

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)[Migration](#)[Events](#)[Funding](#)[Jobs](#)

The Newsflash is a monthly round up of publications, information, events, funding and jobs relating to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers for anyone who wants to keep up to date with the latest developments.

The newsflash is produced by the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership.

Asylum Seekers and Refugees - including Syrian resettlement

Home Office press release – 5,000 refugees arrive since Syrian resettlement scheme expanded

Under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme, over 1,200 refugees arrived in the final 3 months of 2016, meaning 5,454 people have been given refuge since the government pledged to resettle 20,000 refugees by 2020. Syrian refugees are now being housed by more than 200 local authorities across the United Kingdom. Please follow this link to read the press release in full: [5,000 refugees arrive since Syrian scheme expanded - GOV.UK](#). The Home Secretary made a visit to meet Syrian families who have been settled in Ashford. Please follow this link to read a press release of this event: [Home Secretary meets Syrian families given protection in the UK - GOV.UK](#)

The Home Office's Immigration Statistics October – December 2016 released

This data release provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control. The release is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016>. They also published 'Statistics on changes in migrants' visa and leave status: 2015'. Formerly known as the 'Migrant journey', this release is the seventh in a series that explore migrants' journeys through the UK's immigration system. The release is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistics-on-changes-in-migrants-visa-and-leave-status-2015>

UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) exemption certificates - NHS Business Services Authority to take over responsibility for providing HC2 certificates to asylum seekers

The NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) is a Special Health Authority and an Arm's Length Body of the Department of Health. UKVI, The Department of Health and the NHSBSA have agreed that the NHSBSA will take on responsibility for providing HC2 certificates to asylum seekers entitled to support from UKVI. The NHSBSA will print and distribute the HC2 certificates and will use the data provided by UKVI. This should reduce or eliminate the risk of asylum seekers incorrectly receiving a Penalty Charge Notice.

UNHCR Woman on the Move Award – winner is a British Yazidi anti-FGM campaigner from Oxford

Refugee is not my name. My name is Eden. To find out more about those honoured at the awards' ceremony, please follow this link: [UNHCR - "Refugee is not my name. My name is Eden."](#)

Women for Refugee Women report – The Way Ahead: an asylum system without detention

This report is described as outlining 'a vision for what a better asylum system, one that doesn't rely on detention, should look like.' It looks at the systems in other countries and what can work, in order to halt the detention of the 2,000 asylum seeking women detained every year in the UK. The report argues that immigration and asylum systems that are based on support and engagement are much more humane than those that rely on enforcement and detention. Research also shows they are cheaper, and more effective. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/2016/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/The-Way-Ahead-report-WEB.pdf>

New analysis of UK asylum system published by Refugee Council

The report forms part of the Asylum Information Database; a project coordinated by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles which aims to provide up to date information on asylum practice in 20 countries. The UK report gives an overview of the asylum procedure and draws together relevant facts and figures relating to refugees and people seeking asylum in Britain. It also assesses a variety of changing policies and practice, including examining the implications of the Immigration Act 2016; highlighting a mounting body of evidence of the Government's failure to provide integration support to newly recognised refugees; and discussing developments to the way the UK shares responsibility for caring for unaccompanied children around the country. Please follow this link to read the press release and to access the complete report: [New analysis of UK asylum system published](#)

Department of Education's consultation for care of unaccompanied and trafficked children

This consultation is now open but closes for comments on **17 March**. It is an opportunity for councils to voice their opinions on how the guidance, national transfer scheme and Modern Slavery Act is each working for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. <https://consult.education.gov.uk/children-in-care/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children/>

Refugee Action report finds refugees wait up to two years for English lessons

The charity's Let Refugees Learn campaign is calling on the Government to provide full and equal access to English language lessons for all refugees. Its research showing the worsening state of ESOL provision in England comes amid a growing body of evidence finding that learning English is vital for effective integration. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Refugees forced to wait up to two years for English lessons - Refugee Action](#)

Migration Policy Institute report - Strengthening local education systems for newly arrived adults and children: empowering cities through better use of EU instruments

