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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 (MLP) case – judgment at European Court of Justice

The court ruled that NS, an asylum seeker, cannot be removed to another EU country, under the Dublin Convention, as he risks being treated 'inhumanely' there. NS had claimed asylum in the UK in 2009, having travelled through Greece. Throughout Europe, removals to Greece have been suspended since the European Court of Human Rights ruled that asylum conditions in Greece were inhumane and degrading. The Home Office argued that it should be able to presume that all EU countries operate an asylum system that protects the rights of the individual. The court found that no member state should transfer asylum seekers if there are 'substantial grounds for believing that the asylum seeker would face a real risk of being subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment'. This case was taken up by MLP after IAS went into administration.

Please follow this link to see how this case was reported in the Guardian:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/dec/21/home-office-loses-asylum-seekers-battle?newsfeed=true>

Follow this link to ECRE's bulletin of 22 December 2011 to see their reporting of the case:

<http://www.ecre.org/media/news/weekly-bulletin.html>

Follow this link for the press release from the Refugee Council:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2011/december/211211_press_statement_european_court_dublin_asylum_seekers_not_returned

To read the judgement in full: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4ef1ed702.html>

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP): report into unannounced inspection of Yarls Wood Immigration Removal Centre, Bedford

Yarl's Wood is a purpose-built immigration removal centre that can hold around 400 adult women and a small number of their male family members. Its past role in detaining children made it a focus for scrutiny and concern. This was the first HMIP inspection since the decision to no longer detain children - something welcomed by HMIP given their long-standing concerns about the adverse impact that detention has on children - was implemented. In general, HMIP found that the centre had improved in most areas. However, 4 main recommendations for improvement were made, to the Chief Executive of UKBA and the Detention Centre manager. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmipris/yarls-wood-2011.pdf>. Please follow this link to read the Refugee Council's response to the report:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/081211_press_statement_yarls_wood_vulnerable_women?dm_i=I6P,NA9S,31R5LZ,1VT89,1

Ministry of Justice fees introduced for appealing immigration and asylum decisions from 19 December

As reported in the last newsflash, the Ministry of Justice introduced fees for some asylum and immigration appeals. This policy reflects the government's view that users of the appeals system who can afford to pay should contribute to the system's cost. Fees of £80 for a paper consideration and £140 for an oral hearing will be applied to appeals against decisions taken on or after **19 December 2011**. The level of the fees has been set so that they should be affordable for people required to pay and are not set at full cost recovery, but only recover around 25 per cent of the full cost of administering the appeal system. Applicants who appeal decisions dated 19 December 2011 or later from outside the UK must submit their appeals directly to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) in Leicester and can no longer send them to the visa application centre overseas that made the initial decision. For more information about this process please see the [Ministry of Justice website](#).

Please follow this link to read about this as reported by UKBA:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/67-appeal-fees>

Brighter Futures Award – for a social worker or key worker who shows excellence in helping young refugees and asylum seekers achieve a brighter future

'Brighter Futures' recognises the important role social workers and key workers have in supporting vulnerable young people. A good social worker or key worker can make all the difference between a young person feeling safe, listened to and optimistic about the future or feeling isolated, threatened and stuck and will go the extra mile to open the door to the future. Social workers and key workers face their own challenges so this award will celebrate the work of these exceptional people and shine a light on what makes them so special. Please follow this link to find out more about the award, including how to nominate someone for it:
http://www.brighterfutureslondon.co.uk/index.html?dm_i=I6P,NA9S,31R5LZ,1VU50,1

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPf) Network bulletin December 2011 issued

The NRPf bulletin provides information on the work of the NRPf Network and on developments in case law, legislation, policy and practice regarding social services provisions to migrants with no recourse to public funds. The NRPf Network comprises local authorities and partner organisations which focus on the statutory duties to migrants with NRPf. This bulletin reports on updated practice guidance issued by the NRPf Network for local authorities on assessing and supporting NRPf children, families and former looked-after children. It reports on the NRPf network's response to the Ministry of Justice consultation on a British Bill of Rights to replace or amend existing human rights' legislation and gives an update on the NRPf Connect database. The bulletin also details forthcoming NRPf training and regional meetings across the UK. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full:
<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/strategic-migration-partnership/health-housing-and-NRPf.aspx>.
More information on the NRPf Network can be found at: www.islington.gov.uk/nrpfnetwork.

