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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).

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### **Refugee Council responds to Home Office statistics - first stages of asylum system needs improving**

Home Office statistics for the second quarter of 2010 show that almost a third of appeals are being allowed - demonstrating that a significant proportion of initial asylum claims are being wrongly refused.

To read the full press release from the Refugee Council, please follow the link below:

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/august/270810\\_pressrelease\\_asylum\\_stats](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/august/270810_pressrelease_asylum_stats)

### **The impact of limited leave on refugees in the UK – Refugee Council report**

In 2005, the UK Government introduced a policy of granting five years limited leave to those who were granted refugee status, subject to active review at any time. Prior to the implementation of this policy, refugees were given indefinite leave to remain (ILR) once they received a positive decision on their case. In August 2010, the first group of refugees who were issued with limited leave will have their status reviewed.

The report finds that not giving refugees permanent leave to remain in the UK causes anxiety and stress, and acts as a barrier to them being able to rebuild their lives in the UK. It presents the findings of a small qualitative research study project that explored the impact of this policy change on the lives of refugees. Please follow the link to read the report in full: [http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2010/limited\\_leave.htm](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2010/limited_leave.htm)

### **Medical Justice Report into impact of detaining children in immigration centres: ‘State sponsored cruelty’**

“‘State Sponsored Cruelty’: Children in immigration detention”, presents the key findings from the UK’s first large scale investigation into the harms caused by detaining children for immigration purposes.

141 cases are featured in this report involving children detained between 2004 and April 2010. These children spent a mean average of 26 days each in immigration detention. 48% of the children in this report were born in the UK. The report’s key findings were that:

- 74 children were psychologically harmed. 34 children exhibited signs of developmental regression.
- 23 children would not eat food for a period of time.
- 48 children were reported to have witnessed violence, mostly during attempts to remove them from the UK, and
- 13 were physically harmed as a result of violence in detention.
- 92 children had physical health problems which were exacerbated, or caused by immigration detention. 50 of these children were reported to have received inadequate healthcare in detention including failures to recognise medical needs, failures to make appropriate referrals, and delays in treating.
- Despite official guidelines that children should be given appropriate protection from infectious diseases, there were concerns in 50 cases about failures in this respect.
- 73 adults were reported to have been suffering to such an extent that it was affecting their ability to care for their children.
- 38 children were separated from their families.

To read the press release accompanying the report, please follow this link:

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/content/view/1420/59/>

To read the summary report, please follow this link:

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/sscsummaryreport.pdf>

**ICAR report 'Mapping refugee and migrant communities in the UK'**

ICAR has found that accessing detailed data on the asylum-seeking population is difficult, but collating data on the population with refugee status is even more challenging. At this point, individuals are 'mainstreamed' into services and no longer subject to the same type of immigration control as before. Furthermore, national surveys such as the Census do not record immigration status, so it is difficult to disaggregate the refugee population from the migrant population or the ethnic minority population more generally. This lack of basic data hinders research, policy and service development considerably.

The report shows the different sources of data available, which may be of use to service providers, to evidence the need in their area, providing a robust evidence base for funders.

To read the report in full, please follow this link: <http://www.icar.org.uk/>

**Ireland: Asylum seekers demonstrate over case delays and poor living conditions**

On 31 August, asylum seekers held demonstrations in several Irish towns over case delays and poor living conditions at accommodation centres for asylum seekers. The protests were aimed at raising awareness about the plight of thousands of asylum seekers in Ireland, who are forced to live in limbo for several years in unsuitable hostels. In an open letter to the Irish Minister for Justice and Law Reform, the Irish Refugee Council, along with 12 other organisations, asked for a review of the asylum system in order to establish a faster, fair and transparent decision-making process and improve the living conditions of asylum seekers in line with international and European law.

Please follow these links for how this was reported and the details of the letter sent by the Irish Refugee Council:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/0831/1224277909657.html>

[http://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/detail.php?category\\_id=3&sub\\_category\\_1\\_id=16&sub\\_category\\_2\\_id=78&sub\\_category\\_3\\_id=131](http://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/detail.php?category_id=3&sub_category_1_id=16&sub_category_2_id=78&sub_category_3_id=131)

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## Migration

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**Consultation by Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) cap on numbers – East of England response**

The strategic migration partnership (SMP) for the East of England has compiled evidence from employers of migrant workers from the region to feed into the MAC consultation. The consultation will use the findings to report to government on the levels at which the limits should be set for the first full year of operating limits of economic immigration. The MAC will consider the economic, social and public service impacts of migration in developing its advice to government. The report is expected to go to government for consideration in October.