This report examines the challenges that cities face when helping new arrivals access education and training. Cities only have competence over limited areas of education policy, leaving many unable to respond quickly to rapid population changes or make structural changes, such as to teacher recruitment and training, to adapt to the needs of diverse populations. Many European cities are facing capacity and infrastructure challenges associated with large-scale arrivals; others are struggling to stretch budgets that were established on the basis of outdated population figures. The report explores innovative ways municipalities support newly arrived migrants as they enter the education system and local labour force, including two-generation and co-located services through which parents and children can access child care, health and social services, and language training in one location. Others have developed 'whole-place' approaches that work across all local services to address the whole education-to-work pathway. The authors outline ways in which the European level could help mitigate multilevel governance challenges and scale what works, as well as strategies the Partnership on Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees could consider to better support cities in their immediate response to large migrant influxes. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

[Strengthening local education systems for newly arrived adults and children: Empowering cities through better use of EU instruments](#)

Coram Children's Legal Centre - Migrant Children's Project Newsletter February 2017

This latest newsletter reports on the closure of the government's 'Dubs' scheme for refugee children, highlights a new factsheet on separated children joining families in the UK and a new storytelling project for children who have arrived alone in the UK to help them tell their stories. There are then links to training courses, news and links to the latest reports. Please follow this link to read the newsletter in full: [MCP February newsletter - end of the Dubs scheme, how to help children already here & more...](#)

European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE): 3 March newsletter – highlights Home Office’s guidelines on gay asylum seekers from Afghanistan

Please follow this link to access the newsletter, scroll down to read the article about Home Office guidance on Afghan gay asylum-seekers who are expected to conceal their sexual orientation to avoid persecution when sent back: [Once we were tearing down walls, EU eyeing up Tunisia for next migration deal?, Germany plans to strengthen returns amid deportations to Afghanistan](#)

Migration Policy Institute report – improving the labour market integration of migrants and refugees: empowering cities through better use of EU instruments

This report examines the barriers that cities face when helping new arrivals - refugees in particular - integrate successfully into the local labour market. Cities provide an array of critical services to newcomers, including language training, skills assessments and orientation, mentoring and placement services, alternative pathways to employment (such as entrepreneurship), credential recognition and vocational education and training. Yet funding constraints, differing priorities at different levels of governance and limited capacity to evaluate and prioritise what works hamper cities’ ability to effectively deliver services. The report identifies concrete actions that could be taken to better leverage EU soft law, funding and knowledge exchange mechanisms to support cities’ activities in this area. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Improving the labour market integration of migrants and refugees: Empowering cities through better use of EU instruments](#)

HM Inspector of Prisons – unannounced inspection report on Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Brook House and a neighbouring immigration removal centre (IRC), Tinsley House, are both operated by G4S and are collectively known as Gatwick IRC. Brook House was holding just under 400 adult male detainees during the inspection. As with all IRCs, the major challenge for staff was to manage the frustration felt by many detainees at the length of their detention and the uncertainty surrounding their future. The centre was assessed as “reasonably good” in all four healthy establishment tests: safety, respect, activities and preparation for removal or release. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Brook House Immigration Removal Centre – clear improvements](#)

Migration Policy Institute report - Unlocking Skills: Successful Initiatives for Integrating Foreign-Trained Immigrant Professionals

This report looks at a range of frontline programs and policy reforms in the US that are providing cutting-edge career navigation, relicensing, gap filling, and job search assistance for foreign-trained professionals in a wide range of occupations. It also examines different state policy and licensing contexts that affect these highly skilled individuals, with a focus on the dense thicket of state laws and regulations that slow or prevent qualified individuals from practicing in a wide range of occupations. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Unlocking Skills: Successful Initiatives for Integrating Foreign-Trained Immigrant Professionals | migrationpolicy.org](#)

Migration Policy Institute report - Rebuilding after Crisis: Embedding Refugee Integration in Migration Management Systems

The report signals that over the next five years, governments and humanitarian actors will be judged by their ability to transition from the provision of short-term, emergency care to the creation of long-term opportunities. This will entail getting refugees into work and their children into school—and ensuring both have the chance to succeed, wherever they are. The report analyzes how best to support positive integration outcomes among refugees while not undermining the integrity of asylum and migration systems. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Rebuilding after Crisis: Embedding Refugee Integration in Migration Management Systems | migrationpolicy.org](#)

Government debate in Westminster Hall - UK policy on torture and the treatment of asylum claims

The debate looked at what the government does to ensure that it is doing all it can with respect to handling asylum cases involving evidence of torture. Please follow this link to read details of the debate in full: [Torture and the Treatment of Asylum Claims - Hansard Online](#)

Migration

Foreign spouse income rules do not breach human rights – Supreme Court, plus responses to ruling

The Supreme Court has ruled that the Family Migration Rules do not breach the UK's obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, including Article 8 concerning the right to family and private life. The court added that the Home Office's rules and instructions [failed to take full account of their legal duties in respect to the children involved](#) or to allow alternative sources of funding to be considered.

