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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

Legal Services Commission (LSC) issues revised guidance on transfer of RMJ cases

The LSC posted new guidance on the transfer of Refugee Migrant Justice (RMJ) cases on 8 July 2010. This supersedes previous guidance issued. Newsflash readers with former RMJ clients are recommended to check the LSC website regularly for changes/updates plus information on any new additional capacity in the area.

The link below takes you straight to the website.

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk>

HM Inspectorate of Prisons – Brook House Immigration Detention Centre, Gatwick airport ‘fundamentally unsafe’

The HM Chief Inspector of Prisons has issued a report on a full announced inspection of Brook House Immigration Removal Centre.

UKBA have issued a statement responding to the inspector’s findings.

Press release:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/inspectors/hmi-prisons/docs/Brook_House_2010_PN_rps_.pdf

Full report:

[Report on a full announced inspection of Brook House Immigration Removal Centre \(15-19 March 2010\) by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons](#)

UKBA’s statement:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/july/25-brook-house>

The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) 2008: a process and impact assessment - Home Office report

VARRP offers asylum seekers the opportunity to return voluntarily to their country of return and provides an alternative to enforced removal. It is part funded by the UK’s allocation from the European Commission’s (EC’s) Return Fund and is delivered by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) on behalf of the UK Border Agency. This report presents findings from research assessing the process and impact of the VARRP during the 2008 funding year (August 2008 to May 2009).

Please follow the link for the full report: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr41c.pdf>

Latest edition of No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) network bulletin

This issue summarises the NRPF network’s responses to three consultations, and announces the establishment of the Wales NRPF network. It has details of the judgement in the R (Clue) v Birmingham City Council case and provides details of the IRRiCO Country of Origin information service run by the International Organisation for Migration.

NRPF bulletin – July 2010:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/NRPF%20Network%20-%20July%202010%20Bulletin.pdf>

Migration

Report from European Institute for Construction Labour Research (CLR)

Migrant labour in times of crisis – a range of reports from CLR-News 2-2010 exploring patterns of change across Europe.

Reports compiled are:

- The impact of migrant workers on the functioning of labour markets and industrial relations: the case of construction.
- The free movement of workers in the EU – risks and challenges?
- The protection of undocumented workers in the EU.
- A capabilities or social approach to health and safety? - The British and Dutch construction sectors contrasted
- Migrant worker health and safety: a regulatory perspective.
- The growth in migrant worker injuries in the UK workplace: A solicitor's story.

Follow the link to find the reports:

<http://www.clr-news.org/CLR-News/CLR%20News%202-2010.pdf>

UKBA issues new guidance for tier 4 students applying for university places autumn 2010 with International Baccalaureate (IB) qualifications awarded on 5 July 2010

This week, UKBA published an addendum to their policy guidance for migrants who are applying to study in the UK under Tier 4 of the points-based system. It applies to students who have been awarded their IB on 5 July 2010 as they will not be in receipt of a paper transcript giving their results, and will not receive their award certificate in time to apply for university courses starting in September 2010. To enable these students to apply under Tier 4, UKBA have made special arrangements. And the addendum describes the evidence of IB qualifications that must be provided when making a Tier 4 application.

Follow the link for full details: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/29-t4-policy-changes>

OECD International Migration Outlook 2010

Due to the world economic situation, the flow of immigrants to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries dropped by about 6 percent in 2008 compared to average annual increases of 11 percent over the previous five years. OECD also reports that national data suggest migration numbers fell further in 2009.

Press release [here](#) Statistics [here](#)

Events

Consultation by the Migration Advisory Committee on the level of an annual limit on economic migration to the UK - regional event in the East of England

The Migration Advisory Committee is currently consulting on the level that the first year limit on non-EEA immigrants coming to the UK for work should be set at. In doing so the Committee have been asked to take into account economic, public service and social impacts. To gather feedback from the region, the Strategic Migration Partnership is facilitating a consultation event on **17 August 2010** at the East of England Local Government Association office at Flempton, Bury St Edmunds. The event is primarily aimed at all those who employ migrants, but MAC would welcome responses to the questions in the linked document below from anybody with relevant experience of migration issues.

If you would like to take part in the event, please email louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk .

MAC regional consultation questions:

[MAC regional consultation questions.doc](#)

Norfolk Black History Month 'Community Events Bursary Information Day' 20 July, 5.00pm, Mancroft Room, City Hall, Norwich

Norfolk was voted the Best Black History Month in the UK following the success of Norfolk Black History Months 2008 and 2009. This year's theme is Black role models with a range of events taking place throughout October 2010 in order to reach all communities across Norfolk.

