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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

Working with Refugee Children – Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA)’s publication

This publication from ILPA looks at current issues in best practice, and has chapters which focus on:

- ‘Best interests’: safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in immigration law and practice,
- Voice of the child,
- Best practice in age dispute challenges,
- Representing children at appeals before the immigration tribunal,
- Legal aid

It is intended as a guide for anyone working with children and young people, including practitioners and those working within the UK Border Agency and local authorities, who make the promotion of children’s welfare and ensuring the child’s voice is heard their priority. Please follow this link to read the document in full:

<http://www.ilpa.org.uk/publications/11.05.24%20Working%20with%20Refugee%20Children..pdf>. To order a free hard copy e-mail lisa.woodall@ilpa.org.uk. Please note that due to high demand further copies of this book are on order, should you request a copy it will be sent to you once the ordered batch arrives.

Homosexual asylum seekers persecuted at home, humiliated when seeking refuge abroad - European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) reports

The most recent weekly bulletin from ECRE includes an article which reports on the EU Commissioner’s comments on the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, about fleeing persecution due to someone’s sexual orientation and seeking asylum in the EU. Please follow this link to read this and other articles and reports: http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Weekly_Bulletin_20_May_2011.pdf

Resources guide for legal practitioners working with refugee children – publication by Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA)

ILPA runs a Refugee Children’s Project, funded by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. The project aims to improve advice and representation for refugee children through the provision of training and resources. This guide is aimed at legal practitioners working with refugee children. It provides a list of child-specific resources covering legislation, policy and research based publications on a varied of themes. Legal and policy documents have been compiled into international, regional and national instruments. Documents include hard and soft law, guidance and instructions and good practice publications.

Please follow this link to read the document in full: <http://www.ilpa.org.uk> and click onto the ‘publications’ tab.

Migration

Migration statistics quarterly report, for quarterly datasets 26 May – Office for National Statistics

The Migration Statistics Quarterly Report (MSQR) summarises the regular quarterly migration and related data published by the Home Office, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the National Records of Scotland (NRS). The data shows:

- Estimated total long-term immigration to the UK, year to September 2010 was 586,000, was similar to the level seen since 2004
- Estimated total long-term emigration from the UK in the year to September 2010 was 344,000. This has declined since the year to December 2008, when total emigration from the UK was estimated at 427,000, a 27% drop.
- Estimated net long-term migration to the UK in the year to September 2010 was 242,000. This continues the increase since the year to December 2008, when long-term net migration was 163,000.
- Net migration of citizens from A8 countries has increased to 43,000, a rise from a net *emigration* of -12,000 seen in the year ending September 2009. This is due to both a rise in immigration from 45,000 to 72,000; and a fall in emigration from 57,000 to 29,000. Net migration is now at the same level as seen year ending September 2008.

- For the year to September 2010, immigration to the UK for work-related reasons was little changed on the year to September 2009, but immigration for formal study had increased by 30 per cent

The latest data on applications to live, work and study in the UK, which also includes people intending to stay in the UK for less than a year, shows:

- In the year to September 2010 the number of entry clearance visas issued for work and study was 516,430, an increase of 10 per cent on 471,175 in the year to September 2009., but the figures in the year to March 2011 show the total number of entry clearance visas issued for work and study was fell by 1% to 508,060.

Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mig0511.pdf>

Looking back, moving forward - All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration's assessment of the Coalition's immigration policy, paper and notes of meeting

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Migration met to debate the Coalition Government's immigration policy of the past 12 months in a meeting entitled, 'Immigration under the Coalition Government: looking back, moving forward'. Speakers included the Chair of the APPG, Jack Dromey MP, the Shadow Immigration minister, Gerry Sutcliffe MP, co-Chair of the Liberal Democrat Backbench Committee on Home Affairs, Tom Brake MP, human rights and civil liberties campaigner and Director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti, and Dr Martin Ruhs from the Migration Advisory Committee. The Conservatives, Greens, Democratic Unionists and UK Independence Party also contributed to the meeting. A briefing paper was published to inform the debate, providing a broad assessment of the past 12 months and the impact of the Coalition's immigration policies, highlighting in particular the progress the Coalition has made on the proposed cap on numbers of migrants coming to the UK. The note from the meeting outlines key points raised by the panelists and participants at the meeting and the debate that emerged on public opinion, the effectiveness of the proposed cap, the overarching argument on human rights and economic dimensions to the debate. Please follow this link to access both briefing paper and note from the meeting: <http://www.appgmigration.org.uk/reports>

New service - free internet community café from Integration Support Services (ISS), Harlow CM20 1QP

ISS is a charity which works to support the successful integration of all migrants, refugees, BME community members in Essex and Hertfordshire. They have just launched a new internet community café, available at their Harlow centre, 2 Wych Elm, every Saturday from 11am – 2pm. They offer free help using computers, support with cv writing, advice on improving qualifications and advice on employers' and landlords' disputes.

