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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

UK Border Agency (UKBA) appeals ban on dawn raids on unaccompanied asylum seeking children – Children & Young People (CYP) Now article

The practice of removing unaccompanied asylum seeking children in 'dawn raids', carried out without notice, has been used to deport children to European Union countries under the Dublin Regulation. Since 2004, around 450 children have been removed under the powers, but figures obtained by *CYP Now* reveal that five children were deported to their first point of entry in the EU in 2010 compared to 35 in 2009 and 50 in 2008. UKBA attributed the drop to a High Court ruling preventing the removal of foreign nationals given notice of less than 72 hours of removal, which stemmed from the decision last July on a case brought by Medical Justice. At a preliminary hearing in May last year, UKBA was ordered to suspend its use of the policy but they are appealing the decision, which is listed for hearing at the Court of Appeal in November. Please follow this link to read the article in full:

http://www.cypnow.co.uk/bulletin/cypnow_daily/article/1070068/border-agency-appeals-ban-dawn-raids

UK Border Agency (UKBA) launches new combined Asylum Support Form

UK Border Agency is releasing a new combined Asylum Support Form (ASF1) that will capture both the Section 95 and Section 4 details required on one application form. The online form has interactive functions, including the ability to complete the form online and save a completed form locally to a PC for printing and submitting. The new form should be available from 9 June, both on-line and in a pdf version for manual completion. The old NASS1 and Section 4 forms will only be accepted until 19 June. Please follow this link to access the new document:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/asylum/asylumsupportform.pdf>

Press reporting of asylum seekers and refugees hit by university tuition fees – articles in Runnymede's spring bulletin

The first article explores what anti-racist organisations can do to counter the negative stereotyping of asylum seekers in the media.

The second looks at how refugees may be hit by the increase in tuition fees, as many are excluded from receiving a student loan. Those with refugee status in the UK are entitled to study here. Those refugee students accepted at universities as 'home students' (rather than 'overseas') must pay tuition fees equivalent to UK nationals and can access finance schemes that allow them to repay a loan. However, the Equivalent and Lower Qualification (ELQ) policy, brought in at the start of the 2008/2009 academic year, ensures that students taking a degree for the first time are top of the priority list for student loans. Applicants applying for a higher education course which is equivalent or lower than a qualification they already hold are not eligible for help with finances, with exceptions such as teacher training and medicine. What the policy has meant is that over 100 refugees per year are expected to pay tuition fees in their entirety with no support or loan, as they have degrees from their countries of origin. Please follow this link to read the Runnymede Spring bulletin:

<http://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/bulletin/pdfs/FirstEditionWeb.pdf>

Home Affairs Select committee report into work of UKBA – response from UKBA

In last week's newsflash we reported on the Home Affairs select committee's report into the work of UKBA. The immigration minister Damian Green has issued a response, in which he describes the asylum system inherited by the government as 'chaotic' and he comments on the media's portrayal of the report, focussing on the so-called 'amnesty'. Please follow the following link to read the original report:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news/110527-ukba-report>

Please follow this link to read the minister's response:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/03-hac-response>

How the health service works – department of health leaflet available in 40 languages

This fact sheet has been written to explain the role of UK health services, the National Health Service (NHS), to newly-arrived individuals seeking asylum. It covers issues such as the role of GPs, their function as gatekeepers to the health services, how to register and how to access emergency services. It also indicates at what point they should say if they may need the help of an interpreter. Please follow this link access the document in English and a range of relevant community languages:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4122587

Refugee Council London, moving to Own Language Telephone Advice Line Service (OLTAS)

In common with the East of England and West Midlands regional offices, the Refugee Council offices in London are now closed to drop-in clients and will be seen by appointment only. From 20 June, they will start to run OLTAS. Those needing appointments in London should call 0207 346 6777. Please follow this link to learn more about the new service: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/archive/news/2011/june/londonopeninghours-20110602>

Migration

UK Border Agency (UKBA) consultation on employment-related settlement, tier 5 and overseas domestic workers

