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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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### **Paving the Way – handbook on the reception and integration of resettled refugees from Catholic Migration Commission**

The handbook focuses on the integration process, after refugees have arrived in their country of resettlement. It shows that successful resettlement requires close cooperation and coordination among a range of actors – from international organisations to national and local authorities and NGOs – in both the country of first asylum and the country of resettlement. Comprising general information, examples of best practices from the field and recommendations, the handbook aims at assisting states starting up or developing resettlement programmes, as well as informing all stakeholders of the many existing practices in term of reception and integration of resettled refugees. Please follow this link to read the document in full: <http://www.icmc.net/article/new-handbook-provides-rich-inspiration>

### **UK Border Agency (UKBA) new combined Asylum Support Form – temporarily unavailable**

In last week's newsflash we reported that UKBA had released a new combined Asylum Support Form (ASF1) that would capture both the Section 95 and Section 4 details required on one application form. The online form has been removed from the website following reports of IT issues affecting the uploading and printing of the form. The form will be online again once the problems have been resolved, but in the meantime the old NASS1 and Section 4 forms will be accepted until the extended date of 30 June.

### **European Commission presents new proposals on asylum procedures and reception conditions – European Council on Refugees and Exile (ECRE)**

The Commissioner introduced new proposals to the Justice and Home Affairs Council to recast the Reception Conditions Directive and the Asylum Procedures Directive, hoping that they will boost the work to achieve Common European Asylum System, to benefit both Member States and refugees. Negotiations on both proposals as first drafted had stalled since June 2010. The amended proposal on reception conditions does weaken the safeguards for asylum seekers in a number of aspects. These include deleting the ban on detaining unaccompanied minors and increased scope for total withdrawal of reception conditions for asylum seekers. Access to the labour market should still be granted no later than 6 months after an asylum application is lodged and can be extended by another 6 months in some circumstances, including in case of large numbers of applications.

Changes to the 2009 proposal recasting the Asylum Procedures Directive include extended possibilities for Member States to accelerate the examination of asylum applications, less guarantees with regard to identification and referral of asylum seekers at the border or in detention and increased flexibility for Member States in case of a large number of asylum applications lodged at the same time. The amended proposal modifies the provisions with regard to legal assistance and representation including fewer safeguards for access to free legal assistance for unaccompanied minors. It also maintains the controversial European safe third country concept while adding an obligation for Member States to report regularly on its application.

Please follow this link for the paper on reception conditions: [http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110601/320/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v12.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110601/320/1_EN_ACT_part1_v12.pdf) and this for the paper on asylum procedures: [http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110601/319/1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v12%5B1%5D.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/110601/319/1_EN_ACT_part1_v12%5B1%5D.pdf)

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## Migration

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### **Longitudinal Study of Migrant workers in the Eastern Region, part 3 – Anglia Ruskin University report**

This is the third and final report of the Longitudinal Study of Migrant Workers in the Eastern Region commissioned by the East of England Development Agency (2008 – 2010). Partly funded by the European Social Fund, the study explored the perspectives of migrant workers (and stakeholders) in relation to: factors that influence decisions on coming to the UK and length of stay; barriers to full participation in the regional economy; and, barriers to social inclusion in local communities.

The report found that people had made more concrete plans about their intended length of stay in the UK, participants reflected more negatively on the economic conditions in their countries of origin than those in the UK and they found a lack of recognition of qualifications in the UK the biggest barrier to employment. Outside employment, housing was the biggest constraint identified by participants.

The report is scheduled to be launched by the authors at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, 9 September, but to read this report in full, please follow this link:

[http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Migrant%20workers/EEDA%20Report%202011%20Final%20\(DCS\).pdf](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Migrant%20workers/EEDA%20Report%202011%20Final%20(DCS).pdf)

### **Improving Immigrants' employment prospects through work-focused language instruction – report from Migration Policy Institute**

The report looks at how to deliver host-country language skills which are necessary for success in the workplace. A range of different approaches to providing work-focused language training has developed in Europe and the US. Among the most effective are those which, for example, provide language instruction contextualised for a specific workplace, so emphasising customer service skills and key vocabulary in the retail sector, or simultaneously providing contextualised language instruction with formal skills training to help get immigrants into good jobs more quickly. The report also finds that by encouraging partnerships between employers, unions and teachers, the burden of capacity building can be shared, especially if instruction takes place in the workplace. The report also looks at how best to disseminate best practice, such as rigorous evaluation of key programme elements and the alignment of funding with programme design. To read the report in full, please follow this link:

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/workfocusedlanguageinstruction.pdf>

### **Red Tape challenge – focus on Equality Act 2010 – further detailed response needed by 30 June**

This website was set up by the government to canvass the public's views on a whole range of state regulation with the aim of "freeing up business and society from burdensome bureaucracy". There is now a three-week period 9 - 30 June during which the spotlight is being brought to bear on equalities and specifically the Equality Act 2010. Those who have already provided comments should still access the site as a set of detailed questions have now been posed asking for comments under 8 themes. Comments are being particularly sought from employers, from private businesses, voluntary or community organisations, trade unions and trade associations. Please follow this link to access the site and answer the questions:

<http://www.redtapechallenge.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/themehome/equalities-act>

### **Changes to student visa rules laid before Parliament – UK Border Agency (UKBA) announcement**

The reforms to Tier 4 of the points-based system for student visas, have been laid before Parliament and will come into force from 4 July 2011. The aim of the reform is to deliver a migration system which tackles immigration abuse while allowing genuine students to study at genuine colleges. From 4 July, the key reforms include restricting work entitlements to migrants studying at higher educational institutions and publicly funded colleges only, restricting the sponsorship of dependents to those studying at postgraduate level on courses lasting at least 12 months and a declaration on the visa application form which ensures that maintenance funds are genuinely available to the applicant.

UKBA also announced that the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) have agreed in principle to extend their activities to carry out inspections or reviews of all privately funded sponsors by the end of 2012. Please follow this link to read more about this inspection announcement: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsfragments/49-oversight-qa-isi>

To read the announcement regarding the new regulations, please follow this link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/17-t4-changes>

**Events**



**Refugee Week 2011 – 20 - 26 June: a range of events across the region**

**World Refugee Day – 20 June: Share an umbrella, offer protection:** Umbrella marches being held in 7 countries, to symbolise the need to protect those fleeing war and persecution.

A selection of some of the events running across the east of England:

- Bedford 20 June** Talking about Jane Austen in Baghdad, talk by author, 7 - 9.30pm Bedford Central Library.
- Bedford 26 June** Football family fun day 1 - 4.30pm, Alexander Sports Centre, Sidney Road.
- Cambridge 24 June** Refugee Celebration - Afghan and Iranian dance, 5.30-8.30pm, St Paul's Centre, Hills Road.
- Cambridge 25 June** Migration through the ancient world – tour, 12 - 2pm, Fitzwilliam Museum
- Colchester 23 June** 'Refugee Café' – a play based on true life stories celebrating tenacity and hope, 7.30pm, Colchester Arts Centre
- Colchester 25 June** Family fun day, 2 - 4pm, Shrub End Community and Sports Centre, Boadicea Way.
- Frettenham 24 June** Film screening: Gran Torino, 7.30 - 10pm, village hall, Church Road, Frettenham, Norfolk
- Ipswich 22 June** international women's group, picnic in the park, 12 - 3pm, outside mansion, Christchurch Park.
- Ipswich 24 & 25 June** 'Refugee Café' – a play based on true life stories celebrating tenacity and hope, 7.45pm, St Nicholas Centre
- Kings Lynn 18 June** Human library, 12-3pm, Kings Lynn Library, London Road.
- Luton 24 June** celebration event with music and book launch, 12.30 - 3.30pm, St George's Square.
- Norwich 20 June** launch event, previewing the week ahead with dance and refreshments 5 - 7.30pm, Council Chambers, City Hall, Norwich City Council, St Peter's Street.
- Norwich 21 June** 'Bad-Hair day' for the King: stories of refugees in Norfolk, 1pm, The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane.
- Peterborough 21 June** Question Time - panellists and audience to discuss 60 years of the UN Convention, 6 - 7pm, Council Chambers, Town Hall.
- Peterborough 24 June** Positive Images youth and music event, 4 - 10pm, Unity Hall, Northfield Road.

This is a snapshot of the activities taking place. There are also several film showings across the region which have as a central theme migration and seeking refuge. Both Ipswich and Luton are launching books which celebrate refugee stories from their area. Please follow this link for the full range of events planned, which will also link you to the organiser of individual events, if you need more information:

<http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/InYourArea/England/East/events>

Norfolk has its own complete events booklet:

[http://bridgeplus.org.uk/Norwich\\_Norfolk\\_Refugee\\_Week\\_2011\\_Events\\_Booklet.pdf](http://bridgeplus.org.uk/Norwich_Norfolk_Refugee_Week_2011_Events_Booklet.pdf)



**Launch event – Afghani Men's Dinner Club, Peterborough, 21 June**

From 8-10pm at the Millfield Medical Centre, this launch event, run in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, will feature food and music. Anyone who would like to attend can they please contact Suchitra Rampal e: [suchitra.rampal@cpft.nhs.uk](mailto:suchitra.rampal@cpft.nhs.uk) or t: 01733 318104 or Sarah Kennedy on e: [skennedy3@nhs.net](mailto:skennedy3@nhs.net) or t: 01733 207399

## **Norwich Development African Refugees Organisation (NDARO) – NICE Centre, Norwich 25 June**

This community cohesion event is aimed at tackling race inequality and is open to all, to mix and meet with the Norfolk Congolese community. The event is at the Nice Centre, Muspole Street, Norwich NR3 1DJ from 5pm, and refreshments are provided. For more information please contact e: [pamusa@menter.org.uk](mailto:pamusa@menter.org.uk)

