

## **\*\*\*Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin\*\*\* 11/03/08**

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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[info@welshrefugeecouncil.org](mailto:info@welshrefugeecouncil.org)

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

#### **[BIA Press Release on Quarterly Asylum Statistics: Lowest number of asylum application in 14 years](#)**

Asylum applications in 2007 are at their lowest level for 14 years, according to statistics published by the Home Office.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/lowestnumberasylumapps>

#### **[European Court on Human Rights, Return and torture](#)**

The European Court on Human Rights has reasserted the absolute nature of Article 3 of the European Convention of Human Rights.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/IOR30/016/2007/fb43d14f-a302-11dc-8d74-6f45f39984e5/ior300162007en.html>

#### **[Institute of Race Relations – Limbo Status is made Official](#)**

The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill, currently going through the Commons, creates a new immigration status for undeportable 'foreign nationals'.

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2008/january/ha000005.html>

#### **[Bail system 'not set up to get a fair hearing' says Refugee Council](#)**

Two of the leading agencies working with detained asylum seekers and migrants call on the Home Office to suspend the roll-out of video-link hearings for detainees applying for bail from immigration removal centres.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/press/2008/march/20080310.htm>

### **House of Lords publishes Enquiry into Frontex**

The House of Lords EU sub-committee has published its Enquiry into Frontex, the EU agency set up to co-ordinate the management of the EU's external borders.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/press/2008/march/20080603.htm>

### **Children and Young People Committee examine child poverty**

In February and March 2008 the Children and Young People Committee of the National Assembly for Wales examined child poverty and the need for advocacy services for children and young people in Wales.

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third-assem/bus-committees-third-cyp-home/bus-committees-third-cyp-agendas.htm>

### **National identity scheme delivery plan published**

The delivery of the national identity scheme have gathered momentum as plans were laid out by the Home Secretary beginning with the introduction of identity cards for foreign nationals in 2008 and British citizens in 2009.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/identityschemeplan>

### **BIA: New points system goes live**

The biggest shake-up of the immigration system in 45 years has got underway with the introduction of a new points system.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/newpointslive>

### **Prime Minister launches contract for foreign nationals seeking British citizenship**

Radical changes to the way newcomers are able to earn their stay in Britain have been proposed by the Government.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/primeministerlaunchescontract>

### **Border policing strengthened**

New measures to ensure closer working at the border between the police and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) have been announced by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/borderpolicingstrengthened>

## **\*\*Statistics\*\***

### **Quarterly asylum statistics**

The BIA has issued the asylum statistics for the final quarter of 2007.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf>

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

### **Healthcare in Countries of Origin**

ITHAC (information on Treatment and Healthcare Accessibility in Countries of Origin) provides details on the medical situation in various countries in support of the asylum process.

<http://www.ithaca-eu.org/>

### **The Destitution Tally: an indication of the extent of destitution among asylum seekers and refugees**

Between 19th November and 14th December the 5 leading refugee agencies asked their One Stop Services to record the proportion of the people who use these services who are destitute.

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/37B6CBE3-A34D-4992-A43B-629BC6795275/0/IAPDestitutionTally\\_Jan08.pdf](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/37B6CBE3-A34D-4992-A43B-629BC6795275/0/IAPDestitutionTally_Jan08.pdf)

### **Asylum is not gender neutral – protecting women seeking asylum**

A report by Asylum Aid, the European Women's Lobby and the Refugee Women's Resource on the need for gender guidelines to implement the EU qualification directive and the asylum procedures directive.

[http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/70/Asylum\\_is\\_not\\_gender\\_neutral.pdf](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/70/Asylum_is_not_gender_neutral.pdf)

### **UNHCR Handbook for the Protection of Women and Girls January 2008**

This handbook is now available to download.

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=47cfc2962>

### **Children's Commissioner for England's report into treatment of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

The Children's Commissioner for England, Sir Al Aynsley has released a report with recommendations into the treatment of unaccompanied children seeking asylum at the BIA Screening Unit in Croydon.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.org/documents/Claiming%20Asylum%20at%20a%20Screening%20Unit%20as%20a%20UASC%20-%20FINAL2.pdf>

### **Ethical issues in research with unaccompanied asylum-seeking children**

This paper by Peter Hopkins appears in the February 2008 edition of *Children's Geographies*

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content%7Econtent=a790622263%7Edb=all%7Eorder=page>

### **Defending Refugees' Access to Protection in Europe – a report by the European Council on Refugees and exiles.**

Examines the constant tightening of EU border controls having a major impact in preventing refugees from seeking asylum in Europe.

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain/opensslpdf.pdf?docid=4766464e2>

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### **Libyan Nationals in the United Kingdom: Geo-political considerations and trends in asylum and return**

This paper explores the evolving geo-political importance of Libya as a strategic partner for Britain and considers the way in which policies on migration have been used to cement the renewed relationship between the two countries.