Please follow this link to read a statement on the ruling from Migrants' Rights Network: [STATEMENT: Winning the right to live with your family #MMcase #DividedFamilies | Migrants' Rights Network \(MRN\)](#)

Please follow this for an article from IPPR in the Telegraph: [Immigration by numbers is failing families. Brexit must not leave them in the lurch](#)

House of Lords European Union Committee publishes report - Brexit: UK-EU movement of people

The Committee have warned that restoration of national control over EU migration may not deliver a reduction in overall net migration or provide a quick fix for low wages. The report examines possible arrangements that could replace freedom of movement and their implications. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [House of Lords - Brexit: UK-EU movement of people - European Union Committee](#)

Office for National Statistics data release - National Insurance number (NINo) allocations to adult overseas nationals to December 2016

This quarterly report contains data on NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK. Full statistics on NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK are available from [Stat-Xplore](#). The summary tables, derived from Stat-Xplore, show NINo allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK by:

- quarter of registration and world region – January 2002 to December 2016
- region and local authority by world area – registrations year to December 2016
- top 20 registrations by nationality – year to December 2016

Please follow this link to read the data release in full: [National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals to December 2016 - GOV.UK](#)

IPPR report - Regionalising migration: The North East as a case study

The North East has relatively high unemployment, low productivity, and skills shortages in a number of key areas. Its post-industrial difficulties are also likely to be exacerbated by demographic trends: its population is growing slowly but ageing rapidly. This report sets out how a tailored, regionalised approach to migration could address some of these challenges, and ensure that in future migration complements the skills base of existing workers. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Regionalising migration: The North East as a case study | IPPR](#)

Big Society funding for Portuguese-speaking heritage project: Portuguese roots

This new project will explore and record Portuguese cultural traditions and migrant history in the east of England. This collaborative project will work with groups in Peterborough, Suffolk and Norfolk and will be launched in April. Follow this link for the latest on the project: [www.portuguese-roots.org](#) and get in touch with Mark if you'd like to be involved on twitter: [@Portugueseroots](#) or e: mark@bigsocietyfunding.org

Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit: Children First, migrant second - Precarious Citizenship: Unseen, Settled and Alone – The Legal and Protection Needs of 'Undocumented' Children and Young People in England and Wales

This report presents the findings of over four years of specialist casework with 52 children and young people whose lives have been affected by being 'undocumented' – unable to prove that they are British or otherwise lawfully allowed to remain in the UK. The research found the children experienced protracted and interconnected socio-legal problems, rendering them vulnerable and lacking effective support. In the context of LASPO and other austerity-driven cuts to public services, the government's 'hostile environment' strategy and the ever-shifting field of immigration and asylum law, undocumented children and young people are falling through bureaucratic, legislative and systemic cracks that are not covered by the asylum system, mainstream welfare services or existing children's legislation and procedural guidelines. Please follow this link to read the report in full: [Children First, Migrants Second - Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit](#)

Cities of Migration newsletter for February issued

The newsletter features examples of good ideas in practice in cities across the globe as they adapt, adjust and derive benefits from new migrant communities. The newsletter features articles about a media campaign to address unemployment and underemployment amongst migrants in Germany, a health screening programme for Syrians in Toronto and a housing scheme for young people and refugees in Amsterdam. Please follow this link to read the newsletter in full: [Cities of Migration Newsletter, No. 67, February 2017](#)

Events

Organising Portuguese migrant workers - Interpart Project from the TUC – 21 March, London

This is the second workshop in this project to support Portuguese migrant workers (the first was held in Great Yarmouth and the final one will also be held in the East of England). The workshop is free to attend and will be held at Congress House, Great Russell Street London on **between 3 and 7pm**. Refreshments, and English/Portuguese interpretation will be provided. The workshop will be informal, presented by a trade union tutor, and with the participation of trade union officials from the CGTP, a Portuguese trade union confederation, and SERTUC, the TUC region for the East of England. Participants will be asked to complete an anonymous questionnaire on their experiences working in the UK and the results of these will be used to develop strategies and tools that will help migrant workers organise and improve their working lives in the UK. Attendees are welcome if they are: Migrant workers - Local trade union representatives and officers - Community activists. If you would like to attend, please register at sertuc@tuc.org.uk The impact of the vote in the Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Community will be a key thread through the session.

