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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 asylum and refugee statistics for 2010 collated, plus comparison with previous years – Refugee Council

The Refugee Council has collated the quarterly data issued by the Office for National statistics about numbers of asylum applicants, numbers granted leave to remain or those refused, plus details of countries of origin and compiled this into a summary for 2010, and compared the figures against those of previous years. Please follow this link to read the briefing paper:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/briefings/Asylum%20Statistics%20Updated%20Mar%202010.pdf>

Home Office monthly asylum numbers for February 2011, published April 2011

Please follow this link for the data relating to asylum applications received on a monthly basis, up to and including February 2011. It shows that in the most recent quarter, December 2010 to February 2011, 5575 applications for asylum were made, compared to 5185 for the same period twelve months ago. Please follow this link to review the data: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/asylum-app-feb-2011?view=Binary>

Impact of loss of Refugee and Migrant Justice one year on – article in Children and Young People Now

Figures obtained by Children and Young People (CYP) Now show that in 2009/10, when Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) was still operating, a total of 98,643 new asylum and immigration cases were dealt with. According to Legal Services Commission (LSC) documents following a new tendering process, capacity among contracted providers will run to 93,655 cases a year until 2012/13, a drop of around five per cent. Refugee and Migrant Justice closed due to financial trouble in June 2010, attributing the situation to changes that now see organisations paid a flat fee on completion of cases rather than based on how long they take. The LSC told CYP Now the latest contracts were tendered on the basis of providing services in areas of high demand and it has not been made aware of any issues with provision by the profession, representative bodies or tribunals. However, the Children's Legal Centre points to an absence of offices in Kent, containing the entry port of Dover, as indicative of a system under strain. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/Social_Care/article/1067791/Loss-refugee-legal-charity-leads-drop-asylum-seeking-families-receiving-help

Stateless by any other name: refused asylum seekers in the United Kingdom – Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies

This article maintains that there are certain aspects of the UK asylum system which may lead to statelessness-like situations and it calls into question the application of key principles of human rights as they relate to refused asylum-seekers, especially the tenets of dignity and non-discrimination, and the right to family life.

Please follow this link to read a sample of the article – a subscription is required to read the full article:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a933025228>

From Dutch dispersal to ethnic enclaves in the UK. The relationship between segregation and integration examined through the eyes of Somalis – Urban Studies

Since 2000, a considerable number of Somalis with Dutch passports have started to move from cities and small towns in the Netherlands, which were relatively mixed, to residential environments in the UK with much higher concentrations of Somalis and other immigrants. This paper examines experiences of integration and segregation in the Netherlands and the UK by interviewing some of these Somalis. Please follow this link to read the abstract – further subscription needed to read the full report:

<http://usj.sagepub.com/content/early/2011/03/24/0042098010397401.abstract>

Migration

Second edition of International Organisation for Migration (IOM)'s glossary on Migration

The inaugural edition of the IOM Glossary on Migration has been widely disseminated since its publication in English in 2004 and it has been translated into Russian, Tajik, Arabic, Spanish, Slovenian, French, Albanian, Bosnian, Chinese, Turkish, Greek, Portuguese, Italian and Macedonian. The Glossary continues to meet its objectives in being a tool for practitioners, government migration officials, students and others. However, even at the time of its initial publication, it was recognized that it was a first attempt, with room for improvement, revisions of definitions and additions of terms. IOM have now introduced a second edition of the IOM Glossary on Migration which they consider to be more comprehensive and takes into account input from users of the glossary. Please follow this link to access the document: <http://www.west-info.eu/files/iom.pdf>

UKBA Independent Chief Inspector publishes report on how UKBA receives and uses intelligence for detecting immigration offences

