

[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 and the Partnership Development Project (MENTER).

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### **UK Government's Home Affairs Committee report – The work of the UK Border Agency April – July 2011**

The Home Affairs Committee report criticises UK Border Agency (UKBA) for failing to explain why 350 foreign national prisoners due to be deported are still in the country. UKBA provided the Committee with a breakdown of the issues with the deportation process of 1,300 prisoners who were released between 1 April 2010 and 31 March 2011. The largest group, making up 27% of the total, was labelled 'unknown'. The Committee also found that the Agency has not resolved all of the asylum 'legacy' cases first identified in 2006 within the promised 5 year timeframe. Instead, 18,000 cases are still awaiting a final decision.

The Committee also highlighted its concern at the sharp increase in files transferred to the "controlled archive" in the past six months. The files, placed in the archive when every effort to track an applicant has been exhausted, numbered 40,500 in March 2011. By September 2011, it had grown to 124,000. The Committee recommended that guidance be produced on the management of the controlled archive and has stated that any further rise in the number of files transferred to the archive will be considered a failing on the part of UKBA.

To read the press release, recommendations made by the committee and the report in full, please follow this link: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news/111103-ukba-report-publication>

### **Cedars pre-departure accommodation centre in Sussex – article in the Guardian**

The article looks at the service and features interviews with senior personnel from Barnardos, Refugee Council, Medical Justice and Swansea University, looking at how effective it is as an alternative for detention of children in Yarl's Wood. Please follow this link to read the article in full: [http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/oct/17/child-detention-government-broken-promise?dm\\_i=i6P,L3B2,31R5LZ,1Q6G5,1](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/oct/17/child-detention-government-broken-promise?dm_i=i6P,L3B2,31R5LZ,1Q6G5,1)

### **Independent Chief Inspector of UK Border Agency (UKBA) – report into how UKBA manages foreign national prisoners**

UKBA is responsible for deciding, in accordance with the law, whether foreign national prisoners should be deported from the UK. Where deportation is being considered, it also decides whether a person should be detained at the end of their prison sentence or released into the community with a requirement to report to the Agency if deportation has not occurred prior to the end of the prison sentence. This inspection assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency in managing foreign national prisoners. Please follow this link to read this report in full: <http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Thematic-inspection-report-of-how-the-Agency-manages-Foreign-National-Prisoners.pdf>

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## Migration

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### **Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) issues two reports on Tier 2 settlement restrictions and on workers from Bulgaria and Romania**

The MAC was commissioned by the government in June 2011 to identify the most suitable economic criteria for determining which Tier 2 skilled migrant workers could settle permanently in the UK and what the economic effects of restricting or removing settlement rights would be. They consider a simple pay level threshold to be the primary selection criteria for deciding which tier 2 resident labour market test and shortage occupation route migrants can settle permanently in UK or remain beyond five years, with this same pay criterion applying to those coming via the sportspeople route.

At the same time, the MAC also published its report to the government on the current employment restrictions on workers from Bulgaria and Romania. The MAC was asked in May 2011 to consider whether the UK labour market is currently experiencing, or threatened by a serious disturbance, and to look at the consequences of maintaining or lifting the current employment restrictions on workers from these countries as the end of the first derogation period approaches at the end of this year. They conclude that there is a risk that an increase in the inflow of A2 nationals and/or a change in the composition or behaviour of A2 nationals in the UK could have negative impacts on the UK labour market. Removing existing restrictions on the employment of A2 nationals in the UK would increase this risk.

Please follow this link to access these reports:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac>

### **Unemployed migrants' qualification comparison service from CP Learning Trust – Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire**

This European Social Funded service is available free of charge to unemployed migrants who are legally resident and seeking work. Users will be provided with qualifications comparison using NARIC plus a total of ten hours support such as information advice and guidance, CV writing and interview skills workshop. To find out more, please contact Mick McMurray at CP Learning Trust on e: [mmcmurray@cpltrust.net](mailto:mmcmurray@cpltrust.net) t: 01354 691000 or m: 07921 975054

### **UK Border Agency (UKBA) announces new rules to prevent abuse of student visa system**

New UKBA regulations have raised the standards education providers must meet before they can bring overseas students to the UK. So far, over 400 colleges have lost their right to recruit international students after they failed to sign up for the new inspection system. As well as cutting abuse, the new standards will help ensure that genuine international students receive the highest quality education.

