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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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### **Voluntary assisted return & reintegration return programme (VARRP) - changes**

From 12 July 2010, changes have been made to the programme delivered by the IOM. The key changes relate to children travelling with parents, the limits of financial support to eligible candidates and from the end of August, the closure of the scheme to 'irregular migrants', those who have never been in the asylum process. Full details are in the briefing note and FAQ documents which can be accessed via the links below:

[http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/IOM%20Briefing%20sheet%20for%2012%207%2010%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/IOM%20Briefing%20sheet%20for%2012%207%2010%20(2).pdf)

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/documents/Policy%20and%20Priorities/Strategic%20Migration%20Partnership/Asylum%20and%20Refugee%20Integration/IOM-VARRP%20-%20Return%20Plan%201.pdf>

### **Date set for Oakington immigration centre closure**

A date has been set for the closure of the Oakington immigration detention centre in Cambridgeshire.

The centre, which is run by the UK Border Agency, will close by 12 November this year, Immigration Minister Damian Green said. Mr Green said: "For the past 10 years, Oakington has housed hundreds of immigration offenders and allowed us to remove those with no right to be in the country. However, it was a temporary solution and we never intended to use this facility long term. We have recently expanded our detention estate and this has included the opening of two new wings at Harmondsworth this week."

To see this story in full, please follow the link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-10893205>

### **No recourse to public funds (NRPF) network bulletin August 2010**

Inside the latest bulletin focuses on developments in the area of no recourse to public funds (NRPF). In this issue, they announce the prioritisation of local authority-supported cases under CRD, changes to the IOM's voluntary return programmes and an extension to the Sojourner Project. It summarises a new piece of case law relating to ordinary residence and provides details of the UKBA's Local Immigration Teams.

The complete document can now be found on the EELGA website, by following the link below:

<http://www.eelga.gov.uk/policy-and-priorities/strategic-migration-partnership/asylum-refugee-integration-Copy.aspx>

### **Racism, class ethos and place: the value of context in narratives about asylum-seekers**

A case study based in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, by Gareth Millington. Available only to subscribers to 'The Sociological Review' - Volume 58 No 3.

The British public view asylum-seekers in generally negative terms. Whilst there is a wealth of reports and opinion polls measuring levels of hostility to fuel political debate, little is known about how asylum seekers are spoken about in more quotidian contexts. Based on an ethnographic study of racism in Southend-on-Sea, Essex this paper identifies two kinds of narrative used by members of the community to speak about asylum-seekers. The paper seeks to explain why the affluent, suburban residents of the town draw upon the abstract narrative while less wealthy, central residents are more likely to tell context-dependent stories about asylum seekers. This microanalysis is used to review the wider relationship between racist narratives and social & cultural reproduction. Follow the link below to subscribe and access this material in full.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-954X.2010.01926.x/abstract>

## **UKBA - Employers can now accept evidence of indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in an expired passport**

The UK Border Agency has reviewed its policy on whether indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in an expired passport can be accepted by employers as evidence of right to work. Under the illegal working civil penalty regime, from **2 August 2010** it has been decided that an employer can accept indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in an expired passport as evidence of right to work. Employers should continue to undertake the same checks in relation to expired passports that are currently undertaken in relation to valid (in date) passports.

For general queries regarding illegal working, please call the sponsorship and employers' helpline on 0300 123 4699. For further information about this matter, please follow the link below:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/275292/09expired-passport-ilr>

## **The Migrant Children's Project – August newsletter**

The Migrant Children's Project from the Children's Legal Centre aims to assist non-legal specialists and front-line professionals and carers in ensuring that the children with whom they are dealing obtain the services and assistance to which they are legally entitled.

As well as providing detailed advice on the impact of immigration law on services to children, the project has campaigned to ensure that laws and policies defend the rights of asylum seeking, refugee and migrant children and to extend the protections available to them. Anyone needing to speak to an advisor regarding refugee, asylum seeking and migrant children and their access to services and support should call **01206 877918**

For August's newsletter, please follow the link:

<http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/newsletter/Migrant+Childrens+Project+update+August+2010>

## **Need advice on asylum support law?**

Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)'s second tier Advice Line provides expert advice on asylum support law and asylum support appeals three days a week. The Advice Line is open Mon/Wed/Fri between 2 and 4pm. The Advice Line number is 0845 603 3884

## **Minister launches 'Asylum Improvement Project'**

Damian Green MP, the immigration minister, last week launched the eight month project to assess how the asylum claim system can be made more effective by eliminating targets and improving the quality of initial decisions to reduce the numbers which go on to appeal.

