

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)[Migration](#)[Events](#)[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)

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, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Settlement protection for refugees

From August 2005, refugees and those granted humanitarian protection were given five years limited leave to remain (LTR) and that leave is due to expire from August 2010 onwards.

This means that refugees or those – and their dependants - who have been granted humanitarian protection and continue to need protection must all apply for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) before the leave expires.

Further to this item in last week's newsflash, here are links to the most up to date information & application form. UKBA recommends using these links as they will always provide access to the latest versions of documents:

Information Leaflet (flyer):

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/settlement/info_settlement_protection1.pdf

Information for Applicants:

[UK Border Agency | Completing application form SET \(Protection Route\)](#)

Application Form:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/settlement/set_protection_route_form.pdf

Deportation fast-track system for asylum seekers ruled illegal

Medical Justice, a group that helps detainees, won a case against the government over removal of people with little or no notice. A fast-track process for deporting failed asylum-seekers, which gives them little or no notice of their immediate removal, is unlawful, the high court ruled on 26 July 2010.

There is a general Home Office practice of giving those facing deportation 72 hours notice of removal directions. The legal challenge was triggered by an "exceptions policy", introduced by the government in March 2007, and widened in January this year. The policy creates categories in which an individual can be given little or no notice. The categories include vulnerable people who are at risk of suicide or self-harm, and also children who arrived in the UK unaccompanied and may abscond because they cannot be detained.

For full story in the Guardian, please follow this link:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/2010/jul/26/deportation-fast-track-system-illegal>

For the response from the Refugee Council, please follow this link:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/260710_news_deportations

Institute for Public Policy Research follow up article:

<http://www.ippr.org/articles/?id=4074>

Report by Chief Inspector of Immigration criticises dawn raids and treatment of families

The report "Family Removals: A Thematic Inspection, January – April 2010" by the Chief Inspector of Immigration, John Vine, challenges the way the UKBA treats families who face deportation and demands that changes be made. Recommendations include that dawn raids be reconsidered, that interpreting services be available in the case of house arrests and to ensure that all other means are exhausted before enforced removal is carried out.

Press release:

<http://ncadc.wordpress.com/2010/07/27/report-by-chief-inspector-of-immigration-criticises-dawn-raids-and-treatment-of-families>

Please follow this link for the report in full:

[Family Removals: A Thematic Inspection](#)

Response to the report from the Refugee Council can be found following this link:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/july/270710_press_statement_family_removals

High Court rules some 'fresh claim' asylum seekers should be allowed to work

The Supreme Court has upheld the Court of Appeal's decision to allow a Somali asylum seeker permission to work. The Court recognised that people who have submitted new evidence to support their claim for asylum (a 'fresh claim'), and who have waited longer than 12 months for a Home Office decision on their initial claim, should be given permission to work.

This is because they are included within the scope of the EU Reception Directive from the time their application is sent – a provision of the Reception Directive is that an asylum seeker can apply for permission to work if they have not had an initial decision on their claim from the Home Office after 12 months. It also means that those who have made a fresh asylum claim are eligible for asylum support rather being left destitute.

The Supreme Court dismissed the Secretary of State's arguments that a fresh application for asylum does not fall within the Reception Directive and that to allow it to do so would lead to an increase in unmerited fresh applications being made.

For details of the press release please see below.

http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/UKSC_2009_0151_ps.pdf

To read the response from the Refugee Council, see the following link:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/news/2010/280710_news_rulingonwork

European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR): Returns to Afghanistan or Libya can be in violation of article 3

On 20 July, the ECtHR held in two individual judgments that there would be a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) if the applicants were returned to their country of origin. The case of *N. v. Sweden* concerns the return of a woman to Afghanistan and the case *A. v. The Netherlands* concerns the return of a man to Libya.