From Deprivation to Liberty: Alternatives to detention in Belgium, Germany and the United Kingdom – a report from Jesuit Refugee Service Europe

Detaining migrants is unnecessary because more humane non-custodial alternatives exist, the latest Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) report says. In each of the projects studied in Belgium, Germany and the UK, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants live in the community with few restrictions. The individuals and families who were interviewed expressed a strong desire to fully cooperate with the national authorities, based on their interest to resolve their cases as effectively as possible. Such community-based measures are significantly cheaper for the State than immigration detention and are more conducive to the successful integration of migrants. The report did note that these measures should be accompanied by appropriate legal, social and other support, otherwise migrants may be forced into destitution. Please follow this link to read the report in full:
<http://www.jrseurope.org/JRSEuropeFromDeprivationToLiberty20122011.pdf>

Migration

Chapti & others v SSHD – pre-entry to UK language test judgment

This was a High Court challenge to the legality of amended paragraph 281 of the Immigration Rules which came into effect in November 2011. As amended, paragraph 281 requires spouses and partners of British *citizens/persons settled/being admitted for settlement* in the UK, to demonstrate knowledge of English language at A1 standard of the Common European Framework. Applicants are required to do this by providing formal documents in the form of language test certificates from approved providers to verify their speaking and linguistic capacities at the requisite level. The rule change introduced an additional test prior to entry to the UK, extended to include fiancés and proposed civil partners of British/settled individuals and those seeking to vary or extend their leave as spouses. Judicial review proceedings were brought on the basis that Mr Chapti could not fulfill the requirement because of the difficulties of learning English in his village in rural Gujarat. It was argued that it would be pointless to spend £810.00 on visa fees to apply for entry clearance in the light of this. In the case of Ali, there was no UKBA approved test centre in Yemen, the applicant was illiterate and would need computer literacy lessons in order to take the test. In the case of Bibi's husband in Pakistan, he spoke no English and had no computer skills, and would have to relocate to another part of Pakistan for 6 months to take lessons or undertake a daily 4 hour journey to get to and from classes. All three applications for judicial review were dismissed. Please follow this link to read the judgment in full:
<http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/Resources/JCO/Documents/Judgments/chapti-others-judgment.pdf>

The Independent Chief Inspector of UK Border Agency – 3 reports released:

In the **2010-2011 Annual Report**, the inspector looked at the overall picture of UKBA in the light of all the inspections undertaken between 2010 and 2011. His overall conclusion is that he would like to see UKBA:

- getting more right first time;
- adopting a consistent approach;
- making full use of its powers to enforce the law; and
- using intelligence to prevent and detect immigration offences.

Please follow this link to read this report in full: http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/ICIUKBA-Annual-Report-2010_11-final-web.pdf

In the **Global Review of Entry Clearance decision making**, the report examined UKBA's handling of entry clearance decisions to determine whether decision making was efficient, effective and fair, and in line with rules, legislation and guidance. While applications were being processed within expected timeframes and there was appropriate use of verification checks to confirm supporting evidence provided with visa applications, the inspector was concerned about the quality of decision making in 35% of cases sampled. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Entry-Clearance-Decision-Making_A-Global-Review.pdf

New York Visa section inspection report found good levels of customer service, a fair standard of decision making but cases where applicants were being asked for additional evidential requirements above the level set by UKBA's published guidance, with applicants not getting advance notice of these requirements so being unable to meet them. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/An-inspection-of-the-UK-Border-Agency-Visa-Section-in-New-York.pdf>

To Stay or Not to Stay: retirement migration decisions among older people – Runnymede Trust report

The report shows the considerations that influence how older BME people decide where to spend retirement. Based on research among Caribbean, Moroccan and white British people, it shows that some overseas-born people want to 'return' overseas when they retire but face significant barriers, such as 'frozen' state pensions and more expensive healthcare. The report calls for the government to ensure that those moving abroad can receive fully-uprated pensions and to re-think how people can receive repayment for the contributions made in the UK if they retire to live overseas.

