



## \*\*\*Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin\*\*\* 20/11/07

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\*\*

#### New Film on Destitution

Documentary maker Nick Broomfield has made a new short film for Amnesty International to highlight the issue of destitute refused asylum seekers in the UK. <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10398>

#### Refugee Council Pod Casts

Refugee Council has just launched their new pod cast series on vulnerable women which brings to light some poignant stories of refugee and asylum seeking women. [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/vulnerablewomen](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/vulnerablewomen)

#### Border Controls Boosted By New Technology and Unified Structure

Immigration, customs and visa checks will be united in a new UK Border Agency, it was announced today. At the same time the Government announced a £1.2bn programme to strengthen the UK's offshore border controls with new passenger screening technology. <http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/bordercontrolsboosted>

#### Changes to Student Rules - Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

From 30 November 2007 the academic technology approval scheme (ATAS) will become a mandatory requirement within the Immigration Rules for students intending to enter or remain in the United Kingdom for more than 6 months to undertake postgraduate studies or research in certain designated subjects.

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

#### Points Based System - English Language Tests

From 2008, a points based system will begin to operate in the United Kingdom. This will manage the flow of individuals wishing to come to or remain in the United Kingdom to work, train or study.

[http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/pbs\\_englishlanguagetests](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/pbs_englishlanguagetests)

#### Big Lottery Grant Paves the Way for Social and Medical Research

Big Lottery fund is making up to £25 million available for high quality social and medical research projects across the UK. Third sector organisations are able to apply for grants for up to five years from the programme, which will be administered by Momenta and supported by Third Sector First. Momenta have developed an online application process which can be accessed at: [www.bigresearchprogramme.org.uk](http://www.bigresearchprogramme.org.uk).

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

### **Multilingual Information Leaflet**

Refugee Council's multi-lingual information leaflet, '*Are you destitute and at the end of the asylum process?*' has been updated to reflect changes in legislation and procedures. It can be downloaded in 19 languages:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/multilingual/advisers/support/section4.htm>

### **Asylum Rights Watch -Summary of Responses June – September 2007**

This report summarises the issues and observations most frequently highlighted in the surveys submitted between June and October 2007, illustrated by extracts from the submissions.

[http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/67/Asylum\\_Rights\\_Watch\\_Summary\\_report\\_Oct\\_07.pdf](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/data/files/publications/67/Asylum_Rights_Watch_Summary_report_Oct_07.pdf)

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

This publication offers practical guidance in undertaking research on women's gender related claims, based on our experience of working directly with women asylum seekers, their legal representatives and supporters.

[http://www.harpweb.org.uk/external.php?url=http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP\\_RRP\\_WAN.htm&harpid=1986](http://www.harpweb.org.uk/external.php?url=http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP_RRP_WAN.htm&harpid=1986)

### **Sexual Health, Asylum Seekers and Refugees - A Handbook for People Working With Refugees and Asylum Seekers in England**

This book is aimed at organisations and individuals working with refugees and asylum seekers on sexual health issues.

[http://www.harpweb.org.uk/external.php?url=http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP\\_RRP\\_WAN.htm&harpid=1986](http://www.harpweb.org.uk/external.php?url=http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/New%20RWRP/RWRP_RRP_WAN.htm&harpid=1986)

### **Towards A Progressive Immigration Policy**

This Compass report argues the immigration debate must be re-framed to welcome the economic and social benefits that come from migration but also acknowledge our responsibility to protect the rights of migrants.

<http://clients.squareeye.com/uploads/compass/documents/TowardsAProgressiveImmigrationPolicy.pdf>

### **Volunteering Works - Volunteering & Social Policy**

New report from Volunteering England that demonstrates the positive impact of volunteering in five key policy areas: development; safer and stronger communities; social inclusion; quality of life and lifelong learning. Includes brief reference to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

[http://www.volunteering.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4D138A1D-022E-4570-9866-B8E3A4F86C20/0/Final\\_Volunteering\\_Works.pdf](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4D138A1D-022E-4570-9866-B8E3A4F86C20/0/Final_Volunteering_Works.pdf)

### **Asylum in the European Union - A Study of the Implementation of the Qualification Directive**

UNHCR has published a study on the implementation of the European Union's "*Qualification Directive*". The Study looks at how key provisions of this Directive are implemented in five Member States (France, Germany, Greece, Slovak Republic and Sweden).

