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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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### **Speeding up removals – a government statement on working through archive asylum cases**

The Immigration Minister made a statement on the government's commitment to working through the oldest, and therefore most challenging, asylum cases by reviewing each case every six months and checking them against 19 internal and external databases. As soon as a match is found, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) will take action. Please follow this link to read the statement in full: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/immigration-removals>

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## Migration

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### **Home Secretary's statement to Parliament on the relaxation of border identity checks**

It is alleged that there were periods earlier this year when, against ministerial direction, there was a relaxation of identity checks and procedures carried out at the border. The Home Secretary made a statement to the House of Commons, which outlines details of the investigation she has asked the head of the UK Border Agency enforcement and crime group to undertake. In addition, she has asked the Chief Inspector of UK Border Agency (UKBA), to conduct a review to find out what happened across UKBA in terms of the checks, how the chain of command operates and whether the system needs to be changed in the future. The investigation will begin immediately and will report by the end January. Please follow this link to read the statement in full:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/speeches/border-force-suspensions>

Follow this link to read statement from Chief Executive of UKBA:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/11-rob-whiteman-response>

Follow this link to see an article which comments on this news from IPPR 'Britannia waives the rules':

<http://www.ippr.org/articles/56/8183/britannia-waives-the-rules>

### **UK Migration: the leadership role of housing providers – Joseph Rowntree Foundation report**

Migration policy often focuses on the number of new migrants entering the UK, but little is done to support neighbourhoods where migrants already live. Central government is withdrawing from these issues at a local level, placing more importance than ever before on regional and local leadership. This viewpoint:

- investigates the role of housing associations;
- studies the ways in which housing providers have already taken steps towards better neighbourhood cohesion and integration;
- explores perceived or actual competition between migrants and host communities for housing; and
- encourages housing providers who are well-placed to act on these issues to support communities in the process of change caused by the effects of recent migration, which are here to stay.

Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/uk-migration-leadership-role-housing-providers>

### **Marriage visa age reverting from 21 to 18 – new guidance from UK Border Agency (UKBA)**

UKBA has issued new policy guidance following the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of Quila and Bibi v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2011] UKSC 45. This case challenged the requirement under paragraph 277 of the Immigration Rules for both foreign spouses and their sponsors in the UK to meet a minimum age of 21 before the foreign spouse could be granted a visa to enter or remain as a spouse or partner. This paragraph had been amended in November 2008 to raise the minimum age from 18 to 21. The Supreme Court has ruled that, whilst they recognise that the Secretary of State was pursuing a legitimate aim of seeking to address forced marriage, the change to the rule (increasing the minimum marriage visa age from 18 to 21) disproportionately interfered with the Article 8 rights of those who were in genuine marriages.

The guidance mainly affects applicants whose applications for entry clearance or leave as a fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner or same-sex partner were refused solely because they or their sponsor were aged between 18 and 20 and if the application was refused on that basis between 27 November 2008 and October 2011, whether the application was made within or outside the UK. The new guidance sets out how such applicants can apply for a review of the original decision to refuse a visa which might now result in a visa being issued. The request for review must be made before 31 May 2012. Changes to the Immigration Rules have been laid in Parliament to reinstate a minimum age of 18 for a spouse, civil partner, fiancé(e), proposed civil partner, unmarried partner or same-sex partner and for their sponsor to qualify for entry clearance, leave to enter, leave to remain or a variation of leave on that basis. These rules will come into effect on 28 November 2011. Please follow this link to read more:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2011/november/10-marriage-visa-age>

### **Driving in the UK – leaflets from Suffolk Police available in 6 languages**

These new leaflets cover licences, insurance, MOT, car tax, how to register ownership with the DVLA, car crime and drink driving rules. The leaflets are available in English, Russian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Kurdish. To obtain copies, please contact Laurence Burrows at Suffolk Police on t: 01473 613595 or e: [Laurence.burrows@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Laurence.burrows@suffolk.pnn.police.uk).

### **High Court elaborates on UK Border Agency (UKBA) duty towards children**

PICUM bulletin of 9 November reports on the England and Wales High Court decision which has elaborated the duty of UKBA to consider the best interests of a child in decisions regarding deportation of an irregularly residing family. In the case, R (on the application of Tinizaray) v Secretary of State, the Court details the factors which should be considered when determining if it would be proportionate, considering the impact it would have on the child, to refuse an application for a child's carer to remain in the UK, which would result in the family having to leave. The factors are quite extensive and relate to the child's life, education, social network and future prospects in the UK, compared to those if s/he were to move to the parent's country of origin. Further, it rules that it is UKBA's responsibility to ensure that it has enough information to make a decision considering all of these factors, if such evidence has not been provided. The judgment drew on the guidance of the Supreme Court in its judgment in the case ZH (Tanzania) v Secretary of State and Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which states the UKBA's duties regarding the welfare of children. To read the full judgment please follow this link: <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2011/1850.html>.