UKBA has launched a consultation on proposals to reform the work routes which have yet to be reviewed and changed - including Tier 5 and the overseas domestic worker route. They are consulting on measures to break the link between temporary employment-related migration, and settlement. Currently, migrants coming to the UK to fill roles under Tiers 1 and 2, or as overseas domestic workers, may eventually apply to stay in the UK permanently. The Government believes that settlement in the UK should be a privilege, not an automatic add-on for temporary migrant workers. The Government also believes that settlement should be reserved for those who will contribute most to the UK. The consultation will focus on:

- clarification of Tier 2 as a mainly temporary route to the UK;
- settlement rights attached to the Tier 1 route (exceptional talent);
- reforming Tier 5 (temporary workers) and routes for overseas domestic workers; and
- language requirements for dependants of migrant workers who plan to make the UK their permanent home.

Those interested in sharing their views to help inform this consultation should visit [UK Border Agency | Home Page](#) to find out more. Please also note that the final date for responses is 9 September 2011.

NHS Scotland competency framework for interpreting

The framework provides a clear, precise and simple guidance for those working with patients with preferred communication other than spoken English. As services and agreements differ across each geographical area in Scotland, this document can be adapted to include local information relevant to interpreting. Please follow this link to read the document in full: <http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/5227.aspx>

The relationship between immigration status and rights in the UK – working paper from Compas

Drawing on insights from academic literature, this Working Paper assesses the extent to which claims of inclusivity ring true for migrants living in the UK. To do so, the paper maps the existing pattern of rights and restrictions for eight categories of migrants, setting out, where available, the rationales provided by government as to why a particular category of migrant has or has not been granted a particular right. The analysis is framed around four substantive rights: to healthcare, education, social housing and family life. Please follow this link to read the paper in full: <http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/publications/working-papers/wp-11-86>

BBC 3 Television – appeal for three Eastern Europeans planning on coming to UK June/July 2011

BBC Three are making a programme and are looking to speak to Eastern Europeans (18-30 years old) who have decided to leave their home country for a fresh start in the UK. They want to get in contact with immigrants/migrant workers due to arrive in the UK in June/July 2011 and who wouldn't mind being filmed as they experience their first few weeks in a foreign country. Those who are chosen get the opportunity to go on an all expenses paid day trip somewhere in the UK. An English speaker is essential. Anyone interested in finding out more about the programme should contact e: tom.reeves@bbc.co.uk or t: 00 44 161 244 3905

Children's Legal Centre publishes Migrant Children's Project Newsletter for June

The newsletter comprises sections on new resources, reports, parliamentary updates and latest news regarding migrant children. Additionally, it provides links to its own bank of resources, including www.lawstuff.org.uk, its flagship website for young people, and training they can provide on the rights and entitlements of refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children, and how their needs best can be addressed, available either at the trainees' site or at Children's Legal Centre offices in Colchester. Please follow this link to read the document in full:

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/MCPNewsletter>

Immigration detention in the UK – briefing paper from the Migration Observatory

This briefing provides an overview of immigration detention in the UK. It discusses the size of the UK's detention facilities, the number of detainees, the average duration of detention, and the detention of children. Please follow this link to read the paper in full:

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/migobs/Immigration%20Detention%20Briefing.pdf>

Migration data from office of national statistics – comment from the Migration Observatory

The comment concludes that focusing only on long-term net migration - the level of immigration minus emigration of people who intend to migrate for at least one year – risks failing to consider other vital data about migration in the UK – not least, how many migrants are actually here. Please follow this link to read the commentary in full:

<http://www.migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/commentary/net-weight-focusing-only-net-migration-doesnt-show-whole-picture>

New immigration removal centre opened in Lincolnshire – UK Border Agency

A new immigration removal centre, Morton Hall, has been officially opened by Immigration Minister Damian Green today, increasing capacity in the detention estate as the government intensifies enforcement activity across the country. Once full, the former prison will accommodate 392 men in order to facilitate their removal from the UK.

