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

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## Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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### Responses to Government consultation on ending detention of children

The consultation period ended on 1 July 2010.

- Regional response from EELGA:

'Research indicates that detention has an adverse effect on children's welfare and is an extremely traumatic experience, especially in cases when detention extends beyond the shortest appropriate period of time and when children are not aware of the reasons for detention.'

- Local Government response from Asylum task force, LGA & WLGA:

'Local government welcomes & fully supports the commitment from the UK Government to end the detention of children for immigration purposes & is keen to work with UKBA, alongside other key stakeholders, to identify alternative ways of encouraging families who have exhausted the appeals process to return to their country of origin.'

In reply to these and the contributions of over 100 organisations, Dave Wood of the UKBA said:

'We are now in the process of collating these views and producing a report with recommendations for the Immigration Minister. The recommendations will then need to go to the Home Affairs Cabinet Committee for approval'.

Follow the links for the responses in full:

EELGA response:

[http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Ending%20detention%20of%20children%20consultation%20-%20E%20of%20E%20Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership%20response%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Ending%20detention%20of%20children%20consultation%20-%20E%20of%20E%20Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership%20response%20(2).pdf)

Joint LGA response:

[http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/Joint\\_response\\_to\\_Children\\_in\\_Detention\\_Review\[1\].pdf](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/Joint_response_to_Children_in_Detention_Review[1].pdf)

### Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) High Court decision: Case transfers not financially supported by Legal Service Commission

Bhatt Murphy Solicitors took the Legal Service Commission, the Ministry of Justice and the UK Border Agency to High Court to ensure the orderly transfer of RMJ clients to other legal aid providers by giving them more time and support. The claim was not successful as a High Court judge refused to order the Legal Services Commission to pay £600,000. Clive Lewis QC, representing the Legal Service Commission, said it was not the court's place to "micro-manage" the winding up of an insolvent organisation and the transfer of cases to other lawyers.

More organisations providing immigration and asylum advice could face closure as only 252 out of over 400 applicants were successful in their bids for contracts from the Legal Service Commission.

Press releases:

Civil Society: ['Insolvent refugee charity fails in High Court bid for interim relief'](#)

Guardian: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2010/jun/22/asylum-seekers-legal-help>

### Extension of the Sojourner Project for victims of domestic violence with no recourse to public funds on spousal visas until 17 September 2010

The Sojourner Project is for women with no recourse to public funds, who entered the UK on a spousal visa and are eligible to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) under the Domestic Violence Rule. The Sojourner Project has been extended until 17 September 2010. Referrals can be taken up to **23 July 2010**.

For more information, please contact Sojourner Project Duty Worker on 020 7840 7147 or [sojourner@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:sojourner@eaveshousing.co.uk) Jo Clarke, Project Manager can also discuss any queries on 0207 840 7123.

## **Supreme Court finds in favour of two gay asylum seekers**

Two homosexual men from Iran and Cameroon, who are seeking asylum in the United Kingdom on the basis that they would face the risk of persecution on grounds of sexual orientation if returned to their home countries. In both Iran and Cameroon it is a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment and, in the case of Iran, by the death penalty, for consenting adults to engage in homosexual acts.

Their case came to the Supreme Court after the Appeal Court found that they would not face a 'well-founded fear of persecution' if returned to their home countries, as they would have to conceal their sexuality to avoid persecution, making their situations 'reasonably tolerable'.

Their appeal was based on the legal contention that the hardship they would suffer would in fact exceed the threshold for 'reasonable tolerability'. The Supreme Court found unanimously in their favour.

For the full judgement, please follow the link:

[http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/UKSC\\_2009\\_0054\\_Judgment.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/UKSC_2009_0054_Judgment.pdf)

A press statement from the Refugee Council can be found here:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2010/july/20100707>

## **Charter of Rights of Women Seeking Asylum – 2 years on**

This report has been released to mark the 2nd anniversary of the Charter of Rights of Women Seeking Asylum. It highlights the positive impact that the Charter has had upon the debate around women seeking asylum in the UK, but also emphasises how much more remains to be done.

To download a copy of the report, please follow this link:

<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/133/WomensAsylumCharter2Yearson.pdf>

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## **Migration**

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### **CREDS in partnership with Routes - new website**

Cambridgeshire Race Equality and Diversity Service in partnership with Routes launch their new immigration project website. The project is funded by the European Commission in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme, Comenius Sub Programme.

The project involves seven European partners, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Germany, France, Belgium and UK. Each partner has contributed links to documents, publications and interviews for the project. The portal is a resource for use by students and teachers when considering immigration, from the last century to the present day.

In order to improve the impact on its target group and foster its sustainability the project is asking websites similar in context to link the project portal from their own websites.

Follow the link for the website:

<http://routes.pixel-online.org/info/index.php>

### **Research published by the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) reveals high levels of racial violence spreading to new areas in the UK**

Since the Macpherson inquiry (set up in the wake of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993), the IRR report, "Racial violence: the buried issue", reveals that, on average, five people a year in the UK have lost their lives to racial violence since Stephen's death - a total of 89 victims in 17 years.

