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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 Regional Assembly (EERA) Strategic Migration Partnership, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Protests at Yarl's Wood: Refugee Council response

As women continue to hunger strike at Yarl's Wood immigration removal centre in protest over the conditions and length of their detention, the Refugee Council is calling for an end to the indefinite detention of people who have claimed asylum. The Refugee Council is deeply concerned about the current events at Yarl's Wood, and is disappointed the government has dismissed evidence from detainees themselves about their treatment there, as well as ignoring the growing body of evidence from health professionals that immigration detention is seriously damaging to physical and mental wellbeing.

Press release:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/news/2010/March/040310_newsyarlswood

Refugee Council briefing: 'Rape and sexual violence: the experiences of refugee women in the UK'

This briefing summarises the Refugee Council's key concerns about the situation of refugee and asylum seeking women in the UK who have survived rape and sexual violence, based on our experience of working with women to provide specialist support, practical help and counselling.

The briefing sets out key information about the prevalence of rape and sexual violence experienced by many women seeking asylum, highlights the casework experience of the Vulnerable Women's Project, and puts forward the Refugee Council's key priorities for policy change to improve the situation of refugee women in the UK.

Briefing:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/Refugee%20women%20briefing%20March%202010.pdf%20>

Migration

UK Border Agency bi-monthly stakeholder update

This update includes agency-wide news, information on issues relating to border control, immigration and international developments and has updates on current consultations and the work of stakeholder groups.

UKBA stakeholder update:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAzADcANwAyAHwAfABGAGEAbABzAGUafAB8ADAAfAA1>

Development: Do points mean prizes? How the UK's migration policies could benefit the world's poor

This paper examines the nature of migration's development impacts in some depth and asks how the Government can ensure that the UK's migration policies contribute positively to the lives of some of the world's poorest people, as well as benefiting British citizens.

'Do points mean prizes?' paper (click on 'download without registration' link):

<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2FDevelopment%5FDo+points+mean+prizes%2Epdf>

Changes to Tier 4 student visa applications from 3 March 2010

New requirements for student applications under Tier 4 of the points-based system came into effect on 3 March 2010.

Press release:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/255022/tier4-visa-applications>

Council of Europe's Anti-Racism Commission publishes new report on the United Kingdom

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published its fourth report on the United Kingdom which deals with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance in this country. ECRI's Chair, Nils Muiznieks, pointed out positive steps in fighting discrimination, but also expressed concern that racist incidents had become more frequent, police powers were exercised in a manner that disproportionately affected minority groups, Gypsies and Travellers still faced serious discrimination and asylum-seekers remained in a vulnerable position.

Press release:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/61-02_03_2010_UnitedKingdom_en.asp

Full report:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/United_Kingdom/GBR-CbC-IV-2010-004-ENG.pdf

EU social policy to ease the integration of immigrants

The EU should strengthen the links between its integration policies and the Social Policy Agenda and the 2010 review of the Social Agenda should take greater account of the social effects of immigration. These are the key demands of the opinion on Integration and Social Agenda adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee in February. It calls for the EU to ensure that the integration of immigrants is better mainstreamed into all social policies. Moreover, the opinion reiterates that the fight against social exclusion should apply to all people, including immigrants, whether they are EU citizens or third-country nationals.

Further information:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/10/20&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

European Migration Network's Asylum and Migration Glossary

The purpose of this EMN Glossary of terms relating to Asylum and Migration is *inter alia* to improve comparability between EU Member States through the use and common understanding of the terms and definitions contained in it.

[EMN Glossary \(Publication\)](#)

Events

Limited places available for the Migration Advisory Committee's regional event in Cambridge

You are invited to meet with representatives from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) at a regional event in Cambridge on **19 March 2010**. Feedback from previous events has shown that employers have valued the opportunity to meet with us and found the experience helpful and worthwhile.

What is the MAC?

The MAC is a non-departmental public body set up to provide transparent, independent and evidence-based advice to the Government on where skilled labour market shortages exist that can sensibly be filled by immigration. This is in connection with Tier 2 of the Points Based System for immigration. The Government also ask the Committee for advice on other migration issues from time to time.

Why is the MAC holding this event?

