

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)[Migration](#)[Events](#)[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)

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

Refugee Council briefing on Home Office asylum statistics for 2010 [April 2011]

Each quarter the Home Office statistics bulletin on immigration includes details of applications and decisions made under the asylum process. This briefing pulls out the asylum statistics for the fourth quarter of 2010 and collates the figures from the four bulletins into annual totals.

Asylum statistics briefing:

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

Meeting the health needs of refugees and asylum seekers – online resource for health workers

This online resource was originally published as a resource pack in 2002. It has proved to be an invaluable source of information for health workers. It has now been updated and includes practical information, details of useful contacts and resources and examples of good practice.

<http://nrif.homeoffice.gov.uk/health/SpecialistSupport/index.asp>

Uplift to asylum support rates

An inflationary increase will be applied to the rates of cash support provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, with the exception of the over 25 rate which was closed to new applicants in 2009 and will be frozen until it is finally phased out. The increase will be at a rate of 3.1% in line with the CPI rate for September 2010. This is the month used by DWP to determine the uplift to benefit rates. The Asylum Support (Amendment) Regulations 2011 were laid before Parliament on 24 March and the new rates will come into effect on 18 April 2011. Rates of support under section 4 of the 1999 Act are still under review. The UKBA website will update its website with new asylum support rates as soon as they are introduced (from 18 April 2011).

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/support/cashsupport/currentsupportamounts/>

Updated enforcement instructions and guidance for UKBA staff

This manual contains guidance and information for UKBA officers dealing with enforcement immigration matters within the United Kingdom. UKBA have sought to present this manual in a form suitable for public disclosure but there is a small amount of material that cannot be disclosed because it may damage the effectiveness of the immigration control. The manual is a living document and is subject to change. Some sections may be unavailable if they are currently being updated.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/policyandlaw/guidance/enforcement/>

Migration

Pathways to Work interactive online guide for migrants

Pathways to Work is an interactive online guide to help young immigrants get a job or get a better job. It is a European Union Leonardo da Vinci funded initiative, established to design and pilot a web-based information and training resource specifically for young immigrants looking to gain employment that more closely matches their skills, qualifications and experience. It will be developed taking into account the specific needs of immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in gaining employment. The training course (click on the menu at the top of the page) currently covers 5 modules: Building Personal Confidence and Self Awareness; Developing Teamwork and Communication Skills; Know your Employment Rights; Career Preparation; and Job Search Skills and Interview Techniques.

Website: <http://www.pathwaystowork.eu> (available in English, Italian, Spanish and Polish)

“Employment Conditions of Chinese Migrant Workers in the East Midlands - A Pilot Study in a Context of Economic Recession”

This report provides the first evidence of the impact of the current economic recession on the Chinese ethnic economy and Chinese community, and indicates how it has affected the employment and working conditions for Chinese migrants in the areas surveyed. This report offers a valuable insight into how the global economic recession has affected the employment, mobility and working conditions of Chinese migrants in the UK as a whole, and most likely also in other EU countries.

Full report: <http://ctt-news.org/IMP-ESJG-2OU449-5POKZ-1/c.aspx>

David Cameron on immigration: full text of the speech

Prime minister's address to Conservative party members on the government's immigration policy

Full text of the speech:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2011/apr/14/david-cameron-immigration-speech-full-text>

“Pay-to-Go Schemes and Other Non-coercive Return Programs: Is Scale Possible?” – Migration Policy Institute report

Voluntary return programs implemented since the 1970s in countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, and France, as well as more recent pilots in the United Kingdom, have persistently failed to attract substantial numbers of participants (with the notable exception of a late 1990s program returning migrants from Germany to Bosnia).

Pay-to-go return programs will always face barriers to achieving high levels of participation, not least because many unauthorized migrants simply are not willing to return and are prepared to take substantial risks in order to remain in the host country. Still, the experience of some countries suggests that voluntary return can reach a larger scale than is typically the case and could be an important part of the policy toolkit to reduce illegal immigration.