In the first case, the Court noted that "women are at particular risk of ill-treatment in Afghanistan if perceived as not conforming to the gender roles ascribed to them by society, tradition and even the legal system." Emphasising the fact that its decision relies mainly on the personal background of the applicants, the Court considered UNHCR's observation that "Afghan women, who have adopted a less culturally conservative lifestyle, such as those returning from exile in Iran or Europe, continue to be perceived as transgressing entrenched social and religious norms," and decided that returning the applicant in this case would be in violation of article 3.

In the second case, the Libyan applicant feared detention and ill-treatment if returned. The applicant had previously been arrested on the grounds of security concerns in the Netherlands but was later acquitted. A number of governments and non-governmental organisations provided third-party comments on the case including the AIRE centre, Interights, Justice & Liberty. The Court recognised that the applicant, being a political opponent to the Libyan regime, was at risk of detention upon return to Libya. According to "materials from both governmental and non-governmental sources indicate the existence of a real risk for detainees in Libya to be subjected to torture and/or ill-treatment." His return to Libya would therefore violate article 3.

Sources:

- ECtHR, '[Case of N. v. Sweden](#)'

- ECtHR, '[Case of A. v. The Netherlands](#)'

Refugee housing volunteering and training project from HACT

Refugees with leave to remain and who are interested in gaining a housing qualification, interested in a career in housing and who would you like to gain new skills are invited to apply for this programme of training. Successful candidates will be offered volunteer work placements for 4-6 months in housing organisations in **Norfolk/ East of England**, Birmingham, Blackburn, Bolton, Bradford, Broxbourne, Leeds, London, Manchester and Stoke on Trent on the third wave of the 'Reach In' programme.

Successful applicants will work towards a nationally recognised Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) level 3 award and must be able to attend three 24 hour CIH training days.

Applications open **Tuesday 27 July 2010** - Applications close **Friday 17 September 2010**

Information sessions

Successful shortlisted applicants need to be available for one of the following dates:

Birmingham Wednesday 6 October 2010

Norwich Thursday 7 October 2010

Leeds Friday 8 October 2010

London Monday 11 October 2010

Manchester Tuesday 12 October 2010

Stoke on Trent Wednesday 13 October 2010

The housing placements will start on the week commencing **8 November 2010**

To register interest, or for an informal discussion, candidates should contact:

Devan Kanthasamy on **020 7247 7800** or email **devan.kanthasamy@hact.org.uk**

Housing options for refugees in London (English only booklet)

Refugee Council has issued a new booklet for those with refugee status who are presenting with a housing need. Whilst much of the advice in section 4 of the booklet is purely for refugees in London, the rest of the booklet offers useful generic advice.

<http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/pdf/English/Housing%20options%20for%20refugees%20in%20London.pdf>

The Scottish Separated Children's Guardianship Pilot

A pilot scheme, run by Scottish Refugee Council and Aberlour Child Care Trust and part-funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, was launched in June, and will be the first of its kind in the UK. It will offer independent support to extremely vulnerable children who arrive in Scotland without parents or family, from highly dangerous countries including Afghanistan and Iraq. The project will mean that unaccompanied children seeking asylum will have an independent 'guide' through the complex asylum and welfare systems, who will also help them to take a more active role in their own asylum claim.

http://www.phf.org.uk/news.asp?id=929&dm_i=876,7AHY,13AR3H,I84C,1

Channel 4 Dispatches film on asylum seeking children

Rachel Seifert of Dartmouth Films is working on a Channel 4 Dispatches film looking to cover injustices beyond child detention and is urgently looking for children / young people to interview.

Anyone able to help should respond to her directly. She is looking for examples of children in the asylum system, other than detention, so as to reveal how they live.