## **Becoming British: refugees, citizenship and experiences of integration – conference, Ealing, 29 June**

This one day partnership conference, being held from 10-4pm in Ealing Town Hall, will bring together refugees, activists and community groups, voluntary and campaigning workers plus statutory and funding bodies to share experiences and views. There will be a series of workshops, including:

- Performing Brits: a creative and active workshop to share and perform
- Citizenship: the impact of British immigration and nationality procedures on refugees who become citizens
- Communication, language, culture: the significance of British culture and English language in becoming British
- Survival, security, identity: access to services: advice, housing and others
- Taking back the agenda – protecting the right to refuge.

The conference fee is £10 for voluntary organisations, £5 for REAP members and £3 if the unwaged. For further information and to book a place please contact e: [Olesya@reap.org.uk](mailto:Olesya@reap.org.uk) or click [here](#) to go to the REAP website

## **Skills training available from east of England local government association, Flempton, Suffolk**

Throughout the year, we offer a comprehensive range of skills training for those working in both the statutory and third sector. The training can be delivered in-house and tailored to your specification, or from our training facility on the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds, accessible both by rail and road. A sample of forthcoming courses is shown below:

- Handling investigations of discipline, capability and grievance matters, 29 June
- Enhanced interpersonal skills and neuro-linguistic programming, 30 June
- Surviving change, 7 September
- Confident and stress free minute taking, 29 September

Prices start at £90, depending on the course. Please follow this link to find out more about what is available:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/employers-services/Training.aspx?type=12>

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## **Funding**

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## **Hidden Needs – a report from Cambridge University, commissioned by the Suffolk Foundation**

The Suffolk Foundation has commissioned the Hidden Needs report researched by the University of Cambridge to understand the scale and nature of social deprivation in Suffolk, which shows that some areas of Suffolk are as much in need of local and national funding support as some of the most deprived communities in the UK. This need is masked because the county appears to be one of 'averages', yet there is whilst there is real wealth in some quarters, there is also deprivation. Those in Suffolk applying for national funding may find the data in the report useful to evidence need when compiling a bid. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

[http://www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75:needs-assessment&catid=6:latest-news](http://www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75:needs-assessment&catid=6:latest-news)

## **Skills funding agency provision of services for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)**

The Skills Funding Agency has launched a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) for the provision of services for young people (14-19) who are NEET, to be in place for the coming academic year. Organisations or consortia interested in applying to deliver this NEET provision must register on the Skills Funding Agency e-tendering portal in order to access the PQQ: <https://skillsfundingagency.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

The PQQ will close on **23 June**, with respondents being notified of results from the 21 July. The timetable for publication of the invitation to tender is expected to be late July. For assistance in completing the PQQ please contact LVSTC on t: 020 7538 4309 or e: [geoffr@lvstc.org.uk](mailto:geoffr@lvstc.org.uk)

## **BT Community Connections Awards: or laptop and a year's broadband connection for voluntary and community groups**

The BT Community Connections Awards are provided and administered by British Telecom. The awards scheme is intended to provide voluntary groups and charitable organisations working to benefit the community in the UK with IT equipment - a laptop and a year's free broadband internet connection. In particular, the scheme is keen to target areas of deprivation which normally receive little or no funding and would otherwise have no IT provision and these applications will be given priority. Applications are welcomed from any community group or charitable organisation working to benefit the community, including religious groups who work in the wider community rather than promote religion. Eligible areas of interest to newsflash readers include:

- Older people.
- Family issues.
- Multi-cultural awareness.
- Youth groups.

The deadline for applications is **15 September**. To find out more, please follow this link:

<http://www.btplc.com/Responsiblebusiness/Supportingourcommunities/Digitalinclusion/BTCommunityConnections/index.htm>

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## **Jobs**

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### **Paid 6 month internship for International Organisation for Migration (IOM), focus on gender and migration, Geneva**

Under the general supervision of the Gender Coordinator and reporting directly to the Project Officer (Gender and Migration), the successful candidate will carry out these key duties and responsibilities:

- Review projects and various documents to ensure the inclusion of gender-related concerns in IOM project and programme activities.
- Analyze data, prepare reports and draft information documents on gender and migration.
- Ensure the dissemination of gender related information, research, documents and good practices to IOM staff through web and intranet tools.

IOM are looking for someone educated to degree level with at least six months professional experience working in gender-related areas. Please follow this link to learn more about the role:

[http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/about\\_iom/recruitment/Intern\\_GIC.pdf](http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/about_iom/recruitment/Intern_GIC.pdf)

Anyone interested should email their cv to [genderrecruitment@iom.int](mailto:genderrecruitment@iom.int) by **23 June**.

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