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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

Government's statistics on the number of people seeking asylum in the UK – data plus comments from agencies

Please follow this link for the latest asylum statistics:

[Monthly Asylum Statistics June 2011](#)

An assessment of these figures is available from the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) by following this link: <http://www.ippr.org/articles/56/7904/asylum-system-a-long-way-from-crisis>

Comment on the data also made by Refugee Council:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2011/250811_press_statement_home_office_asylum_stats

New family returns accommodation opened – Home Office announcement

The final stage in the government's pledge to end the detention of children for immigration purposes was completed on 1 September, with the opening of new pre departure accommodation for families required to leave the UK. The new accommodation "Cedars" in Pease Pottage, Sussex, has been designed in partnership with Barnardo's and staff from G4S will help to operate the facility. Families will stay in a self-contained apartment for a short period immediately before their departure from the UK. They will have open access to a library, family and youth lounge, and play areas for children.

The opening completes the implementation of the government's new family returns process for those found to have no right to be in the UK. This process emphasises close engagement with families, providing a range of opportunities for them to take up assisted returns or leave the country voluntarily. The accommodation will only be used as a last resort after advice has been sought from the Independent Family Returns Panel made up of child welfare experts. Please follow this link to read the article in full:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/detail.aspx?NewsArealD=2&ReleaseID=421021&SubjectId=2>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – more support for statelessness on 50th anniversary of convention

The UNHCR has reiterated its call for governments to sign up to two international treaties on statelessness, a key step towards ending the legal limbo faced by an estimated 12 million people without a nationality. The call to action comes on the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Together with the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, it provides a legal framework to prevent statelessness from occurring and protect people who are already stateless. With no nationality or status, they are often denied basic rights and access to education, health care, housing and employment. Of the 193 UN member states, 38 have acceded to the 1961 Convention and 66 are parties to the 1954 Convention.

Statelessness can occur through a series of sovereign, political, legal, technical or administrative directives or oversights which, according to the 1954 Convention, may result in a person becoming someone "who is not considered a national by any state under the operation of its law." Pitfalls include transfer of territory between states or the formation of new nations which may alter the citizenship of some people, leaving them stateless. A child may be born in a country that grants citizenship by descent only, but the country of the parents denies citizenship to children born abroad. People may lose citizenship because of a prolonged absence abroad, by renouncing their citizenship before acquiring another nationality or by failure to perform military or other obligations. To read about the issue, please follow this link: <http://www.unhcr.org/4e5cec7b9.html>

Migration

Office of National Statistics (ONS) on-line analysis of Polish people in the UK – new link to data

In last week's newsflash, there was an item from the ONS about the changing patterns of migration of people from Poland to the UK since Poland and seven other central and Eastern European countries (known as the A8) joined the EU in May 2004. However, the ONS website was altered last week, breaking the link given in the newsflash. To access the article, please follow this new link:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2011/polish-people-in-the-uk.html>

UK Government's migration statistics – with comment from Institute of Public Policy Research

The latest migration statistics released on 25 August 2011 are available by following the links below:

[Immigration Statistics April - June 2011](#)

National Insurance Number (NINo) Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals to March 2011 (DWP):

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/niall/index.php?page=nino_allocation

[Provisional Long-Term International Migration, year ending December 2010 \(ONS\)](#)

Provisional IPS estimates of long-term international migration, year ending Dec 2010:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2011/new-component.xls>

Local area migration indicators (ONS):

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/migration1/migration-statistics-quarterly-report/august-2011/rt-mis.zip>

[Population by country of birth and nationality from the Annual Population Survey: January 2010 to December 2010 \(ONS\)](#)

[Migration Statistics Improvement Programme: Quarterly Update \(ONS\):](#)

The Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) has produced an article which looks at Government policy regarding immigration in the light of these figures: <http://www.ippr.org/articles/56/7909/dont-promise-what-you-cant-deliver-on-immigration>

Marriage-related migration to the UK – Home Office report

Spouses form the largest single category of migrant settlement in the UK. Research and policy making on marriage-related migration to the UK has been dominated by a focus on South Asian populations, which are among the largest groups of such migrants. This Occasional Paper, 96, brings together the available evidence on marriage-related migration and settlement to provide a much broader perspective on this phenomenon. The varied and dynamic picture which emerges challenges conventional understandings of marriage-related migration to the UK and exposes the limitations and lacunae in existing research, highlighting the danger that policy made on the basis of partial evidence will produce unexpected consequences. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ96?view=Standard&pubID=934077>

