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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

Refugee & Migrant Justice (RMJ) in administration – latest

The administrators filed papers with the courts to place RMJ in administration on 16 June. The Legal Services Commission confirmed that the Minister's decision was final and that, despite any short term cost to them, there would be no change to the current funding arrangements.

The government has committed itself to reviewing the legal aid system, but has declined to change the payment system. Responding to the request to change the payment system, a Ministry of Justice spokesman said other organisations had successfully made the transition to the new system and it was only reasonable to expect Refugee and Migrant Justice to do the same. Speaking in the House of Commons, Ken Clarke said the government could not "suddenly start diverting huge sums out of the legal aid budget to bail out a voluntary body that got itself into a financial mess".

If you have any ideas about ways to help RMJ, please contact Kathleen Commons, RMJ's Fundraising and Development Officer on 020 7780 3271, or at kcommons@rmj.org.uk.

In the East, new cases can be referred to **Immigration Advisory Service (IAS)**, which has services available in Norwich, Bedford, Peterborough and Oakington. It provides representation and advice in immigration and asylum law. These services are free to people who are eligible - [click here](#) for details.

Immigration Advisory Service website:

<http://www.iasuk.org/home.aspx>

Reminder: Review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes

The UK Border Agency has published the terms of reference for the review into ending the detention of children for immigration purposes and has asked for views, relevant evidence or research on alternatives to detention. Responses may be submitted directly to the Review team at ChildDetentionReview@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund at ChildDetentionReview@memfund.org.uk Please note the **deadline for feedback is 1 July 2010**.

Further information: [Ending child detention review.pdf](#)

Media coverage during Refugee Week: unaccompanied asylum seeker's journey to graduate at Cambridge

Following the announcement that the government plans to send child asylum seekers back to Kabul, the Observer published the moving story of a child asylum seeker from Afghanistan who is now graduating from Cambridge.

Observer: [Mohammad Razai: from child Afghan asylum seeker to Cambridge undergraduate](#)

Immigration and Asylum Statistics

The Research Development Statistics on immigration, asylum and nationality have been updated to include April 2010 data and covering data such as asylum applications, decisions and appeals, people refused entry at port and then removed, enforced removals and voluntary departures, the number of asylum seekers detained and removed and applications and decisions relating to British citizenship.

The Home Office is also interested in users' views on how the Control of Immigration and British Citizenship publications might be developed further to increase its value to users. Please email:

MigrationStatsEnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Statistics:[Monthly Asylum Statistics - April 2010](#)[Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom - First Quarter 2010](#)

Migration

Immigration to be reduced

Damian Green says the new government will introduce measures to properly control immigration following figures out on 24 June 2010 that show an increase in the UK population.

Responding to statistics which showed the population increased in 2008-09, the minister for immigration said the new government intends to reduce immigration numbers back to 1990s levels.

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics showed that the population of the UK was 61.8m in mid-2009, an increase of 394,000 on the previous year.

However business leaders have warned that an immigration cap could make businesses less competitive and are hoping for a change of mind. The home secretary, Theresa May, will begin consultation with businesses on the policy this week.

Press release:<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/immigration-be-reduced><http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jun/25/government-reconsiders-immigration-cap-plans>**Mid-year population estimates 2009:**[Mid Year Population Estimates 2009: 24/06/10](#)**Migrant participation in society**

The regional authority of the Land Berlin is interested in receiving information on projects from regions/municipalities, concerning the participation of migrants in society, in all its aspects: social, cultural, political, labour market, etc. The Office of the Land Berlin to the EU is organising an event at the end of the year that will deal with the subject of participation of migrants in society and they are looking for best practices in the regions of the EU.

For further information, please contact:

Manon Janke, Officer for Justice and Home Affairs, Office of the Land Berlin to the EU

Tel: 00 32 2 738 00 78

Fax: 00 32 2 732 47 46

E-mail: Manon.Janke@senatskanzlei.berlin.de

Internet: <http://www.berlin.de/eu>

Events

Language, Migration & Identity – Conference & Exhibition; 9, 10, 11 July at University of Surrey, Guildford

NATECLA national conference & exhibition. There will be programme of 40 workshops for both new and experienced practitioners, a resources exhibition, fringe events including a performance by Actors for Refugees, the outreach arm of IceandFire which performs documentary scripts, exploring human rights stories through performance.

