



Welsh Refugee Council Information E-bulletin 28/9/07

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

Urgent demonstration in Cardiff in support of peaceful protestors – Friday 28 September W

Time: 17:00 – 18:00 Venue: Nye Bevan Statue, Queen Street, Cardiff
To confirm attendance contact wales@amnesty.org.uk or call 02920 786415

New CEHR launches on Monday, 1/10/07 UK

The new Commission for Equality and Human Rights which will replace the 3 equality bodies which currently exist in the UK, will be launched on Monday 1st October. You can visit the interim website for the Commission for further information.

Refugee Skills Audit report launch 17/9/07 W

The first Refugee Skills Audit report in Wales was launched in a conference on Refugee Employment and Inclusion on Monday 17th September in Cardiff. The report can be downloaded from the WRC website.
www.welshrefugeecouncil.org

Home Secretary announces chair of Migration Advisory Committee, 12/9/07 UK

Professor David Metcalf has been appointed as the Chair of the new Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).
<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/chaiofmac>

Wales Office of Research And Development Funding Opportunity, September 2007 W

Wales Office of Research and Development has re opened the call for applications under the Health Research Studentship strand of the 2007 Research Funding Scheme call. Guidance and application forms can be obtained

through the links below. Further information available from: <http://www.word.wales.gov.uk/content/research/index-e.htm>

Fastest: Fast Accessible Simple Testing for HIV

Fastest is a free and confidential 1-hour HIV testing service offered by the Terrence Higgins Trust Cymru, every Tuesday from 6-8pm at Canton House, 435-451 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1JH. The testing clinics are run in partnership with staff members from Cardiff Royal Infirmary GUM department so there are trained health professionals present at clinics. They provide counselling both before and after the test results. There is no need to book an appointment as the service is offered on a 'first come, first served' basis. It is worthwhile arriving early to ensure that you can be seen as the number of tests that we can do per evening is limited. The Terrence Higgins Trust is an HIV and sexual health charity offering support to people living with HIV and working to prevent the spread of HIV. They are willing to come and talk to groups about Fastest and to send posters and leaflets to those who would like some for distribution to community members. For further information please contact: Towela Munthali at the THT Cymru Cardiff office on: 029 2066 6465 or visit: <http://info.tht.org.uk/fastest/cardiff.asp>

****Documents****

Immigration under new Labour, 26/9/07 UK

A new book called Immigration under new Labour by Will Somerville of the Migration Policy Institute was published this week. Information on how to order a copy can be found on http://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/2007_09_25.php

Inter-agency Partnership reply to the Home Office's response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights enquiry into the treatment of asylum seekers, September 2007 UK

The IAP reply to the Home Office's response to the JCHR enquiry into the treatment of asylum seekers is now available to download. Visit: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2007/ReplytoHomeOffice.htm>

New multilingual information on case resolution, August 2007

A leaflet explaining what asylum seekers need to do when they receive a questionnaire from the Case Resolution Directorate at the Home Office. It is available in English and 18 other languages. <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/multilingual/advisers/support/case-resolution.htm>

****Consultations****

Safeguarding Children from Abuse and Neglect linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession, September 2007- Consultation ends 14/10/07 W

WAG is currently consulting on draft guidance for all agencies on good practice relating to safeguarding children from abuse and neglect linked to a belief in spirit possession. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/childrenyoungpeople/1656917/?lang=en>

Safeguarding Children who may have been Trafficked, September 2007- Consultation ends 14/10/07 W

WAG is currently consulting on good practice guidance for all professionals involved in safeguarding children who may have been trafficked. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/childrenyoungpeople/1656915/?lang=en>

Local Vision, Preparing Community Strategies - Consultation Draft September 2007- Consultation ends 23/11/07 W

WAG is consulting on draft community strategy guidance, and outline proposals for a potential duty to co-operate in community planning. <http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/locgovcurrcons/localvisionpreparingcommunity/?lang=en>

****Events****

Fair Trade Wales conference, 27/10/07 W

The Fair Trade Wales conference is being held on 27th October this year in NEWI, Wrexham. For more information please contact Mark Richardson on 07766 015 664 or visit www.fairtradewales.com

Health of Black and Ethnic Minority Communities Seminar, 30/10/07 UK

This seminar will take place at Mumtaz Restaurant, Great Horton Road Bradford on the 30th October from 11am - 5pm. Visit <http://www.sochealth.co.uk/confs/Booking.htm> to book your place.

Building Communities: Equality and diversity in action, 7 November 2007, Leeds & Met Hotel Leeds, LS1 2HQ, 28/11/07, London UK

These two distinct conferences are set in the context of the new Home Office model for processing asylum applications and its proposals for national refugee integration services; the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's report, *Our shared future*; and the launch of the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. The events will call for the distinct needs and experiences of refugees to be reflected in these developments and captured in policy making. <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/conferences/>

Newport Mela 10/11/07 W

Newport Local Health Board are hosting a Mela (festival) at Newport Leisure Centre on the 10th November. Various groups will be attending on the day and advertising their services and/or recruiting volunteers. All aspects of health promotion will be promoted on the day along with dance and fashion shows, a free buffet and crèche will be provided. The theme of the event is culture and we are hoping to have some acts on stage during the day. For further information contact Zunaira Hassan on 01633 261458

Hopes & Reality III – A joint TPAS Cymru and TPAS Scotland Conference, St David's Hotel & Spa, Cardiff Bay, 15-17th February 2008

Hopes & Realities is a series of conferences to exchange experiences from devolution, and in particular the differing approaches and developments in housing, in Scotland and Wales. Contact 02920 237303 or gail@tpascymru.org.uk for more information

Banner Theatre Autumn Tour dates

Banner Theatre is touring its new multimedia documentary theatre production "They get free mobiles . . . don't they?" busting the media-generated myths about refugees and asylum seekers. The tour dates are available from www.bannertheatre.co.uk

****Vacancies****

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