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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).

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### **Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) goes into administration**

One of the eastern region's few remaining providers of legally-aided services to asylum seekers has gone into administration. IAS had offices in Norwich and Peterborough and had been running regular outreach surgeries in Ipswich via the Suffolk Refugee Support Forum. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is working to offer the cases under IAS's management to other providers in the region, but recognises that the size of the IAS account compared to the number of providers remaining in the east means that out of region provision may have to be offered. The LSC, using its experience following the collapse of Refugee Migrant Justice in 2010, recommends that advisers should check the IAS website for updates regarding placement of cases under the administrator.

On 13 July, questions were put to Baroness Northover in the House of Lords concerning IAS, regarding live client cases, the future of legal aid payments for asylum claims, the quality of immigration legal advice in future and the concentration in the east of England of new matter starts with IAS.

To read the story as reported by the BBC, please follow this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14105065>

To read the press release from the LSC, please follow this link:

[http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/cls\\_news\\_12838.asp](http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/cls_news_12838.asp).

To access the IAS website and advice from administrators, please follow this link:

<http://www.iasuk.org/home.aspx>

Comment on the closure from Refugee Council:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/news/2011/july/20110711>

The statement from UK Border Agency: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/18-ias-administration>

To see the question posed in the House of Lords:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldordpap.htm#minproc>. To read the minuted answer, a subscription to Parliament Today is recommended: <http://www.parliamenttoday.com>

### **UK Border Agency (UKBA) announces appointment of new Chief Executive, Rob Whiteman**

According to the Home Office website, the new Chief Executive of UKBA is to be Rob Whiteman, currently the Managing Director of the Local Government Improvement and Development Agency. He was chief executive of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham for five years and was previously the deputy chief executive for the London Borough of Lewisham.

To read the news in full on the Home Office website, please follow this link: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/ukba-appointment>

### **South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice (SYRLJ) officially launched – report from Migrants' Rights Network (MRN)**

SYRLJ group aims to complement and support existing legal services for asylum seekers while raising public awareness about the asylum application process. While recognising that Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) accreditation is required for certain types of legal advice, a lot could be done in the meantime. Prompted by the experience of asylum seekers and refugees, the group has trained its volunteers, drawn from the law department of Sheffield University and refugees to:

- research country information evidence, used to support fresh claims and asylum appeals
- understand common themes in rejection of asylum claims, using case studies
- accompany asylum seekers to tribunal hearings
- help understand particular issues facing traumatised women in the asylum process.

To learn more about the organisation, please follow this link: <http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/migration-pulse/2011/south-yorkshire-legal-support-group-launched>

**Home Office releases figures on detention of children in May 2011**

Please follow this link for monthly management information on children entering detention, held solely under Immigration Act powers, May 2011: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/child-detention-may2011>

**UK Border Agency (UKBA) Consultation on Biometric Residence Permits**

UKBA is required to roll out biometric residence permits (BRPs) to foreign nationals from outside the European Economic Area in accordance with obligations under European legislation. To understand the potential impact of rolling out biometric residence permits to more categories of foreign nationals, including those applying for settlement (or indefinite leave to remain), those granted protection or asylum and those coming to the UK from overseas for more than six months, UKBA is inviting views from service providers and clients. Please follow the link to an online questionnaire which, for those who participate, should be completed by **12 September 2011**. [www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRPquestionnaireSummer2011](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRPquestionnaireSummer2011)

**HM Inspectorate of Prisons – Report on unannounced inspection of short-term holding facility at Heathrow Airport, terminal 4 and terminal 3**

The reports looked at conditions in two short term holding facilities which hold people arriving to the UK who have been denied entry or are detained pending further enquiries as well as immigration detainees brought into the airport who are waiting to board a flight. The facilities are managed by G4S who also manage holding rooms in the other Heathrow terminals. Both reports make a number of recommendations to improve detention conditions. Please follow these links to read the reports in full:

Terminal 4 - <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/heathrow-terminal-4-sthf.pdf>

Terminal 3 - <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/heathrow-terminal-3-sthf.pdf>

Article on the reports from the Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/jul/06/detention-children-border-agency-heathrow>

Comment on reports from End Child Detention Now: <http://ecdn.org/>

**UK Border Agency's Further Submissions Unit (FSU) – new contact details**

The further submissions unit will be relocating from 18 July 2011 to a new building in Liverpool. The new premises will be located in The Capital Building, 6 Union Street, Liverpool L3 9AF. The phone number to book appointments to hand in further submissions will change to 0151 213 2411 and to cancel appointments already booked will change to 0151 213 2413. Please note that the further submissions unit at Reliance House was closed on Friday 15 July. To read the details of these changes in full, please follow this link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/19-fsu-relocating>

**Out of Control: The case for the complete overhaul of enforced removals by private contractors – Amnesty International UK**

Amnesty International has documented allegations of excessive use of force by private security contractors during the enforced removals process. Contractors have reportedly used dangerous and improper control and restraint techniques which, in one case, appear to have resulted in the death of an individual, Jimmy Mubenga, in October 2010. Amnesty has received additional allegations of abuse during enforced removals from the UK. Reports of cases alleging improper treatment by private contractors have continued despite two critical government reports - one by Baroness O'Loan in March 2010 and the other by the HM Inspectorate of Prisons in August 2009 - which highlighted deficiencies in accountability, training and techniques employed by contractors. This suggests that fundamental problems remain regarding the use of private security companies in the enforced removals process.

