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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).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

60th anniversary of UN Convention for Refugees – refugees from the 1960s for Refugee Council film

The Refugee Council is looking for people who may be willing to take part in a short film the Refugee Council is making for their 60th Anniversary year and to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the UN Convention for Refugees. They are looking for someone who came here as a refugee in the 1960's and settled. In practical terms it will involve a couple of hours of a person's time at a location convenient to them. It would involve talking about the person's experience of coming to the UK, and how the person was able to rebuild their life here thanks to the UN Convention for Refugees. Actual camera time will be very short because this is only a short film. The aim of the film is to highlight the lives saved by the UN Convention over the last 60 years, as well as to highlight the work of the Refugee Council. Please contact Lara Wilks-Sloan you know anyone who can help:

e: lara.wilksloan@refugeecouncil.org.uk

PARCA - Refugee Community Group in Peterborough name change, plus appeal for volunteer and project support

From 1 October 2011, PARCA will stand for **Promoting** African Refugee Community Association - it was formerly known as Poor African Refugee Community Association. PARCA is a refugee community based organisation and registered charity, set up by refugees and asylum seekers who have come to the east of England/ Peterborough as result of the Home Office dispersal policy. They support and empower families to play a full part in society to achieve integration and community cohesion. They encourage refugees, asylum seekers and migrants as well as local communities to participate in regular recreational activities and social events for all age groups and abilities.

If there is anyone in the Peterborough area who has about ten hours a week available to support their work, by undertaking administrative tasks, preparing for the youth club and some cleaning, they would be glad to hear from you. To find out more about, please contact their volunteer centre manager Mr Moez Nathu e: moez@poor-refugee.org or ukparca@yahoo.co.uk. Please follow this link to find out about their project for 'Youth Together' which they are fund raising for, to bring together young people from all backgrounds to meet recreationally an to break down barriers between different community groups. <http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/731>

Assessing the impact of policy changes and cuts to services on asylum seekers and refugees – Employability Forum

Employability Forum is currently running a survey which seeks to identify the impact of policy changes and cuts and the emerging gaps in services for refugees and asylum seekers. This is part of a national Refugee Integration Working Group, co-chaired by UKBA and Employability Forum. The data gathered will be used to inform the Working Group and shape the recommendations that the Group will submit to Ministers. The survey is aimed at organisations which currently support asylum seekers and refugees. It takes about 20 minutes to complete – most of the questions are multiple choice. To access the survey, [please click here](#) - open until **21 October**. Do forward this link to colleagues in the sector. If you have any questions or would like a pdf of the full survey, please contact Tom Shakhli on e: t.shakhli@employabilityforum.co.uk or t: 020 7250 8332. For information on the Refugee Integration Working Group, contact Beryl Randall one: b.randall@employabilityforum.co.uk or t: 020 7250 8330.

Women's Asylum News August/September now available

The lead article in this month's issue covers the latest report by the Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) which considers barriers to asylum support appeals for women and has been written by Gerry Hickey, Legal Adviser at ASAP. This issue also contains case summaries of recent judgments in the Upper Tribunal, national news concerning new guidance for the changes to the domestic violence applications rule and international news. To read this issue please follow this link:

http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/170/WAN_August_September_2011.pdf

Migration

Hertfordshire Kaleidoscope Club – European trip

The Kaleidoscope Culture Club in Hertfordshire, a hub for ethnic minorities, took a two day trip to Brussels to get a first hand experience of the workings of the European Union. During their stay, the 29 strong group met staff from the Malopolska Region office and East of England MEP Vicky Ford at the European Parliament. The trip was organised by Michal Siewniak, Community Development Officer for CVS Broxbourne and East Hertfordshire. If anyone is interested in learning more about the trip or wants to organise something similar for their community group, please contact Michal Siewniak t: 01920 487888 m: 07825021746 e: michal@cvsbeh.org.uk

