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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

Engagement toolkit for refugee and migrant community organisations from Evelyn Oldfield Unit

The Evelyn Oldfield Unit, within the BASIS project, has worked on this engagement project so as to support Refugee Community Organisations (RCOs) to better connect with their beneficiaries. Previous research by the Unit found that RCOs often saw the same people on repeat and were not necessarily reaching those in their communities who need it most. After running a number of sessions on engagement (particularly social media), they conducted primary and secondary research with the goal of creating a practical toolkit for use by RCOs. The research first investigated what engagement looks like in the RCO community and then concentrated on seeking out good practice, innovation, free digital resources and ensured no duplication of existing resources. Additionally, having started start the project in the climate of cuts led to their considering the little resources available and this has been a key feature of the work. Please follow this link to access the toolkit:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/53248812/EOU-Engagement-and-Communication-Toolkit>

Refugee crisis on the other side of the Mediterranean – European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)

The arrival of refugees and undocumented migrants in Europe from North Africa has been depicted as a threat to the integrity of the EU. The response of some European countries might reflect a crisis of confidence in the common European project; ECRE's view is that Europe is not experiencing a refugee crisis - the actual refugee crisis is happening in North Africa. According to UNHCR, 550,680 people have crossed from Libya into neighbouring countries, with 257,448 going to Tunisia, 219,880, to Egypt and the rest to Niger, Algeria, Sudan and Chad. 27,922 people from North Africa arrived in Italy since mid-January, 23,002 of them Tunisians, who in most cases have not applied for asylum. The other 5,000 include 783 Eritreans, 393 Ivorians, 293 Somalis, 254 Nigerians, 246 Ghanaians, 209 Ethiopians, 125 Pakistanis, 123 Malians, 96 Bangladeshis and 19 Libyans.

In Europe, Italy and Malta are most directly affected by events in North Africa. Ministers from Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain and Malta, have called for "a coherent and comprehensive mechanism for distributing responsibilities, on a voluntary basis, specifically regarding the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection among member states." Germany, Ireland, Poland, Sweden, Hungary and others have committed to relocate refugees from Malta. Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and France's President Nicolas Sarkozy are both calling for the EU Border Agency Frontex, to examine the possibility of introducing temporary border controls inside the Schengen area in case of "exceptional difficulties in the management of the common external borders", to better support the EU countries affected by the arrival of migrants now and in the event of an increase in numbers of people arriving from Libya.

To read this story in full, plus items on unaccompanied asylum seeking children in France and the new migration policies being explored in the light of the election in Finland, please follow this link to ECRE's weekly bulletins:

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Weekly_Bulletin_22_April_2011.pdf

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Weekly_Bulletin_29_April_2011.pdf

No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPf) network annual report 2010/11

This report summarises the achievements of the NRPf Network in the financial year 2010/11, which has seen the NRPf Network cementing its influence at a national policy level and as a centre of expertise on social services support to migrants. The Network is now in its sixth year and the report looks at the improvements that have been made at policy and strategic levels as a result of the Network's work. The Network's membership has grown and diversified, with increasing representation from the voluntary sector and NHS. The Network has also brought in funding from its NRPf Training Programme and has provided guidance and information on NRPf cases and policy to practitioners, policy makers and individuals across the UK.

Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://www.islington.gov.uk/community/equalitydiversity/refugees_migrants/nrpf_network/adss_subgroup_member_s.asp

Human rights magazine by and for children – The Children’s Rights Alliance for England.

“The Right Stuff” is a human rights magazine written by and for children and young people. In this taster issue there is a piece on children seeking asylum in the UK.

It is available via the following link: http://issuu.com/krishnacrae/docs/the_right_stuff_magazine

Migration

Reducing health inequalities among undocumented migrants in the EU

In a resolution adopted by the European Parliament, Member States are called on “to ensure that the most vulnerable groups, including undocumented migrants, are entitled to and are provided equitable access to healthcare”; and “to ensure all pregnant women and children, irrespective of their status, are entitled to and effectively benefit from social protection as defined in their national legislation”.

Parallel to this, the commitment by health professionals and health organisations for a non discriminatory access to healthcare grows: the “European Health Professionals call for Non-Discriminatory Access to Healthcare” launched in 2010 was signed by 141 health organisations, representing over 3.000.000 health professionals and was presented in the European Parliament on 22 March 2011.

Please follow this link for more information and to read Health for Undocumented Migrants and Asylum Seekers (HUMA)’s April newsletter: <http://www.huma-network.org/Publications-Resources/Newsletter/HUMA-Newsletter-April-2011-Issue-n-23>

Irregular immigration report from Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) – article in the Guardian

The report from IPPR covered in last week’s newsflash is examined in an article in the Guardian. Please follow this link to read in full: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/apr/20/more-action-illegal-immigration-ippr-report>

To read the original IPPR report, please follow this link:

<http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=815>

Roma migrants in North West – report in the Guardian on integration activities in Manchester

The article examines what the City Council has done to help integrate Roma migrants and how the city has seen a rise in the number of Roma people selling the Big Issue, as their status as A2 Europeans limits them to self-employed work until the transition phase for A2 nationals ends, in 2014 at the latest.

