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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

European Commission's communication on intra-EU solidarity in the field of asylum

The Commission's communication proposes that asylum systems be improved through legislation, practical cooperation and a better use of EU funding mechanisms. According to the Commission, the improvement of solidarity mechanisms should be reached by making the role of the European Asylum Support Office more effective and by increasing the funds available to Member States. The Commission also proposes to use financial assistance to encourage the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection amongst EU Member States. The Commission argues that an evaluation and early warning mechanism could be set up to ensure that emerging problems in European asylum systems are detected in a timely way, and also to determine the course of action to address deficiencies. It also pointed out that six States (France, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, Sweden, and Italy) are receiving the 75% of the overall asylum applications in the EU. Please follow this link to read the communication in full: http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/intro/docs/201112/1_EN_ACT_part1_v6.pdf

Mapping Statelessness in the UK – research report from UNHCR

The research maps the number and profile of stateless persons in the UK, putting a human face on their situation. It also examines the UK's legal obligations to stateless persons under international law and analyses the impact of current policy and practice. Based on these findings the report makes recommendations for improvement. Since 2002, the policy of granting indefinite leave to remain to all stateless asylum applicants was changed. Now, if an asylum claim is refused, a stateless person is expected to leave the UK in common with all other unsuccessful asylum-seekers. Any further support and accommodation is conditional on their cooperation with voluntary return, regardless of whether there is any country of nationality to which they can return. Removal only occurs in around 10 per cent of cases of stateless persons whose asylum claims are unsuccessful. The remaining group are small in number but are left in limbo, with no right to stay in the UK and no State to return to. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://www.unhcr.org.uk/fileadmin/user_upload/images/Updates/November_2011/UNHCR-Statelessness_in_UK-ENG-screen.pdf

Access to International Protection - Position Paper, November 2011

Operational experience of Red Cross National Societies as well as reports on the situation of migrants outside EU borders have shown that the action taken by numerous EU Member States to prevent the illegal entry of migrants has not only an effect on irregular migration, but also affects potential asylum seekers who are on their way to seek international protection in EU countries. Please click to the following link to access the Position Paper:

[Access to International Protection- Red Cross/EU office Position Paper, November 2011](#)

Migration

Segregation to Inclusion: Roma Pupils in the UK – a research project paper from Equality and Roma Education Fund

For generations, Roma children have been disproportionately placed in *de facto* segregated or special schools for the mentally disabled across Eastern Europe. In 2007, the European Court of Human Rights ruled on the case *D.H. and Others v. the Czech Republic*, finding that the disproportionate assignment of Roma children to these schools without objective and reasonable justification amounted to unlawful indirect discrimination, violating the European Convention on Human Rights. This report examines the educational attainment of Roma children who had been placed in special schools or classes in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, some who had minor hearing or sight problems, speech impediments, physical disability or learning difficulties, who are now studying in mainstream UK schools. The field research was conducted throughout the UK with its focus in this region on

Peterborough and Southend. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://equality.uk.com/Education_files/From%20segregation%20to%20integration_1.pdf

Please also follow this link for 'Frequently asked questions about Roma' from the Platform for Roma Inclusion, including estimates of populations of Roma across Europe:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/795&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Biometric residence permits – more to be issued and online checks for employers: UKBA announcement

From spring 2012, firms will be able to go online to verify that details contained on a foreign employee's biometric residence permit (BRP) are correct. The new online checking service for employers will enable real-time checks on permits and their holder's identity and right to work in the UK. It was also announced that from 29 February 2012 BRPs will be issued to more categories of foreign nationals, including refugees and those granted permission to settle in the UK. A BRP holds a person's fingerprints and photograph on a secure chip and are issued to non-EEA nationals with permission to remain in the UK for more than 6 months. BRPs will simplify the process of checking an individual's right to work by replacing the range of documents currently in use. 600,000 BRPs have been issued since November 2008. From 2012 they will cover all those applying from inside the UK to remain here for more than 6 months. To meet increased demand and provide people with more locations around the UK where fingerprints and photographs can be taken, the immigration minister announced that a contract for the collection of this information has been awarded to the Post Office Ltd. The contract will run for 4 years and Post Office Ltd will offer a network of around 100 locations from spring 2012. To read about this in full, please follow this link: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/december/13-brp-online-checks>

Reporting of Honour based violence (HBV) in the UK – research from Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)

HBV is any act of violence – whether physical, sexual, emotional, psychological or financial – which is planned and carried out by a family or community to defend their perceived "honour". HBV is predominantly committed against women and is normally collectively carried out by the victim's family, often with the involvement of others.

Race Equality Foundation better health translating and interpreting event – resources available on-line

The 'In your own words' event was organised in partnership by the Race Equality Foundation, Sunderland City Council, Mothertongue, Everyday Language Solutions and the Department of Health, and speakers and delegates considered issues including the challenges of commissioning interpreting and translating services, using translating and interpreting in mental health services and ensuring quality assurance in this field. To see photos and presentations from the day, or find out more about their work on this issue, please follow the links provided via this page: <http://www.better-health.org.uk/news/delegates-feedback-on-in-your-own-words>

Events

Introduction to sustainable funding – National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). 17 January, half day, London

This day is aimed at frontline voluntary and community organisations new to the ideas and concepts of sustainable funding. These groups may have limited diversity of income streams (for example relying on donations and grants or over-reliant on contracts) and may be unaware of the range of options and how to access them. NCVO's Sustainable Funding Project encourages and enables organisations to adopt a 'rounded' approach to sustainability. This session gives people the awareness, understanding, enthusiasm and information. The day covers:

- What is sustainable funding? – learning the basics
 - Income diversification - exploring a diverse funding mix of income sources, and understanding the benefits and challenges of different types of income
 - Skills for sustainability – finding out what a really sustainable organisation looks like
 - Diagnosis – working out where an organisation is now and what steps are needed to become more sustainable.
- Attendance will cost NCVO voluntary sector members from £24.50 (£35 non-members).