However, the authors conclude that persistent experimentation (and crucially, evaluation) will be needed in order to overturn barriers to the effective implementation and success of non-coercive return policies.

Report: www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/pay-to-goprograms.pdf.

Integration Support Services News April – July 2011

The latest bulletin is now available on the ISS website and includes the schedule of activities for the next three months and the latest initiatives which aim to support the successful integration of all migrants, refugees, BME community members and groups in Essex and Hertfordshire.

ISS News can be accessed at: <http://www.iss.org.uk/newsletters.php>

Events

PARCA Youth's “Red & White Party” in Peterborough

Thursday, **21 April 2011**; 5.30 pm - 9.30 pm; Unity Hall, Northfield Road, Peterborough, PE1 3QH
PARCA Youth (Poor African Refugee Community Association) is hosting a “Red and White Party” launching their summer youth activities. The aim is to bring together young people aged 8-16 from different backgrounds and make a positive contribution to the community. All participants should wear red and white clothes. Parents are welcome to support.

Further information: 01733563420; ukparca@yahoo.co.uk

PARCA website: www.poor-refugee.org

ESOL for Citizenship course at the Forum in Norwich run by Poultec Training Ltd

This bespoke course is to enable those with lower levels of English to achieve recognition of achievement in English which is a Home Office UK Border Agency requirement in the application process for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) and naturalisation. Poultec Training Ltd currently run these courses three times a year. They have received confirmation of accreditation from the UKBA as an approved provider for these courses which are the alternative route to the Life in the UK test for those whose levels of English are Entry Level and which can be studied in a relatively short time.

Course start date: **06 May 2011**; duration: one morning a week, 10.00 - 12.30pm for 12 weeks; venue: Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich, NR2 1AW.

Further information is available from Rachel Öner on rachel.oner@poultec.co.uk or 01362 850983.

Migrant Health: Improving Health Outcomes - free half-day seminar for GPs and primary care staff

12 May 2011, 1.30pm to 5pm; A.E. Clark-Kennedy lecture theatre in the QM Innovation Centre, 6 Walden Street, London, E1 2AN

This afternoon seminar explores infectious disease and health provision for migrant populations. Late presentation of infectious disease is associated with worse outcome, ongoing transmission and increased healthcare costs. For many of these infections (e.g. HIV, TB, Hepatitis B & C, parasitic infections), exposure in high prevalence countries is a major risk factor. This and future events aim to share best practice through education, research, community engagement and development of a migrant health primary care network.

<http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/images/stories/posters/migranthealthevent.pdf>

Free mental health awareness sessions for minority groups in Peterborough run by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS

These sessions are for minority community groups of Peterborough and organisations that work with diverse communities. Key objectives of the sessions are:

- raise awareness of mental health and mental illness including symptoms, diagnosis and treatment
- information on which services support mental health and how to contact them
- information on medication and opportunity to ask questions
- an opportunity to view the breaking through barriers interactive films that talk about stigma around mental health

The sessions are delivered in your organisation or chosen venue by qualified clinicians who are able to answer questions and signpost to services. Bookings for groups of 10 or more are currently being taken for 2011. To book a place or for more information contact Shama Kanwar on shama.kanwar@cpft.nhs.uk or 01733 318104.

Turning a blind eye: the British state and migrant domestic workers' employment rights - a conference organised by the Working Lives Research Institute

26 May 2011, 10am – 4.00pm, Toynbee Hall, London Metropolitan University

WLRI has just completed a research project (with the generous support of the Nuffield Foundation) 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 be, 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 in a programme of distinguished speakers, including:

- Dr Bridget Anderson, Centre for Migration Policy and Society, Oxford University, author of "Doing the Dirty Work? The Global Politics of Domestic Labour" (London: Zed Books, Jan. 2000)
- Richard Murphy, Tax Research UK, founder of the Tax Justice Network
- Marissa Begonia, Justice for Domestic Workers (J4DW)
- Paul Whitehouse, Chair, Gangmasters Licensing Authority
- Professor John Gabriel, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University
- Leading speaker from Unite the Union
- Nick Clark & Leena Kumarappan, authors of the WLRI report "Turning a Blind Eye"

This will be a participatory event where contributions from participants will be encouraged. Space is limited to 100, so you are advised to register early. Registration is free, and lunch will be provided. Email

workinglives@londonmet.ac.uk to register your place, with your name, organisation, and contact details.