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=473050632>

### **International Migration, 2006**

Estimates of Total International Migration for 2006 were published on 15 November 2007 by the ONS. Data for previous years was revised at the same time due to a change in methodology. Full details are available from

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/cci/nugget.asp?id=260>

### **Pathways to Justice: BMER Women, Violence and the Law (2007)**

Rights of Women have published a book entitled Pathways to Justice. It provides coverage of issues including forced marriage, female genital mutilation, immigration and asylum, trafficking, child abduction and honour crimes.

<http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/publications.html>

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

### **Refugee Employment**

Refugee Council's Response to the Department of Work and Pensions' Consultation on the Green Paper '*In work, better off: next steps to full employment*'.

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

### **ESOL Funding**

Briefing paper on 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' and Further Education Funding Changes 2007/08 announced by the Learning and Skills Council.

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

### **The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2008 and the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (Fast Track Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2008**

A consultation paper proposing amendments to clarify existing rules and procedures, and to incorporate case law into the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's Procedure Rules and Fast Track Procedure Rules. One amendment is required as a result of primary legislation. <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/cp2907.htm>

### **Lord Goldsmith QC Citizenship Review**

Lord Goldsmith has launched a review of British citizenship to clarify the legal rights and responsibilities associated with British citizenship, in addition to those enjoyed under the Human Rights Act, as a basis for defining what it means to be a citizen in Britain's open democratic society. More information about the review & how to take part in it can be found at:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/citizenship.htm>

### **Procedures Directive**

Refugee Council response to UK Implementation of Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 laying down minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status.

[http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2007/procedures\\_directive.htm](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2007/procedures_directive.htm)

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

#### **Allah Made Me Funny, Cardiff - 23/11/07**

The official Muslim comedy tour – featuring Preacher Moss/Azhar Usman/Mo Amer coming to Wales at The Gate Theatre, Keppoch Street, Roath, CF24 3JW. For tickets telephone: 02920 483344 or email: [info@ammftour.com](mailto:info@ammftour.com) or click onto: [www.allahmademefunny.com](http://www.allahmademefunny.com)

#### **Migrants Resource Centre Annual General Meeting, London - 26/11/07**

The Migrants Resource Centre's Annual General Meeting will be show their new film 'Torn' and having a discussion on the theme: 'Migration: an informed debate' with guest speakers. RSVP To confirm your attendance or for more information please contact Jasmin Bukic on: [jasmin@migrants.org.uk](mailto:jasmin@migrants.org.uk) or 020 7384 2505

#### **Building Communities Conference, London - 28/11/07**

A conference that seek to clarify the legislative background to refugee integration and examine current policy and practice in this area; establishing it both as a critical issue in its own right and as an essential element within the wider context of community cohesion. For further information, please email [marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk) or telephone 020 7346 6737 [www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/conferences](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/conferences)

#### **The Final Independent Asylum Commission Public Hearing, London - 29/11/07**

A full report will be published in 2008 making key recommendations for reform based on the evidence presented from all public hearings. For further information see:

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

#### **Migrants – Responding To Local Needs, Cardiff - 10/12/07**

Race Equality First and the WLGA would like to invite you to take part in an 'Economic Migrants – Responding to Local Needs' event focused on migrant workers and access to public services in Cardiff. For more details contact; Alicja Zalesinska, 029 2022 4097

[Alicja.outreach@raceequalityfirst.org.uk](mailto:Alicja.outreach@raceequalityfirst.org.uk)

#### **Older Refugees: From Isolation to Integration, London - 09/01/08**

This conference will focus on the issues, challenges and service needs of older refugees and asylum-seekers. To register your interest in attending this conference, please email [refugees@ace.org.uk](mailto:refugees@ace.org.uk) or call 020 8765 7523.

## **\*\*Training\*\***

### **DPIA's Readiness for Work Training, Swansea**

Food Hygiene Free Training For refugees and asylum seekers 06/12/07

Health and Safety Awareness and CIEH Principles of Manual Handling 12/12/07

Contact: Minkesh Sood [minkeshdpiawales@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:minkeshdpiawales@yahoo.co.uk) 02920 388 389 or 07973 997 814 (Places are limited so contact and book early please)

## **\*\*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)

## **Regards**

### **Sherrie Marquis**

Communications & Information Officer/Swyddog Cyfathrebu a Gwybodaeth

Cydgysylltydd Wythnos Ffoaduriaid Cymru

Welsh Refugee Council / Cyngor Ffoaduriaid Cymru

Tel / Ffôn: 029 2043 2995

Switchboard / Swistfwrdd: 029 2048 9800 Mobile / Sym: 07977 564 743

[www.welshrefugeecouncil.org](http://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 18-24 Mehefin 2007

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