



## \*\*\*Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin\*\*\* 31/10/07

This fortnightly information e-bulletin has been produced by the Policy and Communications Team at Welsh Refugee Council. It contains the latest information from Wales (W) and the UK (UK) on issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees.

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### \*\*News\*\*

#### UK Borders Bill

Lord Roberts of Llandudno has proposed the insertion of a new clause into the UK Borders Bill concerned with '*Provision of information to immigrants from A8 countries*'.  
[www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldbills/100/amend/ml100-iii.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldbills/100/amend/ml100-iii.htm)

#### Asylum Children Beg and Sell Sex to Raise Money for Legal Advice

Community Care report on a Children's Society report 'Going it Alone' which claims that asylum-seeking children are resorting to desperate measures in order to pay for legal costs, due to the lack of available legal aid during their asylum claim. Community Care article: [www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2007/10/10/106067/asylum-children-beg-and-sell-sex-to-raise-money-for-legal.html](http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2007/10/10/106067/asylum-children-beg-and-sell-sex-to-raise-money-for-legal.html)

#### Still Human Still Here

The Still Human Still Here amendment was debated in the House of Lords on 11th October 2007. There was strong support from the bishops (Winchester & Ripon and Leeds), the Lib Dems and Crossbenchers, but the Government continued with its normal line. They pushed repeal of Section 9 to a vote, but this was lost. You can read the debate here: <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2007-10-11a.351.0> (scroll down to 12:15pm for the start of the destitution stuff). We managed to introduce some positive stuff about the Hotham Mission and a casework approach, and we also got the Lib Dems to introduce an amendment along the lines of the JCHR recommendation on a temporary status for those unable to return. You can read that here: <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2007-10-11a.405.2>.

### **[IOM Launches New Approach to Voluntary Return - Individual Return Plan for Asylum Seekers](#)**

Since 1999 IOM UK has helped more than 24,000 people to return voluntarily to 130 countries and assisted many of them to reintegrate. But the assistance was not as 'personalised' as they would have liked. With the launch of their new approach they will be able to make a greater contribution towards re-establishing a livelihood back home and to easing some of the short-term problems people face immediately upon their return. They want to meet individual needs with individual solutions. For more information: <http://www.iomlondon.org/>

### **[Funding Inquiry Launched](#)**

The Assembly Communities and Culture Committee are carrying out a Scrutiny Inquiry into the Funding of Voluntary Sector Organisations in Wales. The Committee is planning to examine the Welsh Assembly Government's policy for funding voluntary organisations, the policy directions issued to relevant funding bodies, and procedures for monitoring the outcomes of funding. It will also examine 'gender budgeting' issues, and the ease or difficulty experienced by organisations in accessing funding. The Committee has issued a call for written evidence, with a deadline of 30 November 2007. For details of the inquiry go to the Communities and Culture Scrutiny Committee page of the Assembly website, [www.assemblywales.org](http://www.assemblywales.org)

### **[Children In Wales Welcomes Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee](#)**

Children in Wales welcome the establishment of an Assembly Scrutiny Committee for Children and Young People as agreed by the National Assembly for Wales yesterday. Children in Wales also welcome the members of the Committee and hope to work closely with them in the future. For more information:

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/news/pressrelease/8266.html>

### **[Funding Opportunity From WEDHS](#)**

The Wales Equality and Diversity in Health and Social Care Research and Support Service (WEDHS) offers a way to improve the health and wellbeing of black and minority ethnic (BME) people in Wales through an innovative programme of research and development. WEDHS has established the Joint Initiative Funding Scheme to strengthen the ability of voluntary and community groups. Application forms can be obtained by contacting Olivia Ambang on 01443483107 (Monday to Thursday) or downloaded from:

<http://www.wedhs.org.uk/how%20we%20work/joint.php>

### **[New Channel 4 Documentary Series - The Shooting Party](#)**

Do you think you can surpass Spielberg, better Nick Broomfield or make the perfect music video? Channel 4 is looking for deaf or disabled people to form a new filmmaking team called the Shooting Party. They're looking for people with strong ideas, bags of energy and the confidence to make an original 3-5 minute film a documentary, drama, music video or any other kind of short to be broadcast on Channel 4. If you are chosen to join **The Shooting Party** not only will you direct your own short film, you'll help other members of the group make their films too. And while you're doing it, we're going to make a film about you making the film! - so you must be prepared to shine in front of the camera as well as behind it No broadcast experience necessary; just talent, fresh ideas, and a burning desire to make your film. To find out more visit [www.mavericktv.co.uk/theshootingparty](http://www.mavericktv.co.uk/theshootingparty), email [theshootingparty@mavericktv.co.uk](mailto:theshootingparty@mavericktv.co.uk) or call 0207 8746615.