For newsflash readers’ comparison, data from the Big Issue area manager in Norfolk/Suffolk indicates that Roma people make up 40 of their 150 sellers in Suffolk, and although housed, are in ‘vulnerable housing’.

Please follow this link to read the article in full: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/apr/27/roma-manchester-tensions-big-issue?INTCMP=SRCH>

Events

Turning a blind eye: the British state and migrant domestic workers’ employment rights conference, 26 May, London

This conference organised by the Working Lives Research Institute (WRLI), will take place from 10-4 on 26 May at Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street, London E1.

WRLI has just completed a research project funded by the Nuffield Foundation, looking at the enforcement of employment rights for the approximately 15,000 migrant domestic workers in Britain. Based on survey material, individual records recovered from the UK Border Agency and interviews with migrant domestic workers, the project identifies breaches of employment rights and examines the extent to which these can or are detected and rectified by the State’s enforcement bodies. The results of the research, and its implications for the fight against exploitation and forced labour will be available at the conference and discussed in a programme of speakers including Dr Bridget Anderson, Centre for Migration Policy and Society, Oxford University, author of "Doing the Dirty Work? The Global Politics of Domestic Labour", Richard Murphy, Tax Research UK, founder of the Tax Justice Network, Marissa Begonia, Justice for Domestic Workers (J4DW), Paul Whitehouse, Chair, Gangmasters

Licensing Authority, Professor John Gabriel, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences, London Metropolitan University, speaker from the Unite Union and Nick Clark & Leena Kumarappan, authors of the WLRI report "Turning a Blind Eye". This will be a participatory event where contributions will be encouraged. Space is limited to 100, registration is free and lunch will be provided, so those interested should register early. To register, e:workinglives@londonmet.ac.uk, with your name, organisation, and contact details.

Mandarin language classes, starting 5 June, Kings Lynn

Weekly 2 hour mandarin classes, open to all aged over 6, start at 1pm 5 June, and continue weekly until 17 July at Reffley Community Hall, Reffley Lane, Kings Lynn. These initial taster classes include a free light buffet and a display of Chinese culture. The first session is free, thereafter priced at £3 per person per session. Those interested can go on to take further classes from autumn 2011. Anyone interested in attending should contact Mr Kwai Li to register e: kwai@wndca.co.uk m: 07976 219 508

FUN Cultural Wellbeing Day, 30 July, Clover Hill Village Hall, Humble Yard, Bowthorpe, Norwich

FUN is a charitable association of families in Norwich with special interest in collaborative partnership aimed at strengthening and empowering Black Minority Ethnic Groups (BMEs) families living in Norwich & Norfolk. An important aspect of their work in the community is to promote and raise BME cultural awareness among other cultural groups in Norwich, to promote mutually beneficial cross-cultural relationships. On 30 July 2010 FUN will host a colourful cultural wellbeing day to celebrate cultural diversity and wellbeing in local communities. The event is intended to raise awareness of important issues that affect the wellbeing of individuals, families, the community and the interconnected nature of these issues. Through the provision of culturally sensitive and empowering information the event will impart important holistic wellbeing lessons in a fun and appealing manner.

Anyone organisation wishing to attend should contact the organisers about their offer. The organisers are looking for those who can provide social, physical or spiritual well-being information, financial or work advice or musical workshops. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jonathan Taiwo m: 07908455201 or Godwin Unazi m: 07832972166 or e: info@funfamilies.org

Funding

Start up and seed capital for social entrepreneurs

The Big Venture Challenge is a national competition to find the 25 most ambitious social entrepreneurs in England. Winners of the Big Venture Challenge will get an initial £25K and the chance to access up to £150K of seed investment if matched by loans or equity from co-investors, plus business support and mentoring designed to keep pace with high growth social entrepreneurs.

Applications open on **9 May**, and anyone interested should register first to receive an email application when Big Venture Challenge goes live. Please follow this link to register: <http://www.bigventurechallenge.com/register>

Jobs

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Tutors, International Academy, Colchester, £3,675 per 5 week block plus 10.77% pro rata

The University of Essex is inviting applications for qualified and experienced EAP tutors to work on the pre-session courses run by the International Academy this summer. Candidates must have an appropriate teaching qualification (RSA Diploma/ PGCE in ELT or equivalent). A Masters degree in a relevant discipline is also highly desirable. They particularly welcome applicants who have experience of teaching in tertiary education in the UK. Applicants who can also offer EAP experience in working with specific academic disciplines are strongly encouraged to apply.

The essential criteria for the post are:

- Advanced practical qualification in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (for example: Cambridge/RSA Diploma TEFLA; Diploma TESOL (Licentiate) Trinity College)
- Extensive and varied experience of TEFL, TESP/TEAP experience
- Ability and willingness to teach a range of ELT skills to an advanced level
- Satisfactory professional references

- Ability to work under pressure and as part of a team of teachers under a course leader
- Ability to keep clear records and give oral and written feedback

Applicants should send a full CV and a cover letter summarising suitability for the post to the following address by **30 June 2011**:

Judith Herbert, International Academy (REF: PS2011)
University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park
Colchester, Essex C04 3SQ

e: jherbert@essex.ac.uk

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