

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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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

RMJ closure: update following request for notification of provider capacity to assist former RMJ clients
Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) entered into administration on 15 June 2010. The Legal Services Commission's primary concern continues to be ensuring that clients who require ongoing advice can access it with the minimum of disruption. LSC have been working with the administrators to facilitate this. As a result of the recent registrations of interest exercise publicised on the LSC website, significant progress is being made towards transferring large numbers of former RMJ cases to new providers. 4,500 files have been closed or referred since RMJ entered administration. This latter figure includes the urgent matters referred by RMJ in the first few weeks of the administration. However, 1,653 files remain unallocated and LSC are now seeking registrations of interest from current contracted immigration providers who are willing to accept referrals to assist these former RMJ clients.

Further information for current providers on the files yet to be reallocated:

[Registrations of Interest to Assist Former RMJ Clients - 03 August \(124 kb\)](#)

Latest immigration updates on the LSC website:

<http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/civil/immigration/5527.asp>

Email address for queries to the LSC: immigration-services@legalservices.gsi.gov.uk

New guidance for employers on preventing illegal working – asylum seekers and refugees

New guidance has been published to help UK employers understand the status of asylum seekers, refugees and those with humanitarian protection.

The guidance highlights what documents you should ask prospective employees to produce to ensure that they have such status and that they can lawfully work for you.

Guidance:

[Guidance for employers on preventing illegal working, asylum seekers and refugees - August 2010 \(319KB opens in a new window\)](#)

Refugee Council response:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/august/030810_pressrelease_employment_refugees

New Government unveils Europe's largest immigration removal centre

The opening of two new wings at Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) will make it Europe's largest, Immigration Minister Damian Green announced on 2 August 2010.

The unveiling of additional detention space comes as the UK Border Agency is intensifying enforcement activity across the country to crackdown on illegal working, sham marriages, bogus colleges and organised immigration crime.

The new high security accommodation is ready for use, and at full capacity it will house 364 of the UK Border Agency's most difficult detainees, significantly enhancing the new Government's ability to remove foreign criminals from the UK.

Press release:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/europes-largest-removal>

Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) email pilot

On 17 June CRD undertook a pilot whereby the duty telephone lines for two Case Resolution Teams, CRTL 2 and CRTS 18 were replaced with an email inbox.

Early feedback suggests that the pilot is successful. However, prior to rolling out the process throughout the Directorate, the UKBA have decided to extend the pilot to further teams. This will allow for the assessment and review of the impact of the pilot on a larger scale.

As such, from Wednesday 4 August, CRD will roll out the pilot to a further 5 teams – CRTS 4, 13, 21, 22, and 24. As before, applicants that telephone these teams will receive an automated message encouraging them to contact the team via a dedicated email address or the UK Border Agency's website for further contact information. The e-mail inbox is CRDCaseContact@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and it will be monitored by a dedicated team.

Further information and a list of CRD teams: [CRD email pilot.pdf](#)

Three Home Office research reports

1. Spotlight on refugee integration: findings from the Survey of New Refugees in the United Kingdom
[Summary](#) [Main report](#)
2. Helping new refugees integrate into the UK: baseline data analysis from the Survey of New Refugees
[Key Implications](#) [Summary](#) [Main report](#)
3. Summary of the Survey of New Refugees December 2005–March 2009
[Summary](#)

Home Office asylum statistics published

Applications received for asylum in the United Kingdom, Q1 2009 to May 2010

Please follow the link to find the data:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/asylum-may2010.xls>

Eurostat Asylum claim decisions for first quarter 2010 published

It reports over 50% less asylum applications made in Malta, Italy and Greece, compared to the first quarter of 2009.

Follow the link for the data in full:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-QA-10-032/EN/KS-QA-10-032-EN.PDF

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) publishes the alternative European integration report.

Over the last year, the IRR's European Race Audit has been identifying alternative voices on integration, in five European countries. Now it has brought out the findings of its investigations in a report, "Alternative Voices on Integration in Austria, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK".

The report brings together the interviews and news stories with representative organisations that the IRR gathered over the last two years. Grassroots organisations point out that debates on integration, national identity and core values are popularising racism and that what really needs to be discussed is not integration but civil rights.

Press release:

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2010/july/ha000029.html>

Full report:

[Alternative Voices on Integration in Austria France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK](#)

Gender-related claims for asylum – a report to the Council of Europe

Gender-related persecution may give rise to claims for international protection. However, states do not always take it into proper account. To this must be added inappropriate interview settings, the use of irrelevant country of origin information and lack of training of officials. Certain forms of harm (gender-based forms of harm or violence) are more frequently or only used against women, such as genital mutilation or forced prostitution.

The Parliamentary Assembly is invited to call upon member states to ensure that gender-based violence and gender-related persecution is appropriately taken into account in any asylum determination process.

For the full report, please follow the link:

<http://assembly.coe.int/Mainf.asp?link=/Documents/WorkingDocs/Doc10/EDOC12350.htm>

Migration

Refugee and Migrant Community Organisations in 2009

This report on the current state of the Refugee and Migrant Community Organisation (RMCO) sector was commissioned by the Evelyn Oldfield Unit and compiled by Ruth Valentine, a consultant specialising in the sector. It draws on a conference hosted by the Unit in March 2009, entitled 'Beyond Survival: Responding to Recession', as well as relevant strategy and consultation papers, and an on-line survey of RMCOs.