In addition, a targeted UKBA investigation into more than 100 colleges has led to 51 having their licenses to recruit international students revoked. The investigation followed a spike in applications from South Asia just before the English language requirement rules were tightened. More than 4,500 of these applications to study have been refused or withdrawn as a result. To read the article in full, please follow this link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/01-student-visa-system>

### **IPPR report – Guest workers: Settlement, temporary economic migration and a critique of the government's plans**

Temporary migration has an important place in the UK, for students and youth mobility schemes and also for migrant workers who fill transient skills shortages, as well as smaller, more specialised categories. The report concludes that shifting the balance from permanent towards temporary migration, and further tightening the criteria for settlement, are legitimate policy objectives, careful adjustments, building on some of the changes made by the previous government, could deliver these objectives without major negative effects.

However, in a consultation paper published in June 2011, however, the government proposed a policy shift, essentially ruling out settlement for economic migrants from outside the EU, other than a few limited exceptions, notably the very wealthy. If successful, the proposals would reduce the number of non-EU economic migrants settling each year from current levels around 40,000 to around 1,000. The report concludes that the proposals are unlikely to work and describes them as 'misguided'. For those who focus on reducing net migration, trying to keep settlement to a minimum makes sense. But for those whose focus is on Britain's ability to attract the 'brightest and best', is on the impact on the economy and is on the effects on integration within our society, these proposals raise concerns. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

[http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2011/10/guest-workers\\_Oct2011\\_8109.pdf](http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2011/10/guest-workers_Oct2011_8109.pdf)

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## Events

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### **Eaves' Poppy Project Training workshops – London, 16 November or 2 December**

The Poppy Project is running a series of training events for statutory and voluntary agencies to enhance awareness of adult human trafficking with a focus on supporting female victims. The workshop aims to provide delegates with an overview of national and international policy and legislation as it applies to victims of trafficking, ensures that delegates can identify a victim of trafficking and understand the principles of sensitive victim identification, including an introduction to the National Referral Mechanism. Delegates will also learn about best practice in victim care, including principles of intervention and get an overview of the rights, entitlements and options for victims of trafficking.

Attendance at one workshop costs £100 for statutory agencies or £75 for voluntary agencies. Please follow this link to find out more and to register for a place:

<http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/Documents/Workshops/PoppyProjecttrainingworkshopposter.pdf>

### **Kaleidoscope's European Parliament evening celebration – Welwyn Garden City, 17 November**

After a successful trip to the European Parliament, attended by 29 people from various faith and ethnic backgrounds, Kaleidoscope Enterprise and the CVS for East Hertfordshire and Broxbourne would like to invite those interested in learning more about the trip to attend their European Parliament (EP) evening celebration which will take place on the 17 November 2011 in the Focolare Centre, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JG. The event will start at 6 pm and will last 2 hours with 1 hour allocated for networking. Details of the venue can be found on:

[http://www.focolare.org.uk/Centre\\_for\\_unity.html](http://www.focolare.org.uk/Centre_for_unity.html);

The evening will be an opportunity to share, network and find out what all participants learnt and achieved. The EP evening celebration will feature guest speakers Anthony Jackson, Deputy Chairman of the East of England Local Government Association and Jackie Eveleigh, Senior Policy Officer, East of England European Partnership Office. For more information and to book a place, contact: [michal@cvsbeh.org.uk](mailto:michal@cvsbeh.org.uk);

### **Funding East – Making a BIG difference in challenging times 22 November, Ipswich and 24 November Luton**

This November Funding East will concentrate on how, despite fewer resources, funders, funding advisers and community empowerment practitioners continue to make a real difference in the lives of people and communities across the region. These free events are an opportunity to network and share solutions to current challenges with colleagues from across the region. Items confirmed for the agenda include:

- Big Society in the East, what's happening and how to get involved
- Civil Society in Action, local projects making a big difference
- Speed dating (networking), hasty solutions to complex problems
- Social Media: 'If Facebook were a country it would be the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest'
- Funding Update, the latest from BIG and Regional Partners

Come prepared to share what's working for you and be ready to learn from others. Anyone who would like to reserve a place, please contact e: [region.events@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:region.events@biglotteryfund.org.uk) or t: 01223 449000 for a booking form which needs to be completed and returned by 15 November 2011 to [region.events@biglotteryfund.org.uk](mailto:region.events@biglotteryfund.org.uk) or by post to Big Lottery Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Elizabeth House, 1 High Street, Chesterton, Cambridge CB4 1YW.