The report concludes with recommendations for both the UK Border Agency (UKBA) and the private security companies. To read the report, part of the Amnesty campaign to improve the asylum system, please follow this link: [http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc\\_21634.pdf](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_21634.pdf). There has been no comment on the report from UKBA at the time of compiling the newsflash.

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## Migration

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### **Integration as a two-way process in the EU? Assessing the relationship between the European Integration Fund and the Common Basic Principles on Integration – book from Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)**

This book examines the nature, the limits and potential of the principle of integration as a two-way process of mutual accommodation between migrants and the receiving societies. It assesses the extent to which this key principle, which lays at the foundation of the EU framework on integration, is implemented in practice by investigating how it informs national programmes supported by the European integration fund. The authors put forward recommendations for evidence-based policy-making within the EU framework on integration and for improving the use of European funding for integration measures at national level. The recommendations include concrete steps to ensure that European funding primarily serves to put into practice a European approach to integration that is understood as a two-way process in which not only migrants but also the receiving societies – including civil society, social partners and multi-level public authorities – participate and interact.

Please follow this link to learn more and buy the book: <http://www.ceps.eu/book/integration-two-way-process-eu-assessing-relationship-between-european-integration-fund-and-com>

### **The Impact of Migration on UK population growth – briefing note from the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford**

Based on official population estimates and population projections, this briefing examines the impact of migration on recent and future UK demographic trends. Please follow this link to read the briefing note in full:

[http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Briefing%20-%20Impact%20on%20Population%20Growth%20v2\\_0.pdf](http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Briefing%20-%20Impact%20on%20Population%20Growth%20v2_0.pdf)

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## Events

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### **BAME-GATE – Bridge Plus+ ‘Have your say’ event, Norwich 22 July**

Bridge Plus+ has agreed to work with Norfolk Community Cohesion network on the BAME-GATE event - Black, Asian & Ethnic Minority – Gaining awareness through engagement. They want to establish if services provided in Norfolk are addressing the right issues which are of importance to the Norfolk BAME community. This event is an information sharing opportunity at which they hope to recruit participants for a longer engagement project. This first event will take place at the Norwich International Community Engagement (NICE) Centre, 19 Muspole Street, Norwich NR3 1DJ from 2.30-5pm, followed by a meal. While booking is not necessary, the hosts would be grateful if you could confirm if you expect to attend so that they make good catering provision. Please contact PaMusa if you expect to attend: e: [pamusa@bridgeplus.org.uk](mailto:pamusa@bridgeplus.org.uk) m: 07717 220 209

### **Migrant worker networking event, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Ely CB7 4EE, 17 August**

This event hosted by East Cambridgeshire District Council is for agencies, employers or individuals who support migrant workers living and working within the East of England. The event will start at 10 with a presentation from the Health and Safety Executive about raising awareness of migrant workers and building confidence at work. The second presentation will look at the findings of the Migration Impact funded project looking at migrant worker accommodation in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland districts. The event concludes with a question and answer session followed by a networking lunch.

Those wanting to attend should contact Rachel Doyle t: 01353 665555 or e: [Rachel.doyle@eastcamb.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.doyle@eastcamb.gov.uk)

### **Platforma Arts and Refugees Network meeting, University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich, 19 September**

Platforma is a new project for supporting, developing and mainstreaming refugee related arts. It exists to encourage, recognise and sustain the creative contribution made by artists and in the field of refugee related arts across the UK. Participants are invited to the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts at the UEA to for the first meeting in the east of England to share practice, debate issues, explore new and innovative ideas looking at how to engage with new audiences. The meeting will serve to create a forum for sharing ideas and practice relating to arts and refugees; a space that will also be used for testing out new notions of identity, culture and interaction between refugee and more established communities.

Those wishing to attend this first meeting should register to attend by **29 July** in an email to [e.England@platforma.org.uk](mailto:e.England@platforma.org.uk) with 'Regional Platforma Meeting' as the subject heading.

Artists or groups developing or interested in arts and refugees projects who are interested in learning more about Platforma can join their national network. By registering on their website, it is possible to make contact with artists from a range of different art forms and hear about projects looking for collaborators, regionally and nationally. Visit [www.platforma.org.uk](http://www.platforma.org.uk)

Additionally, anyone interested in and working around the issues of exile, migration, displacement and related issues, commenting on these themes through painting, sculpture, photography, performance, sound or film is invited to submit your work for Counterpoint, part of the first national Platforma Festival of Refugee Arts. Deadline for submissions: **1 September 2011**. For more information see: <http://www.platforma.org.uk/sites/default/files/Counterpoint%20-%20Call%20for%20artists.pdf>

## **Call for participants: Council of Europe Roma Youth Conference. Strasbourg, 26-30 September**

The Council of Europe invites applications from young Roma to participate in its Roma Youth Conference in Strasbourg 26-30 September. The conference will bring together representatives and active leaders of Roma youth organisations, young Roma active in other organisations and projects from the Council of Europe member states. Representatives of other European youth organisations and institutions will also be invited (in limited numbers). All participants should also:

- Be aged between 18 and 30 years (exceptions will be possible when justified);
- Be motivated and committed to contribute to the programme of the conference and its outcomes;
- Have already some experience preferably at international level;
- Be willing and able to liaise with other Roma young people, communities and organisations;
- Be able to work in English or in French or in Romani;
- Be available for the whole duration of the activity.