There is as yet little research on specifically migrant organisations, especially those serving new communities from the European accession countries. This report relies principally on information regarding refugee community organisations (RCOs) and those organisations that serve both groups.

Full report:

[Refugee and migrant community organisations in 2009: The first in an annual series of reflections on the state of the sector](#)

Employers can now accept evidence of indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in an expired passport

The UK Border Agency has reviewed its policy on whether indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in an expired passport can be accepted by employers as evidence of right to work. Under the illegal working civil penalty regime, from 2 August 2010 it has been decided that if you are an employer you can accept indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in an expired passport as evidence of right to work.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/275292/09expired-passport-ilr>

Global Brit: Making the most of the British diaspora

In a globalised world, with increasing movement of people, huge numbers live not within the boundaries of the state of which they are citizens, but in other countries. More governments are recognising that these citizens represent a great asset abroad. But for these assets to be supported and mobilised effectively, governments need to be able to engage with their overseas populations in a coherent and strategic way.

Press release:

<http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=760>

Report summary (click on 'Download without registration'):

<http://www.ippr.org/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2FGlobal+Brit+summary%2Epdf>

Events

European funding opportunities for social inclusion – 7 September, Histon, Cambs

This is advanced warning of an event being held near Cambridge in September to learn about how to benefit from European funding opportunities. The event will be held at EEDA, Victory House, Vision Park, Chivers Way, CB24 9ZR.

The programme is still being finalised, but the event is likely to be of interest to those involved with a range of inclusion issues including discrimination, migration/integration, civil and criminal justice, public health and citizenship.

This event will show you how others in the region have benefited from such programmes and there will be opportunities to raise questions and discuss possibilities with European funding and social inclusion specialists. The event is aimed at anyone with an interest in accessing European funding for social inclusion related projects. Once the programme has been confirmed, details will appear in a future newsflash as to how to book a place.

If you need further information before then, Alan Corbett, European and External Funding Manager from International Division East of England Development Agency, may be able to help. Tel. 01223 231245, mobile 07921 020977

Refugee Council Training - Working with refugee children in schools
4 October 2010, London

This course will provide an opportunity to examine the specific needs of refugee pupils, including those new to schooling in the UK, and investigate positive strategies to support them in achieving their potential.

Participants will have the opportunity to reflect on and evaluate their own practice, as well as that of the school in which they work, leaving them with a practical understanding of:

- The 'refugee experience' – psychological, cultural and social
- The needs of new arrivals, focusing on the induction process
- Supporting the resilience of pupils with a refugee experience
- The school ethos, policies and learning environment that promote inclusion and meet the specific needs of refugee pupils
- Learning and teaching - strategies that support achievement

Cost: £175 (standard rate) £109 (reduced rate for registered charities) [Download the booking form](#)
Further information on the course: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/fulldetails>

Training from Refugee Council – An introduction to homelessness **6 October 2010, London**

Homelessness can effect anyone at any time, most of all refugees. This course enables delegates to leave with a clear understanding of the homelessness process within Local Authorities, as well as the knowledge and confidence to empower clients and themselves in handling difficult scenarios and cases of homelessness.

Delegates will gain a practical understanding of:

- Who is homeless
- Eligibility criteria
- Who is in priority need
- Intentionality and local connection for refugees
- Section 184 homeless decision letters & right to request a review of the S184 decision
- Homelessness flow chart & who provides housing
- Single non-priority & the private rented sector
- Brief discussion on non-priority cases
- New tenants' rights & obligations

Cost: £175 (standard rate) £109 (reduced rate for registered charities) [Download the booking form](#)
Further information on the course: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/fulldetails>

Training from Refugee Council – Age assessment awareness and working with age-disputed young people **7 October 2010, London**

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

The course encourages delegates to discuss issues, using real-life case-examples.

On completing the course, participants will have a practical understanding of:

- The experiences of age-disputed refugee children and young people
- The impact of cultural background on the age assessment process
- The legislative and policy framework of Children's Services and the UK Border Agency

Cost: £175 (standard rate) £109 (reduced rate for registered charities) [Download the booking form](#)
Further information on the course: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/fulldetails>

Funding

Rayne Fellowship for Refugees

Applications for the Rayne Fellowship for Refugees 2010 are now open. The fellowships enable people from a refugee background to "change lives or transform a community." Closing date: **3 September 2010**.

Further information:
http://www.praxis.org.uk/index.php?page=2_28

Tudor Trust

The Tudor Trust is an independent grant-making charitable trust which supports organisations working across the UK. We do not focus our funding on specific themes or programmes. Instead we want to fund a wide range of people and organisations working to achieve lasting change in their communities. Our role is to support and enable their visions, trusting the groups we fund to do the work that is needed.

Tudor aims to support work which addresses the social, emotional and financial needs of people at the margins of our society. We are interested in how organisations tackle these needs, and their root causes. We want to encourage growth, progression and development, not just keeping things as they are.

We receive many more applications than we will ever be able to fund, so we have introduced a two-stage application process. This is designed to reduce the time, effort and resources organisations spend on their first approach to us. All applicants are therefore asked to complete a brief first-stage proposal for initial assessment. Applications can be sent at any time.

Tudor Trust website:

<http://www.tudortrust.org.uk/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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