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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

European Commission: Shortcomings in existing common standards of asylum procedures

On 8 September, the European Commission published its report on the implementation of the Asylum Procedures Directive, adopted in December 2005. The report shows that procedural guarantees still vary considerably across the EU, and that the vagueness of the standards and the flaws in the implementation at national level may lead to administrative errors. European Commissioner for Home Affairs Cecilia Malmström called on European institutions to “adopt the amendments to the Procedures Directive that the Commission proposed in 2009 to remedy this situation.”

The main differences with regard to procedural guarantees concern the provisions on accelerated procedures, 'safe country of origin', 'safe third country', personal interviews, legal assistance, and access to an effective remedy. A number of cases of incomplete and/or incorrect transposition and erroneous implementation of the Directive were also identified.

For article in full:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1100&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Migration

Raising health and safety awareness among vulnerable migrant workers in the East of England

The Outreach Project is a new initiative introduced by Health and Safety Executive (HSE), which is intended to engage with migrant workers to raise their awareness of health and safety standards in the workplace. The HSE is concerned with the well-being of newcomers and migrants mostly in agriculture and food processing as those industries have noted an increased number of major accidents involving their non-English speaking workers. A joint approach with improved communication and close co-operation with local authorities, migrant communities, charity organisations and other intermediaries are key factors in decreasing the number and cost of accidents involving vulnerable migrant employees.

Anyone interested, please contact Kasia, the HSE outreach officer in Norwich: kasia.urbaniak@hse.gsi.gov.uk or telephone: 01603 82 8058

Resources - Video for migrants on how to access primary health

NHS Newham has produced an information video on how to access health services in the borough. Although focused on Newham, it could be useful to migrant groups elsewhere.

Accessing health is an important issue for migrants, especially those who are new to the country. Primary health care is the term used to describe GPs, Dentists and Pharmacists in the UK and is usually the first point of contact with health services. Accessing primary health should be possible for everyone who lives in the UK. It is important to access healthcare through the National Health Service (NHS) so as to prevent serious health consequences for people. However, a number of migrants do not access primary health either because they do not know how to or they encounter barriers in doing so.

According to NHS Newham ‘the video was produced to let everyone know how Health services work in Newham. The Health Services in Britain are very different in the way they work than in other parts of the world. The video

gives an understanding of how to register with a GP, showing how to overcome some of the issues that this process raises. The DVD highlights how this can be done. The DVD can be watched in any one of 23 languages.' NHS Newham trialled the DVD with a number of communities and this was uploaded onto YouTube by those Communities. The YouTube video is available in several languages including [English](#) , [French](#) [Lithuanian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Romanian](#), and [Somali](#)

A report on minority ethnic workers in London – help & representation for problems at work – London Metropolitan University

This study looks at how workers who experienced problems at work went about dealing with the issues they faced. The report explored to whom people turned, the help they received and the extent to which they were able to get their problem resolved. By 'problems' the report looked at disciplinary and grievance issues, where workers experience bullying, harassment, victimisation and discrimination, plus breaches of legal rights, such as health and safety, failure to pay wages (including National Minimum Wage), provide holidays and abide by the Working Time Directive. The study focused specifically on minority ethnic workers, as there have been few studies in this area, and looked at three minority ethnic communities in London, comprising a total of 185 in-depth interviews with workers, plus 64 interviews with 'key respondents' who were officials from trade unions, advice agencies and community groups.

The majority of workers in the UK do not have access to trade unions as a source of help and advice when they face problems at work, what the general figures do not show is that, apart from black Caribbeans, the situation is even worse for some minority ethnic groups. Evidence suggests that non-unionised workers seek advice primarily through their line manager or through friends and family and only a minority seek independent external advice. Workers seeking external advice are limited by the scarce resources available.

The report found that getting appropriate, timely and informative employment advice is difficult for most workers in the three minority ethnic groups studied. While there are government and voluntary sector advice websites and telephone help lines, few workers interviewed during the research knew about them or had used them. The report found that while they are useful in providing basic or technical advice, what workers really wanted was to talk through the details of their case and find an advisor who would represent them in dealings with their employer. Citizens Advice Bureaux and Law Centres were the resources identified as the first port of call when faced with problems at work, but there were problems in accessing information and representation due to restricted opening hours and ineligibility for legal aid. In some cases, community organisations provide basic advice to workers with problems but they mainly operated as referral points to other bodies.

Follow the link to read the report in full:

<http://www.workinglives.org/londonmet/fms/MRSite/Research/wlri/Photo%20gallery/Project%20final%20report.pdf>

Events

Norfolk 2010 Black history Month launch event, 1 October, Norwich

The theme for Black History Month 2010 is Black Role Models. The event will celebrate and recognise the achievements of positive Black Role Models, locally, regionally and nationally.

The launch event will take place on Friday 1 October from 6pm to 8pm in the Council Chamber, Norwich City Hall, Norwich NR2 1NH.

Light refreshments will be served from 5.30 in the main foyer outside the Council Chambers.

