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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

Migrants' Law Project seminar 'Public Law in the context of Asylum and Immigration' notes available

Anyone interested in reading the notes of this seminar who is a member of the Migrants' Law Project Forum can access this latest information by following the link to the forum on www.mlpforum.wordpress.com and using the usual password. Anyone who would like access these notes who is not yet a member of the forum should contact Katie Commons for more information on e: katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk

European Council on Refugees and Exiles – latest weekly bulletin issued

This edition features a range of articles, such as one on the European Commission and power to restate Schengen temporary border checks, the UNHCR's call to the Italian government to transfer migrants from Lampedusa to the mainland and an interview with an MEP concerning the European response to the Arab Spring. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full: <http://www.ecre.org/media/news/weekly-bulletin.html>

Migration

Skills funding agency – ESOL full funding now available

Migrants' Rights Network, the Action for ESOL Campaign, the Guardian and FE Times all report that the restriction that fully funded ESOL classes are only available to those on 'active benefits', such as Job Seeker's allowance, was changed during the summer break and announced via the Skills Funding Agency's revised funding guidance. Students will no longer have to disclose what benefit they are receiving to be eligible for a fully funded class, they simply need to sign a waiver to confirm that they are out of work and will seek employment in the future. Please follow these links to see how this has been reported:

Migrants Rights' Network: <http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2011/government-u-turn-victory-action-esol-campaign>

The Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2011/sep/12/esol-funding-government-u-turn>

Action for ESOL: <http://actionforesol.org>

FE Times, ESOL funding debate in House of Commons: <http://actionforesol.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/FE-week-edition-1-Sept111.pdf>

Step-by-step guidance on compiling a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for health

The East Midlands Council SMP reports on launch of this briefing on the JSNA framework produced by the Royal Society for Public Health in partnership with the NHS Confederation and Local Government Improvement and Development.

A JSNA pulls together all the relevant information about a community, including population data, levels of smoking, housing quality, and importantly, the views of its residents. This picture is then used to plan future provision, to ensure that a community has the health and social care services it requires. PCTs have been using the JSNA process since 2007, but going forward, the Health & Wellbeing Boards will have responsibility for providing the health and social care services for their communities. Please follow this link to read the briefing: http://www.rsph.org.uk/filemanager/root/site_assets/rsph_training_solutions/briefing_on_jsna.pdf

Migration Policy Group report – Promoting integration through English and multiculturalism: Australia and Canada compared to the UK

The report finds that Australia, Canada, and the UK benefit from policies that slightly encourage legal residents to put down permanent roots in their community, become full citizens, and fight discrimination. Before they can naturalise, most will have weak political rights in the three countries, especially compared to Ireland or other Northern European countries. During this time, many temporary workers in the UK and Australia will also have to live without the equal job support and flexibility that everyone enjoys in Canada.

The UK falls significantly behind both Australia and Canada on family reunion, education, and teaching English. The UK creates more obstacles for migrant workers and residents to reunite with their families than these and other labour migration countries, even more than most European countries. Newcomer students get less support in schools in the UK than they would in Australia and Canada, where multiculturalism policies better prepare pupils to live and learn in a diverse society. Multiculturalism policies also deliver free support to teach English to future citizens and to their school-age children. Immigrants will find it harder to learn English and make the mark in the UK than they would in other English-speaking countries. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

<http://www.mipex.eu/blog/unlike-uk-australia-canada-promote-english-and-multiculturalism-too>

Events

Discrimination advice clinic in Norwich – 1st Monday of every month, Norwich Community Law Centre (NCLS)

NCLS are hosting this monthly service from Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE), from 1pm to 4pm. Anyone in Norfolk who feels that they have been treated less favourably than other people because of their having any of the Equality Act's protected characteristics should make an appointment to speak with an advisor. To make an appointment, please contact Letha Evelyn on t: 01473 408111 or enquire at the NNREC (Norfolk and Norwich Racial Equality Council) office.

Refugee Council Training sessions, various dates to 5 October, London

[End of Process: Support for asylum seekers who have been refused asylum](#)- 28 September

For those working in the voluntary and statutory sector, knowing how and when they are able to support asylum seekers at the end of process is a challenge. Service providers often hear conflicting messages and myths, and struggle to ensure they are up to date with the continual changes to policy and procedures due to legal cases. There is a need to empower service providers with up-to-date information and increase confidence in how and when to provide tangible support to asylum seekers at the end of process.

[Age assessment awareness and working with age-disputed young people](#)- 4 October

Ensuring the wellbeing of unaccompanied refugee children and young people is at the heart of this course, which aims to give delegates the confidence and information they need to challenge assessments, and the tools to ensure that the correct processes are in place in your organisation.

[The Refugee Council Therapeutic Casework Model: Supporting clients with mental wellbeing needs](#)- 5 October

This course introduces Therapeutic Casework, a model developed by the Refugee Council Specialist Team for clients with mental wellbeing and psychosocial needs. The model combines counselling and advocacy to address internal emotional distress as well as the external, practical problems which cause it.