### **\*\*Documents\*\***

#### **[Updated Leaflets for Women Asylum Seekers](#)**

In January 2006 the Refugee Women's Resource Project at Asylum Aid, circulated new leaflets for women asylum seekers. These leaflets have now been updated to explain the New Asylum Model (on page 2). The leaflets are intended for women asylum seekers who

are at the beginning of the asylum claim process as they explain the Home Office policy for determining women's asylum claims. The new versions are available in a dozen languages for free download at [www.asylumaid.org.uk](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk) (via the link on the right of the screen headed *Women's rights in relation to asylum claims: leaflets and CD*). Paper copies are available from [women@asylumaid.org.uk](mailto:women@asylumaid.org.uk)

#### **Refugee Council's Research Report on Refugees' Experiences of Integration**

Refugees' Experiences of Integration is a two year qualitative research project looking at the social aspects of refugees' integration, particularly in relation to how these were experienced in two different localities, Haringey and Dudley, and across different groups of refugees and asylum seekers. Report can be downloaded from:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2007/integration.htm>

#### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 Disclosures**

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Home Office has released information on: 'Attempts at deportation of asylum seekers which failed due to disruptive behaviour by the passenger'. View the information at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/7835-asylum-seekers?view=Html>

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Home Office has released information on: 'Male detainees at detention centres'. View the information at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/7591-Detention Centres?view=Html>

#### **National Indicators Report**

A new set of national indicators for local authorities reduces the overall number from 1200 to 198. A number of them relate to cohesion and migration.

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicator](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicator)

#### **\*\*Consultations\*\***

##### **EU Asylum Green Paper Response**

ECRE publishes its response to the June 2007 Green Paper on the future Common European Asylum System (CEAS). ECRE response can be viewed at:

[www.ecre.org/files/ECRE%20Green%20paper%20response%20final%20-%20Read%20only.pdf](http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE%20Green%20paper%20response%20final%20-%20Read%20only.pdf)

##### **IPCC and BIA**

Refugee Council response to the consultation regarding the Independent Police Complaints Commissioner (IPCC) oversight of the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) incidents and complaints [October 2007]. The response can be viewed at:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2007/IPCCconsultation.htm>

##### **ECRE/BRC joint response to House of Lords inquiry on Frontex**

The Refugee Council and ECRE welcome this timely inquiry and the opportunity to comment on the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the EU Member States, Frontex. The full response can be viewed at:

[http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE\\_BRC%20Response%20to%20HoL%20Frontex%20Inquiry%20Sept07.pdf](http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_BRC%20Response%20to%20HoL%20Frontex%20Inquiry%20Sept07.pdf)

#### **\*\*Events\*\***

##### **Newport Mela 10/11/07**

Newport Local Health Board is hosting a Mela (festival) at Newport Leisure Centre on the 10th November. Various groups will be attending on the day and advertising their services and/or recruiting volunteers. All aspects of health promotion will be promoted on the day

along with dance and fashion shows, a free buffet and crèche will be provided. The theme of the event is culture and we are hoping to have some acts on stage during the day. For further information contact Zunaira Hassan on 01633 261458

**SHOOTING DOGS Starring John Hurt and Hugh Dancy Directed by Michael Caton-Jones 10/11/07**

The South East Wales local support group of The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture is holding a film screening of a very powerful film "Shooting Dogs" to raise funds. This is a very powerful fictionalised account of incidents at a Kigali school, which became a haven for Europeans and Tutsis during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. All proceeds will go to The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. 02920 237303 or [gail@tpascymru.org.uk](mailto:gail@tpascymru.org.uk) for more information

**Getting Your Voice Heard - 11/11/07**

A free 1 day workshop on drama and presentation skills for refugees, asylum seekers and supporters where you can learn to tell people about asylum – and how they can help. Open to anyone over 16. Lunch provided. Bus fares paid for asylum seekers and refugees. Book your place now and contact [marilyn-thomas@lineone.net](mailto:marilyn-thomas@lineone.net) or on 01792 361794

**\*\*Training\*\***

**The Government in Wales, How does it Works for You - PWA Training 05/11/07**

Organised by MEWN Cymru- PWA, this training t will allow and facilitate the engagement process between BME communities/ Voluntary Organisations and Welsh Assembly Government. Some important highlights of this training are: Education on the process of government in Wales, The policy proposals and Mechanisms of input. For more information, email: [pwa@mewn-cymru.org.uk](mailto:pwa@mewn-cymru.org.uk)

**Citizens Advice Specialist Support Consumer Training - Buying on Credit - 09/01/08**

After a huge amount of interest and demand for consumer training courses Citizens Advice Specialist Support are pleased and proud to inform you that spaces are now available to all employees of any organisation on the following course. This would be of value to you if you currently provide consumer advice, customer service or support to a range of clients with questions and queries about good and service credit agreements this course is suitable for you. You can book on line at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advisertraining](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/advisertraining)

**Aspiring to Leadership for Managers from Black and Minority Ethnic Groups 13/05/2008**

Piloted last year with considerable success, this positive action programme addresses the need to increase the diversity of leaders and managers within public services in Wales and in particular the under representation of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) leaders at senior levels. PSMW invites public service leaders to nominate BME managers or leaders for this innovative development opportunity. Should you wish to book a place on one of the programmes please download the forms from [www.wedhs.org.uk](http://www.wedhs.org.uk) and e-mail to [PSMW@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:PSMW@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

**\*\*Vacancies\*\***

**For WRC vacancies visit <http://www.welshrefugeecouncil.org/jobs.php>**

**For Career Wales vacancies visit <http://www.careerswales.com/>**

**Regards**

**Sherrie Marquis**

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**Empowering refugees and asylum seekers to rebuild their lives in Wales**

Ymbweru ffoaduriaid i ailadeiladu eu bywydau yng Nghymru

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Ymwadiad

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