To find out more and to register, please follow this link: <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/training-events/funding-finance/introduction-sustainable-funding>

Hidden Victims – exploring domestic abuse in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities – half-day awareness course, 21 February, Welwyn Garden City

This half day event is open to all, but priority will be given to those working in St Albans, Welwyn Hatfield and Hertsmere. It is being hosted by the Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans and Hertsmere Domestic Violence Fora in the Council Chamber in Welwyn Garden City. It will feature local speakers from faith communities, emerging communities and the travelling community who look at domestic violence in general. Later sessions are on Honour Based Violence presented by the CEO of Karma Nirvana and Female Genital Mutilation from the director of ACCM. To find out more or to book a place, please contact Jay Patel on e; j.patel@welhat.gov.uk

Polish folklore groups from across England – Polish Dance Spectacular, 25/26 February, Cambridge

More than 350 performers from across the UK will gather in Cambridge's Corn Exchange next February 25/26 to stage two concerts displaying traditional Polish folk dances, songs and music. The dances which are performed in authentically produced costumes will show traditional folk dances from across Poland and will be performed by dancers aged from teenagers to dancers in their early sixties. For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.cornex.co.uk/ccm/cornex/2012/polish-dance-spectacular.en>. To learn about the Polish Folklore group, please follow this link: <http://www.polishfolkloregrps.co.uk/?module=history>

Funding

Big Fund UK – Advice Services Fund

The Government has made up to £16.8 million for a programme called the Advice Services Fund to support organisations in the free advice sector that have been affected by reductions in public spending. The programme aims to enable not-for-profit advice organisations to continue providing free services to people in their communities in England. Grants of £40,000 - £70,000 are available and priority will be given to organisations that have experienced high levels of cuts and those that haven't received funding through the Transition Fund. Account will also be taken of how applicants plan to use their grants, their plans for the future, including ways to improve efficiency, and how the quality of their advice services helps meet local needs.

The Government has identified four categories of advice that the Advice Services Fund will support, as they have been advised by the sector that these are the areas of greatest demand for free advice services. The Advice Services Fund categories are:

- Advice on debt
- Advice on welfare benefits
- Advice on housing
- Advice on employment.

Please follow this link to find out more, including how to apply

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_advice_services_fund.htm?regioncode=-uk . Please note that completed applications need to be submitted by noon on **22 December**.

Britannia Foundation – funding for improving financial literacy

The Britannia Foundation offers grants and donations between £1,000 and £25,000 to registered charities working to improve financial literacy. It is an independent registered charity and has its own Board of Trustees who evaluate all grant applications. Their focus is to support local communities where there are higher densities of Britannia employees and customers. They invite applications from registered charities which are either national or local, provided they are addressing the financial literacy priority and are ringfencing their activities to a local community. The Foundation prefers buying specific items of equipment but in some circumstances will consider capital expenditure and salary costs. Applications can be submitted at any time, but trustees only meet twice a year so there may be a delay in learning the outcome of an application. Please follow this link for more information: http://www.britannia.co.uk/_site/corporate/in-the-community/foundation.html

British Airports Authority (BAA) Communities Trust – communities near Stansted airport

The BAA Communities Trust is funded by an annual donation from BAA and the independently run Trust makes grants to support projects in the communities closest to BAA's airports – including Stansted, Essex.

They place a priority on funding projects linked to education, the environment and economic regeneration.

Through their grants they aim:

- To create learning opportunities for young people and so raise their aspirations
- To break down barriers to employment through skills development
- To help protect the environment
- To support airport staff active in the community.

During 2010, we made some 500 grants and donations to charity, worth more than £600,000. The local boards of trustees meet four times a year to review applications. For more information please follow this link:

http://www.baa.com/portal/page/BAA+Airports%5ECorporate+responsibility%5EIssues+and+our+approach%5ECommunity+investment%5EBAA+Communities+Trust/b21d9e999d806210VgnVCM20000039821c0a_____/448c6a4c7f1b0010VgnVCM200000357e120a____

or contact the dedicated Communities Trust contact for Stansted e:marcella_mrabet@baa.com

Jobs

Community Development Worker – Norwich Mind. Full time, temporary to March 31 2012 - £18,861 pa

Norwich Mind would like to appoint a full time Community Development Worker to help improve the mental healthcare experience of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) people in North and South Norfolk in line with the Delivering Race Equality (DRE) programme. They are looking for candidates who have

- At least an NVQ Level 3 or equivalent qualification in community development, diversity and equality, social care, education or mental health
- Substantial experience of working with socially excluded and marginalised groups either in the voluntary or statutory sector
- Knowledge of mental health and other issues relating to Black & Minority Ethnic communities in Norfolk
- Excellent experience in partnership working and networking
- The willingness and ability to travel to North and South Norfolk on a daily basis

For more information, an application pack and/or an informal discussion, please contact Amrita Kulkarni on t: 01603 432 457, m: 07920 506 237 or e: cdwmanager@norwichmind.org.uk. You can also request information by writing to Mind at 50 Sale Road, Norwich, NR7 9TP. The closing date for applications is **13 December**.

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