### **Experience of forced labour among Chinese migrant workers – report from Joseph Rowntree Foundation**

The economic boom and political conditions in China have led to many Chinese migrating to work in the UK. They often end up working long hours in poor conditions for pay well below the minimum wage. This study examined the experiences of 32 migrant Chinese workers, mostly working in Chinese catering and hospitality businesses. The report:

- outlines patterns of migration for work from China to the UK;
- explores the complex relationship between migration, work and family;
- reveals the range of exploitation (from decent work to forced labour) to describe the working conditions and patterns of employment of Chinese migrant workers in the UK;
- considers what makes low-skilled migrant workers from China vulnerable to forced labour; and
- identifies what actions could be taken by government, civil society organisations, trade unions and employers.

[A Chinese version of the findings is also available](#). Please follow this link to access the full report:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/chinese-experiences-forced-labour>

### **European project assessing the effects of using ICT in the quality of life in immigrants**

A research project funded by the European Commission has launched an online survey to see how immigrants use new information and communications technologies in eight EU countries (including the UK). Participants are asked how they use the Internet and mobile phones to talk to friends, find information, get a job, and participate in the local community and wider society. Find out more or take part in the survey: <http://migranetwork.net/node/16>

### **Thinking behind the numbers – a report from Oxford University's Migration Observatory**

Thinking Behind the Numbers: Understanding public opinion on immigration in Britain is a systematic analysis of who people in Britain really think of as 'immigrants', and of how people's views differ substantially toward different immigrant groups. The report shows that, while public opinion in Britain clearly favours a reduction in the number of immigrants coming to Britain, the majority of the public are concerned about immigrant groups that are most

difficult for the government to reduce – asylum seekers and low skilled workers (who come primarily from the EU). There is comparatively little public interest in reducing numbers among the immigrant groups that the government can cut more easily (skilled workers from outside the EU and foreign students). Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/press-releases/other-half-story-oxford-university-study-uncovers-britain%E2%80%99s-real-views-immigration>

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## Events

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### **Cultural competence training from MIND – Norwich, 18 November**

This free one day course is for everyone in Norwich who works with BME clients and support workers who work in the community who may or may not directly support BME service users. It will be delivered as an 'interactive seminar' – combining an instructive approach with heavy emphasis on self-reflection, peer support and participation from the attendees. It will therefore employ a combination of experiential activities, role play exercises, short lectures and group discussions. The aim of the programme is to help improve the healthcare experience of black and minority ethnic communities in Central Norfolk by tackling discrimination and inequalities in mental health services. To find out more about the course please contact Amrita Kulkarni on t: 01603 432 457 option 7 or e: [cdwmanager@norwichmind.org.uk](mailto:cdwmanager@norwichmind.org.uk) or via post to: Amrita Kulkarni, 50 Sale Road, Norwich NR7 9TP.

### **How to deliver engaging presentations – Cambridge, 25 November**

This event looks at how to make presentations entertaining; why stories are they key to stickiness; how to speak with your body as well as your mouth; how to avoid distracting from the message; the perils of PowerPoint and using Prezi - a new spin on presentations.

The session takes place from 9:45am - 4pm at Future Business, Cambridge City Football Club, Milton Road, Cambridge, CB4 1UY and costs £65 pp, with lunch and tea/coffee included however if more people book from the same organisation, it may be possible for the organisers (Future Business) to offer a discount. Similarly, if price is an issue for charitable organisations or for individuals hoping to improve their performance in interviews, please contact Adelina Chalmers [adelina@promotinggoodpractice.co.uk](mailto:adelina@promotinggoodpractice.co.uk). Anyone with any questions should contact t: 0845 456 2432 or e: [hello@futurebusiness.co.uk](mailto:hello@futurebusiness.co.uk) or visit <http://presentationsthatstick.eventbrite.com/>

### **EU funding opportunities for culture, media, citizenship and youth projects – Bury St Edmunds, 30 November**

This seminar, to be held in the Apex and chaired by Professor John Last, Principal and CEO of Norwich University College of Arts, will feature presentations from UK National Contact points for the Culture and Media programmes as well as explore other European funds relevant to these themes. Related programmes include Youth in Action, Comenius, the Citizenship Programme as well as the Cross Border Programmes. Participants will hear case study presentations detailing the first-hand experience of successful project applicants to give participants a closer understanding of what can be done in practice with these funding streams to meet organisational objectives. There will be the opportunity to raise questions with funding programme representatives and those involved in the delivery of EU funded projects. For those keen to make the most of the day and start to develop project ideas to the next stage, there will be the opportunity to discuss project concepts further with a view to a strong application submission in 2012.

