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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 and Department for Education announce new safeguarding strategy to support lone child migrants – plus response from Refugee Council

The safeguarding support includes a training programme for foster carers who support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The training will be made available to 1,000 foster carers and support workers and is backed by updated statutory guidance, a review of local authority funding and a drive to improve inter-agency advice and information sharing. It complements the existing guidance available to every foster carer as part of their duties under the Prevent strategy. Other measures announced in the strategy will help prevent children from going missing and support those who are reunited with family members. Please follow this link for more information: [New safeguarding strategy boosts support for lone child migrants - GOV.UK](#). Please follow this link to read the Refugee Council's response to the announcement: [Refugee Council welcomes government's safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied children](#)

Migration Yorkshire's new guidance document on resettling refugees support after the first year

This guide was commissioned by the LGA and produced by Migration Yorkshire and looks at support for resettled refugees in years 2 -5. It is available to public sector partners via the LGA Knowledge Hub, following this link: [Library - Local Government Association: Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme Group - Knowledge Hub](#)

Report from Women for Refugee Women - We are still here: the continued detention of women seeking asylum in Yarl's Wood, Bedfordshire

The Government's "Adults at Risk" policy, says that people who are vulnerable or particularly "at risk" of harm from detention should not normally be detained. Under this policy, survivors of sexual or gender-based violence are recognised as "at risk", and so unsuitable for detention. The government also introduced a 72-hour time limit on the detention of pregnant women, with the aim of ensuring that they are not routinely detained. This report highlights the results of the research undertaken by Women for Refugee Women to help them assess the effectiveness of the Adults at Risk approach. Their research shows that the new approach is not working to safeguard and protect women who are vulnerable, and prevent them from being detained. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <http://www.refugeewomen.co.uk/2016/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/We-are-still-here-report-WEB.pdf>

The Refugee Council, Amnesty International UK, Oxfam GB, UNHCR UK and the British Red Cross – support for private member's bill on extension of refugee family reunion rules

The charities are supporting a [Private Members' Bill](#) introduced in the House of Commons by Angus MacNeil MP. The [bill](#) would extend the current refugee family reunion rules, including by granted unaccompanied child refugees the right to be reunited with their closest family members.

Coram Children's Legal Centre – Migrant Children's project newsletter – October edition

The newsletter covers details of the changes to healthcare charging which came into force on 23 October. School nursing and health visiting will not be chargeable and they have produced a fact sheet to outline what services will now be chargeable. They also provide the link to their new fact sheet on EU derivative rights (Zambano, Teixeira et al) plus details of their forthcoming training dates. The newsletter provides links to new reports and guidance and other news. Please follow this link to read this latest newsletter: [MCP October newsletter - victory for healthcare campaigners, new fact sheet, Brexit update & more...](#)

Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales – fact-finding report on Calais and the plight of child refugees

The report documents the demolition of the Calais 'Jungle' camp in October 2016 and the subsequent failures by French and UK authorities to adequately protect and process the estimated 1,000 unaccompanied minors living in the camp. The report concludes that children's safety was not adequately considered leaving many at risk; there was no provision of safe accommodation before the camp demolition began and children were subjected to a chaotic and unlawful age verification and registration process, based in some cases on physical appearance alone. Please follow this link to access the report and the full set of research conclusions: [BHRC publishes fact-finding report on Calais and the plight of child refugees – Bar Human Rights Committee](#)

Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (OFPRA), France – one year after Calais camp cleared, 70% of asylum seekers granted international protection

The analysis confirms that nearly 15,000 persons were transferred out of the Calais camp over the past two years have had their asylum applications examined, within a time limit of three months. 70% were granted international protection at first instance, while some have pending cases before the National Court of Asylum. Please follow this link to read the article (in French): [L'Ofpra a protégé 70% des demandeurs d'asile issus du bidonville de Calais | OFPRA](#)

Cities of Migration October edition of newsletter issued

This edition features details of a vocational training programme for refugees in Frankfurt; community sponsorship in Fishguard, Wales; how inclusive employment practice has helped a Montreal bank to connect with entrepreneurs; Philadelphia's welcoming economy innovations and Bristol's Rethinkingrefugee campaign which is changing perceptions of refugees amongst the public, landlords and employers. There are opinion pieces, details of a diagnostic tool which examines how inclusive a city is and a piece on educational inclusivity. Please follow this link to read the full newsletter: [Cities of Migration Newsletter, No. 70, October 2017](#)