This story is reported by both the Daily Telegraph and Refugee Action – see the links below:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/7915221/Asylum-target-to-be-scraped.html>

<http://www.refugee-action.org/news/2010/asylumimprovement.aspx>

## **ICAR launches new population guides – Zimbabwe and Afghanistan**

ICAR population guides focus on key asylum and refugee populations in the UK. They provide a summary of the population's history of settlement in the UK, the issues that face this population, demographic data, country of origin information, and existing resources and projects. They are aimed at users who do not have specialist knowledge of the population concerned. They provide an introduction to particular populations, an overview of the evidence base relating to the population and signposts for those wishing to explore the topic further.

ICAR is currently developing this area. Further guides will be added on Iran, China and Pakistan. Comments and any further resources, references or articles on the populations covered should be sent to

[icar@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:icar@runnymedetrust.org).

Follow the link to access the guides:

<http://www.icar.org.uk/12705/population-guides/icar-population-guides-introduction.html>

## **Refugee Council briefing on recent developments relating to the plans to return unaccompanied children to Afghanistan**

This briefing explains the latest developments by the UK Border Agency to establish a returns programme for unaccompanied children. Initially focusing on the potential return of boys aged 16 and 17 who face forced removal to Afghanistan, the briefing gives the latest update on the progress of the plans including the changes being made to the asylum process for children.

Follow this link to read the complete document.

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2010/unaccompanied\\_children\\_afghanistan](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2010/unaccompanied_children_afghanistan)

**Country of Origin Information (COI) resources from ICAR**

Up to date information about the human rights situation in the country of origin of an asylum seeker is a key element of the asylum decision-making process, as it forms the objective evidence upon which the authorities of the receiving country decide whether a claim is credible. It is relied on both by the asylum seeker and their representative in presenting their claim, and by the authorities in assessing their claim. Claimants need reports from "authoritative" sources, namely reports from organisations that the Home Office would likely deem reliable and credible, such as UNHCR, the USA State Department, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch. Another source of country information is that provided by country experts, who may be asked by an asylum seeker's representatives to submit evidence on their client's behalf, both in writing and/or in court.

ICAR have compiled a list of some of the main sources used in this process and other relevant information. The list is not exhaustive and will be added to regularly. ICAR would welcome any useful additions people know about.

Please follow the link to find the list of sources: <http://www.icar.org.uk/12693/country-of-origin-/resources.html>

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## Migration

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**Migration impact fund (MIF) stopped**

In a written answer to the House of Lords on 22 July, Baroness Hanham has described the MIF as being needed 'to alleviate the impacts of immigration on local public services, rather than to support migrants themselves. In the light of the overall fiscal position and the need for urgent action to tackle the deficit the Government concluded that it was not a priority funding stream.'

She indicated that by removing ring-fenced funding from local authorities, they would be free to identify, fund and meet any public service short-comings in their area as a result of inward migration.

Follow the link below to column WA245 for the answer in full.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/100722w0001.htm>

See a full article on the subject reported in 'The Guardian' on 6 August:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2010/aug/06/fund-impact-immigration-scrapped>

**UKBA & Peterborough City Council help alleviate rough sleeping**

The partnership between UKBA & Peterborough City Council to help unemployed EU migrants with no recourse to public funds to find work or return home is highlighted in a press release from the Home Office. When the service was launched, 63 EU nationals were rough sleeping in Peterborough. The scheme has helped 11 to return home voluntarily, and a further 5 who refused the support offered were subject to enforced removal. The full press release can be found following the link below:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/news/rough-sleeper-help>

**New migrant drop-in service for Suffolk – launching early October 2010**

This new service will be provided in venues serving Ipswich & Felixstowe, Lowestoft & rural Waveney, Newmarket & Brandon and rural mid-Suffolk, through a mixture of static and mobile provision at the weekends. This service is funded from the Migration Impact Fund and will be run by Kent-based charity, Migrant Helpline.

