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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).

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### **Maternity Action training for midwives – improving care for refugees and asylum seekers**

Maternity Action is offering introductory and advanced courses for midwives on working with refugee and asylum seeking women. Attendance at the introductory course is a pre-requisite for attendance at the advanced course. The introductory course aims to provide an overview of issues relevant to refugee and asylum seeking women and to provide midwives with information and tools to support these women more effectively. The advanced course aims to provide an in-depth overview of issues relevant to refugee and asylum seeking women and give midwives information and tools for promoting early engagement with services and providing women-centred care.

Maternity Action is keen to hear from maternity services across the UK who would be interested in hosting or attending their training sessions. More information is available at:

[http://www.maternityactiontraining.org.uk/about\\_the\\_training.html](http://www.maternityactiontraining.org.uk/about_the_training.html)

### **Asylum seeker 'vulnerability': the official explanation of service providers and the emotive responses of asylum seekers – research paper by Sophia Rainbird - Oxford University Press and Community Development Journal**

This research paper explores the way service providers in East Anglia, in 2002-2003 represented asylum seekers as problematic and largely vulnerable dependents, pointing out potential development of an active dialogue between asylum seekers and the services that assist them can be considered. This paper explores the paradox of an organized system of support that works to assist asylum seekers to be independent and yet in doing so represents asylum seekers as dependent and excludes them from decision-making processes. This is a subscriber only document, so those with subscriptions can read beyond the abstract via this link:

<http://cdj.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2011/06/28/cdj.bsr044.abstract>

### **Court of Human Rights stops deportation of Somali nationals**

On 28 June, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) stated that the United Kingdom would violate the human rights of two Somali nationals by returning them to Mogadishu. In the judgement, the ECHR highlighted the risk for the applicants, Sufi and Elmi, of being subjected to torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, which are prohibited by article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.. The Court recalled the absolute character of the protection stemming from article 3, irrespective of the victims' conduct. In this particular case, the applicants were served with deportation orders after being convicted of burglary, threats to kill, robbery and supplying drugs. Reportedly, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) expressed its disappointment and said they would continue to pursue the removal of foreign criminals who commit a serious crime. The UK has three months in which it can appeal for the case to be re-examined. However, the Strasbourg Court was clear in stating that the applicants' behaviour, however undesirable or dangerous, could not be taken into account, when the deportation would pose a risk of them suffering torture or inhuman and degrading treatment. To read the Court's press release about the judgement please follow this link:

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?action=open&documentId=887236&portal=hbkm&source=externalbydocnumber&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649> .To read the BBC's report on the case, please follow this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-13956008>

### **Being a Refugee: Learning and Identity – book from Linda Morrice - University of Sussex**

This work describes lives of refugees before and after they arrive in the UK. It features stories of highly qualified professionals and shows how their experiences as refugees have significant implications for policy and practice.

Please follow this link to buy a copy of the book, priced at £19.99: [BEING A REFUGEE: learning and identity](#)

**New briefing documents from Children's Legal Centre: Tuition fees for those with discretionary leave, proposals to return Afghan minors to Kabul and legal update on age assessed trafficked child**

The Children's Legal Centre has issued three new briefing documents. The first is entitled 'Changes to tuition fee and student support eligibility in England affecting those with discretionary leave and legacy cases'. The second is called 'Proposals to forcibly return Afghan minors to Kabul'. The last concerns the case of R(Y) v London Borough of Hillingdon, concerning the challenge of a trafficked young person's age assessment, where the court conducted a fact-finding hearing. Please follow these links to access the briefing papers: [Changes to tuition fee and student support eligibility in England affecting those with discretionary leave and legacy cases](#) , [Proposals to forcibly return Afghan minors to Kabul](#) and [Briefing note on the case of R\(Y\) v London Borough of Hillingdon \[2011\] EWHC 1477 \(Admin\)](#).

**Gender, Asylum Seekers and Mental Distress: Challenges for Mental Health Social work – research from Khatidia Chantler from University of Manchester in British Journal of Social Work**

This research engages with the critique that mental health social work with asylum seekers requires urgent attention, as current practice is inadequate. Three key issues are discussed in the paper. First, aspects of the UK's current asylum policy: poverty, dispersal and detention. Second, much of the psychiatric literature relating to asylum seekers and refugees draws on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as the key diagnostic category. Third, the author considers the specific issues facing women asylum seekers and illustrates how an analysis at the intersection of gender, mental distress and asylum is essential. The conclusion is that to respond more effectively in this complex area of work, interventions at a practitioner, organisational and societal level are required if the espoused values of social work are to be more than mere rhetoric. Please follow this link to read the article in full, available only to journal subscribers: [Gender, Asylum Seekers and Mental Distress: Challenges for Mental Health Social Work](#).

