



Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin 11/9/07

This new 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

WRC Website goes live, 10/9/07

Welsh Refugee Council's Website was launched on the 10th September.
<http://www.welshrefugeecouncil.org/>

Scottish Parliament Debate on Asylum, 5/9/07 UK

The Scottish Parliament had a positive debate on Asylum on the 5th September. Issues discussed included asylum seeking children accessing funding for higher and further education, the right to work and the legacy review.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-07/sor0905-02.htm#Col1413>

Assembly Government acts to curb child trafficking, 28/8/07 W

Deputy Health Minister, Gwenda Thomas launched a new drive to combat child trafficking on the 28th August. The Welsh Assembly Government will publish draft guidance for professionals with the aim of making them more aware of the increasing trade and helping to safeguard children who may have been trafficked.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/presreleasearchive/1638652/?lang=en>

First Minister marks the International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, 23/8/07 W

First Minister, Rhodri Morgan participated in commemorations to mark the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on the 23rd August in Swansea.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/presreleasearchive/1636581/?lang=en>

Removals to Democratic Republic of Congo halted, 23/8/07 UK

The High Court ruled on the 23rd August that all removals to the Democratic Republic of Congo should be stopped, pending an asylum and immigration tribunal (AIT) hearing in September to evaluate whether DR Congo is a fit country to return asylum seekers.

<http://www.ncadc.org.uk/neswzin85/DRC23rd.htm>

Case Resolution Questionnaires, 16/8/07 UK

The first case resolution decisions have been made and people have already started receiving decision letters. There has been some misinformation with regard to case resolution forms and how long people have to return them. The BIA website is apparently incorrect; it is NOT 21 working days, but rather 21 CALENDAR DAYS to return the forms. This information should be corrected on the BIA website soon.

BIA FAQs:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/asylum/casesresolutionprogrammefaq/>

More than a billion pledged to strengthen border programme, 01/8/07 UK

The UK government has pledged to invest more than £1b in its electronic borders programme.

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/morethanabillionpledged>

****Documents****

Integration loans, 29/8/07 UK

A leaflet explaining how refugees and people with humanitarian protection can apply for integration loans to start their new life in the UK. The leaflet is available in 20 languages from the Refugee Council's multi-lingual website <http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>

IAP submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry on the treatment of asylum seekers, 10/8/07, UK

The, IAP submission to the Joint Committee on Human Rights inquiry on the treatment of asylum seekers written last year by Sarah Martin, is now on the IAP page of the Refugee Council's website

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2007/JCHRevidence.htm>

Determining the duty to look after unaccompanied children under the Children Act 1989 (use of section 17 or section 20), August 2007, UK

This briefing by the Refugee Council explains what the law, government guidance and the judgement known as H and others v Wandsworth and others say about local authorities' duties to provide an adequate level of support to unaccompanied children.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2007/Unaccompanied-children.htm>

Overview and implications of the Government's new asylum model, Updated August 2007, UK

This updated briefing by the Refugee Council presents an outline of the new asylum model and discusses its implementation to date, and outlines its strengths and some concerns.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2007/nam.htm>

Social Exclusion, Refugee Integration, and the Right to Work for Asylum Seekers, July 2007, UK

This policy Paper by the Refugee Council outlines the current context as it relates to the work concession for asylum seekers. It provides a response to each policy before making a set of recommendations.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2007/righttowork.htm>

****Consultations****

Independent Police Complaints Commission Consultation, 26/7/07, Consultation ends 17/10/07, UK

This paper outlines the proposed remit of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in relation to the Border and Immigration Agency and the role they will play in investigating serious complaints and incidents

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/IPCCconsultation>

Draft Quality Requirements for Sexual Health Services in Wales, August 2007, Consultation ends 31/10/07, W

The Welsh Assembly Government is currently consulting on Quality Requirements for Sexual Health Services in Wales as part of the Sexual Health Modernisation Programme.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/healandsoccarecurrcons/1603892/?lang=en>

Stronger in Partnership 2, August 2007, W

The Welsh Assembly Government is currently consulting on a guide to involving mental health service users and their carers in all aspects of designing, planning, developing, delivering, monitoring and evaluation of mental health services in Wales.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/healandsoccarecurrcons/SIP2/?lang=en>

Draft Minority Ethnic Housing Action Plan 2008 – 2011, 27/7/07, Consultation ends 12/10/07 W

This consultation outlines proposals to replace the existing Minority Ethnic Housing Action Plan following recommendations made by the ME National Housing Review Working Group which was established in March 2006.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/housandcomm/minorityhousing/?lang=en>

****Statistics****

Asylum Statistics: 2nd Quarter 2007 United Kingdom, August 2007, UK

The Home Office has published asylum statistics for the second quarter of 2007. They can be downloaded from:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/asylumq207.pdf>

Living in Wales 2006, July 2007, W

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/housing-2007/hdw200707191/?lang=en>

UNHCR 2006 Global Trends: Refugees, Asylum-seekers, Returnees, Internally Displaced and Stateless Persons- updated July 2007

<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics.html>

****Events****

Refugee Employment and Inclusion Conference, Welsh Refugee Council Equal Project, 17/09/07, Cardiff

For further information contact Helen Slee on 029 2048 9800.

Child Poverty and Parenting Much Work Still to be Done Conference, Children in Wales & End Child Poverty Network Cymru, 17/10/07, Cardiff

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/7663.html>

****Vacancies****

Welsh Refugee Council Vacancies

www.welshrefugeecouncil.org/vacancies

Equality and Evaluation Adviser, Careers Wales £19,135 - £25,317pa

For an application form and further details please contact Human Resources, Careers Wales Cardiff & Vale, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff CF10 2GD. Tel 029 2090 6700 or e-mail: personnel@cardiffandvale.org.uk

Closing date: Friday, 21st September 2007