For more information about ISS please follow this link: www.iss.org.uk or contact t: 01279 639442 e: info@iss.org.uk

UK continues to opt out of EU directive providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third country nationals

In a written statement to the House of Commons, the Minister for Immigration has confirmed that the UK will maintain its position of not opting into the European Directive 2009/52/EC. Whilst being sympathetic to the objectives behind the measure, it was felt that there were significant aspects of the draft directive which the UK did not support, such as the extra administrative burden on employers of third country nationals imposed by the directive. Please follow this link to read the statement in full:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmtoday/cmwwms/archive/110524.htm#d2e253>

Migration Museum Project – 100 images of migration - photography competition run jointly with the Weekend Guardian

Britain has museums dedicated to a variety of themes, but no comprehensive Migration Museum. The US has Ellis Island so the Migration Museum Project was established to produce something similar for Britain. Almost every family has a past migration story to tell, be it of arrival in Britain or of setting out for a new life overseas. While immigration is a live political topic in the news, emigration rarely features, yet there are over five million Britons living abroad. People are invited to capture these migration stories by sending the project an image with an explanation of no more than 100 words of what the image means to the person who took the picture. A judging panel made up of Barbara Roche, former Minister for Immigration, Kwame Kwei-Armah, actor and playwright, Afua Hirsch, the Guardian legal correspondent, and Danny Sriskandarajah, director of the Royal Commonwealth Society will select the winning 100 entries, which will feature in the Weekend Guardian. The closing date for entries is **17 June**. For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.migrationmuseum.org/competition>

Events

Interface Learning 2011 Celebration – Norwich NR3 3DZ, 3 June 12:00 - 3:00

Interface Learning is a charitable organisation based in Beckham Place, Norwich which works across East Anglia to promote cross-cultural integration in local communities and aims to improve community cohesion through building connections between people of different cultures and social backgrounds. They work with a wide range of client groups from ethnic minority residents to local teenagers. They run a range of projects that bring people together in an informal and friendly atmosphere to learn new skills and meet new people

Those interested in learning about what they offer are invited to this celebration which will showcase their activities. There will be project displays, a dance performance and food from around the world as the centrepiece to a networking lunch. If you wish to attend, please advise Dee Robinson on:

e: newroutes@interfacelearning.org.uk or t: 01603 632816 or m: 07799 661009

Big Lunch Party – Norwich NR3 1DJ, 5 June

Bridge Plus, in partnership with MENTER and Norfolk Police, are holding a Big Lunch, part of the national programme of big lunches www.thebiglunch.com from the Eden Project. Muspole Street will be closed to traffic from 3-7pm and people from all communities are invited to bring their own drinks and snacks, but will have the chance to taste a sample of foods from around the world. To find out more about the event, please contact Bridge Plus on e: office@bridgeplus.org.uk

Volleyball tournament - Welwyn Garden City AL8 6XE, 5 June

Welwyn Hatfield Polish Forum in partnership with the Hatfield Fire Station and the Hatfield Police Station is organizing a volleyball tournament in Welwyn Garden City, Gosling Park on 5 June between 2.30-5.30 p.m. This "sport get together event" is an opportunity to build bridges on the sport field and prepare for next year's Olympic games. The event is aimed at all family members, both children and parents. The hall will be divided into two so children will have a chance to explore their potential. Anyone needing more information should contact Michal e:

Michal@cvsbeh.org.uk

Funding Fayre – Bedford, 15 June

CVS Bedford is hosting a Funding Fayre at the Corn Exchange, St Paul's Square, Bedford on 15 June, 1-4.30pm. It is a free event for voluntary and community organisations with workshops and a chance to meet several funders like Big Lottery Fund, Co-op Community Fund, Santander Foundation and others. More information is available from t: 01234 354366 or e: mandy@yourcvs.org

Multi-cultural day – Ipswich County library, 18 June

Featuring human books, this event will give people the chance to learn something new from someone from a different cultural background. There will also be displays from a range of Suffolk community groups, including Karibu, The Polish Club and The Latin American Community Group plus craft stalls and food from around the world to buy. The children's library will feature a range of activities including puppet shows, dancing and henna painting. The event starts at 10.30 and finishes at 4 in the County Library, Northgate Street, Ipswich. For more information, please contact Vinaya at Ipswich library e: vinaya.kulkarni@suffolk.gov.uk t: 01473 583713

Refugee Week – updates for events across the region – June 20 – 26

Last week's newsflash gave a snapshot of events taking place across the region. More information has now been released by towns in the region hosting events and further details are shown below:

For the complete listing of events in **Bedford**, please follow this link: <http://www.refugeeweekbedford.org>

Peterborough has compiled a full list of activities, so in addition to those advertised last week, on 21 June in their Council Chamber, they are hosting a Question Time event around 60 years of the UN Convention and the showing of the film 'Welcome'. Invitations will be extended to all city councillors and 100 places will be available for members of the public. On 24 June, at the Brewery Tap's comedy night, acts will be interspersed with short films and speakers about asylum. On 25 June there will be a family fun day at the Triangle recreation ground, Lincoln Road between 2 and 4 and then on 26 June there is the Popblast music and entertainment festival, Padholme Road East from 12 to 6.