**UNHCR Global Trends report 2010 and interactive map from the Guardian**

UNHCR released 2010 Global Trends, which reveals that the 80% of the world's refugees are hosted by some of the poorest countries in the world. Furthermore, the report illustrates that asylum seekers' chances of being granted refugee status differ drastically from country to country within the European Union. It includes a section which reports on its progress towards achieving seven global strategic priorities. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.unhcr.org/gr10/index.html#/home>

Using these UNHCR statistics, the Guardian has produced an interactive map to show where refugees come from, where they go, and how many return. Please follow this link to access the map: [The Guardian produced an interactive map](#)

**Unison warns that funding cuts could lead to child asylum seekers receiving worse care – Inside Housing**

This article reports on a letter written to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) by Unison's General Secretary to express concern about cuts to funds paid to councils for caring and supporting unaccompanied child asylum seekers. Dave Prentis, the union's general secretary, warned that while councils have a legal duty to protect all children, it is both 'deeply worrying' that children from abroad could get worse care than local citizen children - and illegal. It cited the cut in funding to services for unaccompanied asylum seeking children by Solihull Council. The full article is available via the following link:

<http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/child-asylum-seekers-will-receive-worse-care-union-warns/6515831.article>

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## Migration

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**East of England Strategic Migration Partnership launches European Integration Funded (EIF) project: Embedding Ambassadors in Community Health (EACH)**

We have been successful in being funded to run a three year project across the eastern region which aims to tackle health inequalities experienced by women from so called '3<sup>rd</sup> countries' – those who are in the UK with a view to settling from countries outside Europe. We are going to work with grassroots organisations to recruit and develop trainers who will train health professionals to better understand the health needs experienced by such women. We are currently mapping needs, but if you are part of a community organisation whose members' roots are non-European, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Gosia, Sue or Louise on

e: [Malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:Malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk) [sue.hay@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:sue.hay@eelga.gov.uk) [louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk) or t: 01284 729433/729438 or m: 07920 257964

## **Integration Support Services (ISS) summer bulletin and survey issued – for all migrants in Essex and Hertfordshire**

This edition features news concerning the closure of a Saturday children's club, run by ISS in Loughton, because the hosting partner, Sunrise Children's Centre, East Potential, found the venue too expensive.

The bulletin includes a range of advice and information for its service users, such as advice about the digital television switchover, new rights for agency staff from October 2011, religious or belief discrimination, changes in benefits and how to register as self-employed. It provides information about the services and activities which it runs and introduces readers to changes in personnel at the charity, as well as appealing for new volunteers.

Additionally, they are conducting a survey of needs in the area they cover and would like partners working in this part of the region to complete their survey so they can improve what they offer users.

To read the bulletin and to contribute to the needs survey, please contact ISS on [info@iss.org.uk](mailto:info@iss.org.uk) and to learn more about ISS, please refer to their website: [www.iss.org.uk](http://www.iss.org.uk)

## **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in the community – Norwich**

Norwich City College is updating its records of the ESOL courses being run in the city by all providers. Please contact the International Student Adviser at the college to ensure that if you are running a course in Norwich that the college is aware of it and can advertise it to make sure that learners are matched with the right ESOL provider. Course providers please contact Carolyn Fitzgerald on e: [Carolyn.fitzgerald@ccn.ac.uk](mailto:Carolyn.fitzgerald@ccn.ac.uk)

## **UK Border Agency (UKBA) – changes to new list of English language test and providers for points based system applicants**

On 6 April UKBA published a new list of approved English language test providers for visa applications made under Tiers 1, 2, and 4 of the points-based system and for spouse or partner applications. They have now made some changes to this list. The updated list includes:

- new acceptable test certificates for business language testing service (BULATS);
- clarification that we accept the test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) ibt test (internet based test); and
- new test scores for tests conducted by Pearson.

Details of the altered new list can be found by following this link: [new list](#).

## **UKBA – new application rules in force for Tier 4 student applications**

Significant changes to the Tier 4 student route of the points-based system have come into effect on 4 July. These changes are aimed at delivering a strong migration system which tackles immigration abuse while allowing genuine students to study at genuine colleges.