Suffolk County Council draft equality objectives consultation

Suffolk County Council is carrying out a consultation on its draft equality objectives as part of the Equality Act 2010. The consultation will run to **Monday 24 October 2011**. This consultation is vital to make sure that in developing and delivering services that they recognise the needs of vulnerable people and communities so that what they deliver is fair to all and tackles inequalities. To do this effectively, they are inviting feedback from all Suffolk residents about how well services are provided to meet their needs and suggestions about what else the Council could do. From the information residents provide, the Council will write a plan about what their objectives and how they will make changes to services. They are asking residents their views on:

- The draft equality objectives
- How the Council could address inequalities and improve services

Those who work with minority communities in Suffolk, please encourage your service users to take part in this consultation by directing them to a short online questionnaire: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/equality-outcomes-english>. Anyone who would like this made available in another language, please call 08456 066 067.

Home Office Research Report 57 – The Migrant Journey Second report

This second 'Migrant Journey' report examines the behaviour of the high-volume nationalities for migration via the four main routes of entry to the UK in 2004, identifies the numerically significant nationalities for settlement in 2009 and describes some of the characteristics and common case histories of migrants in temporary and permanent migration routes. The report aims to improve understanding of migrants to the UK - the countries they come from, their purpose for coming and how long they stay. However, findings are based on a single cohort of migrants granted visas in 2004 and since then, the prominent nationalities and patterns in entry clearance and settlement may have changed so these findings may not necessarily be representative of recent migration to the UK. Please follow this link to the report: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/horr57/>

Immigrants must integrate into the community – Immigration Minister speech to Centre for Policy Studies

The issue of tackling abuse of the family migration route and promoting community integration for those coming to live permanently in the UK was reaffirmed by Immigration Minister Damian Green. In a speech at the Centre for Policy Studies he cited research that showed:

- two-thirds of people on a marriage visa had been here before;
- in 2004 the nationalities of people settling varied, but eight out of ten people from Bangladesh and Pakistan had settled permanently within five years;
- 20 per cent of sponsors of marriage visa applicants were either unemployed or had an income below the national minimum wage;
- thirty-seven per cent of sponsors from the sample were living with family members or friends; and
- in 2009-10, the Department for Work and Pensions spent £2.6 million on telephone interpreting services and nearly £400,000 on document translation.

Please follow this link to read the full text of the speech:

http://www.cps.org.uk/cps_catalog2/Damian%20Green%20MP%20Family.pdf

Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC) recommends changes to shortage occupation list

The Migration Advisory Committee has recommended that the Shortage Occupation List be revised to restrict migrants from outside the European Economic Area to a smaller proportion of occupations within the UK labour market. It recommends that the list be reduced to cover 190,000 employees, less than 1% of the UK job market. The occupations in the list are the only positions open to migrants from outside the European Economic Area

under the shortage occupation route of Tier 2 of the of Points Based System and Tier 2 is subject to an annual limit of 20,700.

29 job titles are recommended for removal from the list. They include: secondary school biology teachers; consultants in obstetrics and gynecology; pediatric surgery; nuclear medicine and pediatric dentistry; veterinary surgeons; and tutti orchestral musicians. There are 33 recommended additions to the list include: consultants in emergency medicine; actuaries; specific roles within the visual effects and 2D/3D computer animation for film; television and the video games sectors; high integrity pipe welders; environmental scientists; and operations managers in the decommissioning areas of the nuclear industry and geochemists. Follow this link to read this as reported by UKBA: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/september/32-mac-revised>

Forced migration – International Organisation for Migration (IOM) publishes Counter-Trafficking directory
IOM has produced a directory as a tool for all those who encounter victims of trafficking to refer to, so that victims can receive the relevant services. The directory is intended to facilitate multi-agency cooperation and the sharing of information so that victims of trafficking can be provided with a victim-centred response. It will also contribute alongside national efforts, to offer service providers in the UK with a coordinated approach to ensure that they are able to provide as much protection and assistance to victims as possible. Within this resource, there are contacts for the various types of service providers as well as for organisations whose counter-trafficking activities relate to research and advocacy work. Please follow this link from Migrants' Rights Network to access the document: http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/news/IOM_UK_Counter-Trafficking_Directory_September_2011.pdf

