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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

The Home Secretary's statement to Parliament on the use of DNA evidence in immigration applications

An internal review of the government's policy on the use of DNA in immigration applications was commissioned in July 2018 and [the report](#) and findings were published in October. Following the review, a taskforce and dedicated helpline have been set up so that anyone who feels that their immigration case may have been influenced by an inappropriate demand for DNA testing can get advice and support. If you know anyone who may have been affected, please call 0300 123 2235. The line is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (4.30pm on Friday). Please follow this link to read the Home Secretary's accompanying statement:

www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-statement-on-the-use-of-dna-evidence

Chief Inspector of Border and Immigration publishes his report on the Home Office's management of asylum accommodation provision

Inspectors examined resources, policies, processes and performance in respect of the provision, by the Home Office, of asylum accommodation. In the text accompanying the report, the Chief Inspector said: "For several reasons, not least the difficulty of extracting evidence from the Home Office, this inspection proved more challenging than most. My report is likely to please no-one. It was clear from the Home Office's response to the draft report that this topic touched a nerve. It considered my criticisms unfair and believed its efforts had not been fully recognised. Meanwhile, I suspect that the many non-government organisations and other stakeholders engaged with asylum accommodation, and those living in it, will feel that the report has not gone far enough in challenging the standards of accommodation and support provided." Please follow this link for access the report in full: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/management-of-asylum-accommodation-provision>. Please follow this link for further information on the report requested by the Chair of the Home Affairs committee: <https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/David-Bolt-Chair-Asylum-Accommodation-letter-17-19.pdf>

Please follow this link to read the Home Office's response to this report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government//response-to-a-report-on-a-inspection-of-asylum-accommodation>

Driving survey for refugees – is language support needed for driving theory test? Impact assessment review

The Cambridge Resettlement Campaign has developed a questionnaire that should be completed by refugees. Those needing language support to complete the survey should use an 'administrator' who can administer the questionnaire to the refugees caseworkers are working with. The survey remains open until **30 December**. Updates about the survey findings will be provided via the Citizens UK regional coordinators website. Please follow this link to access this survey:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbfdwuXDGbKbFmmlcg5SLLFW77s8u3tDK7beGZLKQHriITlw/form>
[Response](#)

The Home Affairs Committee takes evidence on the far-right and new asylum accommodation contracts

On 21 November, the Home Affairs Committee will hear evidence from the Immigration Minister and Home Office officials on asylum accommodation contracts that are up for tender. Please follow this link for more information and to hear the evidence provided: [hate-crime-asylum-accommodation-evidence-17-19](#)

Asylum Aid launches a new film about the asylum appeals process for those going through the system

Asylum Aid recognised that people have too little information about the asylum appeals process and little idea of what to expect. However, when they understand the process, it makes them more confident and less anxious so they can give clearer information. Asylum Aid's animated film explains what a person seeking asylum will see and do when going to their appeal. Please follow this link to access the film: <https://www.asylumaid.org.uk/>

Letter from the Immigration Minister to the Chair of the Home Affairs Committee regarding asylum accommodation

The letter is in response to concerns about the new asylum accommodation contracts raised by the committee in a letter to the Home Secretary in October. The letter examines how dispersal areas are developed, separately to the procurement of asylum accommodation, in consultation with local authorities. It also outlines how the transition from old to new contractors will be managed. Please follow this link to read the letter in full: <https://www.parliament.uk/Letter-from-Immigration-Minister-Asylum-Accommodation-with-annexs-18-11-01.pdf>

UNHCR - Mediterranean: Over 100,000 Arrivals Recorded so far in 2018, over 2000 dead or missing

As of November 2018, 109,073 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The UNHCR record that 102,967 refugees and migrants have arrived to the Mediterranean by sea, and 6,106 by land. The highest number, 56,187, arrived in Spain. UNHCR also estimate that 2,075 people have died or have gone missing while trying to make the journey to reach the Mediterranean. These figures represent a decrease when compared to 2017. The most common nationalities of arrivals were Guinea, Syria, Morocco and Mali. 27.3 per cent of people making this journey were children, and 16.0 per cent were women. Please follow this link to access the data in full: <https://UNHCR asylum numbers 2018>

An invitation from the Department for Education to ESOL providers to participate in research

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned CFE research to understand more about how the provision of English to speakers of other languages (ESOL) meets the needs of different types of adult (aged 19 or over) ESOL learners. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and will help them to understand:

- what provision is offered by your organisation,
- who accesses your services,
- the barriers and enablers to access for speakers of other languages,
- the demand for English language learning in the communities you serve, and
- how English language provision is delivered by your organisation.

