



Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin 13/12/07

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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info@welshrefugeecouncil.org

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News

Still Human Still Here – Watch the Film

Amnesty International UK has produced an excellent 11-minute film, which tells of the urgency for action to end the destitution of people refused asylum. It is a really excellent resource to help convince people of the need for change. Watch the film at <http://www.stillhuman.org.uk>

Refugees in to Teaching

Refugee Council has launched a brand new website with comprehensive information for refugee teachers, educational institutions and providers. The site is the online hub for the '*Refugees into Teaching*' project, which aims to get refugee teachers back into teaching. <http://www.refugeesintoteaching.org.uk/>

Documents

Are You Destitute and at the End of the Asylum Process?

Refugee Council's multilingual leaflet has been updated to reflect changes in legislation and procedures. It can be downloaded in 19 languages from:
<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/multilingual/advisers/support/section4.htm>

Country of Origin Information and Women: Researching Gender and Persecution in the Context of Asylum and Human Rights Claims

The report provides structured information in approaching research, rather than legal matters, in a woman's case. It covers: what COI is and how it is used within the determination process, the difficulties women experience in substantiating their claim, types of gender related harm and their impact on women. Copies of this guide are available to download from:
<http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/>

Autumn Performance Report

The Home Office has published its 2007 report which includes information on targets for reducing the number of unfounded asylum applications. The report can be downloaded from <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/publications/our-service-to-you/>

The Housing Pathways of New Immigrants

A new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation looked at refugee and migrant housing in Sheffield, and found that far from taking housing from British families as parts of the media suggest, asylum seekers generally live in poor quality social housing that no-one else wants. <http://www.jrf.org.uk/bookshop/eBooks/2103-housing-immigration-asylum.pdf>

Asylum is Not Gender Neutral: a Practical Advocacy Guide for Protecting Women Seeking Asylum

Published jointly by RWRP and the European Women's Lobby this lobbying tool is aimed at NGOs across the European Union to encourage their governments to interpret the EU Qualification and Procedures Directives in a gender-sensitive way by using the UNHCR Gender Guidelines. Download it from:

http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/70/Asylum_is_not_gender_neutral.pdf

Pathways to Justice: BMER Women, Violence and the Law - Rights of Women

This practical, accessible guide explores the legal rights of black, minority ethnic and refugee (BMER) women including women seeking asylum. *Pathways to Justice* is available for £12 (includes P&P) from Rights of Women, 52-54 Featherstone Street, London, EC1Y 8RT or online at www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Disclosures

Under the Freedom of Information Act the Ministry of Justice has released information on: '*Reasons for adjournments of Asylum and Immigration Tribunal hearings*'. Download the information at: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/foi-asylum-immigration.htm>

****Consultations****

English Test for Spouses

Home Office consultation paper seeks views on the proposal to introduce an English test for spouses joining partners for settlement in the UK. The paper seeks views on such questions as whether the pre-entry test should be online or oral, the level of English to be required and views on the purpose of this requirement.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/6356/17715/englishforspouseconsultation.pdf>

Raising Age of Sponsors

A further consultation paper, which proposes to raise the age at which someone can sponsor or be sponsored for settlement on the basis of marriage from 18 to 21.

<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/6356/17715/forcedmarriageconsultation.pdf>

Simplifying Immigration Law: Responses to the Initial Consultation Paper

The Simplification Project (Border & Immigration Agency) has published the results from their initial consultation on simplifying immigration law. The document is also available to download from: <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/closedconsultations>.

Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 - Relevant Third Party

The new consultation paper is the first step to implementing fully the range of protections afforded by the legislation. It asks what types of people or organisations should be able to apply direct to the courts for the safeguards to be applied in individual cases. Details can be downloaded from:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp3107.htm>

****Events****

Welsh Artists Aim to Make a Difference in Darfur, Cardiff - 14/12/07

The 'Arts Call for Darfur' project created in partnership with Save the Children will be launched on between 2.00 - 6.00pm at Butetown History and Arts Centre in Cardiff Bay. For more details: http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/en/41_4001.htm

Refugee Employment & Inclusion Seminar, Wrexham - 18/12/07

In partnership with Refugee Voice Wales, Welsh Refugee Council Equal Project Team are organising this FREE seminar funded partly by the ESF Equal Programme. For further information please contact Banire Sy Savane on 029 2043 2990
banire.sy.savane@welshrefugeecouncil.org

AWETU AGM, Cardiff - 09/01/08

Are looking for people with the following skills to become committee members: leadership & management, human resource & planning, charity finance & accounting, working with volunteers, quality management, fundraising & marketing, operational planning and service delivery, campaigning, and mental health. For more information, ring 029 2048 8002.

A free One-day Conference for Anyone Involved with Refugee Week, London - 15/02/08

As part of the development of Refugee Week throughout the UK, a one-day conference is being organised where those involved in events can share their experiences and ideas with others. There is no charge for attendance- please call 020 7346 6752 for further details.

UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Cardiff - 12/03/08

To celebrate next year's UN Day the Croeso Project is hosting an event between 11am and 12am in the foyer of the Senedd in Cardiff. If you would like any more information about the UN Day or any of the events planned in March please contact the Croeso Team on 029 2066 3710 or at croeso@equalityhumanrights.com

****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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Ymwadiad

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