They will use their own experienced staff to run the service initially, but will recruit local expertise in due course, see future newsflash bulletins for details. The project delivery is being managed by Suffolk's Community Cohesion & Inclusion Delivery Partnership.

For more information about Migrant Helpline, please follow the link <http://www.migranthelpline.org.uk>

**Qualification Comparison Project – Integration Support Services (ISS), West Essex**

In partnership with The Learning Partnership, twenty clients have been helped to access the closest qualification comparison to one achieved in their own country previously. This project is still underway and ISS have room for twelve more clients. Anyone who you think would benefit from this service should contact ISS by telephone on 01279 639442 or email for more information [info@integrationsupportservices.org.uk](mailto:info@integrationsupportservices.org.uk)

## **UK Border Agency - warning to employers of non European fishermen**

The concessionary visa arrangement allowing fishermen from outside the European Economic Area to be employed on vessels operating within the 12 mile limit has now ended.

The UK Border Agency says that owners, masters and agents who did not apply now face fines and prosecution for any breaches of immigration laws. The three month application period for the concessionary visa ended on 31 May 2010. Although widely publicised and the UK Border Agency receiving many enquiries, only 44 applications for the concession were received in time, despite estimates that many more non European fishermen are employed in the industry.

For the full story, please follow the link:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2010/275292/14-warning-to-employers>

## **Future demographic trends in England – Local Government Association report**

This latest research by the LGA examines recent and anticipated demographic trends in England. It uses data from the Office for National Statistics to explore the effects mortality, fertility and migration have had, and continue to have on the demographics on England. The report then goes on to summarise how this will be played out at a local level.

- Though declining mortality and increased international migration have commanded considerable attention recently, changes in fertility in the recent and distant past remain an important driver of population change.
- Over the last 100 years births were highest in 1920 and lowest in 1977.
- England's population in 2011 is expected to be 52.6 million. Roughly two million will be added to the population each five years between 2011 and 2031.

This report is only available to members of the Local Government Association, following the link

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/12931478>

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## **Events**

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### **Medical Justice report: 'State sponsored cruelty: the immigration detention of children' launch, 9 September, House of Commons, London**

Committee room 10, House of Commons, 4-6pm 9 September. Report launch hosted by Jeremy Corbyn MP and Julian Huppert MP from the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees. The launch will include speakers from UKBA, a child psychiatrist, the report's author, Jon Burnett and a former detainee from Yarl's Wood.

'State sponsored cruelty': the immigration detention of children' presents findings of the first large scale investigation in the UK into the physical and psychological harms consolidated by and/or caused by the administrative detention of children. This report draws on medical and legal evidence gathered and generated by independent doctors assessing 141 children detained between 2004 and April 2010, and exposes medical negligence, medical abuse, and structural harm. The event will give those present the chance to help inform what the government's next steps will be to end the detention of children.

Please follow the link for more details: <http://www.medicaljustice.org.uk/content/view/1379/63/>

### **City of Sanctuary National Conference 13 September, Birmingham**

Discover how communities across the UK are becoming Towns and Cities of Sanctuary and share the experience of working to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary. This year's national conference will feature stories from City of Sanctuary initiatives across the UK, including Swansea, which has recently become Wales' first official City of Sanctuary.

Speakers will explore ways of creating 'Universities of Sanctuary' to open up higher education for people seeking sanctuary. The sessions of 'Open Space' workshops will create spaces for sharing experience on issues such as:

- Involving refugees,
- Legal advice,
- Refugee speaker teams,
- Creative resource raising,
- Working with supporting organisations,
- 'Regions of Sanctuary',
- Using the media,

- Involving and keeping volunteers,
- Access to healthcare,

The conference is Monday 13 September, 10.30-4pm, in Birmingham City Centre. Participation is by donation to cover costs of catering. To book a place, please follow the link: <http://www.cityofsanctuary.org/conference>

### **Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) AGM – Ipswich Town Hall, 14 September 7.30pm**

Celebrating a year of achievement with keynote speaker Simon Woolley from Operation Black Vote & Equality & Human Rights Commission. Ben Gummer MP will also be launching the 'Hate Crime service' memorandum of understanding. There will be entertainment with Indian dance, and food from the diverse communities of Suffolk. If you need further information, please email [office@iscre.or.uk](mailto:office@iscre.or.uk) or telephone 01473 408111.

