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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).

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### **Child and adolescent mental health briefing paper**

Welsh Refugee Council and the All Wales NGO Children's Policy Group have produced a briefing paper on child and adolescent mental health.

Briefing paper:

[http://www.welshrefugeecouncil.org/documents/pressreleases/Dec\\_09/CAMHS%20Joint%20Briefing%20Paper.doc](http://www.welshrefugeecouncil.org/documents/pressreleases/Dec_09/CAMHS%20Joint%20Briefing%20Paper.doc)

### **The Refugee Roulette: The Role of Country Information in Refugee Status Determination – report by Immigration Advisory Service**

This report explores how individuals from four stakeholder groups use country of origin information (COI) and what factors impact on their level of use and approach to COI. Data was gathered from UK Borders Agency staff, legal representatives, immigration judges and experts.

Overall, insufficient usage of country of origin information is reported to be commonplace, particularly at the initial decision making phase, despite improvements under the New Asylum Model (NAM). Furthermore, a varied use of country information owing to differential levels of knowledge, application and analysis of the information, is observed within each of the stakeholder groups. It is proposed that improvements in using COI can impact on a rigorous determination system.

Executive summary:

[http://www.iasuk.org/media/365063/executive\\_summary\\_refugee\\_roulette.pdf](http://www.iasuk.org/media/365063/executive_summary_refugee_roulette.pdf)

Full report:

[http://www.iasuk.org/media/365060/the\\_refugee\\_roulette.pdf](http://www.iasuk.org/media/365060/the_refugee_roulette.pdf)

### **Bulletins for detainees representing themselves in bail applications**

Bail for Immigration Detainees has produced new bulletins for immigration detainees and those helping them. The bulletins are for people held in the UK under immigration powers in detention centres and prisons. It may also be useful for individuals and organisations supporting migrants and asylum seekers in detention.

Bulletin for detainees whose solicitor has refused to make a bail application for them - this bulletin explains how to appeal this decision:

<http://www.biduk.org/bulletins/doc%20091202%20CW4%20bulletin.pdf>

Standard letters for detainees:

<http://www.biduk.org/bulletins/CW4%20-%20Letters%201,%202%20and%203%20from%20detainee.pdf>

Bulletin for Zimbabwean, Sudanese (non-Arab Darfuri) and Somali detainees – this bulletin explains UKBA's policy on forced returns for nationals of these countries:

<http://www.biduk.org/bulletins/doc%20091109%20Non-return%20countries%20-%20BID%20bulletin.pdf>

### **Search for Survival in Europe: The Journey of Migrants and Asylum Seekers**

Médecins Sans Frontières urges European governments to respect life, dignity and healthcare of migrants and asylum seekers.

Press release and slide show:

[http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectid=96A3C4EA-15C5-F00A-25440C6F9981E44A&component=toolkit.pressrelease&method=full\\_html](http://www.msf.org/msfinternational/invoke.cfm?objectid=96A3C4EA-15C5-F00A-25440C6F9981E44A&component=toolkit.pressrelease&method=full_html)

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## Migration

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### **New responsibilities for education providers who sponsor migrants**

The procedure for sponsoring students under Tier 4 of the points-based system will change next month, when phase 4 of Tier 4 begins.

From 22 February 2010, visa letters will be obsolete. Tier 4 sponsors will need to use the sponsorship management system to issue confirmations of acceptance for studies (CASs) to all potential students, whether they are applying from inside or outside the UK.

Press release:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/January/33-new-resp-t4-sponsors>

Tier 4 implementation plan:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/statementofintent/pbstier4implementationplan.pdf?view=Binary>

### **You Can't Put Me In A Box: Super-diversity and the end of identity politics in Britain**

This paper attempts to map out just how diverse Britain is, both in terms of who lives in Britain and how they identify themselves. The authors explore how discrimination and disadvantage do not map easily onto orthodox 'strand-based' frameworks and assess the shortcomings of current approaches to understanding and tackling discrimination and disadvantage.

Full report (click on 'download without registration'):

<http://www.ippr.org/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2Fyou%5Fcant%5Fput%5Fme%5Fin%5Fa%5Fbox%2Epdf>

### **Citizenship Survey: April - September 2009, England**

These statistics include data covering a range of issues including community cohesion, empowerment, values, racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, volunteering and charitable giving.

Press release:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurveyq2200910>

Citizenship survey:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1448135.pdf>

Additional tables:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/xls/1448142.xls>

### **Mind the Gap - towards a better enforcement of European citizens' rights of free movement**

This 28-page report explains the practical reality faced by European citizens, by first considering the gap between the legal framework and the way it is applied. The gap is growing increasingly visible and damaging. The report then describes the measures to close the gap between legal theory and practical reality, under the following headings:

- role of European institutions
- preventive action
- information, advice and active help
- formal complaints and petitions
- judicial remedies for European citizens, and
- budgetary considerations

Press release (full report available for download at the bottom of the press release):

<http://www.ecas-citizens.eu/content/view/291/59>

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## Events

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### **Understand My Reality - Young Refugees and Asylum Seekers: strategies to overcome the many difficulties faced by this vulnerable, yet resilient, group of young people**

Wednesday 3 March 2010; Central Birmingham

Understand My Reality will be a rare and inspiring opportunity for professionals working with refugee and asylum seeking children and young people in a range of settings to come together to share learning and discuss challenges in our day to day practice. Delegates will also have the opportunity to hear direct from refugee young people, learning from their experiences and their ideas about how they can be supported to have a Good Childhood. The conference is hosted by the Leading Edge Initiative, which is a national 3 year Lottery funded programme to support young refugees to access and achieve in education.

