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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

Association of visitors to immigration detainees (AVID) publishes new edition of 'Immigration Detention – a handbook for visitors'

The latest AVID Handbook, a comprehensive guide to immigration detention policy and practice for all volunteers and those interested in detention, is available now. The handbook is a useful reference tool, as well as containing useful hints and tips for those supporting detainees through difficult situations. It contains information on an extensive range of issues including: asylum law and policy; current detention policy and practice in the UK; legal and medical issues in detention; supporting detainees; how to get out of detention and much more. There are also useful tips and tools to support volunteers, and guidance to help with any difficult issues that may arise while visiting or supporting an immigration detainee, such as removal. New material has been added, including guidance on supporting vulnerable people in detention such as trafficked persons. A directory gives details of all removal centres, visitors groups and support organizations. For more information click [here](#) or contact the AVID office for an order form. Books cost £10 plus postage, £5 for volunteers/AVID members.

Women's Asylum News – July edition now available

The lead article in this month's issue looks at the current Legal Aid Bill and its potential effect on accessing justice, in particular for women seeking asylum. The issue also highlights the recent announcement by the Government to maintain domestic violence applications under the Immigration Rules within the scope of legal aid, debated by the Public Bill Committee, including contributions from two of our region's MPs, Elizabeth Truss (South West Norfolk) & Ben Gummer (Ipswich). The launch of the Government's new trafficking strategy also features as do case summaries of recent judgments in the Upper Tribunal, the High Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

To read the July issue in full, please follow this link:

http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/167/WAN_July_2011.pdf

To read the Public Bill Committee debate on legal aid, please follow this link:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmpublic/legalaid/110719/pm/110719s01.htm>

To access the new trafficking strategy, please follow this link:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/human-trafficking-strategy>

Refugee Council call for research participants

The Refugee Council is working with LSN, the learning and skills organisation, on a research project investigating refugees' and asylum seekers' experiences of accessing education and training at age 16 or above, in England.

Researchers will be carrying out interviews in August 2011 and they are interested in talking to those who can answer yes to all of the following questions, and would like to participate:

- Are you a refugee, asylum seeker, or a former refugee who now has British citizenship?
- Are you over the age of 16?
- Have you tried to access or have you taken part in education or training since arriving in England?
- Are you happy to be interviewed for approximately an hour to talk about your experience?

They are interested to speak with people who were both successful and unsuccessful in joining education and training courses. All interviews will be confidential and personal details anonymised. Anyone wishing to take part, or wanting more information about the project, should contact Lisa Doyle on:

t: 0207 346 1028 or e: lisa.doyle@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Migration

Language skills and the labour market – report from the European Commission

The European Commission has recently published a report on language learning. In the field of languages and the labour market, two Commission working groups have published their findings. The report "Languages for jobs – providing multilingual communication skills for the labour market" provides recommendations on how to achieve a better match between the supply and demand of language skills on the labour market. In addition, the Business Platform for Multilingualism has launched a project which aims to develop an online service which allows businesses to identify their language needs and then access the necessary resources. For more information see: http://ec.europa.eu/education/languages/news/news5101_en.htm

European Commission's Qualitative Eurobarometer – Migration Integration

The objectives of the study were to understand the perceptions of members of the general public towards non-EU migrants and to explore their views about integration. Similarly the study sought to understand the perceptions of non-EU migrants to the general public and to integration.

The report found the main barriers to integration from the perspective of migrants are language, cultural and religious differences and the negative attitude of the general public towards them. Migrants also noted that the segregation of migrants into 'ghettos' and the unwilling attitude to integrate among some migrants also has a detrimental effect on integration. These differences in views did not appear to be directly related to the length of time migrants had lived in the country, nor to their age or education level. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110720/Aggregate_report_5969_Migrant_Integration_FINAL-19072011.pdf

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - European Agenda for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals

With the purpose of contributing to the debate on integration, the paper focuses on three main areas: integration through participation, need of more action at the local level as well as involvement of countries of origin. The Commission emphasizes the role of countries of origin in supporting integration and asks for more support to third countries on pre-departure measures (e.g. information on work permits, language tuition and vocational training); and for the improvement of methods for the recognition of migrants' qualifications and skills. In order to provide prospective migrants with the necessary information on the application procedures, the Commission will launch the 'EU Immigration Portal' later this year. The Communication also underlines the benefits of the contacts between diaspora communities and their countries of origin, including remittances and transfers of skills.