Events

Bulgarian Independence and Unification Day celebration - 22 September, City Academy, Norwich

Those who belong to the Bulgarian community or anyone who would like to know more about Bulgarian culture, food and music is invited to attend this free celebration at the City Academy, Earlham Road NR4 7NU from 6pm – 9pm. For more information, contact Amrita Kulkarni on e: cdwmanager@norwichmind.org.uk or m: 07920 506 237

Refugee Council Training, 20 – 28 September, London

[An introduction to working with unaccompanied children](#) - 20 September - this course covers who unaccompanied children are, asylum determination, lodging an application and the asylum process, the roles of different adults in the system, the legal and policy framework for support and care, including the Children Act, the impact of the asylum process on care planning, common issues faced by unaccompanied children and those working with them.

[Key Issues in asylum](#) - 21 September - the course content includes: the distinctions between refugees, asylum seekers and other migrant groups, the current international context of asylum and the causes of flight of refugees, the current legislative structure including the New Asylum Model, where asylum applications are logged (at port and in-country), the role and structure of UK Border Agency Asylum Teams, the asylum determination process including the appeal process, the Case Resolution programme and possible implications of future legislative changes.

[An Introduction to asylum support](#) - 22 September - this course covers routes of access to basic entitlements, the UK Border Agency Asylum Support system, the role of UK Border Agency Asylum Teams, possible restrictions in the support process (Section 55 and Section 57), the different asylum support options, the dispersal process, support under current legislation, possible implications of future changes in policy and procedure.

[End of Process: Support for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum](#) - 28 September - course content clarifies some misconceptions and misunderstandings regarding 'categories' of refugee and asylum seekers, identifies the routes to obtaining legal advice and the processes of making a fresh asylum claim, defines the eligibility criteria and entitlements under Section 4 support, recognises who is eligible for community care support and discern when different client groups are entitled to healthcare, education and employment.

To book, email training@refugeecouncil.org.uk. All courses cost £109 for registered charities and £175 for others.

Suffolk Refugee Support Forum (SRSF) – AGM, 29 September, 7pm, Ipswich

The SRSF AGM will take place at the Oasis Centre, Ipswich International Church, at the junction of Barrack Lane and Portman Road. This year's meeting will feature a talk by Fellington Nzounhenda, the SRSF's Social Work placement student and Zimbabwean refugee. SRSF are looking for new trustees to fill two positions which are currently vacant – please let the Forum Manager know if you are interested, or if you would like to support them by becoming a member of SRSF. Please contact Rebecca Crerar on: t: 01473 400786 or e: rcrerar@srsf.org.uk

Black History Month, Norfolk – African Market, 1 October, the Forum, Norwich

Following the launch event for Black History Month in Norfolk on 30 September at Norwich City Council Chamber at 6pm, the celebratory month continues with the African Market at the Forum on Saturday 1 October. The market will feature food, books, music, entertainment, educational resources as well as information about celebrating Black History Month in Norwich and the rest of Norfolk. For stall information contact Assiya Douglas on m: 07960 366330 or e: office@dmccconsultancy.co.uk

Migrant Law Project Forum – 3 October, 6.30pm, London

The next meeting of the Migrants' Law Project Forum will take place on Monday, October 3 from 6.30pm at the ILPA Offices. The address is 40 - 42 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6JN. They are currently looking for agenda items and issues of concern, particularly non-detention issues. Please send any items to Sonal at sonalg@islingtonlaw.org.uk. Anyone who has any questions, or who needs further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Katie at e: katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk

Building strategies to protect children in an irregular migration situation in the UK – 6 October, London

Despite legal entitlements to education, health care, and housing, children in an irregular migration situation face numerous barriers to exercising these rights in most European countries. They face high risks of poverty, exploitation, social exclusion, and violence. The goals of this workshop are for participants to build mutual understanding of the problems that children in an irregular migration situation face in accessing education, health care and housing in the UK, and collaborate to devise some concrete actions and strategies to improve on some of challenges identified. It is one in a series of seven intensive national workshops being carried out within the framework of the "[Building Strategies to Improve the Protection of Undocumented Children in Europe](#)" project the others are being held in Belgium, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, and Spain. To register, and for additional information, please visit the [PICUM website](#). The deadline for registration is **26 September** 2011.