In particular, she would like to meet:

1. age disputed cases - this is something she wants to highlight - particularly Afghan boys due to the recent Kabul proposal - and if any have been detained in adult detention centre.
2. unaccompanied minors
3. children who have been deported to a third country
4. children who have been separated from their families

She is looking to speak to the children themselves for the film to give a voice and face to the asylum seekers. Any leads should contact Rachel below via Rachel@dartmouthfilms.com

Domestic Abuse Awareness Month – October – partnership & publicity in Bedfordshire

The Domestic Abuse Coordinator & Commissioning Manager (acting), Sarah Wilson, would welcome input for public awareness & activities for this years month of awareness raising input from as many partner agencies as possible. She is gathering ideas for activities & or publicity campaigns that partners can promote during the month of October. Please let her know if you have any ideas which she can help to coordinate via one of contact routes below:

Tel: 0300 300 4693 Mobile: 07748 760174 www.bedsdv.org.uk Sarah.Wilson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Should citizenship be earned through compulsory volunteering?

Migrant and Refugee Voices on Active Citizenship report, July 2010

In early 2010, the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum (MRCF) conducted a London-wide community consultation involving over 35 community organisations, faith institutions and trade unions, and an online survey of 179 people representing in total over 30 nationalities living and working in the UK. Their voices offer an insight into the impact that regulated volunteering would have on these communities as well as an insight into the practical obstacles to actually implementing such a policy.

See the link below for the report in full.

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/files/publications/MRCF-MRN_Volunteering_and_Citizenship_report.pdf

Migration

Reports of men becoming victims of forced marriage are increasing

The Forced Marriage Unit, run jointly by the Home Office and Foreign & Commonwealth Office, received more than 220 emails and calls to its helpline about forced marriages involving male victims in 2009 – up from 134 in 2008, an increase of 65 per cent.

Set up in 2005, the Forced Marriage Unit provides support to victims as well as expert training and guidance to professionals. While most victims are women, men are forced into marriage for a variety of reasons, relating to family commitments and expectations, securing visas or the desire to control behaviour and protect a family's reputation. In particular, male victims are often forced to marry women if their families know or suspect they are gay or bisexual.

Follow the link for the Forced Marriage unit:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/>

For details of the story: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/male-forced-marriage>

New English language testing for partners – starting 29 November 2010

In June 2010 the government announced plans to introduce compulsory English language tests for all non-European migrants applying to come to the UK to join or marry their settled partner.

On July 26, the UK Border Agency announced that these plans will be implemented from 29 November 2010. From this date, any migrant who wants to enter or remain in the UK as the partner of a British citizen or a person settled here will need to show that they can speak and understand English, by taking an English language test with one of UKBA's approved test providers.

The new rules will apply to anyone applying as the husband, wife, civil partner, unmarried partner, same-sex partner, fiancé(e) or proposed civil partner of a British citizen or a person settled in this country. They will be compulsory for people applying from within the UK as well as visa applicants from overseas.

Further information about these changes can be found by following the links below, including a written ministerial statement. UKBA will publish more information, including a list of approved test providers, before the change is introduced.

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/july/50-english-test-partners>

New policy guidance following Pankina judgments

The UK Border Agency has issued new policy guidance following the judgments in the cases of Secretary of State for the Home Department v Pankina [2010] EWCA Civ 719.

The guidance affects migrants under all tiers of the points-based system whose applications were refused solely because they failed to meet the maintenance (funds) requirements, and who unsuccessfully applied:

- from outside the UK between 23 June and 22 July 2010 inclusive; or
- from inside the UK (at a time when they had lawful status in the UK) on or before 22 July 2010.

The new policy guidance, which can be downloaded from the UKBA web page below, explains how these applicants can request a review of their refusal.

Please follow the links below for more information:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/july/49-new-policy-guidance-pankina>

The opportunities & challenges of migration: a regional response

This is the final dissemination report of the Equality South West Migrant Workers Project. The report looks at issues around migration trends, intentions to stay, the skills of migrant workers and good practice in recruitment and employment. It also highlights the development of a partnership approach to developing policy responses in the South West region and engaging with migrant communities, which may be useful to others.

http://www.equalitysouthwest.org.uk/esw/live/about-us/promoting-equality-for/migrant-workers/The_Opportunities_and_Challenges_of_Migration.pdf

David Cameron to offer India direct say on immigration policy

David Cameron is to offer India a direct say in drawing up Britain's new immigration policy as Downing Street responds to fears in New Delhi that a proposed cap will harm trade links. In a sign of what the prime minister described as a new "spirit of humility" towards India, Downing Street is making it clear that Britain will consult Delhi over a proposed new cap on non-EU immigration.