Please follow this link to access the full report: <http://www.runnymedetrust.org/publications/169/32.html>

Working together for Roma inclusion – the EU framework explained

The EU Framework provides a new approach to address the issue of the social and economic exclusion experienced by Roma people living in Europe. It seeks to improve the lives of Roma people by presenting a European structure to support the work of Member States. This EU response to the situation does not replace Member States' primary responsibility for their Roma communities. The EU Framework is based on a simple observation: the only way to successfully integrate Roma people is by joining forces. It's crucial that all actors are involved: EU Institutions, national, regional and local authorities, civil society and, of course, Roma people themselves. This publication is designed for use by national and local decision makers. It provides guidance on the key elements of the EU Framework and highlights existing good practices and tools which provide support and help orientate policymaking. There is a section in the guidance on how to access EU funding to support inclusion strategies. Please follow this link to read the guidance in full:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/working_together_for_roma_inclusion_en.pdf

Cities of Migration – submit good ideas from a successful city

Whatever their size or history, successful cities are led by innovative, forward-looking local governments that know how to use the authority and instruments of public office to serve the best interests of all, including new immigrants. The 'Cities of Migration' organisation wants to share good ideas about what local governments can do to build inclusive, resilient communities and accelerate the integration of urban newcomers. They want to know more about how local governments promote immigrant success and are looking for outstanding examples of city leadership on immigrant integration. To share a city's success story and become the next Big Idea @Cities of Migration, follow this link: [Click here for the submission form](#). Deadline: **30 January 2012**. To read other good ideas from across the world, please follow this link: <http://citiesofmigration.ca/good-ideas-in-integration/municipal>

Family reunion legislation in Europe: is it discriminatory for migrant women? A report from European Network of Migrant Women

Family migration is overall the most significant route of entry, especially for settlement purposes, into European states. In the past 10 to 15 years attitudes towards family migration have changed from being seen as favouring integration through its capacity to engender stability to one where the supposedly traditional values transferred by migrants, and especially migrant women, threaten national values and result in separate lives and the reproduction of inequalities. Migrant lives and multiculturalism have become politicised and the subject of public and media debate. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://migrantwomennetwork.org/IMG/pdf/Family_reunification_ENoMW_2011.pdf

Migration Policy Institute (MPI) – two new European reports: Regularizations in the European Union: The Contentious Policy Tool

Though contentious, regularization (typically referred to in the US context as legalization) remains a policy tool used to address the European Union's unauthorized immigrant population. Since 1996, over 5 million people have been regularized through a variety of methods, which this MPI Insight briefing paper details.

Irregular Migration in Europe

While irregular migration frequently makes headlines and policymakers are under increasing pressure to reduce illegal immigration, the estimated population of unauthorized immigrants in EU-15 countries has declined on average for almost a decade since 2002. European governments are collaborating extensively on the management of their external borders, as this report details, discussing the detected and estimated scope of irregular migration in the European Union.

Please follow this link to access both reports: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org>

Events

Health and well-being: delivered by Ethnic Minority Association for Broxbourne, Hertfordshire Mind Network and Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – 19 January, Hertford Regional College, Turnford

The event, taking place between 17:00 – 20:00 at Hertford Regional College in Turnford will be an opportunity to network, find out more about local health services, learn about how to lead a healthier lifestyle and give attendees the chance to take part in a variety of exercise demonstrations including Zumba and belly dancing. On the day, participants will be able to talk to providers from local organisations such as Alzheimer Society, GP's, mental health charities, NHS Stop Smoking services, as well as have their blood pressure checked and enjoy some beauty treatments. The event will raise awareness of the health provision available in Hertfordshire while enabling participants to improve their lifestyle.

For more information and for bookings please contact e: michal@cvsbeh.org.uk; or m: 07922 161 057.

Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) - Fractured childhoods: families separated by immigration detention – 24 January, London

The event will start at 6:00pm at Amnesty International UK, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard EC2A 3EA. It will examine what can happen to those with insecure immigration status, with parents being held in immigration detention, separated from their children, without time limit. In cases involving single mothers or fathers, children are often placed in foster care, in some cases moving between unstable care arrangements. The impact on children's welfare is devastating. BID has worked with families where parents have been detained for long periods, separated from children as young as one year old. From BID's perspective, such practice is at odds with the UKBA's legal duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Please email to reserve your place: kamal@biduk.org

Scottish Guardianship pilot for separated children – 9 February, Glasgow

In June 2010 the Scottish Government launched the Scottish Guardianship Pilot Service for separated children: young people seeking asylum and young people who have been trafficked. The Scottish Refugee Council and Aberlour's 30-month pilot, operational since August 2010, aims to establish and operate a guardianship project in Scotland that serves the needs of separated children. There is no system of guardianship in the UK at present, so this pilot has potential for wider application. It is intended to ensure that each separated child has a significantly improved experience of immigration and welfare processes, evidenced by the child's informed participation and their receipt of services and responses appropriate to their needs and entitlements. The second goal is to develop a child-centred model of practice that promotes interagency working and provides better information upon which to base immigration decisions.

