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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

Chance or choice? Understanding why asylum seekers come the UK

This report presents the findings of research commissioned by the Refugee Council, which was undertaken by Professor Heaven Crawley, Director of the Centre for Migration Policy Research at the University of Swansea. The research investigated the decisions made by asylum seekers who come to the UK and explored the extent to which these decisions are a reflection of chance or choice. It builds upon the growing, but as yet still limited, body of evidence about the 'choices' that individuals are (or are not) able to exert over the country in which they will seek asylum, and the factors that might contribute to the decision making process.

Press release:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/press/2010/January/14012010_a

Research summary:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/1E610D55-0769-48C7-BAD6-2BD10C095330/0/chancechoice.pdf>

Full report:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/9FB33CE4-8DDF-47F7-B060-CB57CA5812E8/0/rcchance.pdf>

Asylum Support Appeals Project Newsletter – January 2010

ASAP produces quarterly newsletters which have the latest information about asylum support appeals issues, case studies and much more.

ASAP January 2010 Newsletter:

http://www.asaproject.org/web/images/PDFs/newsletters/asap_newsletter_jan10.pdf

Home Office research report: Factors affecting participation in assisted voluntary return programmes and successful reintegration: a review of the evidence

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr29c.pdf>

Home Office research report: The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) 2004 and 2004 extension: monitoring report

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr30c.pdf>

Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA) briefing

Briefing for the House of Lords debate on 12 January 2010 on the UK Opt-in to the draft EU Asylum Procedures and Qualifications Directives

[January 2010](#)

Migration

Eastern European migrant employment patterns reviewed

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has published the first comprehensive report looking at the skills and employment patterns of Britain's eastern European migrants.

'The UK's New Europeans' report found that these migrants were primarily working in low skilled, low paid employment. Despite having higher education attainment levels than local employees, eastern Europeans earned on average 12.5 per cent less than British-born workers. More than half of the 1.5 million people from "new" European countries have returned home. Only 700,000 people remain, with in-flows of Eastern European migrants to Britain dropping by more than 60 per cent in the past three years.

Press release:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/eastern-european-migrant-employment-patterns-reviewed>

Full report:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/new_europeans.pdf

Tackling Race Inequality: A Statement on Race

This document sets out Communities and Local Government's strategy for tackling race inequalities and how it fits in with the wider agendas on equalities and fairness.

Tackling Race Inequalities document:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1432344.pdf>

Speech by John Denham, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/tacklingraceinequality>

A Response to the Consultation on Charging for Immigration and Visa Applications

The UK Border Agency has published its formal response to its 2009 public consultation on the fees it charges for immigration and visa applications.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/12-responses-charging>

Response to the Consultation:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/closedconsultations/charging09/charging-response?view=Binary>

Immigration Group Alert – update on key immigration group issues of interest to stakeholders – January 2010

In this month's issue you can read about Identity cards being extended to skilled workers, the regionalisation of the CITU Travel and Accommodation Team, the latest on the Points Based System, the Migrant Survey Feasibility Study, and the outcomes of the Asylum Support Rates Workshop.

The UK Border Agency will be launching a new publication which you will receive in March. This update will be produced on a bi-monthly basis and be more tailored to the needs of the stakeholder audience.

Immigration Group Alert:

<http://www.eera.gov.uk/GetAsset.aspx?id=fAAzADYAMgAzAHwAfABGAGEAbABzAGUafAB8ADAAfAA1>

Events

The No Accommodation Network National Conference

NACCOM (The No Accommodation Network) is a network of organisations across the UK supporting destitute asylum seekers by providing some form of accommodation. In other parts of the country, the NACCOM Network has been developing various ways of solving this dire situation and they will shortly be holding a workshop in London where they will give practical advice about the way to set up a local scheme. More information can be found on <http://boaztrust.org.uk/naccom/>.

On Saturday **30 January 2010** NACCOM will be holding its national conference in London. The conference will run from 11-5 at Praxis, Pott Street, London E2 0EF. Contact tatiana.tomayeva@praxis.org.uk for more details or to book in. You can download a flyer on <http://boaztrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/NACCOM-follow-up-flyer-final.pdf>

“Norfolk United”: Debating Race Equality

Invitation to a Runnymede Trust Regional Event, in association with the Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council

11 February 2010, 19:00 – 20:00

The Council Chamber, Norwich City Hall

The Runnymede Trust, in association with the Norwich and Norfolk Racial Equality Council, is delighted to invite you to attend a “Question Time” style debate with local MPs and race equality experts. The event provides an excellent opportunity to quiz politicians from all the major parties such as former Home Secretary Charles Clarke MP, Conservative MP Keith Simpson and Liberal Democrat MP Norman Lamb on how race equality can be achieved in Norfolk and across the UK. The three local MPs will be joined at the event by community activist Dr Chris Michel, Chair of the Norfolk-based Caribbean and African Network (CAN).