They will include illegal over-stayers and failed asylum seekers as well as foreign national prisoners. Last year more than 16,500 people were removed from the UK directly from removal centres. Please follow this link to read the article in full: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/june/01-morton-hall-open>

Platform for International Cooperation on undocumented migrants (PICUM) – quarterly newsletter

PICUM has just started to publish a Quarterly Newsletter. It is a summary and revised edition of news items published in the PICUM bulletins between January and March 2011 providing readers with up to date information on each issue. The news items of the PICUM Quarterly Newsletter are categorised thematically and sorted by country and chronologically and they hope that readers will find this systematic categorisation useful in driving reading and research. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full:

http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/file_/EN%20Quarterly%20January-April%202011%20FINAL.pdf

Events

Partnership Development Project from MENTER – Congolese night, Norwich, 18 June

The work of the Partnership Development Project (PDP) of MENTER has been extended until the end of June 2011 and as such continues to facilitate activities and events in the region which will tackle race inequality by working with local community groups. During the three months extension period, MENTER will be working with community groups in Norfolk by giving them the opportunity to lead on events that they believe will address issues relating to tackling race inequality in order to promote community empowerment and leadership. Additionally, they are working with local organisations and community groups based in Norfolk to plan and produce a programme for the Norwich and Norfolk Refugee Week 2011 events. Their next community evening will be hosted by Congolese migrants, with lots of opportunities to meet and mix with members of the community which is fast becoming the largest BME population of Norwich. For more details of this event and others please contact PaMusa at MENTER e: Pamusa@menter.org.uk t: 01603 617076 or m: 07717 220209

Living and dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder – workshop in Norwich 23 June

This event from Norwich MIND is for people from a BME background who have been diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). It is a free one day workshop which will explore techniques and strategies for dealing with past trauma as well as exploring issues relevant to those with PTSD who come from different cultural backgrounds. The aim is to help attendees to come to terms with their past and empower them to look to the future. Anyone interested should contact Norwich MIND to reserve a place or find out more t: 01603 432457 (option 6) or e: alex.sheppard@norwichmind.org.uk

Paying People who do work for you – training event for refugee community organisations from Basis – Bedford, 27 June

The Basis Project East of England in partnership with 'Cash On-line' is organising a training event for community organisations based in Bedford and Luton.

The one day course is an introduction to the dos and don'ts when paying people who do work for you, including employees, workers, volunteers and contractors, so that your organisation complies with legal requirements, especially those enforced by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). It will summarise the rules and regulations which must be complied with when paying employees and workers, reimbursing volunteers expenses and engaging contractors. The main emphasis will be on Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and National Insurance (NI), including doing-it-yourself, using free tools provided by HMRC, using commercial payroll software and outsourcing to a payroll bureau. It will also outline how to register as an employer, what to do when you take on an employee and what to do when they leave. The session will conclude with an overview of Gift Aid and how to go about recovering tax paid from HMRC on donations made to you under gift aid.

To make a booking or for any further information contact Shpetim Alimeta on: t:01473 297 912 m: 07908 952 405 e: shpetim.alimeta@refugeecouncil.org.uk or odo.east@gmail.com by 22 June 2011.

City of Sanctuary away day – Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield 4pm 7 July – 4pm 8 July

The City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. This away day will be a time to look back and ahead, and reflect on the key issues affecting the movement at present, and the changes that are taking place in the movement as well as in the sector. In our region, Ipswich has an established City of Sanctuary group and Bedford is exploring the idea. For more information about the movement, please follow this link: <http://www.cityofsanctuary.org> and for more information about the away day, please contact Tiffy Allen, the national coordinator, on e: tiffy@cityofsanctuary.org

Karibu's 'Healthy Mamas' Free fun day for international women– Ipswich, 23 July

Burlington Road Baptist Church Hall IP12EZ is holding this event, which Karibu is hosting in partnership with a range of organisations, to offer international women the chance to try healthy international foods, meet new people, pick up health information and advice for them and their families, find out about services available and try fun activities for themselves and their children. To find out more, please contact Teresa Buckland on m: 07806 854 818