As events are finalised, details will be updated on the national Refugee Week website, which also has a range of resources for those needing materials for displays or activities being run that week. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk>

Hertfordshire Migration Partnership Conference – Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG, 21 June

The partnership conference is being held at the Focolare Centre, 69 Park Way in Welwyn Garden City from 9.30-13.20, followed by a networking lunch. It will be an opportunity to hear from projects which have been running throughout Hertfordshire thanks to the Migration Impact Fund (MIF), and to participate in workshops which look to the future. The key note speaker is a representative from the Portuguese Embassy who will speak on “Building External Relationships”. Attendees are invited from statutory and non-statutory service providers who want to engage better with the migrant communities they serve. Community groups representing the needs of these migrants groups are also encouraged to attend, to help service providers understand how they can better meet users’ needs. For more information, please contact Michal from CVS in Hertfordshire e: Michal@cvsbeh.org.uk

Effective working with Eastern European Roma migrants – Roma Support Group, EELGA, Flempton, Suffolk IP28 6EG, 30 June

This half day training session will be delivered by the Roma Support Group (<http://www.romasupportgroup.org.uk>) which has been working with Eastern European Roma refugees and migrants for over 10 years. The training is aimed at those from the statutory and voluntary sector who support migrants and would like to learn more about Eastern European Roma and effective engagement with this community.

Issues covered during the session will include:

- Roma culture awareness
- Good practice in working with Roma
- Eastern European Roma rights to welfare, housing, health and social care in the UK (A8 and A2 nationals)
- Access to education system for Roma
- Community capacity building and empowerment

For further information please contact Gosia Strona, Strategic Migration Partnership, East of England LGA, e: malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk t: 01284 729 433. To book a place, please visit our website and follow the link to conferences: www.eelga.gov.uk

Cost: For delegates from the statutory sector: £60 + VAT. For delegates from the voluntary sector: £45 + VAT

Funding

Commissioning opportunity for Refugee Community Organisations in the east of England – Basis Project

The Basis Project East of England would like to commission two refugee community organisations (2 x RCOs), based on East of England, to write a case study (one case study per each organisation) based on their own experience(s) they have had in the past on one of following themes:

- Partnership working with other organisations
- Commissioning work that you might have delivered for a Local Authority or a Service Level Agreement (SLA) when your organisation delivered or is tendering to deliver services for a public body or other agency
- Setting up and running a trading subsidiary / branch or a social enterprise in order to widen the fundraising alternatives

The Basis Project is an England-wide service, led by Refugee Council and Refugee Action, giving **one-to-one** support and training to hundreds of refugee community organisations (RCOs) **to help** them manage, develop and sustain their work.

Anyone interested in applying for this commission opportunity please contact Shpetim Alimeta on t:01473 297912, m: 07908 952 405 or e:shpetim.alimeta@refugeecouncil.org.uk or odo.east@gmail.com. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is 5pm **24 June 2011**.

The Basis project intends to make decisions for the two winning bids and communicate these by 29 June and all work by the chosen RCOs must then be completed and submitted to the Basis Project by 17 August 2011. The payment to successful organisations will depend on work being submitted on time, but they intend to make it within 10 working days after the completion of the work.

Jobs

Volunteer Domestic Violence key worker, Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre, Ipswich – Hindi speaker
Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre, a specialist housing provider, is seeking a Domestic Violence Key Worker to provide a high quality service to African and Asian women and their children, with no recourse to public funds who have experienced domestic violence and are living in their temporary accommodation.

The role is to provide service users with a safe, supportive and welcoming environment designed to empower residents and provide them with practical and emotional support. The post holder will provide general advice and listening support to residents structured around a key working relationship. She will assess the needs of clients and ensure appropriate liaison with external agencies. Additionally she will welcome new arrivals to the premises, explain rules etc and arrange for the provision of legal advice where required.

Anyone interested in the role will need to be willing to work with people from all cultures and have experience or are willing to learn about working within a refuge for women who have fled domestic violence. The Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre will help with applying for a CRB Enhanced Disclosure which is a requirement in order to apply for this position. Female only Section 7.2 (d) of the sex discrimination act 1975 applies.

To apply for this post, please call t: 01473 231566 or m: 07765869286 or email e: zimyproject@yahoo.co.uk

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