Celebrating Languages in Cambridge – 22 March, Cambridge

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum is supporting the University of Cambridge on a research project which looks into the benefits of multilingualism. There is a range of local communities who experience multilingualism on a daily basis relating to questions of identity and cultural expression, language learning, institutional interactions with schools etc. Cambridge University would like to ensure that local community groups are engaged in and or benefit from the research. This community event will be a taster to let people know about the project and how they might get more involved. This event will then help shape their planning for future events. The event will take place at the Forum's new premises at 16-18 Arbury Court CB4 2JQ from 10am until 2pm. There will be a lunch and refreshments. Please note that you can drop by at any time during the event and don't have to stay for the duration.

Stronger Together workshop: Tackling modern slavery in global supply chains – 23 March, Lincoln

This workshop will be held from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm at Branston Ltd, Mere Road, Branston LN4 1NJ. Please follow this link to find out more and to register: [Upcoming Events Events : Stronger Together](#)

East of England Syrian Refugee Resettlement Event: Health, Family Reunion and ESOL – 29 March, Bury St Edmunds

This event has been planned to provide some practical support and guidance for colleagues in the statutory and voluntary sector who are working on the Syrian resettlement programme. Key areas which will be covered are:

- Doctors of the World, the independent humanitarian movement aims to empower excluded people to access healthcare, will hold an interactive workshop on healthcare needs of those resettled via the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme for clinical and non clinical staff.
- Presentation on the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme including guidance on Family Reunion – Immigration Rules & Family Reunification.
- Findings will be shared on the ESOL mapping research carried out in the East of England by Peterborough CVS.

Please follow this link for more information and to register to attend: [Syrian Refugee Resettlement Event - Health, Family Reunion and ESOL | Events | EELGA SMP](#)

Rural Refugee Network's (RRN) Guide to Welcoming Syrian Refugees: launch event – 29 March, London

The Guide is being launched at St Etherburga's at 6pm. Speakers are set to include RRN's Julia Thistleton and Yvette Cooper, the Shadow Home Secretary. Please do contact the RRN on e: hello@ruralrefugeenetwork.org if you'd like to attend the launch event.

University of East London (UEL): access to higher education for refugees and asylum seekers course OLIVE (Open Learning Initiative) - 29 April and 10 consecutive Saturdays

Registrations are now open for this free course which starts on 29 April and will run over ten consecutive Saturdays (9.30-5), through to 1 July. The aim of the course is to introduce refugees and asylum seekers to Higher Education (HE). The OLIVE course offers an opportunity for students to find out what skills and knowledge are needed in order to apply for and succeed in HE in the UK and provides information about pathways and opportunities. The course is funded by EU's Erasmus+ programme. The course offers modules and workshops in English language and academic writing, research skills, academic tutoring and introduction to academic discussions. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Application deadline is **29 March** and the UEL may call students for an interview prior to the commencement of the course. Feel free to contact UEL with any questions or would like more information about the course. The key organiser is Aura Lounasmaa, Lecturer, School of Social Science, Research Fellow, Centre for Narrative Research e: a.lounasmaa@uel.ac.uk

This is our story: Travellers and Roma telling their personal stories of life, and singing their songs! – 6 May, Luton

Between 11.00 - 14.00 at Stopsley Community Primary School, Hitchin Road, LU2 7UG, Roma families along with UK Travellers will be telling their stories and singing their songs about what their lives have been like, going right back to life in Eastern Europe in the communist era. The event, organized by Luton Roma Trust is free, there is free parking on playground and a free pizza lunch. All are welcome.