Personal details will not be passed onto the DfE, or any other organisation or individual without your expressed consent. You can access the survey [here](#). If you would like to speak to someone within DfE about the study, please contact the DfE Project Manager, Eve Schofield, at eve.schofield@education.gov.uk.

Migration

Only 1,700 people recognised by Home Office as Zambrano carers since 2012 – data analysis from Free Movement

Official figures released in response to a Freedom of Information by the Free Movement blog request show that 1,740 carers have been accepted as having a “derived right of residence” in the past six years. A derived right of residence allows a non-EU citizen to live in the UK because of their relationship with a child or dependant adult who without their carer would be forced to leave the country. The Home Office has said that these carers will not be able to apply to stay permanently under the EU Settlement Scheme. Please follow this link to access the data and analysis in full: <https://www.freemovement.org.uk/derived-rights-of-residence-brexit>

EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance

The Home Office has published guidance for caseworkers considering applications under the EU Settlement Scheme during the pilot that is being run for those employed by hospitals and universities in Merseyside. From 15 November, EU nationals receiving support from Coram Children's Legal Centre, Rights of Women and the Roma Support Group can also apply. From 29 November, EU nationals employed by an NHS Trust and other NHS organisations or who work as a dentist, midwife, chiropractor, optician, osteopath, pharmacist and who provide regulated activities as prescribed in Schedule 1 (read with Schedule 2) to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/2936), and who is also employed or engaged by an institution or organisation registered with the Care Quality Commission can also apply for settled status. Please follow this link to access the guidance that outlines how settlement applications will be decided:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/753971/eu-settlement-scheme-pb2-v1.0-ext.pdf

Minister for Immigration confirms rights of EU citizens in the UK in the event of no deal on Brexit

In answer to a question put to her in the Commons on 5 November, the Minister confirmed that, "in the unlikely event of no deal, all EU citizens who are resident here by 29 March 2019 will be welcome to stay. They are part of our community and part of our country, and we welcome the contribution that they make." Please follow this link to read the answer in full: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-11-05/LeavingTheEURightsOfEUCitizens>

Coram - Migrant Children's Project Newsletter: October 2018

The newsletter leads on the government's confirmation that the immigration health surcharge will be doubling to £400 per year from December 2018. It also features details of their forthcoming training, news of an update to their factsheet on EU children, young people and families plus links to new reports and latest news. Please follow this link to access the newsletter in full: [MCP October newsletter- Immigration Health Surcharge, EU fact sheet, new training dates and more...](#)

Review of applications by Tier 1 migrants refused under paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules

This Home Office review investigated concerns as to whether there were systemic issues leading to settlement applications by Tier 1 (General) migrants being wrongly refused. Concerns have been raised in Parliament that applicants were being refused when their only failing was that they had made minor tax errors. Since January 2015, 1,697 ILR applications from Tier 1 (General) migrants have been refused under a provision within the Immigration Rules, contained at paragraph 322(5). It states that applications to extend individuals' stay in the UK should normally be refused if their character and conduct means that it is undesirable for them to remain in the UK. In the majority of cases, having taken all the evidence and applicants' explanations into account, the researchers were not satisfied that the tax errors identified were, as claimed, minor errors, but attempts to misrepresent self-employed earnings for the purposes of obtaining leave or settlement in the UK. Please follow this link to read the full review:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/Tier_1_General_paragraph_322_5_report.pdf

Chartered Institute of Housing - housing rights for migrants newsletter: October 2018

The newsletter looks at how Brexit will affect EU nationals and their housing rights, with attention drawn to the particular concerns being felt by the Roma community. There are details of the lessons learned government enquiry on the Windrush scandal, plus information about the legal challenge to the 'right to rent' scheme and other news relating to housing and migration. Please follow this link to access the newsletter: <https://housing-rights-newsletter>

Government updates EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit

The employer toolkit equips employers with the right tools and information to support EU citizens and their families to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. Please follow this link to access the resources available to employers: <https://www.gov.uk/government/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit>

Data sharing between the Health Service and Home Office halted following legal challenge by Migrants Rights Network

The memorandum of understanding between the Department of Health, NHS Digital and the Home Office is to be scrapped following a legal challenge from Migrant Rights Network. Please follow this link to see how this story was covered by the Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/home-office-scraps-scheme-that-used-nhs-data-to-track-migrants>