NRPF Network/British Red Cross conference: "Local Authority Support to People with No Recourse to Public Funds - Reflections on the Past, Looking to the Future"

15 June 2011, 9.30am - 4pm in Islington, London

This conference will bring together representatives of local authorities, central government and the voluntary sector to reflect on recent developments in the area of local authority support to people with no recourse to public funds, to identify emerging issues and explore solutions to new problems.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. This conference is free of charge. Only those who have booked will be able to attend. For the booking form please contact

jonathan.price@islington.gov.uk (to be returned by Wednesday 11 May 2011 at the latest).

Conference programme and further information:

http://www.islington.gov.uk/community/equalitydiversity/refugees_migrants/nrpf_network/events.asp

Funding

The Foyle Foundation Small Grants Scheme

The scheme supports smaller charities in the UK, especially those working at grass roots and local community level, in any field, across a wide range of activities. Applications are welcome from charities that have an annual turnover of less than £100,000 per annum. One year grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are made to charities which can demonstrate that such a grant will make a significant difference to their work. There are no deadlines for submission. Applications will be received at all times but it may take up to four months to obtain a decision from Trustees. Please apply well in advance of your requirements.

Further information and application form: <http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk/small-grants-scheme>

London 2012 Open Weekend grants

Grants of up to £500 are available to Norfolk's VCS and town and parish councils to help stage and promote non-commercial sporting and cultural events and activities as part of the London 2012 Open Weekend (22-24 July 2011). Sporting activity can include any sport or physical activity in which the community has the opportunity to participate. Cultural activity can include anything with an artistic or creative theme that can be staged or which the community can participate in. Deadline: **29 April 2011**

Further information:

http://www.norfolkcelebratingtalent.co.uk/Cultural_Olympiad/London_2012_Open_Weekend/index.htm

Department of Health: Local Grant Scheme

The Department of Health's Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund (HSCVF) second local grant scheme is now open to applications. The HSCVF local grant scheme has been developed to make a positive contribution to the Department of Health's (DH) objectives. The Fund also aims to increase the DH's investment in volunteering by directly supporting the integration of volunteering into the delivery of DH priorities.

The fund aims to enhance capacity in the health, public health and social care volunteering field and help organisations grow and develop. The HSCVF provides a combination of grant funding and support to organisations. Funded organisations must want to take up both elements of the Fund: A package of support activities to build organisational capacity that will assist with longer term sustainability, as well as financial provision through grant awards.

The total grant award (maximum amount is dependent on your yearly income) of up to £50,000 is available for 2 or 3 year projects. Deadline: **25 May 2011**

Further information: <http://ctt-news.org/IMP-ESJG-2OU449-5POL3-1/c.aspx>

Jobs

STAR: Student Network Coordinator

Salary: £23,000 per annum pro rata, 28 hours per week; Bethnal Green, London

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is for a Student Network Coordinator to engage and empower students to learn about and support refugees and asylum seekers in the UK and support STAR members to deliver events, campaigns and awareness raising activities.

The successful candidate will be educated to degree level, have an excellent understanding of current issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees in the UK and experience of running an active and successful student group and of organizing events, awareness raising and campaigning activities with students.

Deadline: Tuesday **3 May 2011**, 9am

For further information and to apply please call 020 7729 8880 or go to: <http://ctt-news.org/IMP-ESJG-2OU449-5POL4-1/c.aspx>

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

If you wish to unsubscribe from the Newsflash please email louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk

