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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

Party leaders sign the Asylum Election Pledge

Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Nick Clegg and hundreds of other parliamentary candidates have signed up to the Refugee Council, Liberty and Scottish Refugee Council's asylum election pledge.

Text of the pledge:

<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=121&ea.campaign.id=5867>

Press release:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/april/210410_pressrelease_electionpledge

New report from Scottish Refugee Council

The Scottish Refugee Council has published a new report: "One Day We Will Be Reunited: Experiences of Refugee Family Reunion in the UK"

Report: http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/Family_Reunion_Apr10

Migration

National Strategic Migrant Rough Sleepers Group

On 8 April 2010 the latest meeting of the national strategic migrant rough sleepers group took place, focusing on employment. This is a group that was established in 2009 by Lord Roberts of Llandudno and is attended by Communities and Local Government, Homeless Link, UKBA, embassies and other relevant officials. This meeting also included representatives from DWP, the Gangmasters' Licensing Authority and the Greater London Authority. The group was set up to identify and address the issue of rough sleeping migrants, some of whom are excluded from welfare and housing support. This issue requires cross-party, cross-Whitehall and cross-sector action which will be guided by this group.

If you would like to feed any issues in to this group, please contact joanne.crellen@homelesslink.org.uk

New report on homelessness and migration from Homeless Link

Homeless Link has conducted a survey of members and refugee agencies to better understand patterns of homelessness amongst migrants, their support needs, and how agencies are able to address these needs. The results are included in the "Homelessness among Migrant Groups" report.

Report:

http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/Migrants%20and%20Homelessness%20report_March_prm.pdf

EU countries agree to strengthen their health policies regarding the most vulnerable groups

The Spanish Minister for Health and Social Policy, Trinidad Jiménez, and the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli, brought to a close the Informal Meeting of Health Ministers in Madrid, at which they agreed to strengthen policies aimed at the most vulnerable groups, to ensure social equity and equal access to health care. Ministers agreed on a number of key priorities including the improvement of monitoring systems to identify the most vulnerable groups, such as immigrants, ethnic minorities, disabled and socially excluded people.

Press release:

http://www.eu2010.es/en/documentosynoticias/noticias/abr23_rim_sanidad.html

European Commission acts to bolster citizens' data protection, protect defendants' rights and enhance immigration and asylum cooperation

Citizens expect to have the same rights and sense of security throughout the European Union. Creating a single area of justice and security for 500 million Europeans is a top priority for the European Commission in the next five years. On 20 April 2010 the Commission presented concrete actions – with set timetables – to boost citizens' ability to work, travel and study outside their home countries. The proposals will enhance citizens' security with better judicial cooperation and increased solidarity through a common immigration and asylum policy. Businesses will also benefit from less red tape and more legal certainty in cross-border transactions. With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, the EU now has the tools to bring a new balance into policies to strengthen the rights and freedoms of Europe's citizens.

Press release:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/447&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guilanguage=en>

Quick World Migration Statistics

These charts show the top ten countries in terms of the size and share of international migrants

[Top Ten Countries with the Largest Number of International Migrants \(2010\)](#)

[Top Ten Countries with the Highest Share of International Migrants in the Total Population \(2010\)](#)

Events

Children, Families and the Migration Experience: Opportunities and Challenges

Friday **21 May 2010**, Middlesex University, Hendon Campus, London, NW4 4BT

In recent years new patterns of migration to Britain and other European states have emerged associated with, for example, EU enlargement. These have had diverse implications for family migration strategies. In contrast to historical patterns of migration which were generally perceived as involving long term or permanent settlement, this new migration often involves more transitory patterns of mobility. Nevertheless, short term stay may be extended over time often leading to family reunion and family formation. The impact of this new migratory strategies, especially on children, is beginning to be explored by researchers and to spark interest among policy makers and service providers as they respond to new needs, for example of new arrivals in schools.

This conference will bring together research on a range of issues relevant to this new phenomenon. Specific themes will include: current migration patterns, family strategies and family reunion; migrants from the new EU states; the emotional impact of migration; new arrivals and the transition to schooling; migration, education and parental expectations; language acquisition, language transition and bi-lingualism.

Full programme and booking form are available on:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Minisites/polishpupils/page2.html>

Please note booking deadline is 14 May, early bird fees until 1 May 2010.

For more information contact: Magdalena Lopez Rodriguez at m.rodriquez@mdx.ac.uk

National Conference for Refugee Community Organisations: Sustainability and Survival

11 June 2010; Camden Centre, Judd Street, Kings Cross, London, WC1H 9JE

The first ever Basis Project national conference: Sustainability and Survival presents Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) with an opportunity to share their experiences with funders, second tier organisations and statutory agencies.

The conference offers a platform to celebrate the achievements of the refugee sector, explore and reflect on its role and consider its future sustainability.

The Basis Project is a partnership project led by Refugee Council and Refugee Action, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. As well as providing one-to-one organisational development support to RCOs across England, we work closely with funders and other mainstream bodies to increase their understanding of RCOs.

To book a place (before 11 May 2010), please contact:

Tel: 020 7346 1297

Email: alain.munyangabe@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Post: The Basis Project, 240-250 Ferndale Road, London, SW9 8BB

Further information:

http://refugeecouncil.typepad.com/basis_project_blog/2010/04/the-basis-project-national-conference-sustainability-and-survival-.html

Funding

Allen Lane Foundation

The Allen Lane Foundation is a grant-making trust set up in 1966 by the late Sir Allen Lane, founder of Penguin Books, to support general charitable causes. The Foundation no longer has closing dates. Applications will be processed continually.

The Foundation wishes to fund work which: will make a lasting difference to people's lives rather than simply alleviating the symptoms or current problems; is aimed at reducing isolation, stigma and discrimination; and encourages or enables unpopular groups to share in the life of the whole community.

The Foundation is interested in funding work which benefits people in the following groups, or generalist work which includes significant numbers from more than one such group:

- * asylum seekers and refugees;
- * gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender people;
- * gypsies and travellers;
- * offenders and ex-offenders;
- * older people;
- * people from black and minority ethnic communities and migrant workers;
- * people experiencing mental health problems; people experiencing violence or abuse.

The grants are relatively modest. Single, one-off grants range from as little as £500 up to £15,000. Grants repeated for more than one year vary from about £500 per annum up to £5,000 per annum, for a maximum of three years.

Allen Lane Foundation website:

<http://www.allenlane.org.uk>

Jobs

Temporary work with people from Eastern Europe who find themselves homeless in Great Britain

CRI, a registered charity has been given funding by the government to undertake six months working with people from Eastern Europe who have ended up sleeping rough in the UK. Much of the work will be concentrated on enabling those who wish to return to their families and original community. However we will also help people with other issues such as physical and mental health and substance misuse. Where people are entitled to public funds we will help them claim appropriate benefits. This work will be concentrated on two particular parts of the country.

Yorkshire and Humberside

We are undertaking work in different communities in this county. In the first instance much of the work will be targeted in Bradford and Goole. Though based in an office in Leeds much of the time of staff will be out in the community.

For this project we are seeking:

- 2 x Outreach Workers
- 1 x Part Time Administrator
- Sessional Workers

East of England

We are developing a separate service in the East of England working in the counties of Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. There will be a central office in Peterborough but most of the initial work will be in the Norfolk towns of Kings Lynn, Thetford and Dereham and the Lincolnshire towns of Spalding and Boston.

For this project we are seeking:

- 1 x Project Manager
- 4 x Outreach Workers

1 x Part Time Administrator
Sessional Workers

Closing date for all jobs: **3 May 2010**

Please note that all these jobs are time limited to SIX MONTHS duration. Job descriptions, application forms and salary levels are all available on our website jobs page: <http://www.cri.org.uk/national/jobs>

Refugee Council - Project Initiatives Manager (BASIS)

Salary: £31,936 (inclusive of Inner London Weighting)
12-month fixed-term post, with a possible extension

This new post has been created to enable us to operate more effectively as a project, and so provide a better service for and on behalf of Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs). Across England, hundreds of RCOs deliver support and advice to refugees – yet, despite their success, almost all would benefit from more consistent support. This is where our Basis Project comes in. Created through the support of the Big Lottery Fund and delivered in partnership with Refugee Action, the project will run for another two years. The aim is to enhance RCOs' financial sustainability, as well as their organisational efficiency and their ability to deliver services to clients.

The Project Initiatives Manager will need to hit the ground running and support the delivery of a number of key, high profile areas within the project.

You'll need experience of managing staff or volunteers, as well as experience of successfully planning, establishing and delivering projects. You will have exceptional interpersonal skills, with experience of delivering impressive results in relationship-focused environments. You will be a proactive problem-solver, eager to take responsibility whilst working as part of a wider team, and ideally be able to start immediately.

Closing date for applications: Friday **7 May 2010**

Further information and job description:

<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk/job/985740/project-initiatives-manager/>

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