The purpose of our regional events is to increase our contact with relevant stakeholders at a local level so that:

1. we can hear from you regarding skilled labour shortage issues of local concern; and
2. you can gain a better understanding of the MAC's role and how you can work with us.

Who would benefit from attending?

We are especially keen to meet with employers and organisations who use, or are looking to use, migrant labour from countries outside the EEA to fill their skills shortages.

Further details

The event will take place on 19 March at the De Vere Collection University Arms Hotel, Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1AD, from 10.30am to 1.30pm, with buffet lunch included. There is no charge for attendance at this event, but please register early as places are limited.

How do I book my place?

Simply [email me](#) and I will reserve a place for you. If there is anything within our remit that you would specifically like us to address at the event, just let me know.

You are free to pass this message on to other employers in the region who may be interested in attending.

Sustainable Fundraising for your Community Organisation - Regional Conference

Wednesday **24 March 2010**; 9:30 am - 16:30 pm; Cambridge, East of England

Are you a Refugee Community Organisation?

Do you face difficulties on fundraising for your Community Organisation?

Are you thinking to diversify more and increase your incomes for your Organisation?

Have you got any project proposal or an project idea that you want to fundraise for it?

If the answer to the above question is 'YES' then this is your Event to attend.

Conference Speakers will include:

Laura Smith and Olof Williamson from NCVO, Andrew Brady from SEEE, Emilie Goodall from CAF, etc.

The Programme will involve:

- Workshops
- Talks from sustainable fundraising specialists
- one-2-one sessions with regional & local funders
- case study
- Q&A session with a well selected panel at the end.

Also, you will have a chance to meet on one-2-one level with representatives from Community Foundations & Grassroots Funds, Big Lottery, Lloyds TSB, Heritage Lottery Fund, County Council Funding Bodies, etc.

Please note:

Although this event is free to attend, there are limited places available. So, please book a place in advance by emailing or SMS-ing us today the following text "*ConferenceBooking*" in order to avoid any disappointment.

If you want to book a place, please contact the Event Organiser Shpetim Alimeta on contacts given below

Shpetim Alimeta

The Basis Project, East of England.

4-8 Museum Street, Ipswich, IP1 1HT.

T: 01473 297 912

M: 07908 952 405

F: 01473 255877

E: shpetim.alimeta@refugeecouncil.org.uk

www.thebasisproject.org.uk

Further information:

<http://organisationalgrowth.wordpress.com>

Befriender Training & Supervision Days, Bedford – Saturday 27 March & Saturday 8 May 2010

You can come to one or both days – you are encouraged to come to both.

The purpose of the Befriender Training and Supervision programme:

1. Help befrienders offer effective support to vulnerable women detainees
2. Reduce befriender burn-out by giving guidance and support

The Befriender Training and Supervision programme is a three year project, kindly funded by Comic Relief to Yarl's Wood Befrienders. The programme is initially focused on Yarl's Wood Befrienders but is being opened up to other befrienders in other groups visiting women detainees. There will be two Training Days and two Supervision Days a year for each of the three years. In addition, there will be on-going Supervision by means of email and phone access to Medical Justice individuals, and on-line "tool kits" on the Medical Justice website.

You must book a place for the Supervision and Training Days

To book your place, please email emma.ginn@medicaljustice.org.uk

Costs: free

Asylum seekers' travel expenses: to be reimbursed on provision of a receipt

Further information:

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/content/view/1130/107>

Befriender's Training Manual:

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/reports/befrienderstrainingmanualv2.pdf>

Capita's National Conference on Tackling the Trafficking of Women and Children

Thursday **22 April 2010**

CPD Certified and Supported by UK Border Agency, Metropolitan Police, STOP THE TRAFFIK and UKHTC Blue Blindfold Campaign. This conference is an excellent learning and networking opportunity for Police, Forces, Home Office & UK Border Agency, SOCA, CPS, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Ports & Airports Authorities and the Refugee Council. I would be grateful if you could forward these details on to anyone you feel would benefit from attending.

Capita's 9th Annual Tackling Trafficking Conference will bring together key stakeholders to disseminate best practice in dealing with all forms of human trafficking. This conference offers a frontline perspective of progress being made in the three key areas of trafficking - prevention, prosecution and protection.