The Norfolk Black History Month' committee working with the Norfolk Community Cohesion Network have developed a community events bursary scheme to allow community groups and voluntary agencies to organise their own black history month events during October 2010 in Norfolk. The events could be educational, entertainment, community activities such as workshops, children and family events, exhibitions, music and drama.

The bursary (funding) is open to all communities and projects with an aim of promoting the aim of Norfolk Black History Month and the event can take place anywhere within the County.

Anyone interested in running an event should come and find out about the bursary scheme on **20 July, 5.00pm** at Mancroft Room, City Hall, Norwich. Anyone with a query can ring or find out more details by following the link to the website.

T:07770323441

<http://www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk/about/bhm.html>

Consultation event on the level of an annual limit on economic migration to the UK in London

6 Aug 2010; 13:00 - 15:00 or **13 Aug 2010**; 13:00 - 15:00; Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) will run two events in London for corporate partners who would like to discuss the consultation. A representative from the UK Border Agency will also be present to explain the Government's consultation.

On 28 June the Government launched a consultation on the limits of non-EU economic migration through Tiers 1 and 2 of the Points Based System. It is consulting on how limits should be implemented, including the mechanism for doing so. At the same time, the Government commissioned the MAC to provide advice on the levels at which limits should be set for the first full year of their operation, and in doing so, to consider the social and public service impacts of migration, as well as the economic impacts. The Government has asked the Committee to provide this advice by the end of September.

Anyone interested in attending, should email mac@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk, stating a preferred date. Places will be issued on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Norwich International Community Engagement (NICE) Centre opens

The new centre will officially open on 26 July 2010. It is at 19 Muspole Street, Norwich NR3 1DJ, and is run by Bridge Plus. The venue will be available for other organisations to use to access BME communities, to do consultations, outreach work, training and other events and activities. The venue can accommodate up to 80 people and has catering facilities attached to it.

Anyone wanting to book the venue should email office@bridgeplus.org.uk

Protecting Unaccompanied Child Asylum Seekers – improving local provision through multi-agency working – Westminster briefing

9 September 2010, 10.40am-3.15pm at The Commonwealth Club, Westminster.

Cost: £225 per place or £175 for two or more places

The speakers will be:

Nadine Finch – Children, Families and Immigration Barrister, Garden Court Chambers

Judith Dennis - Policy Adviser - Unaccompanied Children, Refugee Council

Cllr Roger Lawrence - Chair, LGA Asylum and Refugee Task Group

Richard Ross - UASC Team Manager, Solihull MBC

Philip Ishola - Service Manager and London Trafficking Pilots Lead, LB Harrow

Susan Ellery - Principal Manager, Children in Care, West Sussex CYPS

Who should attend?

Delegates will be drawn from local authorities, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, UKBA, local refugee co-ordination teams, refugee support services, local refugee offices, early years and children's and education

services, asylum charities, refugee legal service organisations, Sure Start centres, refugee healthcare organisations, police authorities, connexions, charities and academia.

To register for this event or to view further details, please use the links below

[For full details please visit the Westminster Briefing Website.](#) [View Full Agenda](#)

Further information and registration

[Begin Online Registration Process](#)

[Download Booking form](#)

Operation Black Vote seminar – becoming a magistrate – East London

A free one day seminar entitled, 'A Judiciary for All' is being organised by Operation Black Vote. The aim of the seminar is to help improve Black and other minority ethnic (BME) representation within the magistracy and increase awareness within BME communities about the work of the courts.

The free seminar will provide anyone considering applying to the magistracy with knowledge and understanding of the role of Magistrates and the work of the Criminal Justice System. It will outline the roles and responsibilities of a Magistrate and delegates will have an opportunity to deliberate sample cases, discuss the application process and a court tour may be available. This event is open to anyone who has a desire to become a Magistrate.

Date - **21 August 2010**

A further seminar will be held in London, aimed at the Somali community, who are currently under-represented on Magistrates Benches. Anyone from the Somali community who would like to attend this specific seminar should download the booking form below and follow the instructions written on it. The date of this seminar is still to be confirmed.

[Please download a booking form from here](#) or contact Merlene Carrington by telephone on 0208 983 5430 or e-mail: mag@obv.org.uk quoting 'Regional Seminars' in the subject field.

