



Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin 15/02/08

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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News

Race equality charity urges people to sign its "Declaration of Unity"

Cardiff-based charity Race Equality First is aiming to collect as many signatures as possible for its "Declaration of Unity" by UN Anti Racism Day on 21 March 2008. The document calls on organisations and individuals across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to reject division in society and for greater understanding and respect between all sections of the community. The Declaration is being widely distributed. Copies can be obtained by calling Race Equality First on 029 2022 4097 or people can sign up on line at www.refweb.org.uk.

Citizen Speak

Citizens Speak has been launched by the Independent Asylum Commission to allow ordinary citizens to contribute to their public consultation on asylum. The closing date for responses is 30 March 2008. <http://www.citizensspeak.org.uk/>

Refugee and Asylum Seeking Children's Project

The Project of the Children's Legal Centre has been re-launched, providing accurate, detailed, and up to date legal information about this area of children's rights. For information on receiving monthly updates please contact Kamena Dorling by email: kadorl@essex.ac.uk

Asylum seekers should have right to work, says children's charity

Children's charity Barnardo's called for asylum seekers to be given the right to work after being in the UK for six months. It says 110,000 children are living in poverty because their parents cannot support themselves by working. Download the report from: <http://www.barnardos.org.uk/asylum>

Condemning the Unborn

British asylum policies are condemning increasing numbers of children to illness, poverty and deprivation before they are even born. <http://www.irr.org.uk/2007/december/ha000009.html>

Home Office to ratify convention against trafficking

Refugee Council welcomed the Home Office's announcement that it will ratify the Council of Europe's Convention Against Trafficking, which includes a review of the UK's 'reservation' that denies asylum-seeking children the rights guaranteed under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/news/press/2008/January/20080114_b.htm

Documents

Human Rights in the UK Annual Report

In its first annual report, the Joint Committee on Human Rights calls on politicians not to use the Human Rights Act as a scapegoat for unpopular decisions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200708/jtselect/jtrights/38/38.pdf>

Women's Asylum News

The Refugee Women's Resource Project (RWRP) at Asylum Aid has published issue no.72 of 'Women's Asylum News'. Download the issue at:http://www.irr.org.uk/pdf/RWRP_Issue_72.pdf

NAM Monitoring

Refugee Council a policy paper based on a survey of asylum seekers' experiences of the New Asylum Model conducted with clients at Refugee Council One Stop Services.

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/position/2008/NAMmonitoring.htm>

New Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) Publications

The BIA of the Home Office has published '*The Independent Police Complaints Commission oversight of Border and Immigration Agency incidents and complaints - analysis of responses*'. Download the report at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/closedconsultations/ipccconsultation/consultationdocument.pdf?view=Binary>

The BIA of the Home Office has published '*The Independent Police Complaints Commission oversight of Border and Immigration Agency incidents and complaints - policy statement*'.

Download the policy statement at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/closedconsultations/ipccconsultation/ipccpolicystatement?view=Binary>

The BIA of the Home Office has published a '*Statement of changes in immigration rules*'.

Download the statement at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/statementsofchanges/2008/hc321.pdf?view=Binary>

The BIA of the Home Office has published a summary of responses to a recent consultation on unaccompanied asylum seeking children: '*Better outcomes: the way forward improving the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking children*'. Download the report at:

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/closedconsultations/uasc/betteroutcomes.pdf?view=Binary>

The Border and Immigration Agency of the Home Office has published details of a consultation which ends on 24 April 2008: '*The Border and Immigration Agency code of practice for keeping children safe from harm consultation*'. Download details of the consultation at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/keepingchildrensafe/uasc_codeofpractice.pdf?view=Binary

Freedom of Information 2000 Disclosures

The Home Office has released information on '*The Border and Immigration Agency's Case Resolution Directorate*'. View the information at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/released-information/foi-archive-immigration/8486-case-resolution>

****Consultations****

The Government has launched a consultation on ESOL funding priorities. The closing date for the consultation is Friday 4 April 2008. View the consultation details at:

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

Social Justice's Asylum Enquiry

The Centre for Social Justice, chaired by Iain Duncan Smith MP, has recently launched a Policy Group on Asylum. The Asylum Policy Group will be looking at the issue of Destitution and highlighting some of the problems within the system. They are keen to hear your experiences, comments or concerns which can be emailed to: Katie.garner@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk. The document can be downloaded from (page 9):

<http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/client/downloads/policyLaunchBrochure.pdf>

****Events****

Intercultural Cities Conference, Liverpool

As part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, **the** Intercultural Cities Conference, will look at migration, diversity **and** urban life in a fresh way. New thinking is needed on how diverse communities can co-operate in productive harmony instead of leading parallel or antagonistic lives. Full details can be found at <http://inter.culture.info/icc> including the early bird booking fee, only available until 31 March

****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

Regards

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www.welshrefugeecouncil.org

Empowering refugees and asylum seekers to rebuild their lives in Wales

Ymbweru ffoaduriaid i ailadeiladu eu bywydau yng Nghymru

Refugee Week 16 - 22 June 2008

Wythnos Ffoaduriaid 16-22 Mehefin 2008

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