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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

Refugee Council's annual impact report 2010/2011

The impact report looks at what the Refugee Council has achieved over the last year; in the east of England, it refers to the launch of the new Health Befriending scheme and the emerging legal advice service being established in partnership with Cambridge Immigration Law Centre. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/about/impact?dm_i=l6P,LYF6,31R5LZ,1S1HS,1

Mapping Statelessness in the UK – a report from UNHCR and Asylum Aid

This joint report seeks to shed light on the complex and hidden issue of statelessness. The research maps the number of profile of stateless persons in the UK, and puts a human face on their situation. It also examines the UK's legal obligations to stateless persons under international law and analyses the impact of current domestic policy and practice. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/publications.php?id=174>

European Union launches green paper on family reunification

The European Union launched the green paper to open a debate on whether to change laws on family reunification for migrants. The purpose of this public consultation is to sound out governments, civil society, non-EU countries and migrants, and determine if new legislation is needed. Under the pressure of several Member States, the Commission drafted the Green Paper which focuses on a number of questions arising from the application of the Family Reunification Directive 2003/86/EC. In particular the Commission wants to clarify which people will be eligible for family reunification and the conditions for family reunification. Moreover, the Green Paper addresses asylum-related questions regarding the possibility to include the subsidiary protection status holders in the potential beneficiaries of the Family Reunification Directive. Please follow this link to access the green paper: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/consulting_public/0023/2_EN_ACT_part1_v8.pdf. The deadline for responses is **1 March 2012**.

Migration

Immigration data released Office of National Statistics

Please follow this link to read the data relating to period July to September 2011:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/immigration-q3-2011>

Please follow this link to read the data relating to long term international migration, 1991 – 2010:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcm%3A77-235198>

Please follow this link to read the data regarding the allocation of National Insurance Numbers allocated to adult overseas nationals entering the UK: http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation

Please follow this link to read the quarterly summary of migration trends, which are the final figures for 2010, showing the annual net migration of 252,000, the highest annual figure on record, with emigration at its lowest figure since 2001 and immigration remaining steady: http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171778_242548.pdf

Please follow this link to read how this data was reported by the BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15868793>

and the Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/nov/24/uk-net-migration-record-high>.

The European Commission publication: “The Global approach to Migration and Mobility” (GAMM)

The aim is to initiate a more strategic approach to strengthen the EU’s external migration policy and cooperation with third (i.e. non-EU) countries. The Communication addresses four main areas: organizing and facilitating legal migration and mobility; preventing and reducing irregular migration and trafficking in human beings; promoting international protection and asylum; and maximising the development impact of migration and mobility. It concludes that the EU dialogue and cooperation with non-EU countries should aim at implementing specific activities within each of the four areas. The future EU Asylum and Migration Fund and the Internal Security Fund (notably on border management) will in part finance the GAMM.

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/1_EN_ACT_part1_v9.pdf

Government announces extension of employment restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian nationals

Controls to restrict how Bulgarian and Romanian nationals access the UK labour market will be extended until the end of 2013, Immigration Minister Damian Green announced this week. This means Romanian and Bulgarian (EU2) nationals seeking to work in the UK will continue to require permission from the UK Border Agency before they can work in the UK.

A report from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) looked at the impact on the domestic labour market if the transitional controls were removed. It found that lifting the current restrictions could cause more EU2 nationals to come to the UK to work, particularly in lower skilled occupations where there is greater risk of displacement of resident workers and a negative impact on wages. Permission to work will normally be given only where the worker has a specific job offer and the work is in skilled employment for which the employer has been unable to find a suitably qualified resident worker. There are also quota-based arrangements for lower skilled jobs in the agricultural and food processing sectors which will stay at the same level for 2012 and 2013. The extension of the restrictions does not affect the position of those who have already been authorised to take employment in the UK. Please follow this link to read the statement from government:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/44-labour-restrictions> and please

follow this link for the MAC report:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/-restrictions-worker1>

The EU launches an online Immigration Portal

The website provides information for non-EU nationals interested in moving to the EU and for non-EU migrants who are already within the EU and would like to move from one EU State to another. It provides specific information about procedures in all 27 EU States. Please follow this link to access the site:

<http://ec.europa.eu/immigration/>

Responding to migration from complex humanitarian emergencies: lessons learnt from Libya – Chatham House report

The report reflects on the migration flows in the wake of the Libyan conflict, where migration to Tunisia and Egypt was huge, in the context of a region where large-scale migration has become the norm. Five categories of migration were distinguished: evacuating migrant workers, Libyan nationals moving into Egypt and Tunisia, 'boat people' arriving in the EU, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum-seekers and refugees. The international policy response in Libya was hampered by restricted access so IDPs received limited assistance and protection, and migrant workers, especially from sub-Saharan Africa, experienced harassment and abuse. The policy response in neighbouring states, especially Egypt and Tunisia, was more robust whereas the political response in the EU to the small proportion of migrants who reached Europe is considered to have been disproportionate. The crisis highlighted a gap in the international regime for protecting IDPs, and in particular migrant workers and calls into question the relevance of a dated refugee definition to modern humanitarian crises. The response has also demonstrated how international agencies can cooperate, with unprecedented cooperation between IOM and UNHCR to respond to 'mixed flows' from Libya. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