UK migration: the leadership role of housing providers – report from Joseph Rowntree Foundation

The report examines what housing providers can do to successfully handle the consequences of national policies and trends relating to UK immigration. While migration policy often focuses on the number of new migrants entering the UK, little is done to support neighbourhoods where migrants already live. Central government is withdrawing from these issues at a local level, placing more importance than ever before on regional and local leadership. The report:

- investigates the role of housing associations;
- studies the ways housing providers have taken towards better neighbourhood cohesion and integration;
- explores perceived or actual competition between migrants and host communities for housing; and
- encourages housing providers who are well-placed to act on these issues to support communities in the process of change caused by the effects of recent migration, which are here to stay.

Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/uk-migration-leadership-role-housing-providers>

UN day of General Discussion on Undocumented Migrant Workers – call for evidence

The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW), the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention), have agreed to hold a Day of General Discussion (DGD) on Undocumented Migrant Workers on **19 September 2011**, in Geneva, Switzerland. Those who are unable to attend the DGD and who have evidence of issues relating to undocumented migrants are encouraged to send in statements which call attention to a particular issue or topic related to undocumented migrant workers that needs to be addressed and heard by the CMW during the DGD. Please send these statements in Word document format, not more than 2 pages (please do NOT send papers or other reference documents) and feel free to put it on your organization's letterhead. Forward these to MRI (migrantsrightsinternational@gmail.com). MRI will compile all of these and submit to the CMW during the DGD on 19 September. For more information about the event and submissions to it, please follow this link: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/dgd19092011.htm>

Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) – consultation on licensing standards

The GLA has published a consultation reviewing its licensing standards. The GLA are interested to hear how standards could be improved. In conducting this review, the GLA's objectives are to ensure the standards safeguard the welfare and interests of workers, level the playing field for legitimate licence holders as well as reducing the burden on business. The consultation document is split into two main parts: chapter two details changes proposed by the GLA and chapter three highlights additional issues where they have not determined a preferred approach.

A number of questions are included throughout the document and respondents can answer as many as they would like, but without feeling restricted to issues covered in the questions. All comments and proposals submitted are appreciated. Please note that the closing date for responses is **28 October**. Please follow this link to access the consultation paper: http://gla.defra.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1013844

Events

Afghani Young Men's Supper Club, 6 September, Peterborough

Please note as this is a change of date. The Afghani Young Men's Supper Club will be held in the Millfield Medical Centre, St Martin Street, Millfield, Peterborough PE1 3BF from 8pm-10pm on **6 September**. For more information about this event or the group, please contact Suchitra Rampal, Sarah Kennedy or Tracey Cook e: suchitra.rampal@cpft.nhs.uk, skennedy3@nhs.net or tracey.cook@nhs.net or t: 01733 318104 or 01733 568987.

Norwich Association of Malayalees – Onam Festival, Hewitt School, Norwich, 10 September

The Norwich Association of Malayalees invites guests to its grand celebration event, in the auditorium of Hewitt School, 10 September, from 9am to 9pm. Amongst the activities taking place over the course of the day, there is a tug of war competition, a dance display and the cultural programme – the mega show – starting at 4pm. To find out more, please follow this link to the YouTube invitation <http://youtu.be/5b43evzHw-k> and contact Simson if you have any queries or to obtain a ticket e: simsonvj@rediffmail.com m: 07775513293

Platforma in the east of England – Sainsbury Centre, Norwich – 19 September

Platforma is a new project for supporting, developing and mainstreaming refugee related arts. It exists to encourage, recognise and sustain the creative contribution made by artists and in the field of refugee related arts across the UK. The [Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts](#), will be the central point of contact for networking relevant organisations and artists in the east, contributing to the development and promotion of refugee related arts in the region, and feeding in to the project as a whole by contributing content and ideas for the Website and National events. The event on 19 September is the launch event to which people are invited to share practice, debate issues and explore new and innovative ideas looking at how to engage with new audiences. The meeting will serve to create a forum for sharing ideas and practice relating to arts and refugees; a space that will also be used for testing out new notions of identity, culture and interaction between refugee and more established communities.