### **Refugee Council Training - Key issues in asylum – London 23 September 2010**

Frequent changes to asylum legislation and policy make it hard to get on top of the issues and ensure that clients are offered the best advice or most effective practice. This course allows delegates to meet this challenge by providing an introduction to the key structures in the asylum system:

- The distinctions between refugees, asylum seekers and other migrant groups
- The current international context of asylum and the causes of flight of refugees
- The current legislative structure including the New Asylum Model
- Where asylum applications are logged (at port and in-country)
- The role and structure of the UK Border Agency Asylum Teams
- The asylum determination process including the appeal process
- The Case Resolution programme
- Possible implications of future legislative changes

### **An introduction to asylum support- London 24 September 2010**

This interactive course explores the routes of access to entitlements for asylum seekers in relation to key governmental and non-governmental structures, including an examination of the UK Border Agency support system. Learning is related to participants' day-to-day experiences, demonstrating routes through this process for those new to the asylum field.

Delegates who complete the course will gain a practical understanding of:

- Routes of access to basic entitlements
- The UK Border Agency Asylum Support system
- The role of UK Border Agency Asylum Teams
- Possible restrictions in the support process (Section 55 and Section 57)
- The different asylum support options
- The dispersal process
- Support under current legislation
- Possible implications of future changes in policy and procedure

This course assumes a basic knowledge of asylum policy and legislation and follows on from the *Key Issues in asylum* course (see above). Anyone who has not attended the *Key Issues* course previously should have a good understanding of the issues.

Anyone interested in either course should follow the link below for further information:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/training/service/fulldetails.htm#asylumsupport>

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## **Funding**

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### **People's Postcode Trust**

This Trust aims to make the UK a better place by making grants of between £500 to £10000 to small organisations, community groups and charities. The Trust has six fields of operation:

- Poverty prevention
- Advancement of health
- Community development
- Public sports
- Human rights
- Environmental protection

The next funding round opens on **11 October** and closes on 10 November. For details of eligibility criteria, case studies and FAQs, see the website [www.postcodetrust.org.uk](http://www.postcodetrust.org.uk), or ring for more information: 0131 555 7287.

## **European funding for lifelong learning programme – support for two competitions on the promotion of language learning through short audiovisual productions**

The aim of the call is to award a grant for the organisation of two competitions for short audiovisual productions in two successive years. The two audiovisual productions must be aimed at the promotion of language learning with a focus on the benefits of Europe's linguistic and cultural diversity.

The call is open to organisations working in the audiovisual, advertising or new media sectors. Organisations must be based in one of the EU 27 Member States. The maximum EU grant will be €500,000 for the two years. This grant may not exceed 75% of the total eligible costs.

The deadline for applications for the fund is 30 September 2010, and those interested in applying should follow the link, quoting reference Official Journal of the EU C184, 8 July 2010.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2010:184:0029:0030:EN:PDF>

## **Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) Photo Competition 2010 - Life in Motion**

COMPAS are looking for images that depict journeys that migrants take, not only between countries, but also the everyday experiences and constant adaptations that they make in new environments, jobs and homes.

Prizes will be given to the three winning entries. £500 (1st), £200 (2nd) and £100 (3rd).

Closing date - **30 September 2010**. For details of how to enter, please follow the link:

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/events/photo-competition/2010/#c795>

## **Department for International Development – Global Community Links funding**

Global Community Links aims to increase involvement of UK community members in international development by increasing understanding of global development issues, and offers funding and support to community groups in the UK that have a link with a community group in a developing country. The programme seeks to strengthen links through involving a wide range of community members. Building knowledge and understanding of global development in the UK helps create a stronger base for links, and helps achieve more in a link.

