

**Asylum Seekers and Refugees**

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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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### **Charges for appeals against immigration and asylum decisions effective from 19 December 2011**

The Ministry of Justice is introducing appeal fee charges for some asylum and immigration appeals from 19 December 2011. People who want to appeal against a decision notice dated **19 December 2011 or later** will need to pay a fee. The appeal fee will apply to most categories of visas and decisions. Any exemptions to the fees will be outlined by the Ministry of Justice. This will not affect any decision notices that are dated before 19 December. Also, from 19 December people will need to lodge their appeals at the tribunal in the UK. UKBA will no longer accept appeals at any of their overseas visa application centres. Full guidance about the changes will be published on the Ministry of Justice website from 19 December 2011. Please follow this link to the news as reported on the UKBA website: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/23-appeal-fees>

### **Migrants Law Project (MLP) – note on fast track appeals and pro forma for immigration detainees**

This note has been compiled following the grant of permission to apply for judicial review of a decision by the Upper Tribunal to refuse an application for permission to appeal in a case where the claimant's application for asylum was determined within the 'Detained Fast Track' process at Yarl's Wood Detention Centre. This is linked to their work on rule 35 (3.)

It is hoped that the note is of help to non-advice giving organisations that work with detainees in Yarl's Wood and the other Detention Centres. It includes a pro forma for immigration detainees to fill in to assist them in making appeals. To access the note and proforma, please follow this link: <http://mlpforum.wordpress.com/about/rule-35/>. The page is password protected and to access the site, please register with Katie at MLP e: [katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk](mailto:katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk).

### **Refugee Council launched film for Human Rights' Day**

On Human Rights Day, the Refugee Council launched a short film commemorating the people the charity has protected and supported over the last 60 years. The film, '60 years of refugee protection', features the testimonies and views of refugees who fled conflicts around the world and rebuilt their lives in the UK, in each decade since 1951 - the year the charity came together to offer support and advice to refugees. With British actor Zoe Wanamaker's voiceover, the film features a refugee from each decade from Hungary, Kenya, Chile, Ghana, Kosovo and Liberia. The film is the culmination of the Refugee Council's 60th anniversary celebrations in 2011, as well as the 60th year of the UN Convention for Refugees. Please follow this link to view the film: ["60 years of refugee protection"](#)

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## Migration

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### **Post Office to trial issuing national insurance numbers in Bedford – Payroll News**

The Post Office is taking part in an initiative exploring how their role can be developed in delivering front end services on behalf of Government. In an initiative with the DWP, three trials are taking place, with the trial issuing of National Insurance numbers (NINO) happening in three post offices in Bedford instead of the usual Jobcentre Plus. The trial will be for a small group of NINO applicants for three months from October 2011. During this time, the capability and effectiveness of the NINO allocation operation will be evaluated in terms of:

- The integrity of the allocation process
- Customer service and
- Value for money.

The hope is that the pilot will show that NINO allocations from the post office are easier and more convenient to access. Please follow this link to read the article in full: <http://www.payroll-help.com/2011/12/11241-post-office-ni->

[number/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=%E2%80%98L-Day%E2%80%99%2C+Post+Office+Allocate+NINOs+in+...&utm\\_source=YMLP&utm\\_term=Post+Office+to+Trial+National](#)

## **Migration Reform: caps don't fit – a report from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

This report shows that companies of all sizes and sectors benefit from employing non-EU migrant staff. Overseas employees not only bring in skills and experience unavailable amongst the national workforce, but they help create and maintain relationships as well as commercial links with their countries of origin. This not only enhances the country's position as an international player but opens up exporting opportunities. Workers from outside the EU therefore play a vital role in a firm's strategic planning and potential for growth.

Focusing on the changes to Tier 1 and Tier 2, this report challenges assumptions about small/medium enterprises (SMEs') reliance on non-EU migrants, explores the direct and indirect contributions migrants make to our economy and looks at the potential long-term damage continuous changes to the UK's migration system will have on the country's competitiveness. The aim of this report is to refocus the debate onto the needs of the business community and the economy. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

<http://www.londonchamber.co.uk/docimages/9731.pdf>

## **What's the cost of a rumour? A guide to sorting out the myths and the facts about sporting events and trafficking – a report from Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW)**

There has been a lot published on the link between sporting events and trafficking, with not all of it true or useful. With this guide, GAATW have tried to pull out the most useful information on this topic. To do this, they reviewed literature from various sources including anti-trafficking organisations, sex workers rights organisations, other types of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), academic researchers, UN bodies, government offices, the media and the GAATW network.

The report should help readers to:

- Develop proportionate and evidence-based anti-trafficking responses, rather than measures based on ideology or public myths;
- Critically analyse claims and assumptions about trafficking and sporting events;
- Share factual information about trafficking and quickly correct misinformation about trafficking;
- Quickly respond to measures that stigmatise sex workers and migrants, including prostitution abolitionist campaigns; and
- Learn what worked and what didn't in past host cities.

Please follow this link to read the report in full:

<http://www.gaatw.org/publications/WhatstheCostofaRumour.11.15.2011.pdf>

## **Government consultation on extending domestic violence protection**

The Government is asking the public, police, charities and practitioners for views on the definition of domestic violence. It wants to know whether broadening the definition would help provide greater protection and support to victims. The consultation seeks views on three areas:

- Whether the current cross-government definition of domestic violence introduced in 2004 is working and should remain
- Whether 'coercive control' should be reflected in the definition
- Whether the definition of domestic violence should include younger victims below 18 years of age.

Coercive control is a complex pattern of abuse using power and psychological control over another – financial control, verbal abuse, forced social isolation. These incidents may vary in seriousness and be repeated over time. It is widely recognised that domestic violence is often underpinned by a pattern of such behaviour. Read the full consultation and respond [here](#). The consultation will run until **30 March 2012**.

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## Events

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### **Safeguarding Children: an Introduction to Child Trafficking – training from ECPAT UK, London, 12 January**

ECPAT UK provides training on safeguarding child victims of trafficking for practitioners who work with or make decisions about children, or anyone who may come across children at risk of trafficking.

This introductory training workshop promotes a multi-agency approach, is inclusive, participatory and designed to encourage information sharing between individuals and organisations. ECPAT UK training follows the safeguarding framework for training as laid out in '*Working Together*' (2010). This one day course will be held at their premises Grosvenor Gardens House, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BS at a cost of £100 per participant from 9.45am to 4pm. To book a place and to find out about their programme of courses for 2012, please follow this link: <http://www.ecpat.org.uk/content/safeguarding-children-introduction-child-trafficking> or e: [training@ecpat.org.uk](mailto:training@ecpat.org.uk) or t: 0207 233 9887

### **Let's Talk – Learning Disabilities and Carer Support Talk for BME communities in Norwich from Norwich and Central Norfolk Mind – 3 February**

This free workshop is aimed at those from the black and minority ethnic community who care for people with a learning disability. It will explore what learning disabilities are and the support that is available to those with learning disabilities and carers. It will take place from 2pm onwards at the Mind office at 50 Sale Road NR7 9TP. To book a place, please contact Amrita Kulkarni on e: [cdwmanager@norwichmind.org.uk](mailto:cdwmanager@norwichmind.org.uk) or t: 01603 432457 option 7. Please indicate when booking if an interpreter is needed as Mind can book one.

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## Funding

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There are no funding updates in this edition

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## Jobs

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There are no job updates in this edition

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