The analysis of 660 racial attacks in 2009 reveals that certain groups of people are particularly at risk: 'dispersed' asylum seekers, newly-arrived migrant workers and those who look Muslim and/or work in isolating trades such as taxi-cabbing, food take-aways or small shops and eateries.

The map of violence has also changed since studies were first done a generation ago, when primarily areas in London like Southall and Tower Hamlets witnessed the most racial attacks. Today racial violence is on the rise in

towns, cities and villages which are only now beginning to change demographically with the arrival of asylum seekers, migrant workers, overseas students, and the movement of settled BME families from conurbations.

According to the report's authors: 'The UK is now witnessing an ever-expanding mosaic of different racisms based on different local conditions. And politicians themselves are responsible, through their neglect of poor disadvantaged areas, policies including the demonization of certain groups and rhetoric around the war on terror, for creating, particularly in areas where competition over scarce resources is keenest, a climate in which racial violence will flourish.'

Download the IRR's Briefing Paper:

[http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/IRR\\_Briefing\\_No.6.pdf](http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf2/IRR_Briefing_No.6.pdf)

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## Events

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### **Family Planning Association (FPA) training - refugees, asylum seekers and sexual health**

This one-day course aims to increase participants' awareness of asylum seekers' and refugees' sexual health information needs and is aimed at anyone who works with asylum seekers.

Those attending the course will:

- gain greater understanding of legislation and human rights relating to sexual health for asylum seekers and refugees
- explore societal pressures towards asylum seekers and refugees
- develop a greater understanding of cultural differences when working with asylum seekers and refugees.
- increase confidence in dealing with challenging sexual health issues
- acquire practical techniques, ideas and resources for engaging hard-to-reach groups

All participants on this course will receive a free copy of *Sexual health, asylum seekers and refugees: a handbook for people working with refugees and asylum seekers in England (FPA)*.

The training will take place on **28 September 2010** in London at a cost of £120. Anyone interested in the training should [Fill in a training booking form](#), call Helen Shipley on 0845 122 8661 or email [helens@fpa.org.uk](mailto:helens@fpa.org.uk).

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## Funding

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### **Comic Relief funds for schemes which support asylum seeking and refugee women – programme ending soon**

This programme aims to provide support for refugee and asylum seeking women who have experienced rape, torture and other forms of violence in their home countries and meets one or more of the outcomes listed below. There are two strands to the open programme:

- **Direct support to women** - this is funding for support services to help women cope better with the trauma they have experienced, for example, counselling, group work or self help support. It is also funding for services to help women access legal support, health care and housing.

- **Training** - this is funding for organisations to develop training for people working in both refugee and mainstream organisations to increase their skills, knowledge and practice in working with this client group.

The organisations which Comic Relief fund will need to show how their work will meet one or more of the following outcomes:

- refugee and asylum seeking women will feel more able to cope with the trauma they have experienced
- women will get the specialist support they need to make successful applications for asylum around rape, violence and torture
- organisations will have increased knowledge of the needs of vulnerable refugee and asylum seeking women to be able to meet their needs more effectively

Comic Relief welcomes applications from a range of agencies who can reach this client group and will give priority to those with a track record of working with this group or who can show a broad understanding of what services are needed. There were five funding cycles, and the first three have been completed. The fourth is now open and will close to applicants on **17 September 2010**. The final cycle will open on **11 October 2010** and will close **7 January 2011**.

For more information, please follow the link below:

[http://www.comicrelief.com/apply\\_for\\_a\\_grant/uk/how\\_to\\_apply](http://www.comicrelief.com/apply_for_a_grant/uk/how_to_apply)

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## Jobs

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### **UK international student recruitment officer, International Office, University of Essex, Colchester**

The post is for someone who can work as part of the International Office team, with the focus and lead strategic and operational responsibility for the recruitment of international students already in UK schools and colleges at the time of application. The candidate will need to develop the network of relationships with supplier schools and colleges, developing and maintaining relationships with head teachers, careers advisers and other key staff, and making regular visits to present to prospective students. Some overseas promotional visits may be required from time to time.

A degree or equivalent level qualification and an interest in and knowledge of current issues in the higher education sector are essential. Experience of public speaking and significant administrative experience is also required.

The closing date for applications is **13 August 2010**.

The link below will take you to the job page where you can make further enquiries.

[http://jobs.essex.ac.uk/fe/tpl\\_essex01.asp?s=kUdFcINkXvMYdAaMvs&jobid=51956,2368347847&key=26029076&c=562382348356&pagestamp=sehdyqqohzbiktxph](http://jobs.essex.ac.uk/fe/tpl_essex01.asp?s=kUdFcINkXvMYdAaMvs&jobid=51956,2368347847&key=26029076&c=562382348356&pagestamp=sehdyqqohzbiktxph)

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