To view the report from the East of England SMP, please follow this link:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Migrant%20workers/MAC%20consultation%20-%20limit%20on%20migration%20-%20East%20of%20England%20SMP%20response.pdf>

**Free Information Advice & Guidance (IAG) for female ESOL learners looking for work – Norfolk**

'Next Steps' from WEETU provides women with help to compile cvs, complete application forms or guidance to resume studying. Women are eligible if they are over 19, and can refer themselves for up to three sessions, free of charge. WEETU have one fluent French speaking adviser, so can offer this service in French as well as in English.

Anyone interested in attending an advice session should contact WEETU by phone, 01603 230625 or email:

[admin@weetu.org](mailto:admin@weetu.org)

**Migrant Advice drop-in service for Suffolk – starts 2 October**

Thanks to Migration Impact Funding, this service is available to migrant workers needing guidance on employment, health, housing, benefits, rights and responsibilities and education.

The service is available at weekends only at the following locations:

Saturday mornings - Ipswich, CSV Media Clubhouse

Saturday afternoons – Felixstowe, library

Alternate Saturday mornings from 2 October 2010 - Newmarket Library

Alternate Saturday afternoons from 2nd October 2010 - Brandon Library Community Centre  
Sunday mornings – Halesworth library  
Sunday afternoons – Lowestoft library  
Alternate Sundays – Mid-Suffolk – venue being finalised  
Alternate Sunday mornings from 3 October 2010 - Stowmarket Library

Multi-lingual posters to advertise the service are available from Alison Coleman at Suffolk County Council. Please email her for electronic versions [Alison.coleman@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.coleman@suffolk.gov.uk)

## **UKBA announces mid-year fee increases for visas**

The UK Border Agency has announced proposals to increase immigration and nationality application fees for all those applying to visit, study, work or stay in the UK from autumn 2010. In line with broader announcements about reductions to public spending, the agency has concluded that this increase is the best way, alongside efficiency measures, to meet budgetary pressures.

Regulations to set application fees at or below the cost of processing are subject to the negative parliamentary procedure, and these fees will increase from 1 October 2010. Where a fee is charged that is set above the cost of processing, the regulations are subject to the affirmative parliamentary process; these fees are due to come into effect in November, subject to parliamentary timetabling.

The date when the increased fees will come into effect will be published on the UKBA website nearer the time. Details of the proposed fees are set out in a written ministerial statement by Immigration Minister Damian Green. Follow these links for the press release from UKBA, the ministerial statement and the proposed fees:

Press release: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/sept/29-mid-year-fee-increases>

Ministerial statement and table of fees: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/fees-wms-ia/2010-autumn/wms.pdf?view=Binary>

## **UKBA report 'The migrant journey' provides evidence for government's new immigration policy**

The government will ensure that the UK maximises the benefits of immigration, Immigration Minister Damian Green has said. Speaking to the Royal Commonwealth Society this week, the minister commented that the UK has always benefited from immigration, but 'will only continue to do so if it is properly controlled. This means that the unsustainable levels of net migration seen in recent years must be brought down.'

He said the government is determined to make decisions based on evidence, which is why it has just released new a research report called 'The migrant journey'. The report analyses the behaviour of immigrants who came to the UK in 2004 through all managed routes except visitor routes and those granted settlement in 2009. It reveals that the largest group of migrants was students, with around 186,000 granted visas. More than 20 per cent of them were still in the UK 5 years later.

The aim of the 'migrant journey' analysis was to provide evidence on:

- the behaviour of migrants entering the UK
- immigration system in the major non-visit visa routes;
- the common pathways through the immigration system that result in settlement.

To read the press statement about MP Damian Green's speech, please follow this link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/sept/25-minister-evidence>

To read 'The Migrant Journey' report from UKBA, please follow this link:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr43c.pdf>

## **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Migrant Workers' Convention: a petition calling for EU members to ratify**

The Migrant Workers Convention is one of the nine core United Nations human rights instruments. It has now been ratified by 42 states and a further 16 have signed up and are in the process of ratification. To date, no EU Member State has signed or ratified the Convention.

A couple of months ago December 18, a Brussels-based non-profit organization working for the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants worldwide, launched a petition calling on the EU member states to ratify this core international human rights instrument. So far they have reached over 3000 signatures, a number which they want to increase.

Anyone interested should go the [www.migrantsconvention.eu](http://www.migrantsconvention.eu) to find out more. December 18 is not looking for one signature per organisation but for as many people possible.