To read the paper in full, please follow this link:

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110720/1_EN_ACT_part1_v10.pdf

Events

Fit for Purpose – play about Yarl's Wood detainees, showing until August 29, Edinburgh

The Pleasance and End Child Detention Now present this award winning play at the Pleasance Courtyard, Attic, Edinburgh at 12.45 daily until 29 August. There is a panel discussion in lieu of a performance on 15 August. The play explores what happened in January 2010 when fifty female asylum seekers' who were being held in Yarl's Wood detention centre went on hunger strike to protest at the conditions they and their families had to endure. This play tells the story of Aruna and Kaela a Somali mother and daughter who are detained in Yarl's Wood at the start of the strike. Tickets are priced at £10 (£8) weekends £9 (£7) weekdays and can be ordered through the Box Office on t:0131 556 6550

Human Rights and Immigration Control – Kings Cross, London, 6 September

Rights of Women is organising a seminar and debate on proposed changes to migration law and policy. The UK Border Agency (UKBA), has opened two consultations setting out proposals to change the rules around migration in the areas of family migration and employment-related settlement (see newsflash 18 – 22 July for details <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Newsflash%20documents/Weekly%20Newsflash%2018-22%20July.pdf>). The family migration consultation proposes to extend the probationary period (the length of time a spouse must wait before applying for indefinite leave to

remain, ILR) from 2 to 5 years in partner and other family cases. Rights of Women believe that this potentially exposes migrant women to having to remain in an abusive relationship. The employment-related settlement consultation proposes reforms that they believe could result in an increase in the abuse and trafficking of migrant domestic workers in the UK.

The seminar and debate will equip delegates with an understanding of the main proposals and enable them to respond to the consultation in the context of the rights of the women they work with being upheld. Speakers include Kate Roberts, Community Advocate from Kalayaan and Catherine Briddick, Senior Legal Officer from Rights of Women. Other speakers will be confirmed. To find out more and to register to attend, please follow this link: <http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/current.php>

To access the UKBA consultations, please follow this link for family migration:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/family-migration>

Please follow this link for employment related settlement:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/consultations/employment-related-settlement>

Annual General Meeting, Integration Support Services (ISS). Harlow, 30 September

Those who work supporting migrants in south Essex may be interested in attending the ISS AGM, to be held from 2-3pm on September 30 at the new Harlow Health Resource Centre, on Second Avenue CM20 3DT. If you would like to attend, please contact Marlene Brooks on e: marlene@iss.org.uk t: 01279 639442 m: 07952 488025

Ipswich Town of Sanctuary launch event – Ipswich Waterfront, 26 November

This is advance warning to put this event in your diary as more information will follow closer to the launch date. The event will take place at University Campus Suffolk's Waterfront building on Neptune Quay at 7.30pm. As well as guest speakers from the City of Sanctuary movement and others from the town, there will be a performance from Ice and Fire Theatre Company.

To find out more about Ipswich, town of sanctuary, please follow this link: <http://cityofsanctuary.co.uk/node/871>

Funding

European Commission Home Affairs – 2011 Call for proposals – European Integration Fund (EIF) and European Refugee Fund (ERF), Community Actions

These two calls are open to national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), public or private bodies, university departments, research centres and international organisations. Applicants must be part of a partnership made up of two or more partners from different EU countries. Grant proposals must address at least one priority, and attract funding as detailed below.

EIF priorities and funding parameters:

- Enhance public perception of migration and diversity
- Enhance diversity management in neighbourhoods
- Enhance immigrants' participation in all aspects of collective life
- Enhance integration measures targeting disadvantaged immigrant groups
- Coordinate existing research activities in the field of migration and integration, including the role of sending countries in fostering integration of third-country nationals.

The indicative budget available for this Call is €4.95 million. Funding is available for up to 90% of eligible costs. For proposals addressing priorities 1-4, the minimum requested must be €400,000 and the maximum €1 million. For proposals addressing priority 5, the minimum requested must be €750,000 and the maximum €1.5 million. The deadline for submissions is **11 October 2011**.