<http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/179349>

Events

International Women’s fitness group from Suffolk Refugee Support Forum and Town and Bridge project – every Thursday until December 8, Ipswich

This is a class which is open to all women, at a cost of £1.50, but is free to those claiming asylum. It takes place at the Westgate ward social club, 74 Victoria Street IP1 2LS, with doors opening at 10.30 and the class running from 11 to 12, followed by refreshments. For more information, please contact Kate O’Driscoll on t: 01473 400785 or e: kodriscoll@srsf.org.uk

Roma engagement forum: Engaging successfully with Roma communities – Westcliff on Sea, 7 December

The event will be hosted jointly by The Roma Support Group and Milton Hall Primary School and Nursery in Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7AU, where the forum is being held from 1.30 to 4.30pm. The event will look at:

- The role and aims of the forum
- What are the needs of the Roma community?
- What are the main problems and concerns in East England Region?
- What is the role of different services in community engagement and cohesion?
- How to make relevant services more accessible for the Roma community?
- What is the best way to provide support and information about services available?

Please confirm your attendance with Gaba Smolinska-Poffley from Roma Support & Engagement Programme of Roma Support Group e: gaba@romasupportgroup.org.uk or t: 020 7511 8245.

Life in the UK – free preparatory classes from The Bridge Plus - Wednesdays, Norwich

These preparatory classes are being run at the NICE Centre in Muspole Street NR3 1DJ on a drop in basis from 10 until 2pm. A tutor will be available and free internet access to enable students to take practice tests. A start date will be decided once enough students have registered to take part. To register for the sessions, please contact Angela at Bridge Plus on e: admin@bridgeplus.org.uk or t: 01603 617076 m: 07411 390591

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) – call for evidence on limits and tier 2 policies: consultation events, London, 6 and 13 December

The MAC has been asked by the Government to advise on what level the annual limit for Tier 2 should be set at for 2012/13 and on associated policies including the minimum skill level for Tier 2, intra-company transfers and the Resident Labour Market Test. To assist in its consideration of these issues, the MAC launched a call for evidence at the end of October and would like to hear from those with an interest.

To support the call for evidence, the MAC is holding events where partners can discuss this in London on **6 and 13 December 2011**. Anyone wishing to attend these events should contact the MAC. Anyone interested in hosting a briefing themselves and have the Committee come to talk to a group of relevant parties should also contact the MAC e: mac@homeoffice.x.gsi.gov.uk. The supporting call for evidence document, with questions and background information is available at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/>. The deadline for responses is **21 December**.

EU Connects Introduction to European Funding: Identifying the most appropriate funding programme for your project. Cambridge, 13 December

The Government Offices, Eastbrook, Shaftsbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2DF will host this event from 9.30-12.30, to provide participants with:

- An overview of the European funding landscape at the present time,
- An understanding of how your organisational objectives can be delivered with the additional benefits of leveraging in additional European funds to support your work,
- European programme “fit” – identifying the programme for you.
- Key considerations in European project development and partnership working
- Project development surgery (optional)

Contact Michelle Armstrong Associate EU Funding Adviser, EU Connects for more information: e: michelle.armstrong@eelga.gov.uk , m: 07709 483445. To make a reservation, please follow this link: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2750>

The Power of SELF my journey – workshops from Sexual Violence Alliance (SEVA), Norfolk

Seva are looking to work with organisations who work with minority ethnic groups. Their workshop is about giving people the opportunity to meet those from other countries and learn about how to have positive relationships. It will explore gender roles, cultural stereotypes, stigma and personal needs. Please contact Alessia Pinna if you are interested in arranging a workshop for your organisation e: alessia@seva-uk.org or m: 0782 6909224

Understanding immigration rules and the effects on international students - London, 19 January

The forum will examine topics such as:

- The new immigration rules and the effects for international students and their institutions.
- The UK's new visa scheme for students explained; restructuring the points based system
- How will International students be affected by changes to the post-study work visa?
- How can UKBA, government and institutions work together to increase international student enrolment?

This forum will offer delegates the opportunity to discuss and examine strategies to recruit, monitor and retain the world best students, whilst exceeding their student experience.

BOOK ONLINE or call 0845 666 0664. Bookings made by public and third sector organisations before 5pm **2 December** will be entitled to a discount of 10%.

Funding

East of England Community Grants from European Social Fund (ESF)

Community Grants enable small third sector organisations, which would not normally be able to access ESF, to apply for small grants, so organisations that are in receipt of ESF cannot apply for Community Grants. Applications are invited from organisation's that had an income of less than £300,000 in the last financial year and fewer than 50 full time equivalent employees. Community Grants are available to community and voluntary organisations that provide training and services to help people to improve their chances of obtaining work.