The agenda will include:

- National perspectives on key developments and strategic issues affecting young refugees and asylum seekers
- Bite-size research sessions which outline some of the latest findings on the experience of young people and issues such as bullying
- Workshops which will feature examples of good practice from the Children's Society, the Children's Legal Centre and ECPAT
- A panel session which will look at the impact of the Outcry! campaign and its implications for service provision to young refugees. Introduced by a performance from Iceandfire Theatre Group
- Other materials which feature young refugees and asylum seekers speaking for themselves

Workshop sessions include:

Mental health/emotional wellbeing and building resilience, Refugee young carers, Age-related rights and entitlements, Trafficking: awareness and impacts, Working with parents and families, and Accessing and achieving in education.

Standard delegate fee: £150

Further information and agenda:

[http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/understand\\_03\\_03\\_10.html](http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/understand_03_03_10.html)

Online booking form:

[http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/understand\\_book\\_03\\_03\\_10.html](http://www.ccclimited.org.uk/understand_book_03_03_10.html)

## **Delivering equality in the English Regions – Opportunities and Challenges**

**3 March 2010**; 11.00am – 3.30pm (Registration from 10.00am), Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London, SE1 9NH

The English Regions Equality and Human Rights Network (EREN) invites you to attend an exciting one-day conference: 'Delivering Equality in the English Regions: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Aimed at equality and human rights practitioners from the English regions, the conference will feature leading speakers from the equality and human rights field explaining what you should be doing to prepare for the Equality Bill. There will also be workshops to showcase 'good practice' equality and human rights work from the English regions, providing a space for sharing ideas, learning and future collaboration. This event is free.

Conference flyer:

<http://www.eren.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/Delivering-Equality-in-the-English-Regions-FLYER.pdf>

Booking form:

<http://www.eren.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/EREN-event-booking-form.doc>

## **NHS Newham Conference: World Class Commissioning in an Age of Migration**

Tuesday **16 March 2010**, West Ham Football Club, London E13; 9.30am – 4.30pm

The people of migrant communities in England face widespread difficulties when seeking access to health services. Newham's population includes some of the poorest, most ethnically diverse and mobile groups in the UK. As part of the NHS Pacesetter programme to promote equality, we have been working with local migrant communities to identify and overcome barriers to health services.

This conference, sponsored by NHS Newham, will:

- examine the barriers to health services experienced by migrant communities;
- consider the commissioning skills needed to support diverse and mobile populations;
- assess the costs, benefits and risks of restricting migrant people's access to NHS services.

The following have been invited to speak at the conference:

- Joan Sadler OBE (DoH)
- David Stout (NHS Confederation)
- Shami Chakrabarti (Liberty)
- Professor Richard Wilkinson (Equality Trust)
- Edwin Borman (BMA Council)

Workshops and seminars will be led by Médecins du Monde (UK), Migrants' Rights Network, British Medical Association, TUC, and London Wide LMC.

Delegate fees:

NHS organisations: £100

Voluntary organisations: £50

Private sector: £200

A full conference programme will be published shortly. There are a limited number of places so please register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. To pre-register please email [c.andreatta@migrantsrights.org.uk](mailto:c.andreatta@migrantsrights.org.uk) with 'WCC Migration' in the subject line.

## **International Summer School in Forced Migration**

Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, **5 – 23 July 2010**

Applications are invited for this year's International Summer School in Forced Migration, to be held at Wadham College, Oxford. Apply by 1 March (bursary applicants), 1 May (self-/employer-funded applicants).

Now in its 21st year, the course offers an intensive, interdisciplinary and participative approach to the study of forced migration. It aims to enable people working with refugees and other forced migrants to reflect critically on the forces and institutions that dominate the world of the displaced.

Further information:

<http://www.forcedmigration.org/events/2010/summerschool>

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## **Funding**

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### **Funding - Mediabox: funding for young people media skills**

Applications will open on 26 February 2010

Funding from Mediabox, a Department for Children, Schools and Families fund, will be available to established youth and or media focused organisations with a strong track record of working with young people. Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 available.

For more information visit:

[www.media-box.co.uk/funding/mid-mediabox](http://www.media-box.co.uk/funding/mid-mediabox)

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## **Jobs**

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### **New Migrants Rights Network vacancy**

Network Coordinator – full time position

Salary: £33,310 per annum (exclusive of employer's contribution)

MRN is pleased to announce a new vacancy, now open for applications. The Network Coordinator will be working alongside the Communication Officer on a new Migrants' Rights Network project, the Communication Strategies Project. This project will be aimed at strengthening the capacity of migrant community activists and organisations based in four different UK regions to communicate their perspectives, experiences and concerns. The project will create an accessible online platform through which regional partners can develop their skills in communicating with one another and more widely. It will also read the messages coming out of local level work into wider policy and advocacy debates in the UK.

This person will be a key player within the MRN team. He/she will work full time (35 hours a week) in MRN's London-based office, with a requirement to work flexibly as and when required by network activities. He/she will

also be frequently required to travel outside London, across the UK. This post is currently funded for 2 years beginning in March 2010, with a possibility for extension thereafter.

The deadline for our receipt of applications is Thursday **11 February 2010**.

For more information please email: [info@migrantsrights.org.uk](mailto:info@migrantsrights.org.uk)  
or visit: [www.migrantsrights.org.uk/opportunities.php](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/opportunities.php)

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