

[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).

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

UKBA statement on article 1f of the Refugee Convention: restricted discretionary leave – new tighter leave policy

The statement from UKBA is reproduced in full, as follows:

'With effect from 2 September 2011, all cases excluded from the protection of the Refugee Convention by virtue of Article 1F but who cannot be immediately removed from the UK due to Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights will be subject to a new, tighter, restricted leave policy.

'Such cases should usually only be granted restricted discretionary leave to remain for a maximum of 6 months at a time, with some or all of the following restrictions:

- a condition restricting the person's employment or occupation in the UK;
- a condition restricting where the person can reside;
- a condition requiring the person to report to an immigration officer or the Secretary of State at regular intervals; and
- a condition prohibiting the person studying at an education institution.

'In addition, relevant information on all Article 1F cases will be referred by the UK Border Agency to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to consider whether the individuals concerned should be barred from working/volunteering in ISA-regulated fields.

'This policy applies to all relevant individuals, whether they are seeking leave or renewal of leave to remain, including cases in which a previous grant of leave to remain, including cases in which a previous grant of leave to remain was for a period longer than 6 months.

'The power to attach conditions to leave is provided by section 3(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1971. A person who knowingly fails to observe a condition of their leave commits an offence by virtue of section 24 (1)(b)(ii) of the Immigration Act 1971. Where appropriate, this policy will be enforced by the prosecution of individuals who do not comply with the conditions of their leave.'

This is the complete statement issued by UKBA – to access it via their web page, please follow this link, where you can also access relevant interim guidance:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/september/03-article-1f>

Detainee escort inspection reports from HM Inspectorate of Prisons

The reports looked at escort and removal of detainees to Nigeria and Jamaica in March and April this year. The inspection of the removals by UKBA of the 35 Jamaican detainees was the inspection of an escorted overseas removal, and HM Inspectorate of Prisons will now regularly inspect the treatment and conditions of detainees in these circumstances. Both reports found that in general the removals were well-managed, with most escorts performing their duties well most of the time, in what is inevitably a stressful and difficult experience.

However, in the report concerning the return of detainees to Nigeria, inspectors found evidence of tensions being raised when force or restraint was used unnecessarily and some staff demonstrated an unacceptably unprofessional attitude. In the return of detainees to Jamaica, inspectors found staff using unprofessional language and felt that the behaviour of all staff representing UK authorities should reflect better training and higher standards. To read the reports in full, please follow this link:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/inspectorate-reports/hmi-prisons/detainee-escort-inspections.htm>

To read a response to the reports from the Refugee Council, please follow this link:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/press/2011/60911_press_statement_hmi_prisons_detainees_reMOVED_restrained_unnecessarily

When UKBA issues a response to the reports, it will appear here:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-and-updates>

Fleeing Homophobia: Seeking Safety in Europe – Asylum claims related to sexual orientation and gender identity in Europe – a report from COC Netherlands and VU University, Amsterdam

Thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) asylum seekers apply for international protection in Europe each year. The European Union and European States have taken some concrete, positive steps, such as recognising sexual orientation as a persecution ground in Article 10 of the Qualification Directive. Some Member States have also explicitly added gender identity as a persecution ground in their national legislation (Portugal, Spain) or policy documents (Austria, the United Kingdom); the Qualification Directive may well be amended to include gender identity.

This report, however, shows that there are considerable differences in the way in which European States examine LGBTI asylum applications. As Europe aims at creating a Common European Asylum System with a uniform status, this is problematic. The Dublin system, according to which only one EU Member State examines an asylum application, presumes an common standard in the application of refugee law which is lacking. To counter these differences in asylum application treatment, the report recommends the European Asylum Support Office should give priority to promoting and coordinating the identification and pooling of good practices regarding the examination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex asylum applications. A second general conclusion which follows from the comparative study is that on a number of points, European State practice is below the standards required by international and European human rights and refugee law. Please follow this link to read the report in full: http://www.rechten.vu.nl/nl/Images/Fleeing%20Homophobia%20report%20EN_tcm22-232205.pdf

Migration

UK Border Agency (UKBA) re-launches its website – improved homepage and structure

UKBA has re-launched its website with an improved homepage and structure, bringing together the agency's entire online content for the first time and providing a better service to applicants and partners in the UK and overseas. The website has now been integrated with the Visa Services website and most of the 200 country websites which have been hosted by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and their commercial partners overseas. The remaining country websites are due to be brought into the website by the end of September. The new integrated website has been tested with applicants both overseas and in the UK, and with sponsors. The findings have informed their new homepage and navigational structure.