Nominations open for the UNHCR refugee women of the year

The Women on the Move Awards recognise and celebrate women who have migrated or fled persecution themselves and find time to provide essential support and inspiring leadership on a grassroots level to others starting a new life in the UK. Please follow this link for more information and to nominate a champion: [UNHCR - Nominations open for the Women on the Move Awards 2018](#)

Migration

PM's open letter to EU citizens in the UK

Please follow this link to read the open letter the Prime Minister has written to EU citizens living in the UK, underlining their right to remain once the UK leaves the EU: [PM's open letter to EU citizens in the UK - GOV.UK](#)

Home Office and Department for Exiting the EU – details of the UK’s proposed administrative procedures for EU citizens obtaining settled status

This paper sets out further details on the administrative procedures underpinning the UK’s proposals for a streamlined application system for EU citizens obtaining settled status. The paper outlines the streamlined application system which will be introduced to process applications for settled status, including that the fee for such an application will be no greater than the cost of applying for a British passport and that those with a permanent residency document will be able to exchange this for a settled status document, subject to ID verification checks and the payment of a reduced fee. It also outlines the criteria for granting status and the circumstances under which status may be refused. Please follow this link for more information: [Citizens' rights: administrative procedures in the UK - GOV.UK](#)

Upfront charging now in force for some NHS healthcare – summary of changes from NRPF Network and response to new charging regime from Migrants’ Rights Network

Overseas Visitors charging regulations previously only covered hospital treatment or community services provided by hospital staff and payment was usually required after treatment had been administered. Since 23 October, certain migrants, and some British citizens who normally live abroad, will be required to pay for most types of secondary and community NHS healthcare, including NHS funded services provided by charities and local authority public health services, unless the treatment required is exempt from charging. Please follow this guidance from the Department of Health, pages 24 and 32-33 which indicates which community services are chargeable: [Guidance on overseas visitors hospital charging regulations - GOV.UK](#). Please follow this link to access the guidance from the NRPF Network: [Changes to NHS charging](#). Please follow this link to read a response to the changes to the charging regulations from the Migrants’ Rights Network: [New Eligibility Checks for NHS Come Into Force - Sparking Protests - Migrants' Rights Network](#)

NRPF Network summary of news and updates issued

Please follow these links for latest updates from the NRPF Network.

- Preparing for new bank checks: what social services need to do: [Bank checks for current account holders](#)
- Updated! Factsheet: Subsistence for NRPF families supported under section 17 Children Act 1989: <http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Documents/Subsistence-support-families.pdf>

Latest from Home Affairs committee – building greater consensus on immigration policy

The Home Affairs Committee in the last Parliament had embarked on an inquiry which was assessing whether it is possible to build greater consensus on immigration policy and if so what key principles that policy would need to satisfy. Please follow this link to see the evidence provided at the most recent session from British Future, University College London and the University of Manchester: [Building consensus on immigration policy - News from Parliament - UK Parliament](#)

Report from HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services - Stolen freedom: the policing response to modern slavery and human trafficking

The report documents ways in which British police have failed to support suspected victims of modern slavery. Police failures include prematurely closing cases, unwillingness to identify cases of slavery in unrelated reports, delays in victim protection, and retrospectively dismissing slavery concerns from a case. A key aspect of the police’s failure to effectively address modern slavery concerns is that some police officers treat potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking as immigration offenders. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/stolen-freedom-the-policing-response-to-modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking.pdf>

Home Office announcement - Modern slavery victims to receive longer period of support

The Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability announced reforms to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which will see the minimum period of 'move-on' support for victims significantly increase from 14 days to 45 days, the establishment of 'places of safety' which will provide immediate support to potential victims, as well as up to 6 months of 'drop-in' services, developed in partnership with The Salvation Army, for those transitioning out of the NRM. The government will also roll out nationally the provision of Independent Child Trafficking Advocates, who will provide specialist support and act in the best interests of trafficked children. Please follow this link to read the announcement in full: [Modern slavery victims to receive longer period of support - GOV.UK](#). Please follow this link to read a response to this announcement from ECPAT UK: [ECPAT UK | Changes made to trafficking support system but children risk being overlooked](#)

Home Office release - An evaluation of the National Referral Mechanism service for reporting modern day slavery pilot

This report presents findings from an evaluation of a pilot of changes to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). These changes were the introduction of:

- Slavery Safeguarding Leads to raise awareness of the NRM process, encourage more appropriate referrals and make swifter reasonable grounds decisions;
- A Case Management Unit to streamline the case management process and to improve the consistency of caseworking; and
- Multi-disciplinary panels for making more transparent and credible conclusive grounds decisions.