The event is aimed at:

- Those with an interest in accessing European funding for culture, media, citizenship and youth themed projects.
- Both experienced practitioners and newcomers to the world of EU funds.
- Anyone who wants to understand more of the detail around bidding for funding.

It may also present the opportunity to network informally with other partners from the East of England who you may be able to work with further. To book to attend this free event, please follow the link to the online booking system <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/events/view-event.aspx?ID=2749>. If you have any queries please contact Michelle Armstrong Associate EU Funding Adviser, EU Connects e: [michelle.armstrong@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.armstrong@eelga.gov.uk) m: 07709 483445 or Julia Searle, Events Organiser, East of England LGA, e: [julia.searle@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:julia.searle@eelga.gov.uk) t: 01284 729405

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## Funding

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### EU DAPHNE III Action Grants Call – expected November 2011

The Daphne III work programme 2011 was published before Christmas 2010, and the expected publication of the 2011 Call for Action Grants was during the first quarter of 2011. However, it emerged that this was unlikely to happen, and instead the 2011 Call would be rolled in with the 2012 budget. The latest news is that the joint Call will be published by **the end of November 2011**. The priorities from the 2011 Work Programme which will give those interested an idea of what to expect, although there may be some changes to respond to the (not yet published) 2012 Work Programme. The four priorities were:

- Rights of victims of violence – best practice protection measures.
- Violence linked to harmful practices committed against women, young people and children, such as female genital mutilation, forced sexual relationships and honour killings. Activities to emphasise direct community participation, awareness raising, education, training professionals.
- Children as victims and perpetrators of violence – focus on vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied minors, Roma children and best practices of child friendly justice.
- Media violence, particularly violence linked to new technology and social networking tools.

Support to prepare a project idea under DAPHNE III and other EU funded projects is available in the east of England from the EU Connects team – see the event on **30 November** for details of one session. Alternatively, contact one of the 4 Project Associates:

Michelle Armstrong – e: [michelle.armstrong@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.armstrong@eelga.gov.uk) or m: 07709 483445

Nick Burfield – e: [nick.burfield@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:nick.burfield@eelga.gov.uk) or m: 07799 415720

Alan Corbett – e: [alan.corbett@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:alan.corbett@eelga.gov.uk) or m: 07872 184028

Matt Jones – e: [matthew.jones@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.jones@eelga.gov.uk) or m: 07738 697528

The Associates work together to ensure comprehensive coverage of the key EU funding programmes and the region. Each of the [EU Programmes](#) and geographical area has its own dedicated Associate contact to provide support and assistance to partners. Associates can provide one to one support, or liaison with relevant officer groups, strategic bodies etc. as appropriate. <http://www.eelga.gov.uk/campaigns-and-projects/eu-connects.aspx>

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## Jobs

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### Community Service Volunteers (CSV) - opportunities for young refugees and EEA nationals across UK

CSV (Community Service Volunteers) has hundreds of full-time placements across the UK lasting for between 6 and 12 months. They have around 1,000 young people volunteering with them on a full time basis every year. Opportunities are open to 18-35 year olds and volunteers would normally require relocating within the UK. Although volunteers don't receive a salary, they are provided with free accommodation and subsistence which includes food (or up to £40 per week to buy food) and £35 per week towards day to day expenses plus additional out of pocket expenses such as travel. No specific skills or recognised qualifications are required as all placements are fully supervised with relevant training provided. Volunteers would need to be EEA nationals or have refugee status and be living in the UK. They would also need to have a reasonable standard of spoken English which would be assessed at an interview. Many of their current opportunities are within the fields of social or health care, education and youth justice, with skills gained that can be transferred to a range of careers. To find out more please contact their recruitment team online at: [www.csv.org.uk/fulltimevolunteering](http://www.csv.org.uk/fulltimevolunteering) or t: 0800 374 991.

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