Cameron's trip to India had threatened to be overshadowed by concerns in Delhi about the cap. Anand Sharma, the Indian commerce minister, told the prime minister in Downing Street recently that the cap could have an "adverse effect" on trade relations. Sharma pointedly remarked that Indian professionals, "who have made a notable contribution to the UK economy", could find it difficult to enter Britain.

For the full story, please follow the link:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2010/jul/28/david-cameron-india-immigration>

Immigration cap differences of Cameron and Cable laid bare on trip to India: article by Institute for Public Policy Research:

<http://www.ippr.org/articles/?id=4075>

Events

Refugee Council Training - Emotional wellbeing of refugee children and young people

5 September 2010, London

This course will examine the emotional impact of the experiences that refugee children and young people face as they flee from their home countries and settle in the UK.

It will provide participants with the tools to assess the organisation in which they work, to identify factors which are detrimental to emotional wellbeing and to devise strategies for providing appropriate care and support.

On completing this course, participants will have a practical understanding of:

- The experiences of refugee children and young people
- The impact of trauma and loss on mental health
- Risk and protective factors
- Problems refugee children and young people may encounter in the UK
- The importance of appropriate support and access to education
- Cultural backgrounds and coping mechanisms

£175 (standard rate) £109 (reduced rate for registered charities). Anyone interested in taking part should either ring or email the contact details below: 0207 346 6733

training@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Conference: long-term residence and citizenship in contemporary Britain

Thursday 9 September 2010 – Middlesex University, Hendon campus

This one-day conference will explore the changing relationship between migration, long-term residence, and citizenship in the UK. Long term residence and citizenship are each getting harder to obtain, and more critical to an individual's status in Britain. Bringing together speakers from law and other disciplines, this conference will address the implications of this approach. Are these developments a significant departure in official thinking about residence and citizenship? Can they be justified in terms of integration and social cohesion? What are the implications for equality and human rights for migrants? What should policy on long-term residence and naturalisation look like?

The conference, jointly organised by Middlesex University, Law department and the Migration & Law network, will be of interest to academics and postgraduate students from all disciplines concerned with migration, and to lawyers and NGO staff with an interest in migration.

Enquiries about the conference should go to: Jim McClemon - email j.mcclemon@mdx.ac.uk or phone 020 8411 4777. For more information, follow the link below:

http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/Schools/school/departments/law/citizen_conference.aspx

Bedfordshire refugee and asylum seeker support (BRASS) – AGM 29 September 2010

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 29 September 2010 at 1pm at St Andrew's Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF. All welcome. Light refreshments are available from 12.30.

National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) Equalities Conference - The Global Classroom – 7 October 2010

Schools play a lead role in creating community cohesion. The UK is a nation built from and by people from other countries. The role played by immigrants in shaping the education system and wider society should be recognized.

Figures from March 2009 showed that the number of immigrant children in primary schools has increased by 25 per cent in five years. This means that one in seven young pupils does not speak English as a first language. Around 56,600 primary children and 349,000 secondary school children speak English as a second language. This raises complicated issues for education providers. Figures also show that children from ethnic minority backgrounds are overcoming cultural and language barriers to achieve outstanding results in SATS tests. This is testimony to the work being done in schools to break down cultural barriers and promote community cohesion.

The education workforce has changed over the years with a staff profile including overseas trained teachers, refugee teachers and teachers from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The Global Classroom will bring together high-profile speakers from across a range of political spheres to explore these issues, focusing on the following themes:

- Who do we think we are? Education and Migration;
- New pedagogies for the global classroom;
- The Global Staffroom;
- Education and community cohesion.