Study Tour of Japan for European Youth 2010

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan invites young Europeans for a ten-day group study tour of Japan in November or December 2010. Up to 37 participants will experience cultural, economic and political aspects of Japan from traditional and modern perspectives, through lectures, visits and hands-on experiences while travelling the country. They will have the chance to take part in discussions with Japanese young people, visit regional cities across Japan and stay with a host family.

Applicants should meet the following requirements:

1. European national
2. Aged between 25-35 (as of 1 June 2010)
3. Able to communicate effectively in English
4. Never previously visited Japan
5. Must not be a student

Date of Tour - Successful applicants cannot decide which group they will participate in.

Group A: **8 November - 18 November 2010**

Group B: **29 November - 9 December 2010**

Anyone interested in applying must send the following:

- (1) CV
- (2) a cover letter
- (3) a short essay (one page on A4-sized paper, single-spaced) in English on:
"What would you do to strengthen the relationship between Japan and your country (Europe or EU)?"

The deadline for applications is **Thursday 29 July 2010**.

Applications should go to:

Study Tour of Japan for European Youth 2010

Japan Information & Cultural Centre

Embassy of Japan

101-104 Piccadilly

London
W1J 7JT

For more details please see: <https://a07.hm-f.jp/cc.php?t=M5463&c=20354&d=59fd>

National Inter Faith Week 2010, East of England regional launch, 22 November 2010, Cambridge

Inter Faith Week will take place across England and Wales from Sunday 21 to Saturday 27 November 2010. The Regional Launch will comprise an afternoon exhibition, awards presentation and networking event, followed by an evening panel debate on science and religion, both at the Shire Hall in Cambridge.

Further details and information about the launch event will be issued nearer the time. However, if you have information about any events that are planned for Inter Faith Week, send them to the contacts below to enable the event to be publicised on your behalf.

East of England Faiths Council
St John's Innovation Centre
Cowley Road
Cambridge
CB4 0WS

Phone 01223 421606

Fax 01223 421839

eefc@camcatalyst.co.uk

<http://www.eefaihtscouncil.org.uk/interfaith2010.php>

Funding

Grant for charities which help homeless people to return to mainstream society

'Help The Homeless's' main funding remit is the regular allocation of grants of up to £3000 for capital costs to small and medium-sized charities - those with a turnover of up to £1m per annum. Grants to larger charities are considered if a project is suitably innovative and it is only possible for a large organisation to develop it.

Applications must relate to projects that assist individuals in their return to mainstream society, rather than only offering shelter or other forms of sustenance. Applicants must use an official form and clearly describe the aims and structure of their organisation, their future plans and specific details of how any grant money will be spent. A copy of the latest available audited accounts is also required. If an application relates to computer equipment, then first visit the advice section on the <http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/Advice.htm> page.

There are quarterly deadlines for grant applications each year as follows: **31 March / 30 June / 30 September / 31 December**. There should be a minimum period of **two years** between the receipt of a grant and a further application.

Grant website: <http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/Grants.htm>

Examples of recent grants made can be seen here: <http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/Examples.htm>

Funding to combat homelessness #2

'Spark' is a development and investment programme supporting social enterprises that prevent and tackle homelessness including organisations that work with people who are at risk of being homeless. The overall objective is to select those organisations that can achieve the most social impact towards the core aim: to prevent or tackle homelessness.

Spark has five specific goals:

- To enable more homeless and vulnerably-housed people to move into independent living and employment
- To champion and build sustainable social enterprise models
- To increase sustainability and impact of sector in tackling homelessness compared to existing models of intervention
- To develop more valuable connections and partnerships between the private, public and third sectors
- To continue testing, promoting and disseminating the value of social enterprise and the Spark model.

Applications are now open for **Spark 2010**. The programme is offering shares of Spark's £1.6 million fund to those charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises, housing associations, local authorities and primary care trusts which can address homelessness through social enterprise.

The deadline for applications is **13 August 2010**, with the finalists announced on **1 September 2010**. For more information follow this link: <http://www.sparkchallenge.org/2010.html>

Jobs

Global English Project Coordinator, Norfolk

21 hours per week until August 2013

£13,256.88 per annum

The successful candidate will be required to work with 5 Norfolk secondary school English and Citizenship departments to improve speaking and listening skills in Year 10 students through engaging with local and global issues.

Application Packs can be downloaded from: www.nead.org.uk (About section, under publications)

E: info@nead.org.uk T: 01603 610993

Closing date: **Monday 2 August**

Interview date: **Thursday 12 August**

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