

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Migration

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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

Add your voice to the campaign for free healthcare for all refused asylum seekers

The Refugee Council supports the recent Department of Health proposal to allow refused asylum seekers receiving UKBA Section 4 or Section 95 support to have free access to all necessary medical treatment. However, under the current proposals refused asylum seekers who are not receiving UKBA support would continue to be charged for secondary health care. A government consultation on this proposal is currently underway and will end on 30th June.

The Refugee Council is calling for all refused asylum seekers to be given full, free access to all NHS services. If you would like to contribute to the Refugee Council's response, please complete the online survey (see link below) by 28 May 2010. If you or your organisation wish to respond to the government consultation in full, you can find all relevant information on the Department of Health consultation webpage (see link below). The deadline is 30 June 2010.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact rachel.taylor@refugeecouncil.org.uk.

Online survey:

<https://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/refugeecouncil/healthcare>

Department of Health consultation webpage:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_113233

Further information:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2010/healthcare_consultation

Refugee Council draft response to the consultation:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/policy_responses/Copy%20of%20Summary%20response%20to%20DoH%20consultationFINAL.pdf

Update on child detention

The government is committed to ending the detention of children for immigration purposes. The Immigration Minister Damian Green will be leading a wide-ranging review to achieve this, setting out plans in the coming months.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/may/update-on-child-detention>

Migration

Coalition government agrees to limit non-EU immigration and end detention of children

The Coalition Agreement document published on 12 May by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats states on immigration: "We have agreed that there should be an annual limit on the number of non-EU economic migrants admitted into the UK to live and work. We will consider jointly the mechanism for implementing the limit. We will end the detention of children for immigration purposes."

Coalition Agreement – full text:

http://www.libdems.org.uk/latest_news_detail.aspx?title=Conservative_Liberal_Democrat_coalition_agreements&pPK=2697bcdc-7483-47a7-a517-7778979458ff

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) new voluntary return programme and contact details for the Midlands and East of England team

Please note that IOM has a new voluntary return programme Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC):

- available to failed asylum seekers *and* irregular migrants
- new flexibility to use assistance for housing and basic medical needs
- up to £3000 - worth of assistance for each child

IOM's assistance will also continue to be available under Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration Programme (VARRP) and Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) Programme. Further flexibility has been introduced to reintegration assistance under VARRP. The new application forms and further information regarding AVRFC is available on the website www.iomuk.org

IOM Midlands and East of England team:

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IOM officers are more than happy to come and meet with you or your organisation to discuss the recent changes or to give a presentation about their programmes.

AVRFC press release:

<http://www.iomlondon.org/doc/news/AVRFC%20Press%20Release.pdf>

AVRFC frequently asked questions:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/AVRFC%20-%20FAQs%20and%20Matrix.pdf>

Economic & Labour Market Review - June 2010 edition – labour market tables

Economic & Labour Market Review's labour market tables are now available, including employment levels and working age employment rates by country of birth and nationality.

Employment levels and working age employment rates by country of birth and nationality:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/06_10/downloads/Table2_27.xls

International comparisons:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/06_10/downloads/Table2_20.xls

Further tables:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/06_10/2.asp

New UK government - changes to the UK Border Agency website

Following the UK general election on 6 May 2010, the UK Border Agency website has undergone some changes. All news stories published before April 2010 have been removed from the website, as has information about our strategies and aims under the previous government. This content can be viewed on the [UK government web archive](#).

Events

“Making Migration Work for All in London” conference

Migrants' Rights Network, 6pm **23 June 2010**, St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AG

At this conference Migrants' Rights Network will be launching a new report, providing an overview of immigration in London and looking at some of the challenges that immigration brings and the public sector and civil society responses to these challenges. The report looks at the perspectives for policies that provide a better deal for migrants and residents in London. The event will feature a short film based on the report plus talks by academics, migrant activists and representatives of London government, and will be followed by a reception. A complete programme and invitation will follow soon.

Refugee Council course - An introduction to child protection issues in working with children from abroad - 6 July 2010 – London

This course will provide an overview of child protection legislation, issues affecting children and families from abroad, and the identification and referral processes. Delegates will explore the range of issues affecting children who are in need of protection, looking at the interface with the asylum and immigration system.

Participants will receive an overview of the relevant legislation, guidance and procedures involved in working with protection issues with refugee children, which will be related back to their day-to-day experiences, giving them a practical understanding of:

- the current UK legislation and court processes in child protection
- the roles of different agencies in the child protection system
- identification and referral systems
- the impact of the asylum system on refugee families and separated children

Who should attend?

This course is suitable for anyone providing services to refugee and asylum seeking children including social workers, education providers, youth workers, housing providers and refugee community groups

How can I attend this course?

This course will be running at the Refugee Council in Brixton on 6 July 2010.

Cost (per delegate): £109 (reduced rate for registered charities) £175 (standard rate)

Booking information:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/booking.htm>

Funding

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £1,000 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities.

Grants for children's education and children's welfare:

Applications should be made **between 1 May & 30 June** for decisions by the end of September.

Grants for elderly people and adults and children with disabilities:

Applications should be made between 1 August & 30 September for decisions by the end of December.

Please note charities can only make one application each year.

If you require any support whilst completing your application please contact the helpline or visit the website to download a copy of the criteria or view the application form.

Tel: 0845 612 3575

Website: <http://www.tescopl.com/tescocharitytrust>

Jobs

Part-time Administration and Support Worker (21 hours/week)

Salary: £15,725 - £16,830 (NJC Pay Scale 14 – 17 Scale 3: (Pro Rata 0.6))

6% pension

Based in Bedford

Show Racism the Red Card are seeking to recruit an administration and support worker based in their Bedford office. The post is currently funded until April 2011 with potential for extension.

The post will involve liaising with schools and other organisations to arrange educational visits, supporting and dispatching information to staff and volunteers, organising office systems and updating databases, supporting the organisation and delivery of SRTRC events throughout the region and effective administrative support for South East Team.

Applicants must have:

- experience in a similar role
- excellent computer skills

- excellent organisational and planning skills and ability to prioritise work load
- excellent communication skills, written, telephone and inter-personal
- commitment to anti-racism
- ability to meet specific deadlines under pressure
- ability to work effectively as part of a team

To download an application pack please go to <http://www.theredcard.org/get-involved/job-vacancies?vacancy=1163> email info@theredcard.org or write to:

Show Racism the Red Card,
PO Box 141,
Whitley Bay,
Tyne and Wear, NE26 2YH.

Deadline for receipt of application forms is Friday **28 May at 5pm**
Interviews will be held on Monday 14 June 2010 in Bedford.

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@eelga.gov.uk

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