RSVP: Malika Rahman

T: 01603 611644 or

E: malika.rahman@nnrec.org.uk

Admission free but booking necessary as spaces are limited

Chelmsford Black History Month launch event, 3 October, Chelmsford

The event will be taking place on Chelmsford High Street, from 12 noon to 4pm and will include stage performances by local artists, ethnic and food stalls, henna tattooing, jewellery making and hair braiding.

Immigration in the UK: Ensuring Cohesion and Protecting Public Services, 16 November 2010, London
Immigration remains a major issue across all sectors, including businesses, universities and wider society and was a key concern for many voters during the general election. It continues to be a controversial subject for the new coalition government.

The former Labour government introduced several measures to regulate immigration, including the development of an Australian style points-system. Additionally, the former government initiated requirements for those seeking citizenship, introduced citizenship tests and tightened up regulations on overseas students.

Developments in immigration and human rights law, policy and practice under the coalition government are expected to come into force by the autumn parliamentary session. Policies announced include introducing an annual limit on non-EU migrants and the ending of the detention of children and deportation of individuals where their sexual and gender identity leaves them at risk. The new government has also stated it intends to create a dedicated border force to enhance national security and improve immigration controls. The coalition government has pledged to speed up processing of immigration applications, prompting concern from some organisations, such as Refugee and Migrant Justice, that decisions may be rushed. Currently, appeals against deportation decisions have a success rate of over 20% and charities fear the need for appeals may rise.

The forum will discuss the impact of migration on the UK economy and society and what developments are expected under the new government. It will give stakeholders the opportunity to discuss the future challenges facing the immigration system and border security teams. Sessions will focus on the impact of the coalition government's immigration policy and consider the human rights and legal issues surrounding migration. Stakeholders will discuss the benefits of migration for the economy and education sector and will examine the challenge for community cohesion.

Speakers will come from UKBA, Immigration Law Practitioners Association, the office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, the Institute of Community Cohesion, the Institute of Public Policy Research, Local Government Association Analysis and Research, COSLA Strategic Migration Partnership, Chartered Institute of Housing, NHS London, UK Council for International Student Affairs, Refugee Council, European Union and International Relations Department, Trades Union Congress, Association of Professional Staffing Companies – APSCo, MigrationwatchUK and Migration Advisory Committee.

They will be speaking on issues from border security, developments in immigration law and challenging beliefs about migration, to community cohesion and the impact of migration on the workforce, the economy and the individual.

For further details, please follow this link: <http://www.insidegovernment.co.uk/other/immigration/index.php#agenda>

Funding

Funding - Ford Britain Trust - Large Grants Scheme - deadline extended

The Ford Britain Trust awards grants in support of the communities in which Ford's employees work and live. The Trust pays special attention to projects focusing on Education, Environment, Children, Disabled People, Youth activities and projects that provide clear benefits to the local communities close to Ford's UK locations.

The deadline for large grants has been extended to **28 September 2010**.

The following funding is available:

- Small grants of up to £250.
- Large grants over £250 and usually up to a maximum of £3,000.

The Trust encourages applications from Ford employees, but is open to all, provided that the qualifying organisations meet its selection criteria. To view the grants programme, follow this link

http://www.ford.co.uk/AboutFord/CorporateSocialResponsibility/FordBritainTrust/HowToApply?dm_i=IMP_8PMK_2OU449,MN0X_1

Grant funding - Suffolk

There will be a second round of grants from the 'Communities Together Fund'. The closing date for applications is **1 November 2010**.

Organisations can apply for grants of up to £3,000 for projects that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Initiatives that bring people together, particularly projects that bring young and older people together
- Bring people from different backgrounds together
- Expand existing activities to allow involvement of a wider group of people
- Develop volunteering opportunities, particularly those from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds

Information about this, and other grants, are available on the Suffolk Foundation website at: http://www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk/grant/app_form.html

Anyone who would like some advice and guidance about this or other grants run by the Suffolk Foundation should contact:

Sue Wright

Grants and Funding Officer

The Suffolk Foundation

Old Reading Rooms

The Green, Grundisburgh

IP13 6TA.

Tel: 01473 734127

Email: sue.wright@suffolkfoundation.org.uk

Grants from Essex County Council – The Bravo system

Bravo is an online system on which information about virtually all Essex County Council grants to the voluntary and community sector are advertised and on which all grants applications are made. Anyone interested in receiving information about funding opportunities, or applying for them, without first registering with Bravo. Those who register with the system will receive email notifications of ECC grants and other tendering opportunities as they become open to receive applications.

Bravo is also referred to as the ECC Bravo Solution eSourcing Supplier Portal. This means it is the website on which funding opportunities are advertised and through which suppliers apply for them. 'Suppliers' are applicant agencies that apply for either grant funding or other tendering opportunities.

To register with Bravo, please follow this link: www.essex.bravosolution.co.uk

Jobs

Census work in throughout the region, part time and full time, temporary – coordinators, special enumerators, and census collectors

The Office for National Statistics would welcome applicants to these posts from all members of the community, so that their data collectors are representative of the community they live in, enabling the census data to be as complete as possible, as this will impact on the future funding of services within each local authority.

Recruitment for the posts above will start in September and run through to November. Further posts will be recruited through to January 2011.

For more information, please visit www.censusjobs.co.uk

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