We have invited a wide spectrum of people from across Norfolk including students, local community groups and other interested parties to what we hope will be a lively and honest debate. We want to hear a range of views on race relations across the region and particularly opinions on the role of politicians in achieving race equality. The debate is being held to mark Runnymede’s involvement in the re-launch of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Race and Community. This will help parliamentarians across all parties to work together to raise the profile of race equality issues in parliament, as well as work towards ways to bring about a more equal and cohesive society.

As places for the event are likely to be limited, you are advised to RSVP as early as possible. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to pass on to someone you think will be interested. Join us and let your voice be heard.

Please reply to vicki@runnymedetrust.org or Sean.Whyte@NNREC.org.uk
Successful applicants will be notified by 28 January.

Official launch of the Centre for Trauma, Asylum and Refugees

Tavistock Centre, 5th Floor, 120 Belsize Lane, London, NW3 5BA

26 February 2010; 7pm

Main speaker will be Jon Snow, journalist and presenter best known for presenting Channel 4 News.

Places will be limited to 100 so in order to book a place, please email: ctar@essex.ac.uk

The Centre for Trauma, Asylum and Refugees (CTAR) aims to provide a framework and a focus for examining, from a variety of different perspectives, the main issues associated with the reality and experience of being an asylum seeker or refugee; the main emphasis is on the psychosocial dimensions of these experiences. The Centre is also intended to provide a forum for individuals and organisations in this country and abroad to exchange knowledge and experiences and to further develop their ideas and work in this field.

CTAR website:

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/centres/psycho/ctar>

Preventing Violent Extremism: Implementing the Prevent Programme in Local Communities

16 March 2010; 10.30am-3.15pm; The Commonwealth Club, Westminster

For local authorities and their partners the challenge of ensuring resilience to violent extremism within their communities, and alongside their wider community cohesion objectives, is still a relatively new one. ‘The Prevent Strategy’ launched in 2008 has aimed to build local supporting intelligence, analysis and communications to allow local areas to address these threats. Yet with such a sensitive issue, requiring clear definition and strong partnership working, the implementation of Prevent is by no means straight forward. In light of this the Department for Communities and Local Government has recently undertaken an enquiry into the strengths and weaknesses of Prevent to date.

Cost: £175 - £225 per place

Further details and online registration:

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/?p=9890>

Agenda:

<http://www.westminster-briefing.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/PVEAgenda.pdf>

Funding

Heritage Lottery Fund — Skills for the Future

Skills for the Future from the Heritage Lottery Fund has grants from £100,000 - £1 million available. The grants are for organisations to provide paid training places for people to learn traditional conservation skills or to develop the skills needed to engage people with heritage (e.g. education, community participation/volunteering programmes, using new media and technology to open up heritage). You should email your full contact details to: skills@hlf.org.uk to register your interest in the programme.

Deadline: **19 March 2010** for full applications. Pre-application enquiry forms should be sent in prior to this date. See the Heritage Lottery Fund website for further details.

<http://www.hlf.org.uk/HowToApply/programmes/Pages/Skillsforthefuture.aspx>

Jobs

ICAR Internships and training

The Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees (ICAR) is seeking to recruit two interns for the winter-spring term 2010.

The post is for 1 day per week over a 3 month period initially, commencing in February 2010. This is an attractive opportunity to gain experience in an information and research environment and contribute to a large-scale online project.

To apply please e-mail a CV and a brief covering letter by **22 January 2010**.

Julie Gibbs, Senior Research and Information Officer, ICAR. Room: D605 (Social Sciences building).

Julie.gibbs@city.ac.uk Tel: 020 7040 4596

Suitable candidates will be invited to attend an informal discussion of the role requirements with ICAR staff in the week of the 25 January.

Further information:

[ICAR Internship Winter-Spring 2010-programme details](#)

JRS Europe - Project Development Officer

Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe seeks a Project Development Officer on a fixed-term contract (4 months) for the period 15 March - 16 July 2010 to be based in Brussels. A detailed description of the position can be downloaded from the JRS Europe website:

http://www.jrseurope.org/news_releases/2010%20Project%20development%20officer%20job%20offer%20maternity%20replacement.pdf

Please send your application by e-mail only to Michael Schöpf, Regional Director, at europe@jrs.net. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, **3 February 2010**.

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