NASUWT's staging of The Global Classroom reflects its commitment to securing equality of opportunity for all its members and campaigning to end discrimination and prejudice in education.

Cost to attendees: £149, free to eligible members.

Contact details

Conferences and Events Team, Hillscourt Education Centre

conferencesandevents@mail.nasuwf.org.uk Tel: 0121 453 6150

Venue: The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1P 3EE

For more information, please follow this link:

http://www.nasuwf.org.uk/TrainingEventsandPublications/ConferencesandEvents/detail/index.htm?INSTANCE_ID=EQC01HOE10&page=1&node=547

Funding

RCO Commissioning Opportunity

The Refugee Council is taking forward the Basis Project's national commissioning programme and would like to invite all RCOs to apply to deliver 'resource papers' and 'RCO experience papers' around the theme of 'Sustainability and Survival'. Further information and how to apply can be found online or by contacting Helen Todd on 020 7346 1084, helen.todd@refugeecouncil.org.uk. Please apply by 9 August 2010; the deadline for delivery of the papers is 27 September 2010.

<http://thebasisproject.org.uk/commissioning/basis-project-commissioning>

Jobs

ESOL Tutor – Witham, Essex – from September 2010

REVI (Real and Enthusiastic Voice of Integration) community group is seeking an experienced ESOL tutor to deliver a 36-hour (18 weeks x 2 hours) ESOL course to two groups of adults (72 hours altogether). The course will be run on Saturdays from September 2010 to January 2011. Hourly rate is £20. REVI are looking for a qualified ESOL tutor with college or language school teaching experience.

Candidates will be expected to:

- carry out individual assessments of each learner
- negotiate and devise a scheme of work for each group (pre-entry level)
- maintain complete up to date attendance records & progress records for all individuals attending the courses
- prepare the group to be able to take a final test at pre-entry level (Speaking, Reading, Writing and Listening)

Candidates should be experienced in working with adults who are not used to learning.

The teaching will take place in Witham, but the venue is to be confirmed nearer to the date of starting the course.

Timings of the courses are open to negotiation.

Interested candidates should post their CV to:

Anna Szwagiel, REVI c/o Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree CM7 9HB

Alternatively email it to: anna.szwagiel@braintree.gov.uk

Closing date: **18 August 2010**

Interviews will be held on 21 August 2010

For further information please contact: Anna Szwagiel 07976071722 or anna.szwagiel@braintree.gov.uk

Bilingual Classroom Assistants/School Based Interpreters – Hertfordshire schools. £9.13 per hour

Hertfordshire County Council is currently looking for candidates who are fluent in both written and spoken English and a second language, who are available to work up to 25 hours per week assisting in schools. These roles will be supporting the learning of children whose first language is not English. Successful candidates will be based within schools and will be working on a one-to-one basis with children. Ideally candidates should have their own transport and be willing to travel around Hertfordshire. These positions are term time only and are subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure. Although they are looking for a variety of different languages, the immediate requirement is for Portuguese, Hungarian and Farsi speakers within secondary schools, to work with children struggling with the English language and assist their learning of the national curriculum. Experience of working within schools or with children is essential.

To apply please call 01992 556084 or email: stvgeneralteam@manpower.co.uk

Bedfordshire refugee and asylum seeker support (BRASS) – Volunteering opportunities

BRASS have established a mentoring project to provide one-to-one English tuition to their clients. They currently have 3 tutors and 4 more who hope to start soon. There are a large number of unaccompanied under-18 asylum seekers in need of help with English. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Brian at Brian@Brass27b.org with a letter and/or CV.

As always, BRASS would welcome anyone interested in volunteering or donating food or funds.

Chair of trustees

BRASS is seeking a new chair to take them into their next phase of development. They are a well-established and respected charity with 2 part time staff, a committed team of volunteers and a loyal set of trustees. Anyone who is interested in this voluntary position should first then please visit the website and for more details or call 01234 211381 for an informal chat. www.brassbedford.org.uk

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