The event will run from 1-4.30pm, including refreshments. Booking to the event is essential, so please confirm attendance by 7 September in an email to e: e.England@platforma.org.uk with Regional Platforma Meeting as the subject heading. Please note that places are limited.

Funding

Help The Homeless

Help the Homeless, a national Charity which aims to help homeless people throughout the United Kingdom to resume a normal life, is currently accepting applications from small and medium sized charities and voluntary organisations. Grants of up to £3,000 are available towards capital costs to support projects that assist disadvantaged individuals in their return to mainstream society, through residential or training facilities. Grants to larger charities may be considered if the project is suitably innovative and only possible for a larger organisation to develop. The next application deadline is **30 September 2011**. Please follow this link to find out more and to apply: <http://www.help-the-homeless.org.uk/Grants.htm>

Comic Relief Grants Open for Applications – National Programme

Comic Relief has announced that its UK grants programmes are now open for applications. Applications are invited from voluntary and community sector organisations throughout the UK to support projects in the areas of:

- Mental health
- Domestic and sexual abuse
- **Refugee and asylum seeking women**
- Sport for Change
- Young People aged 11 – 25 that are:
 - sexually exploited
 - suffer from alcohol abuse
 - suffer from mental health problems
- Older people.

In addition, Comic Relief operates a programme that supports disadvantaged communities. This programme is devolved to the Community Foundation Network, so contact a local Community Foundation directly for details of their funding application procedures. Comic Relief provides both capital and revenue and can pay for up to 100% of projects costs but they encourage applicants to get some of their funding from other sources. On average grants of between £25,000 and £40,000 are available. The closing date for the Older People Programme and Sports for Change is 12 noon on **7 October 2011**. For all other programmes the closing date is 12 noon on **28 October**.

Comic Relief has further announced that this funding round is the last under its current funding strategy.

The new strategy will launch in spring 2013 with grant making resuming in summer 2013.

<http://www.comicrelief.com/apply-for-a-grant/apply-for-a-uk-grant>

Jobs

The Children's Society – 2 posts – Children's and Families' Rights Practitioner (£25,186 - £28,235 p.a) and Senior Practitioner (£29,586 - £33,246 p.a) – London

The Children's Society has received funding for 3 years from National Lottery to work with children and families who are new migrants, refugees or asylum seekers. The project will have a strong community focus enabling children and their families to build supportive relationships, access primary services and engage in a range of activities that build their self-confidence, improve their sense of belonging and foster a sense of community. The overall aim of the project is to support the settlement and integration of refugee, asylum seeking and migrant families (New Londoners) in London. They will work with children up to the age of 18 and their families or carers. They will provide a range of social, leisure and self-development opportunities.

For the Rights Practitioner role, the Children's Society is looking for someone who will work directly with children and families providing advocacy services, support and information. This will involve one to one case work, group work as well as training and capacity building. Candidates should have a strong focus on community and will use their communication skills and creativity to engage local people.

For the Senior Practitioner, the Children's Society is looking for someone to lead this new piece of work who has a sound knowledge of safe practice and who will ensure that the project delivers an accessible service. Candidates will need to show excellent leadership skills to manage other practitioners with a complex and demanding caseload. They will need strong communication and relationship building skills to develop and maintain excellent relationships with partners including other organisations and members of the community.

Both roles require candidates to have a relevant professional qualification such as a certificate in Youth and Community work, Social Work Diploma or another qualification associated with the area of work, relevant experience, an understanding of issues facing people from diverse backgrounds and emotional resilience.

Please follow this link for more information:

<http://www.playyourpart.co.uk/JobSearch.aspx?lid=13&q=&cid=1&bid=>. The closing date for applications is **11 September**.

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) – legal intern post, 11 months, Brussels

ECRE is recruiting a [Legal Intern](#) to work in its Brussels-based Secretariat. The legal intern is expected to support the Senior Legal Officer in the gathering of information and the formulation of policy and carry out legal research on specific topics relating to refugee and subsidiary protection. To apply for this position, please send a comprehensive CV and a motivation letter to Ronald Simon e: rsimon@ecre.org by **19 September 2011**.

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