Please follow this link to find out more about the changes:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/september/04-changes-website>

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) publishes new recommended shortage occupation list

The MAC is publishing its report to government recommending changes to the Government's shortage occupation list under Tier 2 of the Points Based System. This report is being made public from 11am 12 September. Please follow this link to access the report: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/workingwithus/indbodies/mac/>

The European Commission's framework for national Roma integration strategies has been endorsed

European leaders have agreed that each of the EU's 27 countries will set out how they intend to improve the situation of the most vulnerable Roma communities. Member States will have to address four key areas for better social and economic integration – education, employment, healthcare and housing – and set out measures. Governments have until the end of 2011 to submit their national strategies. The European Commission will then assess the plans and report back next spring. Please follow this link for more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/index_en.htm

Biometric residence permit survey from UKBA

UKBA would like to hear views from those who hold biometric residence permits (formerly known as an identity card for foreign nationals), or have held one in the past. UKBA has now issued more than 500,000 of these residence permits, and they are interested in finding out about how easy they are to use and how secure it seems they are. Please follow this link to take part in their [biometric residence permits survey](#), which should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

The results will help UKBA as they plan to expand the biometric residence permit scheme to cover more people from outside Europe who want to come to or stay in the UK for more than 6 months.

Events

Bedford Refugee and Asylum Support Service (BRASS) – Women’s social group – 2 meetings to research needs: 13 September, 6pm and 17 September 11am, 27b Tavistock Street, Bedford

BRASS is planning to launch a Women’s group to provide a supportive environment for refugee and asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrant women who may feel isolated. The group will provide activities and assistance with English as well as the chance to sit and have a cup of tea and a chat. They are holding initial meetings with interested women in early September to gauge opinions on days, times and proposed activities. They are eager to find volunteers and new input, so anyone interested in volunteering their time or skills should contact Brian or Victoria on t: 01234 211381 or e: info@brass27b.org.uk or call in and see them at 27b Tavistock Street, Bedford MK40 2RB.

Norfolk Black History Month launch event, 30 September 6pm – 8pm, Council Chamber, Norwich City Council NR2 1NH

The theme for this year’s celebration is ‘Black Excellence’. The launch will include a short presentation by members of the public, voluntary and community groups including key public sector leaders on a black excellence and role model who inspires them, celebrating and recognising the achievements of positive black excellence locally and nationally, from the past and in the present. It provides a platform for promoting community cohesion through building trust and confidence among diverse communities. It also provides an opportunity to look into and appreciate the history and heritage of all participants. Over 50 events will be held across Norfolk during October. Norfolk Black History Month can help to promote diversity, challenge prejudice and engage with Norfolk’s diverse communities.

To find out more about the Black History Month events please follow this link:

<http://www.norfolkblackhistorymonth.org.uk> (the website is being updated). For further information and RSVP to the launch event please contact Horner Isabel e: isabel.horner@norfolk.gov.uk or diversity@norfolk.pnn.police.uk by Friday 23 September. Anyone with access needs or dietary requirements (as light refreshments will be served from 5.30pm in the main foyer outside the Council Chambers) should also contact Isabel.

Open Secrets – free mental health film night for those from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, 3 October, Ipswich

This film screening at the Ipswich Film Theatre on King Street is part of Suffolk’s Health and Wellbeing month. The focus of the films is around the experiences of people living with mental health from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities but organisers are keen to promote this event to all. Tickets are available on the door and doors open at 6.30pm. The films will run from 7pm – 9.30pm. Anyone needing more information can contact Russell Clarke from Mind e: Russell.clarke@suffolkmind.org.uk t: 01473 286555

Sharing the Best – The FSI Forum fundraising conference, 25 October, Canary Wharf, London

The FSI ‘Sharing the Best’ forum is an international fundraising conference bringing experts from the world of fundraising together to share their expertise for the benefit of small charities who are often unable to access such opportunities. The Forum will include Mark Harrison, the Canadian sponsorship expert giving the keynote address and further topics will include;

- Corporate Fundraising
- Trusts and Foundations
- Major Donor Fundraising
- Community Fundraising