Women and children constitute 80% of all victims of this common and horrifying crime and lack of awareness and understanding is still one of the biggest challenges facing organisations working to combat the problem.

Benefits of attending:

- Hear an update on the progress one year on from the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings
- Appreciate and understand the role of the UKHTC and multi-agency working
- Understand how the role of communities is vital to the effort to combat human trafficking
- Identify the key components needed to effectively prosecute traffickers
- Hear from the police about how they are reviewing their anti-trafficking work to address this problem more effectively
- Gain a frontline perspective in dealing with criminals and victims
- Learn how organisations can best utilise resources to tackle problems together in a multi-agency approach
- Examine what is being done to stem the upsurge of trafficking anticipated in the run up to the 2012 Olympics

Places can be booked on this event either by filling out and returning the booking form on the final page of the conference [brochure](#), or by e-mailing the delegate details directly to david.moffat@capita.co.uk

Funding

Specific Programme "Fundamental Rights And Citizenship" (2007-2013) - call for proposals

This call for proposals is based on the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship annual work programmes for 2009 and 2010 and combines the priorities as well as the resources available for both years. Projects require a minimum partnership of 2 organisations from different EU member states and must have a duration of between 12 and 24 months. Grants awarded under the call will range from € 100.000 to € 1.000.000, which may constitute a maximum of 80% of overall, eligible project cost. The projects should start in the first half of 2011.

The deadline for submitting proposals via the PRIAMOS on-line application is **29 April 2010**, 12:00 CET.

Call priorities:

- Protection of the rights of the child
- **Combating racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism**
- Fight against homophobia: enhanced/improved understanding and tolerance
- Active participation in the democratic life of the Union
- Training and networking between legal professions and legal practitioners
- Data protection and privacy rights

Call for proposals:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/doc/ag_call_2010_en.pdf

Further information:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/rights/funding_rights_en.htm

£1k to £5k for youth led media projects - organisations with turnover less than £150k per annum can apply – rolling submission

Mediabox has various schemes to support young people aged 13-19 to develop and produce creative media projects for film, television, radio, online and multi media platforms.

Mediabox have announced some changes to the Mini Mediabox scheme.

Mini Mediabox offers grants of £1,000 - £5,000 for youth-led media projects. Organisations now must have an annual turnover of under £150,000, which now allows Umbrella groups, schools and colleges to apply. Schools

and colleges must be able to prove that disadvantaged young people will benefit from new opportunities. Statutory organisations do not have to have a turnover of less than £150,000. Applicants now do not need to have a track record of running media-related projects, but they do need to show how they have experience of working with disadvantaged young people. For more information on the Mini Mediabox scheme [click here](#).

Jobs

Senior Policy Officer (Strategic Migration Partnership – East of England Regional Assembly)

SCP 41/46 £34,549 - £38,961

Contract duration: 2 years (1 April 2010 – March 31 2012)

You will be managing EERA's Strategic Migration Partnership responsibilities for Asylum, Refugee Integration and Migration in collaboration with key regional partners, including the development, implementation and monitoring of the business plan and associated strategies and initiatives.

The closing date for applications is **16 March 2010**. Interviews will take place at EERA's offices at Flempton House, Bury St Edmunds on 23 March 2010.

An application pack and copies of the job description and job profile can be downloaded from our website via the following link: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/Who-we-are/working-for-us/senior-policy-officer-smp/>

If you do not have internet access, please contact Val Seaman on 01284-729435 or email Valerie.seaman@eera.gov.uk

Asylum Aid recruits a Communications and Public Affairs Officer

Asylum Aid is seeking a Communications and Public Affairs Officer to develop and implement their communication and advocacy strategies. The deadline for applications is **15 March 2010**.

Further information, job description and application form:

http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/communications_and_public_affairs_officer.html

Internship at Amnesty International London Office

Amnesty International is currently recruiting an intern who will be able to assist the Refugee and Migrants Rights Team ideally for 5 days a week for a minimum of 6 months. The deadline of application is **26 March 2010**. If you are interested in interning for the Amnesty team, please go to their [website](#) for further information.

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

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