<http://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/publications/Working%20papers/wp-07-58.shtml>

### **A Working Paper for the Older Refugees Programme – A Literature Review and Interviews with Refugees [January 2008]**

The Older Refugees Programme has been a two year joint programme to highlight the issues and concerns that older refugees have about their circumstances and daily lives in the UK.

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2008/older\\_refugees.htm](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2008/older_refugees.htm)

### **Commissioning community organisations**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has published a report for the Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (HACT) entitled: 'More responsive public services? A guide to commissioning migrant and refugee community organisations.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2166-migrant-service-provision.pdf>

### **Children and destitution**

The Children's Society has published a new report entitled: 'Living on the edge of despair: destitution amongst asylum seeking and refugee children'

[http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats\\_happening/media\\_office/latest\\_news/Study\\_reveals\\_reality\\_of\\_claiming\\_asylum\\_in\\_the\\_UK\\_6116\\_news.html](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/whats_happening/media_office/latest_news/Study_reveals_reality_of_claiming_asylum_in_the_UK_6116_news.html)

The full report can be downloaded via:

[http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/Living\\_on\\_the\\_edge\\_of\\_despair\\_destitution\\_amongst\\_asylum\\_seeking\\_and\\_refugee\\_children\\_6115\\_full.pdf](http://www.childrensociety.org.uk/resources/documents/Research/Living_on_the_edge_of_despair_destitution_amongst_asylum_seeking_and_refugee_children_6115_full.pdf)

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

### **The path to citizenship: next steps in reforming the immigration system**

This consultation document was published by the Home Office in February.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/pathtocitizenship/>

### **Citizens Speak Consultation: How Should Asylum Seekers be treated?**

An independent enquiry into the UK's asylum system has launched CITIZENS SPEAK, the biggest ever consultation with ordinary citizens on how asylum seekers should be treated.

<http://www.independentasylumcommission.org.uk/>

<http://www.citizensspeak.org.uk/>

### **Welsh Assembly Consultation on the Health and Homelessness Standards**

The Standards will inform the development of the Homeless and Vulnerable Groups Health Action Plans (HaVGHAPs) which are the Welsh Assembly's necessary step change to ensure that the

health needs of all ages of homeless people and specific vulnerable groups are addressed.

**Closing date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008**

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/healandsoccarecurrcons/healthhomelessness/?lang=en>

### **Code of practice for keeping children safe from harm - consultation**

This Code of Practice is extremely important: it represents a change in the way the Border and Immigration Agency carries out its responsibilities towards children; and it represents change for those children themselves.

**Closing date: 25<sup>th</sup> April 2008.**

[http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc\\_codeofpractice.pdf](http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc_codeofpractice.pdf)

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

#### **Cardiff Food and Health Network : Black Minority Ethnic Communities and Food and Health Initiatives 17 April 2008 11am, Cardiff**

If you are interested and want to attend e-mail [healthalliance@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:healthalliance@cardiff.gov.uk)

#### **Refugee Week Wales 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008**

This year we are preparing a Refugee Week Encounters Booklet, the annual Save the Children Art Competition has been distributed to all schools in Wales and a Refugee Football World Cup is being organised along with many other events. Wales based groups wishing to host events can apply for help from the Community Activities Fund – contact Kaveh Azerhoosh 029 2043 2996 or e-mail [refugeeweek@welshrefugeecouncil.org](mailto:refugeeweek@welshrefugeecouncil.org)

For more information visit <http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/>

#### **Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration: Citizenship in the Community Conference, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008**

A conference to consider the Government's proposals for further reform on citizenship. For more details and to express interest e-mail Imran Khan [imran.khan@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:imran.khan@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

**Book Launch, Fragments From The Dark: Women Writing Home and Self in Wales, 20 March 2008 (7pm) at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea** Organised by Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers Support Group

#### **2008 Perrie Lectures- Outsiders Inside: Foreign Nationals, Detention and Crime, 6 June 2008**

Speakers include Donna Covey Chief Executive of the Refugee Council, Jonathan Lindley Strategic Director for Enforcement, Borders and Immigration Agency.

<http://perrielectures.org.uk/index.htm>

**Human Rights for Every Child: 15 March 2008 at Clore Management Centre, Birkbeck College**

Organised by UNISON and the British Association of Social Workers and looking at refugee, asylum seeker, migrant and trafficked children. Email [dave@abelard.org.uk](mailto:dave@abelard.org.uk) for details.

**Call for films**

*Refuge in Films 2008* is now receiving submissions of new films about refugees and immigration matters. Last year the festival screened 30 films, from refugee community productions to mainstream films. **Deadline: 21 March 2008.** Email [refugeeinfilms@gmail.com](mailto:refugeeinfilms@gmail.com) for further information.

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

For WRC Vacancies Visit <http://www.welshrefugeecouncil.org/jobs.php>

For Career Wales Vacancies Visit <http://www.careerswales.com/>

| For Welsh Assembly Government Vacancies Visit [www.assemblywales.org/recruitment](http://www.assemblywales.org/recruitment)