All 250 free places are allocated on a first come first served basis to employees or trustees from 100% not-for-profit organisations with an annual raised voluntary income of less than £1.5 Million. This event has been supported and hosted by Credit Suisse. For more information and to book a place, please follow this link:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1926804123>

Bedford Refugee and Asylum Support Service (BRASS) AGM, 3 November, St Andrew’s Church, Kimbolton Road

The BRASS AGM will be held at St Andrew’s Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford MK40 2PF at 2pm on 3 November. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact BRASS on t: 01234 211381 or e: info@brass27b.org.uk

Funding

EACH project from east of England Strategic Migration Partnership – invitation to tender for community groups

The Embedding Ambassadors in Community Health (EACH) project is funded by the European Integration Fund with the object of improving the integration of ‘third country nationals’ – those who have come to the UK from outside the EU. The project is a collaboration with the health service and will involve community groups with women members who came from outside Europe delivering two workshops about their health needs and cultural preferences to health professionals across the region, by June 2012. There may be the option to deliver further workshops until the end of 2013, depending on results and evidence of demand.

The invitation to tender documents will appear on the project website in the week beginning 12 September, so please follow this link for details of how to apply: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/strategic-migration-partnership/each-project.aspx> or contact one of the project team for more information: Sue Hay m: 07920 257 964 e: sue.hay@eelga.gov.uk Gosia Strona t: 01284 729433 e: malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk Louise Gooch t: 01284 729438 e: louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk

EACH project from east of England Strategic Migration Partnership – invitation to tender for translating and interpreting agencies

The Embedding Ambassadors in Community Health (EACH) project is funded by the European Integration Fund with the object of improving the integration of ‘third country nationals’ – those who have come to the UK from outside the EU. The project is a collaboration with the health service and as well as involving community groups with women members who came from outside Europe delivering workshops about their health needs and cultural preferences to health professionals across the region, by June 2012, there will be additional workshops delivered to health professionals about working effectively with translators and interpreters. Those who successfully tender will be required to deliver at least 3 workshops by June 2012 and there may be the option to deliver further workshops until the end of 2013, depending on results and evidence of demand.

The invitation to tender documents will appear on the project website in the week beginning 12 September, so please follow this link for details of how to apply: <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/strategic-migration-partnership/each-project.aspx> or contact one of the project team for more information: Sue Hay m: 07920 257 964 e: sue.hay@eelga.gov.uk Gosia Strona t: 01284 729433 e: malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk Louise Gooch t: 01284 729438 e: louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk

European Fund for the Integration of third country nationals (EIF) – Partner search, Emilia-Romagna Region

Specific actions fall under the following areas:

Priority 1: Enhance public perception of migration and diversity

Priority 2: Enhance diversity management in neighbourhoods

Priority 3: Enhance immigrants' participation in all aspects of collective life

Priority 4: Enhance integration measures targeting disadvantaged immigrant groups

Priority 5: Coordinate existing research activities in the field of migration and integration, including the role of sending countries in fostering integration of third-country nationals

Please see the Call for more details.

The call for proposals is open to national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), public or private bodies, university departments, research centres and international organisations. Actions should be implemented through the coordination of a partnership. Since these actions are trans-national, the partnership must include at least three organisations (the applicant and two partners). Applicants and their partners must be registered in any of the 26 Member States participating in the European Fund for the Integration of third country nationals (all the EU Member States except Denmark). The applicant and partners must be from at least three different EU Member States. Emilia-Romagna Region would like to submit a project proposal, as a project leader, for the call HOME/2011/CFP/EIF/CA of the EIF. If any member is interested in participating in the bid, please contact Jackie.eveleigh@east-of-england.eu and erlai@euroinbox.com to register potential interest and to learn more about the project.

The budget for this Call is EUR 4,955,000. Actions are funded in the form of co-financing. The EU's financial contribution may not exceed 90 % of the total eligible cost of the action; the remaining 10% must be financed by the partnership or other sources. For proposals addressing priorities 1-4, the requested EU co-financing must be at least EUR 400,000 and not more than EUR 1 m. For proposals addressing priority 5, the requested EU co-financing must be at least EUR 750,000 and not more than EUR 1.5 m. For more information please follow this link: http://ec.europa.eu/homeaffairs/funding/integration/funding_integration_2011_01_en.htm. The deadline for applications is **11 October**.

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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