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

Digital Activism Training for leaders of refugee or migrant organisations – 18 October to 1 December or 29 October and 12 November – London

Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum is running their final course on digital activism, to inspire and equip organisations in the sector with the skills to use social media to best effect. The seven week programme meets twice a week in the evenings for two hours, or alternatively can be completed by attending two all day sessions over two Saturdays. Please follow this link to find out more: <http://www.mrcf.org.uk/had-enough-clicking-time-to-act-apply-now-for-the-final-digital-activism-training>. The deadline for registrations is **7 October**.

Zimbabwe Community Association Norwich (ZIMCAN) presents Hope Gangata, 15 October, Norwich

The NICE Centre in Muspole Street NR3 1DJ hosts this evening of discussion with Hope Gangata as part of the Norfolk Black History month events, under the umbrella theme of 'Black Excellence'. Hope is the first Zimbabwean born Anatomist and Physiotherapist in the new post-apartheid nations of Zimbabwe and South Africa, where black people were previously barred from attempting to join skilled professions. He has made notable scientific contributions to medical journals on both sides of the Atlantic while in Africa. He now lectures anatomy to medical and physiotherapy students at the Medical School of the University of East Anglia. He is passionate about mentorship to the younger generation. Hear him speak and ask questions of him between 6pm and 9pm, as well as enjoying refreshments and music. To find out more and to book to attend please contact Francis on m: 07956437813 or e: zimcan@live.co.uk

HIV awareness training, 20 October, CAFPH, Bedford

The aim of the training is to enhance the knowledge and understanding of HIV and AIDS related issues for social care providers to improve treatment, care and support for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS including children and young people in our local communities. The workshop will also skill those who engage or work with affected communities or individual to enable improved communication and to understand the needs of people living with HIV. The course will run from 9.30am to 4.30pm at the Rutland Church, Rutland Road MK40 1DG and is open to those working in health, advice workers, teachers, probation staff, social workers and housing support workers. Please contact Dumisani Ngwenya for more information or to register e: bedford@cafph.org or dumisani@cafph.org M: 07590453151 or t: 01234 817642.

'Nowhere to run' – Domestic Violence workshop from Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Rights of Women, 24 October, Ipswich

The training will provide an introduction and overview of the domestic violence rule, as well as the support options available for women domestic abuse survivors who have 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPF). The workshop is being held at University Campus Suffolk, in the Waterfront Building from 10am to 1pm and refreshments will be provided. A free book published by Rights of Women, entitled "From A to Z. A women's Guide to the Law." will be given to the first ten participants.

To book a place on the course, please contact Sapana Mohakud on t: 01473 231566.

Refugees, Migrants and the Equality Act 2010, 10 November, London

This Westminster briefing is intended to help delegates understand and become fully compliant with the Equality Act and how it applies to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. The morning policy session will provide delegates with a forum to examine the protections provided to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants and the responsibilities that public authorities have to meet under the Act. The afternoon policy into practice session will be highly interactive, investigating examples of best practice and how public authorities are working with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants to ensure their rights are fully protected and realised.

Places cost between £145 and £225 depending on the organisation that you work for. For more information on the event plus details of how to register, please follow this link: <http://www.westminster-briefing.com/home/equality-and-diversity/event-detail4/newsarticle/refugees-migrants-and-the-equality-act-2010-understanding-the-act-and-meeting-responsibilities>

One County, Many Voices literary competition, Suffolk

At the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) AGM on 15 September the "One County, Many Voices" Literary Prize was launched. The theme is migration and diversity and entries may be submitted in the author's own language.

The literary prize will be given to writers from two categories:

- Aged 11-18 (submission of 1500 words)
- Aged 18 and over (submission of 3000 words)

The winner of each category will receive £250 from the sponsor JIMAS – an Ipswich based charitable organisation that promotes understanding between different faith communities. Deadline for submission is **30 November 2011** via e: sue@iscre.org.uk or post to ISCRE's address: 46A St. Matthew's Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3EP. Further information can be found on the ISCRE website:

<http://www.iscre.org.uk/News%2015%20August%202011%20Literary%20Prize.asp?t=t&pid=295&nid=>

Funding

SoLoCo: UK's first 'Social Crowdfunding' website launched

The Scottish-based website SoLoCo is the first in the UK to use the 'crowdfunding' model, in which technology is used to attract large numbers of small donations from members of the public in a short space of time. The model has already been used successfully for arts projects and political campaigning. The website will feature a number of projects to which donors will be able to choose to give. The website funds itself by charging a commission of up to 9.5 per cent on funds collected. The rate reduces as each fundraising venture becomes more successful. Any community project in the UK can register on the site, which will give them 60 days to fundraise. The site is not only open to charities and social enterprises, but also to other projects that benefit communities. Please follow this link to learn more and to register your project: <http://www.soloco.co.uk>

Report writing, editing or researching – offer for organisations from experienced writer and editor

Lucy Alexander is a writer and editor with twenty years' experience in the public sector. Her past employers include the BBC, Amnesty International, Christian Aid and the Refugee Council. Organisations which need help with writing, editing or researching documents should contact her on e: alexander.lucy@gmail.com or m: 07967 291 460. There will be no charge for the first hour of work with new clients, thereafter her rate is £25 per hour.

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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