Funding

European Fund for the Integration of Third Country Nationals (EIF) – partner search from Italian National Institute of Urbanism INU and an Italian association SOS UTENTI

Italian National Institute of Urbanism INU and an Italian association SOS UTENTI, which is responsible for promoting the rights of citizens throughout the national territory - intend to present a project to promote the inclusion of migrants in urban areas, support the creation of inclusive neighbourhoods and bottom up initiatives for local participation, promote access to public and private goods and services in a non-discriminatory way, promote cooperation between national and local administrations to support neighbourhood integration.

To be able to progress an EIF project, actions should be implemented through the coordination of a partnership. Since these actions are trans-national, the partnership must include at least three organisations (the applicant and two partners) from 3 different EU member states. To learn more about becoming a partner in this project, please contact Silvia Palladini:

F&P srl – Finanza & Progetti - via E. Brandimarte 63 65124 Pescara, t: +39 338 6327331 or

e: silvia.palladini@finanzaprogetti.eu.

For more details about the EIF Call for Proposals, follow this link:

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/integration/funding_integration_2011_01_en.htm

For those interested in being a lead partner in an application, please contact our east of England European Office which can appeal for partners in the project on your behalf: Jackie Eveleigh t: +32(0)2 289 1200, f: +32(0)2 289 1209 or e: jackie.eveleigh@east-of-england.eu. The deadline for applications to this fund is **11 October**.

Cambridgeshire Adult Learning Funds – funding for short-term learning projects

The emphasis of projects for 2011-12 is progression to employment, volunteering or further learning. There are two funding bands, one targeting leisure learners who are unemployed or at risk of being made unemployed and the second whose focus is on skills based programmes in the community. Organisations must deliver either 20 or 24 guided learning hours to priority groups of learners:

- People living in deprived neighbourhoods
- BME Communities
- Migrant workers
- Homeless or vulnerably housed people

- People with mental health problems or other disabilities
- Unemployed people seeking employment
- People where employment is at risk
- Single parents
- Travellers

Funding of up to £10,000 is available. The fund is open from 15 September 2011 to **31 December 2011**. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.calf.org.uk/our-learning-funds/fund.aspx?id=1>

Jobs

British Red Cross, Casework Coordinator Refugee Service – Chelmsford. Permanent, full time £17,584 - £20,367 pa

The British Red Cross has a long tradition of providing practical and emotional assistance to vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees. Their trained volunteers provide support to thousands of people every year.

The post holder will undertake a range of duties designed to maintain, promote and improve this valuable service within Essex. S/he will support clients, and provide supervision and co-ordination to volunteers assisting clients on behalf of the refugee team. The post holder will be primarily assisting people on an appointment basis but due to operational requirements will also deal with emergency cases as and when required.

Applicants will have proven experience with refugees/asylum seekers, have a full driving licence and be able to travel extensively throughout the area. S/he will also need to be able to occasionally work unsociable hours. The Red Cross offers a comprehensive benefits package, including generous annual leave entitlement, discounted healthcare plan membership and childcare voucher scheme. Please apply online via the website, by following this link:

http://qs11.globalsuccessor.com/fe/tpl_redcross01.asp?s=OCINkQVsFdUGIliUda&jobid=36171_0298518658&key=33243040&c=987862589851&pagestamp=secjgxssnckjsnjb0t. For further information about this role, or for those are unable to apply online, please contact Kimberly Cole on kcole@redcross.org.uk or 01582 586609 quoting ref number SE50498. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **midnight on 10 October 2011**.

Anyone who would like further information on the work of the British Red Cross within the UK, please cut and paste the following link into your internet browser: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOCO93WOPHk>

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