They have also revised the application forms for Tier 4 (General), Tier 4 (child) and dependants under the points-based system. The new versions of these forms should be used with immediate effect, but UKBA will continue to accept applications made on the previous version of each form up to and including 24 July 2011. Please follow these links to read about the changes in details and to access the new forms:

rule changes - <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/05-student-visas>

new forms - <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/july/06-t4-dep-forms>

## **Barrow Cadbury Foundation announces grant for a new social justice communication organisation**

The Trust has announced that, in partnership with four other trusts and foundations, it has awarded a grant to a new social justice communication organisation. This new charitable body will inform and contribute to public debate on migration and social justice. It will consider narrative, messaging and public attitudes towards refugees and migrants, and will work with others to ensure that the debate is rooted in evidence, fairness and humanity.

The first director of the organisation, Sunder Katwala, has been recruited and will take up his post in July 2011. The interim board is currently recruiting the permanent board. The five trusts and foundations supporting the communication organisation are The Barrow Cadbury Trust, [The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund](#), the [Open Society Foundation](#), [Trust for London](#) and [Unbound Philanthropy](#).

**Migrants' Rights Network – conference website: Access to Universal Health Care in the Age of Migration**

The Access to Universal healthcare in the Age of Migration conference will take place in London on 23 September. In the meantime, the network has launched a conference website for those interested in this field to share learning on migrant inclusion with GP Commissioners and the wider NHS family to promote the ethos of universality. The eligibility of migrants to health care services has become a topic of debate in the UK. The NHS reforms aim is to give GPs responsibility for commissioning services on behalf of their patients. However, as populations become more diverse and mobile, many patients find it difficult to register with GP practices. Migrants face particular challenges accessing healthcare services due to confusion over the differences between the primary care rules on eligibility and the secondary care rules on entitlement for overseas visitors. To register your interest and to learn about the conference programme, please follow this link: <http://health4migrants.info>

**Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) publishes annual report on Fundamental Rights 2010**

On 15 June 2011, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published its Annual Report 2010 on the situation on Fundamental Rights in the EU. 2010 is the first year the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights operates on a legally-binding basis. The annual report dedicates a chapter to the rights of irregular migrants. According to the report, although irregular migrants form a small proportion of the migrant population they are more likely to be exposed to human rights violations than other groups of migrants. Their irregular status normally prevents them from seeking redress if their rights are violated, as this would expose them to the risk of being removed. The report reminds member states that the majority of international human rights norms are generally applicable to every person, irrespective of their migration status. To view the report, please follow this link: [FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY / FRA publishes Annual Report on Fundamental Rights 2010](#)

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## Events

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**Bedford African and Caribbean Forum – Commonwealth Connections Project – July 2011 – July 2012**

This Heritage Lottery funded project is being run in partnership with Bedford Borough Libraries, The Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum and the Bedford Caribbean Senior Citizens Association. The partnership will mean that Bedford Library staff will be able to help young people and volunteers to get started in genealogical research and trace their family tree. The staff of the Cecil Higgins Art Gallery & Bedford Museum will work with young people, to develop skills to enable them to interview Elders within the communities and document their work. The project starts on 16 July, and there will be activities throughout August 2011, (every Saturday 12.30 – 3.30pm) and thereafter on alternate Saturdays between 12.30 – 3.30pm. For more information about the project and details of how to get involved, please contact Br Mrs Pamela Bernard t: 01234 363925 m: 07531 303364 e: [p.bernard@bedfordafricanandcaribbeanforum.org.uk](mailto:p.bernard@bedfordafricanandcaribbeanforum.org.uk)

**Support options for refused asylum seeking women and families – half day training from Asylum Support Appeals project (ASAP), London E2 6HG**

This free event runs from 13.30 to 16.30, in partnership between ASAP and the Zimbabwe Association. The training will be of particular interest to women's organisations and will cover:

- Section 4 Support: Who qualifies?
- Pregnancy and Section 4 Support
- Support options for Women experiencing Domestic Violence
- Families and the Dispersal
- Update on the situation for Zimbabweans in the UK
- Update on the Case Resolution Directorate (aka Legacy)

To book places please contact Gerry on e: [gerry@asaproject.org.uk](mailto:gerry@asaproject.org.uk). For enquiries, please contact either Gerry or Sinead on t: 020 7729 3056.