## France expels Roma immigrants from Bulgaria and Romania

The French government started sending back Roma people to Bulgaria and Romania over summer, after riots following the killing by the police of a young man member of the Roma minority. A special bilateral meeting was organised on 31 August between Viviane Reding, Cecilia Malmström (European Commissioner for Home Affairs) and László Andor (European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) on the Commission side, and Eric Besson (Minister for Immigration) and Pierre Lellouche (State Secretary in charge of European Affairs) on the French side. During the meeting, a French representative asked for European unity in resolving this issue.

For further reports and comments, please follow these links:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/justice/reding-criticises-france-italy-over-roma-treatment-news-497163>

<http://www.europeanvoice.com/article/imported/-outraged-meps-attack-france-over-roma-policy/68734.aspx>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/france-must-end-stigmatization-roma-and-travellers-2010-08-27>

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## Events

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### Sunday International Friendship Club – Norwich, starting 12 September

This new venture is open to all who want to meet people and learn about where they live. It provides an opportunity for engagement in a place where everyone can feel at home.

Anyone, regardless of nationality, race or age, is invited to join in with other local community members for some social networking at Norwich's International Community Engagement (NICE) Centre. Free drinks and snacks will be provided.

The club will be meeting every Sunday starting on 12 September, from 5.30-10pm, at the NICE Centre, 19 Muspole Street, Norwich, NR3 1DJ. Attendees are asked to make a £1 donation, to be collected at the door, for anyone 14yrs and above, to cover costs.

For more information email [office@bridgeplus.org.uk](mailto:office@bridgeplus.org.uk)

### A talk by Helena Kennedy QC, Norwich, 26 October, 7.30pm.

The Norwich group of Amnesty International is hosting a talk by Helena Kennedy QC on the subject of: **'Whatever challenges we face in the modern world, the sacrifice of civil liberties and rights is a folly - Terrorism and the Democratic State'**.

The talk will be on 26 October 2010 at 7.30pm, at the Assembly House, Norwich. Tickets are £5 and are available from The Assembly House Box Office, at Theatre Royal Norwich, 01603 598688.

### Training from the Refugee Council - End of Process: Support for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum – London - 1 November 2010

End of Process is the term used to describe the situation for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum and have exhausted all appeal rights. UK policy states that when someone is in this position they are no longer entitled to many services and support, including main stream asylum support. For those asylum seekers unable or unwilling to return to their home country, this means that many at the end of the process become destitute.

For those working in the voluntary and statutory sector, knowing how and when they are able to support asylum seekers at the end of process is a challenge. Service providers hear conflicting messages and struggle to ensure they are up to date with the continual changes to policy and procedures due to legal cases. There is a need to empower service providers with up-to-date information and increase confidence in how and when to provide support to asylum seekers at the end of process.

Following on from other courses delivered by the Refugee Council looking at mainstream support, this course specifically examines support and entitlement for asylum seekers who have had their claims refused and have exhausted all their appeal rights. In order to support clients in this situation, service providers should be aware of

support mechanisms available and to enable them to advise clients accordingly. This course only looks at the adult system and does not cover children or those who claimed asylum as unaccompanied children.

Please follow the link to register for the course:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/fulldetails.htm#endofprocess>

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## Funding

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### **The David and Elaine Potter Foundation – core funding for education and other projects**

David and Elaine Potter believe in the power of reason and in the significance and importance of all individuals in society. By extension, their principles embrace tolerance and an 'intolerance to intolerance'. Their foundation supports projects all across the world, helping to alleviate the lack of educational and economic opportunity that exists.

Anyone who has a project which needs funding and falls into one or more of their core areas of interest – Civil Society, Human Rights, Education, Research and the Arts, in the first instance should write a letter of enquiry. Those letters which are deemed to have merit will then be invited to make a funding application. There are no deadlines for this foundation – letters are reviewed regularly. Please follow the link below to find out more.

<http://www.potterfoundation.com/areasofinterest.php>

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## Jobs

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### **New Routes International Youth Club, project coordinator, 5 hours per week, Norwich**

The main purpose of the post is to coordinate the Friday evening kickboxing and Saturday afternoon children's clubs. New Routes are looking for someone who can form and lead teams of sessional project workers and volunteers and has experience of working with BME communities.

They are looking for a candidate who can demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people, develop effective client relationships and recognise key issues and problems for vulnerable clients.

Anyone interested in the post should contact New Routes for a full job description, person specification and application form from Dee Robinson 01603 632816 / 07799661009 [newroutes@interfacelearning.org.uk](mailto:newroutes@interfacelearning.org.uk)

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