal of the European Union on 8.7.2010 (OJ C184/2010)

Deadline: **30 September 2010**

For information about how to submit an application, please follow the link below:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/calls/doc2445_en.htm

Jobs

Hertfordshire adult & family learning service (HALFS) learner engagement manager £29,191 - £31,406 PA Inclusive - 12 Month Fixed Term Opportunity

This is an opportunity for someone with previous experience of partnership working, who will work with providers to broaden the provision of learning to ensure the participation of underrepresented groups in adult and family learning. It will suit an excellent communicator who will need to be in constant contact with a wide variety of contacts, from service users to stakeholders, and undertaking consultations with learners and prospective learners in adult and family learning. The role will also entail supporting and monitoring the provision of opportunities for learners, while collecting and collating evidence to support service delivery, so good literacy and numeracy skills are a must, as is a good level of IT proficiency in word processing and spreadsheets. Applicants also need to have an eye for detail and a can-do attitude, to play an important role in delivering and maintaining the Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service.

Apply now online at www.hertsdirect.org/jobs . Applicants who experience problems applying online should call 0845 601 4834 at anytime quoting ref: 01391L.
Closing date: **27 July 2010.**

Part-time Co-ordinator – Norwich International Youth Project

Initially for one year's maternity cover, 18 hours per week, annual salary between £6,552 and £9,360 pa depending on experience.

This is a re-advertisement for this post, previous applicants need not re-apply.

The project is looking for someone qualified and experienced in working with young people to act as Co-ordinator. Accountable to the committee, the successful candidate will run the weekly Norwich drop-in, organise activities, co-ordinate and recruit volunteers, prepare funding applications and support the administration of the charity. The post holder will be assisted in this by the Assistant Co-ordinator, who works 10 hours per week. The successful candidate must be able to work autonomously; experience of working with a range of cultures preferred.

Anyone interested in the post should send their C.V. with a covering letter explaining their reasons for applying for the post at this time, and how they meet the person specification to:-
Yuval Kedar, Specialist Social Work Service, Vantage House, Fishers Lane, Norwich, NR2 1ET marked 'Addressee only'.

For further details, contact: Fairlie Winship (07825630941); Sue Skipper (07778993789); or Sue Gee (07801 354848).

Closing date 12 noon on Wednesday **5 August 2010**; interviews will take place on Thursday 12 August 2010.

LSC Level 1 & 2 Caseworkers/Paralegals – Romford & other London offices

Duncan Lewis & Co Solicitors is a legal firm in the south east and a LEXCEL, Gold IIP accredited LSC Category 1 firm. They have franchises in 9 areas of law, employing over 400 staff with offices in Hackney, Clapham Junction, Romford, Harrow, Shepherds Bush and Lewisham.

They are seeking to recruit LSC Level 1 & 2 Caseworkers/Paralegals to assist the Immigration department in the expansion of all aspects of Asylum and Immigration Law in all their offices.

Anyone interested should submit their CV and covering letter by email to: recruitment@duncanlewis.com or post to: Duncan Lewis & Co Solicitors, Viking House, 17/19 Peterborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2AX. For further information about Duncan Lewis visit their website. Follow the link below for the job description. <http://www.duncanlewis.co.uk/Vacancies.aspx?JobCode=18>

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