**National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) – ESOL Equality Impact Assessment – the implications: Policy Seminar. 21 July, morning, Leicester**

The seminar is for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) providers, stakeholders and policy makers. The Government has announced that an ESOL Equality Impact Assessment, is underway and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) Minister has confirmed that the result will be published before the summer recess. This assessment of the impact of the proposed funding changes on ESOL learners is likely to be significant.

The proposed changes in ESOL funding are likely to have a major impact on current learners, especially women. The Government plans to remove the discretionary Learner Support Fund (currently £4.5m). In addition, the change in the programme weighting from 1.2 to 1.0 and the introduction of fees may prevent many existing learners from progressing next September. This policy seminar, held immediately after the Equality Impact Assessment is released, will brief participants, consider the implications and will help participants understand the full impact of the proposals.

Please follow this link for more information about the event and to register, at a cost of £85 per delegate [http://www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/the-esol-equality-impact-assessment-the-implications-am?utm\\_source=http%3a%2f%2flists.niace.org.uk%2f%2f&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Event+Broadcast+C3012AM+06July2011&utm\\_term=Event%20Broadcast%20C3012AM%2006July2011&utm\\_content=93090](http://www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/the-esol-equality-impact-assessment-the-implications-am?utm_source=http%3a%2f%2flists.niace.org.uk%2f%2f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Event+Broadcast+C3012AM+06July2011&utm_term=Event%20Broadcast%20C3012AM%2006July2011&utm_content=93090)

## **Diversity Leaders Seminar – University of East Anglia Sports Park, Norwich 14 September, 1pm – 6pm**

An event has been organised to promote discussion and understanding of what it means to “lead inclusive housing organisations”. The seminar brings together the following speakers: Peter Gianfrancesco, CEO of Norwich Mind, Daniel Danso, of Stonewall and Jake Bowers, Journalist and expert on the travelling community. The event is particularly aimed at senior managers, directors and board members, and anyone with an interest in shaping and leading the sector.

The seminar has been funded jointly by Flagship Housing & Freebridge Housing, as part of their own E&D programmes; however 50 places have been made available to members of the NHEDG and colleagues at a cost of £35 + VAT per person (on a first come first served basis). To register to attend, please contact Annette Hyam at Freebridge Housing for a registration form e: [Annette.hyam@freebridge.org.uk](mailto:Annette.hyam@freebridge.org.uk), which must be completed and returned by **5 August**.

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## **Funding**

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### **Migration Impact Fund (MIF) grants for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in Suffolk**

Suffolk County Council Community Learning and Skills Development would like to invite bids for funding from the MIF for ESOL revenue funding for 2011-2012. The £30,000 MIF ESOL provision will accommodate and add additional capacity to the current ESOL provision in Suffolk and enable more migrants access to improve their English language skills. Applications for funding will be done by competitive tender.

Partners in Suffolk believe that by developing specific projects, some of the pressures that migrants place on mainstream service providers will be alleviated. MIF ESOL revenue will therefore provide support for ESOL provision via specific projects to address the needs of the three priority groups in Suffolk established through the New Approach to ESOL review:

- Migrants - settled communities
- Young people 14-25 years
- Migrants - women with caring responsibilities

(MIF revenue can fund ESOL for refugees and asylum seekers). Organisations can submit more than one bid, however, the funding panel is keen to support a range of different organisations, particularly smaller organisations. Bids for revenue funding should not exceed £8,000. Revenue funding must be spent by March 2012. Anyone interested in applying should contact either Claire Strath on e: [claire.strath@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:claire.strath@suffolk.gov.uk) t: 01473 745890 or Allison Coleman t: 01473 265160 e: [Allison.coleman@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Allison.coleman@suffolk.gov.uk) for full guidance notes and an application. The closing date for applications is **16 August**.

### **Rayne Fellowships for Refugees**

This link provides details and an application form for the Rayne Fellowship. This is an opportunity for refugees living in the UK. It provides support, resources and training to those who are successful to turn a vision into reality. Applications are open to refugees between the ages of 18 and 25. Each year, five people will be selected for a Fellowship. They will be able to draw on a resource fund of up to £15,000 to be spent on personal development, further training or education, resources, expert advice, one-to-one mentoring or attending networking events. The deadline for applications is **29 July 2011** and details are available via the following link: [http://www.praxis.org.uk/index.php?page=2\\_28](http://www.praxis.org.uk/index.php?page=2_28)

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## Jobs

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### **Interpreters for health service and Peterborough City Council – Peterborough and Stamford – Applied Language Solutions**

Applied Language Solutions has been selected to provide language support services to Peterborough & Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, NHS Peterborough and Peterborough City Council from 25 July 2011.

