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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 Regional Assembly (EERA) Strategic Migration Partnership, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency publishes report on asylum

A report published on 26 February 2010 by the Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency has identified that, based on current staffing levels and the complexity and volume of asylum cases, the UK Border Agency's target of concluding 90 per cent of asylum cases within six months by December 2011 is unachievable. He had significant concerns surrounding the Agency's ability to maintain performance in the face of increasingly challenging targets.

Press release:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=411566&NewsAreaID=2>

Full report:

<http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/files/inspection-reports/ukba-asylum-report.pdf>

UKBA response to the report:

<http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/40-chief-insp-asylum>

Fast-Tracked Unfairness: Detention and Denial of Women Asylum Seekers in the UK

This Human Rights Watch report documents how women asylum seekers with complex claims are not getting fair consideration of their asylum claims under the United Kingdom's "detained fast track" asylum system

Press release:

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/02/19/uk-fast-track-asylum-system-fails-women>

Full report:

[Download the full report](#)

Maternity payments for parents seeking asylum – leaflet in 18 languages

Asylum seekers who are expecting a child or already have children and are receiving asylum support may be entitled to extra money. Asylum Support Partnership have produced a leaflet which explains what payments are available and what people need to do to receive them. The leaflet is available in 18 languages and can be downloaded from the Refugee Council's multilingual website.

English version of the leaflet:

http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/pdf/English/Maternity_payments_English.pdf

Refugee Council's multilingual website:

<http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/english/index.htm>

Publication of monthly asylum application statistical data – a consultation

To comply with European legislation the Home Office is proposing to publish monthly statistics on asylum applications. This consultation is being run to gather views and submissions on the publishing of such information. It also provides an opportunity for you to comment on any aspect of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary.

This is a public consultation and anyone who wishes to do so may comment. The deadline for responses is 30 April 2010.

Further information:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-asylum-stat-data/asylum-consultation2835.pdf?view=Binary>

ICAR Briefing - Citizenship for Refugees in the UK: Key Issues and Research

This briefing highlights how refugees have historically been at the centre of policy, debate and social mobilisation around citizenship. It also examines specific paths and barriers to citizenship for refugees and the substantive meaning of citizenship in the light of contemporary UK and European Union policy. It highlights some of the key debates around these issues and relevant research, and signposts the reader to further resources.

ICAR briefing:

[new citizenship briefing](#)

UK to opt-out of Asylum Procedures Directive

The UK will opt out of the recast Directive on Asylum Procedures that the European Commission proposed in October 2009. According to the UK government, opting in would mean abandoning their fast-track procedure. The decision has been criticised by immigration lawyers and peers who believe the detention of asylum seekers at UK removal centres under the detained fast-track procedure leads to rushed and unfair decisions because there is no time to gather evidence.

Press release:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/feb/24/home-office-opt-out-asylum-eu-directive>

Briefing on the Asylum Procedures Directive:

<http://www.ecre.org/files/factsheetprocedures.pdf>

Migration

New migration statistics published on 25 February 2010

1. Migration Statistics Quarterly Report - February 2010

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mig0210.pdf>

2. Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom, 2009, Q4 (Home Office)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/immig409.pdf>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/immig409supp.xls>

3. National Insurance Number (NINo) Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals to September 2009 (DWP)

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/nino_allocation.asp

4. Provisional International Passenger Survey (IPS) estimates of long-term international migration, year ending Q2 2009 (ONS)

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/IPS-estimates-of-long-term-international-migration-YE-Jun-09.xls

5. Local area migration indicators (ONS):

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Local-area-migration-indicators.xls

6. Population by country of birth and nationality from the Annual Population Survey: 07.2008 to 06.2009 (ONS)

[Population by Country of Birth & Nationality, Jul 2008 to Jun 2009](#)

Local authority Worker Registration Scheme data – October – December 2009

This local authority level WRS data from the UK Border Agency will not only enable you to discover more about your changing local population, but is invaluable in planning services. Access to the local authority data is restricted to local authorities and other government users who register on this site with a [.gov.uk](#) email address. If you do not have a [.gov.uk](#) email address, you may wish to email them directly at FreedomofInformation.Employment@UKBA.gsi.gov.uk with your request.

Local authority WRS data: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=1095225>

The Day the Immigrants Left – still available to watch

This documentary programme shown on BBC1 on 24 February is still available to watch on BBC iPlayer until Wednesday 3 March 2010.

Link to the BBC iPlayer:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00r3qyw>

Article about the documentary:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8533172.stm>

Department of Health consultation: Review of access to the NHS by foreign nationals

This consultation provides the public and others with the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the charging Regulations for overseas visitors requiring hospital treatment and the recovery of any charges, and also initial thinking around possible future introduction of health insurance for some visitors. This may also be of interest to UK nationals/residents

Closing date: 30 June 2010

Consultation document:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_113243.pdf

Further information:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_113233

UK Border Agency launches consultation on NHS debtors

The UK Border Agency is carrying out a public consultation on proposals to change the Immigration Rules so that they can refuse permission to enter or stay in the UK if a migrant is subject to immigration control and is in debt to the NHS above a prescribed amount.