Funding

Legal Aid Agency - opportunity to deliver immigration and asylum work: London or Kent

The Legal Aid Agency would welcome expressions of interest to deliver immigration and asylum services in London and/or Kent. Expressions of interest are invited from 2013 Standard Civil Contract holders currently providing immigration and asylum services to deliver supplementary matter starts in access points in London and/or mid, south west or coastal Kent. This call is due to increases in demand from asylum seekers being transferred from other areas of the UK to London by National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) and because of higher numbers of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children following the closure of the camp at Calais. To find out more, please follow this link: [Civil news: opportunity to deliver immigration and asylum work - GOV.UK](#)

Jobs

British Red Cross – Refugee Week Intern – Luton. 3 days a week for 12 weeks

The refugee Week intern will work closely with members of the British Red Cross Refugee Support team, the Luton New Migration Partnership (LNMP) and other key stakeholders in planning, organising and delivering Refugee Week activities in Bedfordshire. The position holder will be based in Luton. Refugee Week is a UK-wide programme of arts, cultural and educational events and activities aimed at celebrating the positive contribution of refugees to the UK and providing a clear understanding of why people seek sanctuary. Refugee Week is 19 - 25 June 2017. Through the Refugee Week events the Partnership organisations and the British Red Cross are committed to positioning themselves as key voices in the public mind on the issue advancing the rights of refugees and asylum seekers to be treated with humanity and dignity. We are looking for someone with a sense of creativity, good organisational skills and who is able to work effectively and independently. The person will coordinate the Refugee Week activities and produce a short summary report upon the completion of the project. For more information and to apply please follow this link: [Role profile](#). The closing date for applications is **29 March**.

New Routes Integration - experienced accountant/treasurer - Norwich

New Routes, the social integration charity in Norwich, is looking for an experienced accountant/treasurer to join the charity's Executive Board to manage the organisation's accounts and end of year financial statements. The organisation is funded on an individual project basis from a number of different funders with different reporting requirements. The board meets bi-monthly at 6pm on the first Monday of the month, with occasional additional meetings. They have a part-time book keeper who manages the charity's day-to-day finance, who will report to the treasurer, and they would like the position filled as soon as possible. For more information, please contact Dee Robinson, Projects Coordinator, New Routes, Norwich Social Centre, Catherine Wheel Opening, St Augustine's Street NR3 3BQ on t: 01603 662648 or m: 07799661009 or e: projects@newroutes.org.uk

INTRAN – interpreter training for bi-lingual people – Ipswich and Suffolk

INTRAN works with public sector partners to deliver quality translation and interpreting services across the East of England. They are looking to recruit bilingual people in Ipswich and the surrounding area with the idea of offering them training toward a professional DPSI qualification (level 6 Diploma in Public Service Interpreting) to suitable candidates. This could be a wonderful opportunity for certain members of the community to gain a professional qualification and then earn an income as a self-employed interpreter/translator. INTRAN is particularly interested in hearing with people with the following languages:

Bengali-Sylheti – Bulgarian - Polish – Lithuanian – Romanian – Portuguese – Cantonese – Pashto – Arabic – Tigrinya – Mandarin – Hungarian – Albanian – Latvian – Turkish.

Please contact Nicky for more information on t: 01603 495134 or m: 07747 457238 or e:

nicola.turner2@norfolk.gov.uk

Migrant and Refugee Team Manager, Islington Council, London £42,651 - £45,438 p.a.

Islington Council is looking for an experienced person to manage the frontline NRPf service and Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Programme. The role is based within the Housing and Adult Social Services (HASS) department and they are looking for someone to lead both on the strategic and operational work of the team. The post holder will manage the £1million NRPf costs alongside other resettlement programmes and targeted project work in relation to refugees and migrants. The successful candidate will contribute to the wider policy work of the department and NRPf Network using his/her direct operational experience to inform and contribute to the strategic priorities of both. The closing date for applications is **2 April 2017 at 23:59**. For more information see the [Islington Council website](#)

Aire Centre - Legal Project Manager – Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR. Full time, 3 year fixed term contract. £25,000

To develop, monitor and evaluate a 3 year funded project on EU migrants, homelessness and destitution in London and on EEA women in prison. This project will build capacity of frontline homelessness organisations in the area of EU migrants' rights, enabling them to better influence policies affecting this group and prevent EU migrant homelessness through training statutory agencies and decision makers. The project will benefit frontline professionals working with people who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness (e.g. organisations such as The Big Issue, St. Mungo's, Connections at St. Martin's), decision makers (DWP, Jobcentre Plus staff, local authorities) and most importantly, EU migrants themselves. The EEA Women in Detention part of the project aims to improve access to justice for EEA women in prison by providing legal advice and representation to EEA women who face systematic violations of their rights under European law. The closing date for applications is **29 March**. For more information please follow this link: <http://www.airecentre.org/news.php/263/recruitment-legal-project-manager#sthash.HW9mhCG1.dpuf>

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