Qualified interpreters who wish to work to assist non-English speaking patients and the health professionals working with them will need to register with Applied Language Solutions. To begin the registration process, interpreters should send their details to: [anglia@appliedlanguage.com](mailto:anglia@appliedlanguage.com). This expression of interest will be followed up with a link to their online registration website. They would particularly like to hear from interpreters who can offer Mandarin/Cantonese, Dari/Farsi, Lithuanian, Latvian or Pashto.

To find out more about Applied Language Solutions, please follow this link: [www.appliedlanguage.com](http://www.appliedlanguage.com)

### **Senior Policy Officer on immigration & asylum – Greater London Authority (GLA), London Strategic Migration Partnership. Full time, temporary to March 2012. £44,656 pa, pro rata**

The GLA is recruiting a Senior Policy Officer on immigration and asylum to support the London Strategic Migration Partnership, drive the Mayor's strategy for refugee and migrant integration in London and provide the GLA group with expert analysis on immigration policy and its impact on London.

Working in a small team, the post holder will actively lead on supporting effective joint working between the GLA and a range of partners to deliver the Mayor's integration priorities on English language, employment and skills, health, and regularisation. S/he will also be responsible for the ongoing policy analysis of national immigration policy and its impact on the Mayor's priorities, in particular on integration, competitiveness and London as the culture capital of the world. For more details of the post and how to apply, please follow this link: <http://www.london.gov.uk/jobs/vacancies/gla1289>. The closing date for applications is **17 July** at midday.

### **East of England Local Government Association (EELGA). Temporary Administrative Assistant, full-time or part-time to March 2012 £13,874 - £15, 444. Flempton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**

EELGA is looking for a well organised self starter who can be the first point of contact for the organisation. Candidates should be enthusiastic, with good people skills, able to use Microsoft based ICT systems and have a good general level of education, including numeracy and literacy. Duties will include all aspects of office administration and occasional travel to assist with our events. The post holder will be able to prioritise a busy and varied workload and be willing to learn administration activity across the whole business.

Applications are welcome on a full time or part time basis. For more information follow this link <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/corporate/jobs.aspx> or contact: [Valerie.seaman@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:Valerie.seaman@eelga.gov.uk) or [michelle.kirk@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.kirk@eelga.gov.uk). Closing date for applications: noon **15 July**.

### **Asylum Aid – 2 legal vacancies, North London**

Asylum Aid is a vibrant and influential charity providing asylum seekers and refugees in the UK with free legal advice, representation and support. They advocate for a just asylum system in the UK and Europe and are among the leading agencies working with asylum seekers in the UK.

#### **Legal Administrator - £22,150**

Asylum Aid is seeking an experienced and proactive Administrator to provide comprehensive secretarial and administrative support for its Legal Team. Applicants must have a passion for administration with at least 1 year's experience of providing support in a pressurised legal environment, ideally with experience of supporting a team working under a Legal Services Commission contract. The closing date for applications is 4pm **18 July 2011**.

#### **Triage Legal Adviser - £29,875**

Asylum Aid is seeking an experienced advisor (IAAS L2 and OISC L3) to join its dynamic Legal Team to lead on the co-ordination and delivery of our destitution outreach and initial advice services. Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years experience of providing advice and representation services to asylum seekers and at least 1 year experience of working within the framework of a Legal Services Contract. The closing date for applications is 10am **21 July 2011**.

For more information about the vacancies and details of how to apply please follow this link: <http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html>

**Praxis: Youth Outreach Worker. Full-time £26,258, East London**

Praxis purpose is to be with displaced communities, listening and acting to create and nurture reconciliation, human rights and social justice. This aim of this role is to build a community voice within new communities, engaging with different groups and community leaders, building their capacity to effectively represent and advocate on behalf of their communities.

Key responsibilities include:

- To take responsibility for the engagement of community groups, ensuring their engagement in local governance structures and Praxis projects.
- To build and maintain an up-to-date knowledge of local communities and effective access points to these communities to ensure their representation.

For further information and to apply, click [here](#). The deadline for receipt of completed applications is midday, **22 July**.

If you have had this passed on to you and you want to receive e-mail updates yourself, you can subscribe by emailing [louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk)

If you wish to unsubscribe from the Newsflash please email [louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk)