Please follow the link to find out about eligibility requirements and the sorts of schemes which have been funded in the past. <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Getting-Involved/How-you-can-help/DFID-Community-Linking-Programme/Grants-criteria/>

The second round of calls for bids for grants is now open and has a deadline of **1 September 2010**. Grants in this round need to be spent between 1 December 2010 and 31 March 2011 for a 4 month grant or 1 December 2010 to 30 August 2011 for a 9 month grant

## **NatWest Community Fund**

Nominations are open for the **NatWest Community Fund**, which aims to support local charities across Britain. Both customers and non-customers of NatWest are allowed to nominate a local charity, and can do this by submitting their nomination either online or through a local branch.

The money awarded from the Community Fund must be used to benefit the local community. The money cannot be used to pay a charity or project's bills. Projects will have to provide details of how the money will be used if they are shortlisted and show evidence of how the money has been spent after the awards have been made.

The deadline for nominations is **20 August 2010**, and the voting period will open in October. For information about nominating a charity, please follow the link: <https://communityfund.natwest.com/Nominate>

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## **Jobs**

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### **Central Bedfordshire Council - Head of Community Regeneration and Adult Skills “People” A post for 4-6 month interim basis, with potential for a subsequent permanent appointment. Salary within the range of £57,803 - £62,139.**

Interested candidates should be able to show that they can lead the economic participation, adult skills and community regeneration services including:-

- Leading on adult skills development and community learning and libraries.
- Leading on neighbourhood regeneration, priority estates and communities of interest/priority groups including women, lone parents, older people

- Taking responsibility for work and skills planning, responding to the changing economic needs of the area.
- Lead on the delivery of the European programmes to support people into work and progressing in employment

The successful candidate should also be able to demonstrate that s/he can:

- Deliver a regeneration programme aimed at reducing disadvantage, increasing skills and household income, reducing barriers to employment and addressing equality of access across priority groups and neighbourhoods.
- Maximise opportunities to access external and European funding sources to support the economic development skills and regeneration agenda.
- Manage adult and community learning services to champion the adult skills work towards the aspiration to drive for more and better paid jobs.
- Develop and deliver a plan to address those with most needs across and within neighbourhoods to reduce disadvantage, increase skills, increase household income and reducing those who are dependent on out-of-work benefits.

The closing date for applications is **23 August**. Anyone interested in making an application should contact Hannah Mason at Central Bedfordshire for a recruitment pack.

[Hannah.mason@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Hannah.mason@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) Telephone 0300 300 6189

### **Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) – Community Diversity Officer – Highpoint Prison Part time post 22 hours £23,000 pro rata**

Anyone who would like the opportunity to work within a challenging and unique environment, and has an understanding of equality issues, ISCRE would like to hear from. ISCRE has been working on race equality issues in the prison system in Suffolk for over a year. The merger of Highpoint and Edmunds Hill has led to the need for an experienced individual to be based in the prison to help the prison meet its race and wider equality duties.

Interested candidates should email [office@iscre.org.uk](mailto:office@iscre.org.uk) for an application form and job description, or call in, or telephone 01473 408111.

ISCRE, 46A St Matthew's Street  
Ipswich IP1 3EP

**Closing date 20 August 2010**

### **Consultation and community relations manager – Norfolk County Council. Permanent post, but could be offered on secondment basis to the right candidate. Salary within range £41,421 - £48,060**

Norfolk County Council has created a new, streamlined shared service for consultation and involvement. They want to enable their service users, citizens and partners to shape and influence the services they receive and the priorities they set, and to do so efficiently – making best use of taxpayers' money.

This is a senior management opportunity to lead the development of the service and the delivery team. The manager will also be a source of technical and professional advice and support to Council Members and officers on consultation and engagement tools, techniques and resource issues.

Candidates should have substantial experience in user and citizen engagement, be performance focused with excellent communication and leadership skills and can demonstrate sound management of teams and budgets.

Closing date for applications is **20 August 2010** and interviews will be held on 7 September 2010. For more details about the role on offer, please call Joanna Hannam, on 01603 222969, or follow this link:

<https://www.norfolkccjobs.com/details.php?location=0&category=0&searchstring=&company=1&search=Search&job=6550>

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