In his thematic report, John Vine, the UKBA Independent Chief Inspector recommends that UK Border Agency needs to focus on the outcome of intelligence and assess how often allegations lead to the prevention or detection of immigration and customs offences. The inspection took place between 15 October and 9 December 2010 and focused on how the UK Border Agency worked with other agencies to obtain relevant and up to date intelligence. The inspection also looked at how intelligence is passed to frontline decision makers. He concludes that he needs evidence that the methods used by the Agency's frontline staff at ports of entry to subject particular people or goods to further examination are not discriminatory and that UK Border Agency must use intelligence effectively if it is to ensure the law is upheld and its resources are deployed effectively and efficiently. Please follow this link to download the report: <http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Preventing-and-detecting-immigration-and-customs-offences.pdf>

Migrant Children's Project – May newsletter

The Migrant Children's Project aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements. Please contact Kamena Dorling at mcp@essex.ac.uk for more information. Please follow this link to read the latest newsletter, which introduces new resources from the project – Frequently Asked Questions on Age Assessments and an updated 'Seeking Support' chapter on Trafficking. It also links to recent reports and news.

<http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=727f7cb511aa9ca211dde2fbc&id=5d16e8eba7&e=3933e14268>

The Arab spring and the EU's internal open borders – blog in the Independent from Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

IPPR's Associate Director of UK Migration Policy, Matt Cavanagh, published this article on irregular immigration. There has been political pressure, led by President Sarkozy, to review the Schengen system of open internal borders inside Continental EU. The call came in reaction to the arrival of thousands of Tunisians in Italy - irregular migrants escaping instability in North Africa. They arrived in Italy, but as French speakers, they mostly saw Italy as a transit route, and indications are that hundreds have already arrived in Paris. The Schengen countries have long dismantled internal border controls, so there is no practical way of stopping them. As most EU states have followed Britain's lead in toughening their asylum systems, asylum is no longer an attractive option for irregular migrants. But the problem of the uneven or unfair distribution of these migrants across the EU remains, and the fear is that this latest attempt to agree a fairer, more rational solution will founder for the same reason – because too many member states feel they would lose more than they would gain. Please follow this link to read the item in full: <http://blogs.independent.co.uk/2011/05/05/the-arab-spring-irregular-migration-and-the-eu%E2%80%99s-internal-open-borders>

Events

Equality and Diversity in UK society – a talk by Linda Bellos, 18 May, Norwich

Norwich Amnesty Group is hosting a talk by Linda Bellos, the celebrated campaigner on equality and diversity. Her activities include:

- Founder of Black History Month
- Campaigner for Gay Rights
- Former Leader of Lambeth Council

- Independent Adviser to the Metropolitan Police, the Crown Prosecution Service, and the Association of Chief Police Officers

- The first black woman to join the Spare Rib Collective.

The meeting will be held at the Charing Cross Centre, St John Maddermarket, Norwich - beginning at 7.30pm.

Turning a blind eye – The British state and migrant domestic workers' employment rights, from the Working Lives Institute, 26 May, Toynbee Hall, London E1 6LS

15,000 visas are issued or renewed annually to domestic workers from outside of the European Economic Area (EEA). Working and often living in their employers' houses, and needing to renew their visas each year, these workers are in a particularly precarious position. A research project has just been completed looking at the enforcement of employment rights for migrant domestic workers in Britain. Based on survey material, individual records recovered from the UK Border Agency and interviews with migrant domestic workers, the project identifies widespread breaches of employment rights, and examines the extent to which these can or are, detected and rectified by the State's enforcement bodies. The results of the research, and its implications for the fight against exploitation and forced labour, will be available at the conference and discussed.

Registration is free, and lunch will be provided. Email workinglives@londonmet.ac.uk to register, by giving your name, organisation, and contact details.

Understanding HIV in BME communities – training from MENTER, 3 June, Norwich NR3 1DJ 10:30 – 1:30

This half day free training event, at Menter's office on Muspole Street, is for any health practitioner, service provider or community member working or engaging with BME communities. The training will enable delegates to be better informed about the HIV situation among BME communities and how it affects their daily lives, to understand the social, cultural and religious barriers that might perpetuate the spread of HIV among BMEs and how to address them and to appreciate the need to integrate HIV within normal day to day service provision. To book a place, please contact PaMusa e: pamusa@menter.org.uk t:01603617076