Community Grants focus on individuals that have difficulty accessing mainstream provisions and / or ESF and are targeted to reach the people and communities that other grants have struggled to reach. The provision available must not duplicate provision that is already supported through existing Skills Funding Agency or DWP mainstream provision, or ESF Co-Financing. To be eligible for Community Grant participants must be aged 18 or over, unemployed or economically inactive, and live in the East of England - Essex; Bedfordshire; Hertfordshire; Cambridgeshire; Norfolk; Suffolk. Priority will be given to provision supporting these target groups:

- People with disabilities and health conditions
- Lone Parents
- People aged 50 or over
- People from ethnic minorities

Community Grants do not require 'match' funding so can be used to access 100% of the cost of a project. Grants are available up to a maximum of £12,000. Organisations can apply for a maximum of one grant during the life span of the current contract with TCHC. The Community Grants contract end date is December 2013. There will be 3 further application rounds after this one. Please follow this link for more information:

http://www.tchc.net/services/community-grants/applications?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Consultancy+Home+Counties+Ltd&utm_campaign&utm_content=Applicationspage&dm_i=GIF,LZX1,4CEOTD,1S63L,1.

The closing date for applications is **16 December**.

European Home Affairs funding 2014 - 2020

The Commission has published its proposals for Home Affairs funding for 2014-2020. It proposes an increased budget of €10.9 billion and a reduction of the funding programmes from six to two:

- An Asylum and Migration Fund will focus on people flows and the integrated management of migration. It will support actions addressing all aspects of migration, including asylum, legal migration, integration and the return of irregularly staying non-EU nationals.

- An Internal Security Fund will support the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy and the EU approach to law enforcement cooperation, including the management of the union's external borders. It will also cover the development of new IT systems, such as the future entry/exit system and the Registered Traveller Programme.

Please follow this link to find out more:

http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/funding/beyond/funding_intro_en.htm#hf-financing-2014-20-docs

Jobs

National Co-ordinator Regional Asylum Project – part time (7 hours per week) for 12 months, with potential for a further two years, £33,000 (pro rata)

Regional Asylum Project is looking to recruit a national co-ordinator to work on a freelance/consultant basis to manage and support three regional campaigners. Funding is confirmed for 12 months, and they anticipate being able to continue the project for at least a further two years.

The successful candidate will recruit staff to regional posts, manage, support and link the regional campaigners, and oversee the project budget. Applicants should show they have a track record in managing people and projects and a proven ability to work independently and be a skilled facilitator with an openness and commitment to the project being directed by the priorities of asylum seekers in the regions.

The Regional Asylum Project is a new project using regional organising to achieve a louder, better coordinated voice for asylum seekers. It has a dual focus - to inform and change attitudes about asylum seekers and refugees, and to campaign for positive change to the asylum system. It is a partnership with 'Still Human Still Here' and will seek to support existing campaigns. It aims to enhance grassroots and national campaigns, increase the involvement of those with direct experience of asylum, and build a movement in support of change.

The 7 hours a week equate to 20% of full-time and pays a salary of £33,000 per annum pro rata or equivalent on a consultancy basis. As this is a new organisation there is as yet no website. For an application pack please contact Jaqui Cotton at jax@sensorysoftware.co.uk. The closing date for applications is 9am **16 December 2011**.

Housing Action Charity (HACT), Refugee and Migrant Officer, 2 years fixed term, £26,000 - £30,000 - London

HACT has a reputation for developing innovative housing solutions for refugees and new migrants. At the core of this work has been the ability of HACT to deliver partnerships between affordable housing providers, refugee and migrant community organisations and local authorities. HACT's credibility in working with refugees and migrants is dependent on the expertise of the staff and associate team, as well as the networks they are a part of. HACT is now recruiting for a highly motivated person with experience of community, organisational and partnership development with small organisations, to deliver its refugee projects Accommodate PRS and Reach In.

The Refugee and Migrant Officer role is critical in providing support to the front line of HACT's pilot projects that benefit refugees and new migrants. It is also responsible for delivering the volunteering placement project in social housing providers for refugees. The post is funded by the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund for two years and will ensure HACT's refugee projects are supported and delivered effectively for the next two years. As well as supporting the engagement of MRCOs in local partnership delivery, the post will be responsible for delivering two further waves of Reach In volunteers (www.reachin-hact.org.uk) including exploring future options for mainstreaming the approach with partners in the housing sector.

To apply for this post please download the Job Description and Person Specification (link below). Please send a CV, including two references of which one must be your most recent employer, and a supporting statement outlining how you meet the requirements of the Person Spec, to moyra.rushby@hact.org.uk. The closing date for applications is 5pm **9 December**. Please follow this link to find out more and to access the job description and person specification: <http://hact.org.uk/hact-are-recruiting-refugee-and-migrant-officer>

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