### **Asylum Support Appeals project training in partnership with Somali Youth Development Organisation – Support options for refused asylum seeking women, Birmingham, 24 November**

Asylum Support Appeals Project are offering free training in Birmingham on support options for refused asylum seeking women. The training is being delivered in association with the Somali Youth Development Organisation who will be providing a presentation on the needs of young Somali men and women in their community. To book a place please [email](#)

## **Platforma festival and conference dedicated to refugee arts – London E1, 2 and 3 December**

This event is for individuals and organisations interested in the arts by and about refugees. The conference should be lively, informal and provocative with workshops, debates, interventions and performances of all kinds. Contributors will come from all parts of the UK. Organisers expect those attending to include artists and performers, academics, policy makers and funders. Ticket numbers are limited, so please book as early as you can. See full programme [here](#). Tickets (including lunch and refreshments) cost £40 per day (for organisations with turnover greater than £75,000) or £20 per day (individuals or organisations with turnover less than £75,000)

The event will take place at Rich Mix, London E1 between 10.30-4pm on 2 and 3 December.

To book, please follow this link: [book via the Rich Mix website](#) or call their box office on 020 7613 7498. Some free places and bursary places are also available - please contact [tom@platforma.org.uk](mailto:tom@platforma.org.uk), for more information.

To help spread the word on the festival, please share it with your facebook contacts. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/PlatformaArts?sk=events>

## **No second night out: a public policy exchange symposium to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping – London, 15 December**

Approaching what is predicted to be the coldest winter on record, figures published in February 2011 reveal that on any given night 1,768 people are sleeping rough on the streets across England, with the proportion of people originating from Central and Eastern Europe rising steadily. Furthermore, homelessness in the UK has risen by 17% in the past 12 months. New research by Crisis suggests cuts to housing benefit and housing budgets, alongside reforms in the Welfare Reform and Localism bills will cause homelessness to increase.

This symposium will explore innovative solutions for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping, assess the impact of national and local strategies and how best to work in partnership to face current and future challenges. It will also consider initiatives to support those at risk of homelessness and discuss strategies to prevent repossessions and evictions as well as discussing routes out of homelessness especially for those with complex needs. Please follow this link to find out more about the event and to register to attend:

<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/BL15-PPE.php>

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## **Funding**

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### **Woodward Charitable Trust**

Applications for this fund, part of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts, which share a common administration but have separate aims. Those wishing to make an application should ensure that their project falls into one of the following areas:

- Children and young people who are isolated, at risk of exclusion or involved in anti-social behaviour.
- Minority groups including refugees, gypsies and travellers. Projects that promote integration and community cohesion will be favoured.
- Prisoners and ex-offenders. Projects that help the rehabilitation and resettlement of prisoners.
- Disability projects which can include rehabilitation and training for people either physically or learning disabled.
- Homelessness, especially affecting young people and women, and covering facilities such as women's refuges.
- Arts outreach work by local groups for the benefit of disadvantaged people.
- Environmental projects, especially with a strong educational element.

About 15% of applicants are successful and the majority of grants are for less than £5000. The trustees will next be meeting in January, so applications must be submitted by **30 November 2011**. Please follow this link to find out more: <http://www.woodwardcharitabletrust.org.uk/index.html>

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## Jobs

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### **Volunteer Romanian Interpreter – British Red Cross, Luton**

The British Red Cross in Luton are looking for a refugee services volunteer Romanian Interpreter to offer support and advice to ease the process of settling into a new environment. The successful candidate would help by:

- providing accurate interpreting from Romanian into English and vice versa
- interpreting for external speakers, small group sessions and over the telephone
- being available for volunteering every other Tuesday in Luton

The successful candidate will need good interpersonal skills and to be sympathetic to people of different backgrounds, ages and physical and psychological needs who are faced with a difficult and stressful situation. The Red Cross will provide the training and support needed to do this role. Anyone interested in applying should follow this link

[http://gs11.globalsuccessor.com/fe/tpl\\_redcross01.asp?s=TcEbHMjWuLXcZzLur&jobid=36686,5423725921&key=35134045&c=987754342334&pagestamp=sephdhiptrqryhhmon](http://gs11.globalsuccessor.com/fe/tpl_redcross01.asp?s=TcEbHMjWuLXcZzLur&jobid=36686,5423725921&key=35134045&c=987754342334&pagestamp=sephdhiptrqryhhmon) and complete the online registration form or to speak to someone about volunteering please call Amber Stechman on 01582 589085. the closing date for applications is **30 December 2011**.

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