Please follow this link to read about what impact these changes had compared to the existing NRM process: [An evaluation of the National Referral Mechanism pilot - GOV.UK](#)

ECPAT UK The Secret Gardeners: New film on child trafficking from Vietnam

ECPAT UK has released an animated film aimed at tackling the growing issue of Vietnamese children being trafficked to the UK for cannabis cultivation. Please follow this link to access the film: [ECPAT UK | The Secret Gardeners: New film on child trafficking from Vietnam](#)

UK annual reports on modern slavery 2016 to 2017

This report from the Independent anti-slavery commissioner provides an overview of modern slavery in the UK and explains how the UK has responded to this threat over the last 12 months: [Independent anti-slavery commissioner's annual report 2016 to 2017 - GOV.UK](#). This report from the UK Government and devolved administrations looks at what steps governments have taken in the last year to combat modern slavery: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654162/iasc_annual_report_2016_2017_web_new.pdf

Ipsos MORI report: Attitudes towards Immigration and Brexit – 8 key findings

This is a longitudinal report which started in 2015 with a five-wave study into people's attitude towards immigration before, during and after the 2015 General Election campaign. Two further waves of research were undertaken in 2016 before and after the EU referendum – all 7 waves studied the same people so provides a picture of changing attitudes to immigration. Importantly, people have become more positive about immigration in the last few years, but most people want immigration reduced. Those who are most open to immigration have been most stable in their views. While sovereignty and anti-immigrant feeling drove the referendum vote, it is also tied to a broader sense of distrust of the system and nostalgia. Please follow this link to read the report in full: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2017-10/Shifting%20Ground_Unbound.pdf

Events

Refugee Action – Colchester, AGM – 14 November, Colchester

The AGM will take place from 6.00pm to 9.00pm at Firstsite Gallery, Lewis Gardens, High Street, CO1 1JH. The AGM will give people a chance to hear updates, news and information from guest speakers plus testimonials from those Refugee Action Colchester support and reports on all aspects of their work. Please **RSVP** to e: maria.wilby@refugeeactioncolchester.org.uk or iman.mortagy@refugeeactioncolchester.org.uk.

Russian Heritage day – 18 November, Cambridge

The Cambridge Russian School will be holding day of Russian culture, language and heritage at Long Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge. This promises to be a very colourful and interesting event. If you wish to attend please register your interest on the website <http://www.camruss.com/en/contact-us/> or contact via e: head@camrusschool.org.uk

Cultural Diversity Day event – ‘We celebrate our city of Diversity’ – 19 November, Cambridge

This will take place from 2-4 pm in the Atrium Hall, Netherhall Upper School, Queen Ediths Way, CB1 8NN. This event will feature participants from a range of Cambridge’s BME communities. It promises to be an interesting and positive celebration of Cambridge’s diverse communities. Please note that those attending should obtain an **Eventbrite ticket** for entry to the venue. These can be obtained via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-celebrate-our-city-of-diversity-tickets-38919774092>. Refreshments and snacks will be on sale and donations can be made to Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum’s new Refugee service.

Shared learning focused on working with refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants – 21 November, Luton

All interested practitioners and academic researchers to a day of shared learning focused on working with refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants. The event will take place between 10am - 3pm in room P102, Postgraduate Centre, University of Bedfordshire, Park Street LU1 3JU. Presentations on the day will cover:

- Recent and upcoming changes to immigration legislation (Terry Stobbart, Luton Law Centre)
- Supporting NRRPF families (Natalie Greensmith, Luton Social Services)
- Supporting destitute refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants (Mekdes Alemayehu, British Red Cross)
- Access to health care for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants (tbc)
- Support needs of people who have experienced trafficking (Dr Patricia Hynes, University of Bedfordshire)
- Holistic models of support for separated young refugees (Surviving to Thriving Project)
- Young refugees and family reunion (Dr Elena Gualco and Dr Silvia Borelli, University of Bedfordshire)

This is an excellent opportunity for us to come together on a local level, share knowledge and build relationships with colleagues in the field. The event is free but booking is required as spaces are limited. To book your place please contact Susy Heighway on e: SHeighway@redcross.org.uk