The consultation is open until 28 May 2010.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/41-nhs-debtors>

Written ministerial statement: NHS debtors:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/wms-nhs-debtors.pdf>

Consultation document:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/nhs-debtors/consultation-document.pdf?view=Binary>

Response form:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/nhs-debtors/response-form.pdf?view=Binary>

Final phase of Tier 4 is launched

On 22 February the UKBA implemented the final phase of the points-based system's student tier. This has resulted in two major changes for Tier 4 sponsors. All potential Tier 4 students applying to the UKBA from inside or outside the UK must use a confirmation of acceptance for studies (CAS) in their application. Sponsors now must report via the sponsorship management system (SMS) on students who have used a CAS in an application to the UKBA.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/final-phase-tier-4-launched>

New guidance and application forms for migrant workers and students

The UK Border Agency has published revised guidance and application forms for migrants under Tiers 2 and 4 of the points-based system. They have also revised their guidance for the dependants of migrants who are in the UK under the points-based system.

From 22 February, applications to Tier 2 (for highly skilled workers) and Tier 4 (for adult and child students) should be made using the new forms, which are all marked 'version 02/10'.

Press release and related application forms:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/28-migrant-guidance-and-forms>

New guidance for points-based system sponsors

The UK Border Agency has revised its guidance documents for employers and education providers who hold sponsor licences under the points-based system. The revised documents - one for Tier 4 sponsors and the other for sponsors under Tiers 2 and 5 - are available in the sponsor guidance section of the UKBA website.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/February/29-sponsor-guidance>

Sponsor changes summary:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/sponsor-changes-220210.pdf>

EU court ruling over migrant UK child benefit claims

The European Court of Justice has said some migrant families can stay in the UK and claim benefits - even if the main worker has left the country. The court, which deals with EU law, said some families must be allowed to stay when their child was in education. A child's education was paramount, so parents could not be told to leave if they could not support themselves.

Press release:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8532868.stm>

Mayor of London signs European charter on migrant integration

Mayors from some of Europe's biggest cities gathered in London on 22 February for a major conference in City Hall hosted by the Mayor of London Boris Johnson and the European Commission, at which they signed a charter setting out their vision for migrant integration policies.

Attended by more than 150 participants, the fourth EUROCITIES Integrating Cities conference is one of the year's largest debates on migrant integration in the capita, with keynote speeches by Boris Johnson and Diane Schmitt, Head of Immigration Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security.

Press release:

http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_mayoral/mayor-london-signs-european-charter-migrant-integration

Events

Ending Ethnic Economic Inequality (EEEI)

Thursday **11 March 2010**, 10:30am - 3:30am, The Kaetsu Centre, New Hall, Cambridge CB3 0SH

This event is to showcase good practice within the region and plan for the future in the context of the changing skills, employment and enterprise landscape within the region.

Further information:

<http://www.menter.org.uk/html/news.html#EEEI>

Young, Black & Tackling Inequalities

Wednesday **24 March 2010**, 09:30am – 4:30pm, The Møller Centre, Storey's Way, Cambridge CB3 0DE

MENTER, Peterborough Racial Equality Council (PREC) and Bedford African Community Support Project (BACSP) are collaborating, as part of the MENTER Empowerment through Participation Partnership, to invite you to this youth project launch event. This Communities and Local Government Tackling Race Inequalities funded youth project is developing initiatives that inspire Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) children and young people to achieve their desired life goals.

Further information:

<http://www.menter.org.uk/html/news.html#YBTI>

Funding

Up to £10k for education / training or financial capability - from re-launched Santander Foundation

All of our funding must directly help disadvantaged people through one or both of these charitable priorities - education and training, or financial capability.

Education and training

This could be any activity disadvantaged people undertake where they improve their confidence in a skill or their understanding of a subject. This does not have to be formal training or lead to a qualification, although those activities would be eligible too. It could be any activity disadvantaged people undertake where they improve their confidence in a skill or their understanding of a subject.

Examples could include independent living skills, anger management, or improving self esteem. Other examples could include reminiscence projects for older people, art and craft sessions as well as IT classes. These are just a few examples and should not be regarded as a definitive list.

Financial capability

This priority covers activities which help disadvantaged people understand how to manage their money. It could include budgeting skills, accessing affordable credit as well as managing the challenges that arise from being a carer, unemployment, disability or relationship break up.

Examples could be the costs of running a credit union, projects delivering financial advice and helping people to understand their benefit entitlement. Successful applications under this priority have included equipping a training kitchen for homeless people who learnt how to budget effectively for their food and then went on to apply these principals to other parts of their lives.

What kind of funding is available from the Foundation?

All funding is for one off donations.

Grants are available to buy tangible items such as equipment or training materials.

Grants are also available to fund project costs such as sessional worker fees, salaries, room hire or other costs incurred in the delivery of the charitable priorities.

Who can apply?

We can only make donations to organisations with charitable status for their work within the UK. This includes registered charities, Friendly Societies, Industrial & Provident Societies registered under charitable not membership rules (an exception to this are credit unions – who we can fund).

We cannot fund Community Interest Companies or not-for-profit organisations unless they are also registered charities.

[Click here for application process](#)

Jobs

Senior Policy Officer (Strategic Migration Partnership – East of England Regional Assembly)

SCP 41/46 £34,549 - £38,961

Contract duration: 2 years (1 April 2010 – March 31 2012)

You will be managing EERA's Strategic Migration Partnership responsibilities for Asylum, Refugee Integration and Migration in collaboration with key regional partners, including the development, implementation and monitoring of the business plan and associated strategies and initiatives.

The closing date for applications is **16 March 2010**. Interviews will take place at EERA's offices at Flempton House, Bury St Edmunds on 23 March 2010.

An application pack and copies of the job description and job profile can be downloaded from our website via the following link: <http://www.eera.gov.uk/Who-we-are/working-for-us/senior-policy-officer-smp/>

If you do not have internet access, please contact Val Seaman on 01284-729435 or email

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