On Sunday following the final workshop session, Keith Best, Chief Executive of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture will be talking about the Foundation's current work and priorities. He will focus on what he perceives to be the key current issues facing refugees and asylum seekers and draw on knowledge from his sixteen years with the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS).

To register interest in being a delegate, an exhibitor, workshop leader or sponsor please contact

cathyburns02@aol.com or co-ordinator@natecla.fsnet.co.uk

Conference – LGBTI Asylum Seekers and Refugees – A case of double jeopardy? - 5 – 7 July

The conference will be launched at the House of Lords 5 July 2010, hosted by Baroness Joyce Gould and will be held at the University of Greenwich on 6 – 7 July 2010.

This conference presents an opportunity for stakeholders from the academic, public, voluntary and private sectors to discuss and debate issues around asylum seeking resulting from human rights violations based on sexuality and gender identity. This conference will explore the double jeopardy faced by LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) asylum seekers and refugees. Firstly, from their own nation because of who they are and then secondly, from where they seek asylum.

The aim of this conference is to provide a forum for the transfer of knowledge among academics, legal practitioners, activists and voluntary and private sector service delivery organisations in order to make a lasting impact in the areas of social policy and international human rights

To register, please follow this link:

<http://www.lgbti-asr-doublejeopardy.org/Conference/REGISTRATION.html>

RCOs Round Table Discussion on social enterprise

The Refugee Council's [Basis Project](#), the Development Trust Association and Action Acton will be holding a half day round table event on **13 July 2010** for Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) with an interest in social enterprise. This event, 'Exploring Social Enterprise with Leading Social Enterprise Organisations', provides a unique and interactive opportunity for RCOs to get inspired about Social Enterprise with successful and progressive social enterprise organisations. If you have ever wanted to make the most of your assets as an organisation, earn your own income or make sure your organisation survives difficult times, this intimate meeting could be for you.

To find out more please contact david.clark@refugeecouncil.org.uk or call 0207 346 1295.

IAS Conference – The New Immigration Agenda; 21 July 2010, London South Bank University

The day-long conference will be concentrating on the developments in immigration, asylum and human rights law, policy and practice under the new government. It will also focus on the future of accreditation regulation and possible barriers to access to quality legal advice and representation for migrants and refugees.

There will be two keynote speeches and a mixture of plenary sessions and workshops. Delegates will have the opportunity to attend two workshops: one in the first round and one in the second round, looking at these themes:

The future of accreditation and regulation - The linkage between regulation, funding and quality - The new appeals system - The points-based system - Earned citizenship - Free movement in the EU.

Among the speakers are Mr Justice Nicholas Blake QC - President, Upper Tribunal, Immigration & Asylum Chamber & Lin Homer - Chief Executive, UK Border Agency.

The conference is accredited with **6 CPD hours** by the Bar Standards Board and the Solicitors Regulation Authority and also qualifies for OISC regulated advisers to claim the same number of CPD hours.

Please click [here](#) for the conference brochure and click [here](#) for the booking form in word.

Funding

Up to £5,000 for promoting human dignity - refugees, prisoners, older people, people with mental health

The A B Charitable Trust (ABCT) is offering grants of up to £5,000 for UK charity work that promotes and defends human dignity.

The Trust is particularly interested in charities that work with vulnerable, marginalised and excluded people in society, with a focus on:

- refugees and victims of torture
- prisoners
- elderly people
- people with mental health problems.

In relation to the above, the following themes are of particular interest to the trustees:

- women
- homelessness
- therapeutic art

Applications must be sent at least 6 weeks ahead of one of the Trustees' meetings. The Trustees meet four times a year, in **January, April, July** and **October**.

A B Charitable Trust's website:

<http://www.abcharitabletrust.org.uk/index.htm>

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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