The preparatory group of the Conference will select about 50 participants on the basis of the following criteria:

- Compliance with the profile of the participants
- Representation of the diversity of Roma communities across the 47 member states of the Council of Europe
- Balanced participation of young Roma women and young Roma men.

All candidates must apply on-line, completing the application form through this link:

<http://youthapplications.coe.int>

Applications must be submitted by **26 July 2011**. A letter of support from their sending organisation has to be uploaded on the platform or sent separately by e-mail, fax or post. In case of several applicants from the same organisation, the support letter should indicate the priority of the applicants. To learn more about this event, including details of the programme, please follow this link:

[http://www.romadecade.org/coe\\_youth\\_conference\\_2011](http://www.romadecade.org/coe_youth_conference_2011)

## **Stonham Home Stay's Diversity day. 12 October, Norwich**

Stonham is inviting organisations to sign up to be a stallholder at their diversity day, to be held at 4Women Resource Centre, 18 Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BQ on 12 October. The day, celebrating equality and diversity, will feature stalls from agencies wanting to showcase their services, as well as guest speakers and entertainment. If your organisation would like to take part, please contact Jane Appleton on e: [Jane.Appleton@homegroup.org.uk](mailto:Jane.Appleton@homegroup.org.uk) t: 0845 155 0390

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## **Funding**

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### **Call for proposal: Promoting the integration of Roma in and through education**

The aim of the call is to:

- Support transnational cooperation projects in the development and implementation of coherent and comprehensive educational and other policy measures to raise the participation and the attainment levels of Roma students in general education and VET
- To support networks activities for awareness raising of the most successful experiences, joining up educational measures and other policy measures for the social integration of Roma children and students

Activities that might be funded include:

- Training of teachers and of community mediators
- Capacity building cooperation projects
- Cooperation projects
- Awareness and dissemination actions
- Networking

The call is open to NGOs dealing with the integration of Roma, other public bodies and stakeholder organisations, national ministries, schools and other training bodies operating in the Member States of the EU, EEA/EFTA countries. The budget is €584,000. Please follow this link to find out more:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2011:193:0018:0019:EN:PDF>

Note that the closing date for applications is **16 September**.

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## Jobs

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### **Keystone Trust – Trainee Community Organisers for Norfolk, Suffolk or Cambridgeshire – 5 Posts, £8.24-£10 per hour, wither 15-17.5 hours over 2 years or 30-35 hours per week for one year**

These posts are offered as part of a new nationwide programme of community organising, which aims to train 5,000 individuals who will work in local communities around the country to bring people together, listen to ideas, build networks and support people to tackle the local issues which are important to them. Trainee Community Organisers will learn how to motivate and organise people locally by using 'Listening Matters- Root Solutions' and subsequently other tools and approaches for animating, developing and catalysing community action. 'Listening Matters - Root Solutions' involves systematic listening and dialogue that builds trusting, respectful relationships, networks and connectivity between and across diverse communities

Applicants need to have the desire to learn and develop as a Community Organiser in order to apply skills for the benefit of the communities in which they will be working. It is essential that Trainee Community Organisers have good listening and organisational skills. Keystone is particularly keen to receive applications from individuals that have experience of the communities we serve, such as migrant communities, a large youth population, and rural areas. Trainee Community Organisers will be employed by Locality who are delivering the national contract for Community Organisers and hosted by Keystone who will be providing mentoring, on the ground support, and office facilities from a base in Thetford.

For an information pack please contact Maria on t: 01842 766018 or e: [info@keystonetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@keystonetrust.org.uk) , or for an informal chat call Sadie Harvey on 01842 768 369. The closing date for applications is **5 August**.

### **Localism Development Officer for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CPALC). St Ives, part-time 25 hours per week, one year fixed term post, salary £16,653**

This role will enable CPALC to support the further development of Parish and Town Councils with the implementation and development of Localism delivery. The job will include working with Parish and Town councils to increase their knowledge of and recognise their contribution to Localism and include identifying specific projects to help deliver the Localism agenda within Cambridgeshire. An understanding of the parish council sector and the ability to work with communities, including some evening work, is essential. Candidates must have access to their own transport.

The full job description, person specification, application form and equal opportunities monitoring form can be downloaded from <http://www.cambsacre.org.uk/jobs-detail.php?eid=6> Queries should be addressed to Hazel Williams on t: 01638 743897 or e: [hazel.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.williams@eastcambs.gov.uk) . The closing date for applications is **29 July**.

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