The Chineke! Orchestra performance – 22 November, Cambridge

The orchestra will be performing at Kings College Chapel at 6.30pm. The Chineke! Foundation was established in 2015 to provide career opportunities to young Black and Minority Ethnic classical musicians in the UK and Europe. Chineke!’s motto is: ‘Championing change and celebrating diversity in classical music’. The organisation aims to be a catalyst for change, realising existing diversity targets within the industry by increasing the representation of BME musicians in British and European orchestras. Please follow this link to book tickets: [Cambridge Music Festival presents Chineke! Orchestra | Cambridge Live](#)

Refugee History Question Time-style panel event – 23 November, Norwich

This event will feature leading voices in the refugee debate, and is taking place at the Forum in Norwich at 7:30pm. This promises to be a lively event, with contributions from local and national politicians, journalists, refugees and activists. It will be a chance for groups in the Norwich area to discuss pressing issues around the ongoing regional and national response to the “refugee crisis”. The event is free, but spaces are limited so please reserve your spot by registering online: <https://beinghumanfestival.org/event/refugee-history-question-time-panel/>. Everyone is welcome to submit questions for the panel; please email these in advance to e: h.reed@uea.ac.uk. You will find out before the event if your question has been selected.

Home Office Suppliers’ Day for the Community Sponsorship Capability Building scheme – 24 November, London

This suppliers’ day will be taking place from 10:00AM – 1:30PM at 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF. The event is designed to offer prospective bidders the opportunity to network with one another and explore the possibilities for collaborative working. It will also offer an opportunity for prospective bidders to ask questions of those government officials who will be managing the bid process. For more information about the statement of outcomes and programme for the day, please contact the regional SMP on e: louise.gooch@eelga.gov.uk. For other enquiries about scheme, please contact e: CommercialGrantsTeam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. To book a place please contact Tom on e: tom.field1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Modern Slavery training day from ECPAT UK – 24 November, London

This training will support participants to develop a clear understanding of how to recognise child trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery, as well as provide up-to-date skills to respond to these abuses and better support trafficked children. Please follow this link to book a place: [ECPAT UK | Child Trafficking, Exploitation and Modern Slavery](#)

Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF), Annual General Meeting - 27 November, Cambridge

The AGM is being held at the Cherry Trees Day Centre, St. Matthews Street, CB1 2LT. The meeting will start at 6.00 p.m. Business to be conducted - To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 and the election of Trustees. There will be a presentation from Graeme Hodgson, Partnership Development Manager, Research and Innovation Development Office, Faculty of Health, Social Care & Education - Anglia Ruskin University. After the formal business, food and refreshments will be provided. CECF are looking for new trustees from their member groups who will be able to guide the forum through the next stage of its development. Anyone intending to attend, please confirm your attendance by 24 November, advising also of any special dietary requirements to e: eddie@cecf.co.uk.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Rethinking Refugees and Housing – 28 November, webinar

This webinar will take place at 15:00 GMT and considers why refugee housing is more than bricks and mortar – it’s the foundation of a refugee’s relationship to a new home, neighbours and landlords. Getting it right tests the capacity of a community to open their doors to the newly-arrived and the needs of those who have left everything behind. Creating the local conditions for a housing market that is open and inclusive of a city’s most vulnerable residents is challenging. How can prejudices, biases, or ‘fear of the stranger’ be overcome? What are the barriers to refugees seeking affordable accommodation, employment or a secure sense of belonging? This webinar will examine housing initiatives in Bristol and Berlin that are opening doors to refugee housing and local economic development by creating positive social interactions between refugee and host communities at home, work and in local neighbourhoods. Please follow this link for more information about how to join this webinar: [Webinar: Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Rethinking Refugees and Housing Registration | Eventbrite](#)

Integration Support Services Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 5 December, Harlow

The AGM will be held at the Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way CM18 7BL from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Aside from the usual business of an AGM, Integration Support Services will be launching their young mentors programme. Please contact Lana to confirm your attendance on e: lane@iss.org.uk or t: 01279 639442

Access to healthcare for migrant young people and families – 7 December, London

This training event will take place at the Coram Campus, London between 2pm - 5:30pm and is being run by Doctors of the World and Coram Children's Legal Centre. Please follow this link for more information and to book a place: [Coram Children's Legal Centre Events | Eventbrite](#)