ERF priorities and funding parameters:

- Improving the quality of asylum decision-making and the continuing development of the capacity of stakeholders, including Member State authorities, UNHCR and non-governmental actors, in the asylum field
- Improving the efficiency and the fairness of the Dublin system
- Enhancing solidarity mechanisms between the Member States and in particular assist those Member States which are faced with particular pressures of their national asylum systems

- Promoting common measures to address specific needs of vulnerable groups among asylum seekers and persons benefiting from international protection, in particular of those who are unaccompanied minors, with a view to implement the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors
- Promoting the integration of refugees, taking into account the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees.

The indicative budget for this Call is €3.6 million. All applicants must request a minimum of €300,000 EU co-financing and a maximum of €750,000 for regional or local applicants. Co-financing is available for up to 90% of eligible costs. The deadline for submission of proposals is **14 October 2011**.

Anyone interested in applying and looking for an EU partner can contact the East of England Brussels Office who may be able assist you in finding suitable partner(s) via their networks: Jackie Eveleigh e: Jackie.eveleigh@east-of-england.eu t: +32 2289 1200 and Jonathan Millins e: jonathan.millins@east-of-england.eu

Please follow these links to find out more:

EIF - http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/integration/funding_integration_2011_01_en.htm

ERF - http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/refugee/funding_refugee_2011_01_en.htm

Crisis Private Rented Sector Access Development Programme

Crisis has been awarded £8m from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to further expand the Crisis Private Rented Sector Access Development Programme over the next two years. The new funding award will enable Crisis to ensure that assistance is available to more single homeless people in more places in England. Each project will be able to bid for up to £40,000. In areas where high salary costs or competitive housing markets impact upon the cost of service delivery, an additional £10,000 can be applied for (bringing the total to £50,000). The programme will fund services that assist single, non statutory homeless people to overcome financial barriers to private renting, match them with private landlords and provide support to all parties with the ultimate aim of long lasting independence for people in homes they can call their own.

Projects must meet priorities around homelessness prevention:

- The intention is to allocate a minimum of 50% of the funding to schemes that will assist people who fall outside the priority need legislation and are at risk of homelessness or recently became homeless but have few other support needs.
- The intention is to allocate a minimum of 50% of the funding to local authority areas where no private rented sector access service exists for any group of single people.

The application process is open and applications should be completed by a lead organisation from the voluntary sector, supported by a partner local authority. The closing date for applications is **5 September**. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.privaterentedsector.org.uk/round-2-programme.asp>

Jobs

Chair of UK Centre for Carnival Arts – Expenses only post, Luton

The UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA) is seeking a Chair to lead their committed Board of Trustees and Executive Team in developing the reputation and profile of Carnival Arts as an art form and cultural industry sector of national significance and quality. The UKCCA is a national arts organisation and charitable company based in Luton, designated as a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) by the Arts Council, operating their own new purpose-built centre, delivering a range of performance, learning and community programmes.

The new Chair will bring to the role, an empathy with the roles and remits of the Centre, credibility to represent them nationally and locally to investors, artists, partners and communities and a strong track record in strategic leadership, institutional development and governance.

Closing date for applications: **19 August 2011**.

To find out more, please follow this link: [http://www.carnivalarts.org.uk/files/file/Chair%20Advert\(1\).doc](http://www.carnivalarts.org.uk/files/file/Chair%20Advert(1).doc). Or contact Paul Anderson, CEO of UKCCA e: paul@carnivalarts.org.uk or David Marlow, UKCCA's Strategic Advisor, e: david@carnivalarts.org.uk

Office Adviser – part time, £10.79 per hour, and Bank post – to cover holidays, sickness & other absences, £10.55 per hour – Umbrella Trust at the Community Resource Centre, Ipswich

The Umbrella Trust runs the Community Resource Centre, offering advice and information on welfare benefits and local services for homeless people. They also help with form filling and phone calls. The successful applicants may well have an extensive knowledge of benefits but the Umbrella Trust is happy to train the right person as it is also important that candidates enjoy working with their service users and work well within a small staff team.

Job descriptions are available from the Project Manager Rachel Cornish on e: pnronsea@talktalk.net or Rachel Cornish, Project Manager, Community Resource Centre
1 Black Horse Lane, Ipswich IP1 2EF

Applications should be made in writing to the Project Manager and should include a CV and a letter describing why the applicant believes they are suitable for the post. Closing date for applications: **30 August 2011.**

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