The aims of the event are to:

- To share learning from the first 18 months' operation of the Scottish Guardianship Pilot Service;
- To highlight the work of agencies working with separated children in Scotland and the UK; and
- To exchange views ideas on issues currently affecting separated children.

Delegates are invited from Statutory and voluntary sector agencies working with separated children in Scotland, the UK and Europe; Refugee and children's advocacy organisations in Scotland, the UK and Europe; and academics in the field. To book, please contact Jamie Spurway for a booking form and return it to Training and Events Officer, Scottish Refugee Council e: train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk by **13 January 2012**. The event is free and open to all, however a £30 charge will be payable if places are booked and there is non-attendance. Organisers expect the event to be oversubscribed so ask that in the first instance just one person from each organisation is nominated to attend event. Organisations wanting more than one person to attend should let them know and any remaining places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Funding

EU Grundtvig programme partner search – promoting learning to marginalized adults

The Adult School "CEPA" in the Municipality of CARTAGENA (Region of MURCIA, SPAIN) is looking for partners for a project focussing on improving the attractiveness of and access to adult learning, especially for low-skilled adults, disadvantaged and marginalised citizens and migrants.

The project would look at:

- Meetings: a common place to present and develop intellectual skills.
- The cinema and lifelong learning: "awakening" adult learners' interest in education.
- Intergenerational and intercultural learning

Those interested in this partner opportunity should contact Ms. Mara de la Encarnacin Ordiales or Ms. Juana Martnez on e: marfagones@hotmail.com or m.mercader@hotmail.com

EU Lifelong learning programme partner search – DIA-SPORT Association (DS), Bulgaria

DIA-SPORT Association (DS) would like to put itself forward as a partner in any lifelong learning projects. DS was established in 1995 in Sofia, Bulgaria as a NGO. Its main activity areas include: vocational training/adult education; social integration of disadvantaged groups; youth and civil society. DS has over 15 years experience in the field of education, training and consultancy on national and international level (seminars, pilot studies), VET, ICT, work with disadvantaged groups /socially disadvantaged, gender equality, disabled, minorities, migrants, positive solving of conflicts and differences, intercultural dialogue. Members of DS are professionals in the field of education, research, economics, ICT, health, etc., highly qualified and experienced teachers and professors. The Association is working in collaboration with many educational institutions in Bulgaria including schools, Universities, Ministry of education and science, Ministry of labour and social affairs, other NGOs, etc. DS has wide range of experience in over 25 European projects /centralised and decentralised/ under different programs and is a member of 6 EU networks.

Anyone interested in pursuing partnership opportunities should contact: Mrs. Tatiana Velitchkova Chairman of the Managing Board, DIA-SPORT Association on t: / f: (+359 2) 850 60 24 m: (+359 88) 89 65 10 or e: diasport@diasport.org or diasport.association@gmail.com.

EU Leonardo da Vinci programme partner search – social exclusion risk

An organisation in Italy, Futura, is looking for partners for a project which would seek to develop an innovative training model (methodologies, tools and contents) to facilitate the inclusion and re-employment of people at risk of social exclusion, paying particular attention to women and foreign nationals. Please follow the links below if you are interested in pursuing this partnership.

e: e.vignocchi@cfp-futura.it or e: LLP@ineuropa.info

EU Lifelong learning programme partner search – basic skills in adult education

The CEPA TELDE CASCO, Gran Canaria - Canary Islands, Spain - is looking for partners to join an adult education: key competencies for lifelong learning partnership. They are looking for other adult education providers with experience in developing projects or adult education schools that want to develop a project preferably related to all fields of BBCC (basic skills in adult education issues.)

Those interested in this partnership opportunity should contact Mery Suárez Santana e:

merysusant2009@gmail.com or Clemente Moreno Vega e: 35008019@gmail.com

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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