Funding

Lankelly Chase – Free and Quiet Minds

Funding is available for registered charities, industrial and provident societies, exempt charities and community interest companies or organisations applying for charitable status which are endeavouring to promote a true representation of the circumstances in which asylum seekers find themselves. The funders are also interested in looking at requests which offer alternative ways of addressing the problems which arise in this field. Additionally, they are also interested in organisations (and BME led charities will be given preference) that wish to provide mental health services to people in BME communities and to those who care for them. Grants of between £10000 and £1500 a year are available for between one and three years. Applications are welcome at any time. Please follow this link for more information: <http://www.lankellychase.org.uk/programmes/1>

Lloyds TSB Foundation – Community Programme

The Community programme focuses on funding core work that helps disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in the community. They are particularly interested in work that achieves this through:

- Improved social and community involvement
- Improved life choices and chances
- Helping people to be heard

Organisations which qualify for funding must be:

- An underfunded charity (12 months reserves or less)
- A local or regional organisation with an income of £1 million or less OR
- A national organisation with an income of £5 million or less
- Able to show that your work enables disadvantaged people to play a fuller role in the community in one or more of the following ways:

- Improved social and community involvement
- Improved life choices and chances
- Helping people to be heard
- Clear on the specific changes and benefits that your work will provide for your users/beneficiaries.

The foundation provides funding to charities to continue and develop existing community-based work, or to develop the organisation or its services. Grants are made for one to three years that are appropriate to the size and needs of each charity. For more information please follow this link:

<http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/FundingProgrammes/Pages/Community.aspx> Applications are invited throughout the year.

Nationwide Foundation – Money Matters, Homes Matter, Families Matter

Grants of between £500 and £5000 are available to charities which support those fleeing domestic violence, including help to find accommodation after having been in a refuge and floating support. They accept applications on a rolling annual basis and will take about 8 weeks to make a decision on an application.

Please follow this link for more information about the grant programme:

<http://www.nationwidefoundation.org.uk/fundingcriteria.asp>

The Sainsbury family charitable trusts – Alan & Babette Sainsbury

This trust concentrates its resources on a small number of programmes, including:

- support for ethnic minority and refugee groups
- community-based health and social welfare initiatives

There are no application forms but a two page postal application is required outlining details of the organisation, the project and the funding needed. Trustees will acknowledge receipt of this application and then notify successful applicants within 8 weeks. Please follow this link for more information:

<http://www.sfct.org.uk/applying.html>

Guardian award for social welfare in the community charities

The Guardian Charity Awards seek to recognise and encourage UK charities that make an outstanding and valuable contribution to social welfare in the community. The award scheme is open to all small and medium-sized social welfare charities that can demonstrate excellence and achievement in what they do. Eligible charities must have been registered in the United Kingdom for more than two years and have an annual income of between £5,000 and £1.5 million. Social welfare charities are those that deliver clear benefit to people who are disadvantaged by poverty or disability or are marginalised in some other way. Applicants should contact The Awards to confirm eligibility if they are not sure whether they qualify.

The winning charity will receive a cash prize of £6000 as well as personalised and tailored packages of support encompassing media, marketing, communications and business planning. The deadline for applications is **15 July**. For further information about the award, please follow this link: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/charity-awards> or contact the following: Guardian Charity Awards, Guardian Media Group, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU or t: 020 3353 4767

Suffolk Foundation – funding options for groups delivering services in Suffolk

The Suffolk Foundation has funding available currently in the Improve and Prove Fund with a closing date of **1 August** for grants and for the Awards element **8 July**. This fund is seeking applications from groups who are trying to work towards self sustainability, and will give core costs to cover one year if this is deemed to be a help with achieving self sustainability. Grants of up to £5000 are available. Additionally, Awards are available from this fund of up to £10,000 to be spent however the group wishes. It is available for groups who have carried out projects with or without a grant and which have seen some outstanding outcomes – more than was expected.

The Transforming Suffolk Fund is also seeking applications, and while their most recent application deadline has passed, there is an autumn round, so timely for groups looking towards the second half of the year. Grants are available up to £5000 for groups to carry out projects that meet one of the four themes.

Anyone interested in the Improve and Prove fund should make an initial telephone call for more information to Sue Wright, Grants and Funding Officer t: 01473 734127. Those interested in the Transforming Suffolk grant should follow this link for more details and an application form:

http://www.suffolkfoundation.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=12

Jobs

There are no job updates in this edition

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