East European Roma: Cultural Awareness Training – 6 December, Birmingham

This training event is being delivered by the Roma Support Group and will include an introduction to Roma culture and traditions, language and history. Reference will be made to the differences between Romanian, Polish and Czech Roma. This will provide the backdrop to practically oriented sessions which will look at barriers to accessing services, and more effective ways to engage with Roma families. Please follow this link for more information about the event and details of how to book a place: [East European Roma – Cultural Awareness Training | CCC Limited](#)

Regional Public Health Academic Forum: Ethnicity and Migrant Health Workshop – 18 December, Cambridge

This event workshop will be held at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge Campus YST 218 (Young Street, 2nd floor) CB1 2LZ, starting at 10am. The ethnic diversity of the English population continues to grow. Public health evidence and practice should reflect the needs of this diverse population. However, ethnicity and migration remain marginalised concerns. This project will help public health practitioners, researchers and policy makers focus more attention on these overlooked dimensions within applied public health research. The project team is drawn from the Universities of Sheffield, Liverpool, Newcastle, Cambridge, Bristol, Imperial College London and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. This free event in Cambridge will raise the profile and encourage collaborations on research in this area. For more information and to book, please follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ethnicity-and-migrant-health-workshop-tickets-38734675457>

Where next for UK immigration policy? Conference – 15 March 2018, London

This Westminster Legal Policy Forum will feature keynote addresses from Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP, Minister of State for Immigration and Rt Hon Diane Abbott MP, Shadow Home Secretary and Alp Mehmet, Migration Watch UK. Delegates at this seminar will consider the future for the UK's immigration framework - for both EU and non-EU migration - as Government considers priorities for immigration policy in the Brexit negotiations. The discussion is scheduled to facilitate engagement on the upcoming Immigration Bill, which is expected to repeal EU law on immigration, and allow the Government to make the migration of EU nationals subject to relevant UK law post-Brexit. Sessions will focus on the future regulation of both EU and non-EU migration, looking at the next steps for work, student and family routes, as well as options for the existing points-based tiered system for non-EEA applicants. To book places, please use this [online booking form](#).

Funding

Government announces £1 million community sponsorship capacity building fund opens for bids

The fund is for the community sponsorship scheme which enables community groups to take on the role of welcoming and supporting refugee families in the UK. Sponsor groups can include charities, businesses, local authorities, community groups and third sector organisations. The fund is designed to give experienced organisations the resources to provide training and support to groups who want to sponsor refugees.

Organisations with relevant experience can apply for funds to achieve outcomes including:

- training for community groups on how to welcome and support refugees in their area, and how to apply to become sponsors
- connecting people and organisations who want to help resettled refugees through community sponsorship
- raising awareness of community sponsorship across different UK communities.

Please follow this link to read more about the fund: [£1 million community sponsorship capacity building fund opens for bids - GOV.UK](#). Applications for funding are invited by the deadline of **15 December**.

Immigration Law Practitioners Association – Strategic Legal Fund for vulnerable young migrants

The Strategic Legal Fund for Vulnerable Young Migrants (SLF) is a fund to support legal work that goes beyond securing justice for an individual and makes a significant contribution to law, practice and procedures to uphold and promote the rights of vulnerable migrant children and young people more generally. The SLF aims to tackle injustices and inconsistencies in law and practice that disadvantage or discriminate against vulnerable young migrants as a result of their migration status. We do this by making grants to organisations to:

- undertake pre-litigation research, or
- make third party interventions to ensure that the key legal points are made in existing cases.

Please note that the next deadline for applications is **12 January 2018**. Please follow this link for more information and to apply: [Strategic Legal Fund](#)

Jobs

The Medical Foundation Medico-Legal Report Service at Freedom from Torture - new position – Legal Officer. Part time (14 hours per week) £14,654 p.a. (full-time equivalent salary £36,637) plus generous holiday entitlement – London

The ideal candidate for the role will have the following skills:

- Ability to present information clearly both orally and in writing to audiences who are not expert in the subject matter
- Ability to give staff feedback on their work in a constructive and sensitive manner
- Substantial experience and a proven track record of working with asylum seekers

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact Kofi Kuranchie on e:

kkuranchie@freedomfromtorture.org. For more details and to apply, please see the Freedom from Torture website: <https://freedomfromtorture.peoplehr.net/Pages/JobBoard/Opening.aspx?v=5d9bf800-d5da-4c3f-a5a3-ac0645eb445f> The closing date for applications is: **3 December 2017 at midnight**. Expected date of interviews: week beginning 11 December 2017. Please kindly note that the successful candidate must be available for mandatory training on 16 and 17 January 2018.

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