Fulfil my dreams – Art exhibition from Iraqi Fine Artists Association in Britain (IFAAB) – organisations invited to host this exhibition

The Iraqi Fine Artists Association in Britain (IFAAB) have created an exhibition "Fulfil My Dream" in which 1000 young people living in London and Baghdad and in Iraqi diaspora communities in countries such as Sweden, Holland and France have expressed, through art, common dreams and wishes for a world of peace and safety, trees and greenery, happiness and joy where children of all backgrounds might be friends, and enjoy life together. IFAAB coordinated the project with support from London-based Iraqi community organisations and Arabic schools, the Iraqi Centre for Integration and Cohesion, the Humanitarian Dialogue Foundation, the British Red Cross, the Islamic Cultural Centre and London Central Mosque, the Children's Society, West London Refugee Women's Forum and the Evelyn Oldfield Unit. The exhibition of children's art is now travelling to schools, universities, community centres, libraries and art centres.

To express interest in hosting IFAAB's exhibition please email info@iraqifineartists.com

Funding

Adult and Community Learning Fund 2011

The Adult and Community Learning Fund is a new fund from the Skills Funding Agency, administered by NIACE. Organisations from across England can bid for their share of £2.25 million fund for new and imaginative adult and community learning opportunities that engage and motivate, in particular, disadvantaged adults. The maximum amount for any bid is £75,000 and the minimum is £10,000. Projects should be designed to support informal adult and community learning for people aged 19 and over. The application process is online and only online submissions will be accepted. Applications submitted in hard copy or by email will not be accepted. The fund is open for applications until **12 noon, Friday 10 June 2011**. Please follow this link for more information:

http://www.niace.org.uk/current-work/adult-and-community-learning-fund-aclf?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2flists.niace.org.uk%2fz%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ACLF+Individual+Members+06May2011&utm_term=ACLF%20Individual%20Members%2006May2011&utm_content=5700

Three Rivers District Community grants for one off expenditure

Local community groups and organisations delivering services to residents of the Three Rivers District Council, Hertfordshire are invited to apply. They should be properly constituted clubs or organisations, either based in Three Rivers District with services that benefit the local residents, or based regionally, with services benefiting the local residents who are not already adequately provided for by local organisations. Projects need to meet at least one of the following Council priorities:

- Involving volunteers.
- Educating or passing on skills.
- Accessibility to as many people as possible.
- Benefitting and/or involving young people and their families; the elderly and those with disabilities.
- Improving the district's environment.
- Increasing participation in sports and/or the arts.
- Working in less affluent areas of the district.

Grants will be awarded for one-off project costs, not running costs. The next deadline for applications is **21 June**, and the next one 6 September, with a further two before the end of 2011. For more information, please contact the Grants Officer, Three Rivers District Council, Northway, Rickmansworth, Herts WD3 1RL t: 01923 727 141 e: enquiries@threerivers.gov.uk or follow this link:

<http://www.threerivers.gov.uk/Default.aspx/Web/CommunityGrants>

Jobs

2 ESOL Tutors for Suffolk Refugee Support Forum (SRSF), Ipswich, part time posts, £16.48 per hour

SRSF are recruiting 2 qualified ESOL tutors for its ESOL classes which will take place from June 2011 to end of Feb 2012. Classes will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. A class will be a maximum of 12 students. The lessons will be classroom based (at SRSF and other town centre locations). Where possible, appropriate volunteer classroom assistants will be available. Their aim is for people with refugee backgrounds to improve their English, pass ESOL exams and develop life skills that help them to integrate more into life in the UK. Tutor 1 will teach mainly women students over 3 days with a total of 4.5 hours teaching and 3 hours preparation time. Tutor 2 will teach mainly men and 16-19 year old students over 2 days with a total of 4 hours teaching and 3 hours preparation time. Interested candidates should know that annual leave cannot be taken in Suffolk school term time or in August. Anyone interested in applying should contact SRSF for an application pack. The closing date for applications is **5pm on 25 May**. Please contact the SRSF team manager for more information: Rebecca Crerar t: 01473 400786 e: rcrerar@srsf.org.uk

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