

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)[Migration](#)[Events](#)[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)

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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### **Libyan nationals presenting for support as funds disrupted**

The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) network has issued guidance for local authority social services departments receiving requests for support under Section 17 Children Act 1989 and Section 21 National Assistance Act 1948 from Libyan nationals whose funds have been disrupted due to the current conflict in Libya. Please follow this link to read their guidance as of 21 April:

[http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Health%20and%20Housing/Guidance%20-%20Libyan%20nationals%20experiencing%20temporary%20loss%20of%20funds%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Health%20and%20Housing/Guidance%20-%20Libyan%20nationals%20experiencing%20temporary%20loss%20of%20funds%20(2).pdf)

To obtain the most up to date guidance please follow this link:

[http://www.islington.gov.uk/community/equalitydiversity/refugees\\_migrants/nrpf\\_network/policy\\_guidance.asp](http://www.islington.gov.uk/community/equalitydiversity/refugees_migrants/nrpf_network/policy_guidance.asp)

### **Asylum Policy Primer from the Migration Observatory, University of Oxford**

This document examines issues underlying the UK's asylum policy, focusing on the challenges and tensions between protecting human rights and ensuring that immigration controls are not undermined. Please follow this link to read the document in full:

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Asylum%20Policy%20Primer.pdf>

### **Children's Legal Centre, Migrant Children's Project monthly newsletter – April 2011**

The Migrant Children's Project at the Children's Legal Centre aims to help non-immigration specialist professionals working with asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children find out about this group of children's rights and entitlements. Their latest newsletter covers new guidance, legal and policy updates, media articles from across the UK about refugee, asylum seeking and other migrant children and other updates from the Children's Legal Centre. Please follow this link to access the newsletter:

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=727f7cb511aa9ca211dde2fbc&id=d30a912e67>

### **Women's Asylum News from Asylum Aid – April edition**

The lead article in this month's issue is on forced marriage and refugee status which concludes that many, perhaps most, of those rescued abroad by the Forced Marriage Unit were instead to make asylum claims of the United Kingdom on the basis of forced marriage, they would be refused.

This issue also contains a case summary of the new Country Guidance case on Zimbabwe. It reports on national developments in relation to victims of trafficking and those applying for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the domestic violence rule. An agreement has been reached between the Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions that will enable those eligible to apply under the domestic violence provisions to have a limited period of access to income-related benefits. The intended implementation date is April 2012 and funding for the Sojourner Project will continue in the interim, with an increase from 40 to 50 days support per eligible applicant.

Follow this link to read the bulletin: [http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/160/WAN\\_April\\_2011.pdf](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/160/WAN_April_2011.pdf)

### **The Refugee Children's Rights project (RCRP) launched by Children's Legal Centre and Islington Law Centre**

A new initiative, The Refugee Children's Rights Project (RCRP), has been undertaken by lawyers at the Children's Legal Centre and Islington Law Centre, and funded by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. The RCRP will use strategic litigation to ensure children's rights are upheld not just to UK standards, but to international standards as well. Please follow this link to read the press release about the project:

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/Resources/CLC/Documents/14-04-11rcrp%20launch.pdf>

## **British people are proud of our support for refugees - Refugee Council poll**

As part of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the UN Convention for Refugees, the Refugee Council commissioned an opinion poll on public attitudes to support for refugees in the UK. The poll found that British people remain committed to the values Britain fought for in World War II, with the majority believing that protecting the vulnerable is a core British value. Moreover, two out of three (67%) are sympathetic to those seeking protection in the UK. The poll also found that any negative attitudes to refugees are based on misunderstandings and confusion of who refugees are – a majority believed refugees came from countries in Eastern Europe such as Poland. Also, 44% believed that over 100,000 were given refugee status in 2009, when the figure was actually 4,175. Please follow this link to read the press release on the poll: [Refugee Council | April | Helping others is part of the British DNA](#)

## **Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency (UKBA) announces 2011/2012 Inspection Plan**

The Independent Chief Inspector of UKBA, John Vine, has announced his inspection programme for 2011-2012 which builds on achievements of the last two years which have enabled him to develop a comprehensive view of UKBA, focusing on the things that matter to Parliament and the public. This year he plans to increase his coverage of the Agency's business and identify new areas of interest. The inspections will cover three programmes of work:

- a UK programme;
- an international programme; and
- a thematic programme.

Each programme will generally consist of a mix of announced and unannounced (or short notice inspections) and will be focused on outcomes for users of the Agency's services. Please follow this link for full details of the inspection plan and details of how non-governmental organisations can make contributions:

[http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/ICIUKBA-Inspection-Plan-for-2011\\_12.pdf?dm\\_i=l6P,ENUW,31R5LZ,16BXS,1](http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/ICIUKBA-Inspection-Plan-for-2011_12.pdf?dm_i=l6P,ENUW,31R5LZ,16BXS,1)

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## **Migration**

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### **New list of approved English language test providers announced by UK Border Agency (UKBA)**

UKBA have announced a new list of English language test providers for Tiers 1, 2, 4 and spouses/partners. When the transitional arrangements have expired, this new list will replace all existing lists of English language test providers. The link below shows all the different qualifying tests, which will be run by the following awarding bodies: Cambridge ESOL, City & Guilds, Educational Testing Service, Pearson and Trinity College, London.

The transitional arrangements are that for Tiers 1 and 2 of the points-based system, tests that have been booked or taken with the existing lists of providers can be used in applications as long as they are received by UKBA on or before 17 May 2011. From 18 May 2011 only tests taken with providers on the new list can be used as part of applications for Tier 1 and Tier 2. Those applying as a spouse or partner may use a test with an existing provider in an application received on or before the 17 July 2011. From 18 July 2011 all applications must be submitted with evidence from a provider on the new list. There are no transitional arrangements for Tier 4 of the points-based system; a test can be taken with any provider on the new list and submitted as part of an application. Please follow this link for the range of test providers and eligible qualifications:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/employersandsponsors/pointsbasedsystem/new-approved-english-language>

A consequence of this new requirement is that it could negatively impact on people applying to come to the UK who do not have access to an approved test provider within their country of residence - potentially creating obstacles to their joining family members in the UK. This is now the subject of a judicial review being brought by three claimants in the West Midlands, listed for 17 and 18 July.

**Immigration cap means 'ethnic restaurants must focus on home-grown talent' – People 1<sup>st</sup>, the hospitality specialist**

Ethnic restaurants will need to find new ways to develop skilled chefs within the UK, following the immigration restrictions announced by government last month, according to People 1<sup>st</sup>, the sector skills council for the hospitality industry. Under the ruling, chefs from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) must be qualified to graduate-level, have a minimum of five years' experience in an equivalent role, and earn at least £28,260 per year after deductions for food and accommodation, while those looking to work in fast-food or takeaway establishments will not be allowed into the UK. The ruling is likely to have an impact those ethnic restaurant businesses across the UK which have traditionally relied on recruiting skilled chefs from the nations linked to the cuisine on offer. Please follow this link to read the article in full: <http://www.people1st.co.uk/hidden-section/talent/2011/april-2011/immigration-crackdown-means-ethnic-restaurants-must-focus-on-grown-talent>

**Independent Monitoring Board annual report 2010, review of immigration and detention estate**

The annual report includes a section on trends and issues relating to the immigration and detention facilities, looking back at the closure of Oakington, the new rebuilt wings in Harmondsworth and the need for a new Independent monitoring board at Luton, given the rise in charter flights to Luton rather than Heathrow. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [http://www.imb.gov.uk/docs/Final\\_Web\\_Version\\_2010\\_report\(3\).pdf](http://www.imb.gov.uk/docs/Final_Web_Version_2010_report(3).pdf)

**No Easy Option: Irregular Immigration in the UK - Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) report**

This report aims to tackle a difficult UK public policy issue: how to reduce irregular immigration. Given that the best recent estimate put the number of irregular immigrants in the UK at well over half a million, the scale of the phenomenon is one reason why it demands attention. However, it is not scale alone, but scale allied to the harm it does which provides the imperative to take action on irregular migration. The report sets out four priorities for action - reducing real harm, containing irregularity, increasing public confidence and reducing irregularity - and policy recommendations to work upstream (pre-arrival) and downstream, including:

- initiatives in origin countries
- cooperation with transit countries
- border security
- targeting the irregular immigration industry
- a risk-management approach to enforcement and return, and
- increasing returns.

Follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=815>

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## Events

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**Detained and denied: meeting at Institute of Race Relations, with Medical Justice, London, 9 May**

A meeting on the medical care detainees with HIV/Aids receive while in immigration detention will take place on 9 May 2011, 1-2pm at the Institute of Race Relations, 2-6 Leeke Street, London WC1X 9HS

Medical Justice has recently published research: [Detained and Denied](#) : the clinical care of immigration detainees living with HIV. The confirmed speakers are Theresa Schleicher - Medical Justice and Jon Burnett - author of this recently published research. This meeting is aimed at lawyers, campaigners, ex-detainees, individuals and organisations interested in how asylum seekers with HIV/Aids are treated in detention.

As places are limited it is essential to reserve a place by e: [events@irr.org.uk](mailto:events@irr.org.uk). Please note that these meetings are aimed in the first instance at community and voluntary groups. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/content/view/1745/45>

**NIACE Active Citizenship workshop training - 10 May, London**

Following a series of workshops hosted by NIACE and LLU+ in 2010, this is an extended offer organised by NIACE in response to demand which is open to all practitioners who deliver ESOL within all sectors, in particular ESOL and citizenship teachers and ESOL managers.

The workshop will offer participants the opportunity to:

- Work with the 2010 Citizenship materials for ESOL Learners
- Share ideas on delivering the materials
- Be updated on current thinking on citizenship and community cohesion
- Share feedback from the Active Citizenship 2010 pilots and trainers

- Receive a copy of the 2010 materials
- Explore activities to stimulate learners' interests, support their learning needs and promote multi-faith and multi-cultural dialogue.

To book a place and for more information, please go to the NIACE website at:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/active-citizenship-active-communities>

For other enquiries, please contact NIACE Events' team on e: [events@niace.org.uk](mailto:events@niace.org.uk) or t: 0116 2859661

## **Access to Welfare Benefits for EEA nationals from 1 May - Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, 27 May**

We are pleased to be able to offer this training, being delivered by Adam Weiss and Saadiya Chaudary from the AIRE legal centre, in partnership with Migrants' Rights Network. It is intended for frontline staff working with EEA migrants. The workshop will focus on access to welfare benefits for different groups of EEA nationals under UK law and EU treaties. This training is tailored for people have little legal background. At the end of the day we aim to equip participants with confidence that they've got a good understanding of the rights available to EEA migrants, and of their responsibility to ensure these are read into the procedures for providing advice, support and services. It will run from 10.30 – 4.00 on 27 May at the offices of the Strategic Migration Partnership in Suffolk, IP28 6EG. It is priced at £125 plus VAT for those from the statutory sector, and at £75.00 for those from the charitable sector. Please follow this link to register: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2710>

## **The National Association for Teaching English and other Community Languages to Adults (NATECLA) conference and exhibition 2011 for ESOL practitioners 8-10 July, University of Coventry, Warwick**

The conference runs from 4pm Friday 8th July until after lunch on Sunday 10th July. A programme of presentations and workshops for ESOL teachers, managers, organisers teacher trainers and researchers, plus the opportunity for networking, accessing the resources exhibition and hearing about the latest developments in the sector. Please follow this link for more information about the programme and to register:

[http://www.natecla.org.uk/news\\_details.asp?NewsID=556](http://www.natecla.org.uk/news_details.asp?NewsID=556). The early booking rate is available until **3 May**.

## **Forced marriage, so-called honour based violence (HBV) and female genital mutilation (FGM) - training course, 14 July, Bedfordshire**

The course will run from 9.30 – 16.30 at Central Bedfordshire Council offices, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ and will look at:

- Understanding and recognising HBV - including Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and potential community issues
- How to explore honour related abuse and the impact on victims and children
- How to identify practice issues and cultural sensitivity/community beliefs
- How to increase awareness of Human Rights, other Legislation and No Recourse to Public Funding issues
- How to enable individuals to assess and manage risk to increase safety of victims and children
- How to increase knowledge of resources and available support services to refer to.

The course is priced at £30 for voluntary organisations and £40 for statutory bodies. Priority will go to applicants from Bedfordshire, but is open to all. Please email for an application form to [BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

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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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### **Trainee Support Worker – Suffolk Refugee Support Forum (SRSF), 6 month contract, 16 hours per week, £8.57 per hour**

The SRSF's Drop-in Service provides support to asylum seekers and refugees in Suffolk. Through this service clients access practical help, advice and support about living in the UK. It works with community organisations, health services and other agencies to enable service users to access a range of services under one roof. The Trainee Support Worker is responsible for providing help to clients accessing the Drop-in Advice and Advocacy Service. Their role is to deliver appropriate help and assistance, either directly, via volunteers or by signposting to other agencies. Additionally, the Trainee Support Worker is responsible for ensuring that members of the refugee communities are informed about and encouraged to use SRSF's services.

The post holder must have good written and spoken English, as well as the ability to speak a refugee language, as he or she is required to act as interpreter when dealing with clients who do not have English, whilst encouraging those who do, to speak English. The post holder will need to help clients to fill in forms (e.g. Benefits forms, housing forms and job applications) and make phone calls (e.g. Benefits agencies, housing offices and associations, utilities companies). The post holder will also support volunteers assisting clients in the office and encourage clients to become volunteers.

To request an application pack, with job description, person specification and application form, please contact SRSF t: 01473 400786 or e: [rcrerar@srsf.org.uk](mailto:rcrerar@srsf.org.uk). The closing date for applications is **6 May**.

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