University of Nottingham launches anti-slavery partnership toolkit

This new Toolkit is aimed at helping local organisations and agencies work better together to tackle modern slavery. The Toolkit has been developed by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Office in collaboration with the Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham and includes: a partnership checklist; governance library; downloadable resources; reports and legislations; a training library. Please follow this link to access the toolkit: <https://iasctoolkit.nottingham.ac.uk/>

Events

"The Journey" theatre production – 30 November, Bedford

"The Journey" is a production about people fleeing their homes and becoming refugees. It has been developed over the last fourteen months via interviews with refugees across the UK along with stays in camps in Lebanon and on the Syrian border. The play is being performed at The Tavistock Community Centre at 7.30pm. Please follow this link for more information and to book tickets: [Ticket and info link](#)

BRASS Christmas Party - 16 December, Bedford

The party is being held at St Peter's Church, De Parys Avenue MK40 2TX between 1pm and 5pm. This year BRASS are planning to give Educational Toys and Books as presents to all the children. If anyone can help by donating a new or nearly new present or two for the children, BRASS will sort and wrap them, so please leave them unwrapped. Please drop gifts off at BRASS at 27b Tavistock Street MK40 2RB by **7 December**.

Unseen UK Modern Slavery training - 11 December, 11 January and 24 January, Suffolk

Unseen UK are running three training sessions in the Suffolk aimed at Frontline Professionals. They are funded by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner so there is no charge to attend. Please follow this link to the three events which are taking place between 2.00PM and 4.30PM:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/modern-slavery-training-for-frontline-professionals-slavery-in-suffolk-is-real-but-unseen-tickets-52810787487>

British Red Cross Luton Refugee Support Services Fair – 16 January, Luton

The goal of the fair is for people in Luton, particularly refugees, asylum seekers and new migrants to learn about the organisations and services available to them in a range of areas including education, housing, mental health, community groups and specialist advice. If your organisation would like to participate by running a stall, please contact the Red Cross on e: RSenquiriesluton@redcross.org.uk. For agencies who would like their service users to come to the fair, it will be taking place at the Salvation Army, 1 Vicarage St, LU1 3HZ between 11am and 2pm.

Modern Day Slavery & Exploitation Training – between February and May 2019 (to be confirmed) Wisbech

The Rosmini Centre is working in partnership with Fenland District Council on the issue of Modern Day Slavery. One of their objectives is to raise awareness within other organisations in Fenland about this issue. They are offering training devised by Professor Gary Craig, which is specific to Fenland and is free to attend. The training will be of 3 hours duration and will be delivered at the Rosmini Centre. The training is appropriate for all staff and aims to alert both statutory and voluntary organisation staff to spot the signs of exploitation and modern day slavery, how to identify potential victims and their individual internal and external reporting systems. They aim to have firm dates by the beginning of January but would ask for the estimated number of places that organisations you may require by **30 November**. You can provisionally book your place/places by contacting e: anita@rosmini-wisbech.org with your name, the name of your organisation, number of places you would like to provisionally book and contact details.

Funding

Government announces new fund to support vulnerable EU citizens apply for settled status

Grant funding of up to £9 million will be available to ensure EU citizens needing additional support get help in obtaining their settled status. Organisations working with people who might be affected and require additional support can apply for project funding from the end of November. The Home Office will use up to £9 million of grant funding which will be awarded in Financial Year 2019/20 to multiple bidders of VCS organisations. Organisations can bid for funding via one of two lots, within the ranges of: £5,000 - £24,999 & £25,000 - £500,000. The awarded VCS organisations will be funded and supported by the Home Office to deliver practical assistance to vulnerable or at-risk EU citizens and their family members who must all complete an EU Settled Status. Please follow this link for more information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-fund-to-support-vulnerable-eu-citizens-apply-for-settled-status>. The grant will open at the end of November.

Active Communities funding programme – opens in January for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex

Active Communities is a funding programme for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with an income of less than £350,000 a year or an average of £350,000 over two years, seeking investment of between £5,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting up to two years. They are looking for ideas from communities of interest. By this they mean a group of people who have things in common and wish to come together to address something that is important to them. These ideas could be based in one neighbourhood, or cover a wider area. Please follow this link to [Find out more](#)

Jobs

Refugee Action: Project Coordinator – Asylum Crisis Project West Midlands. Birmingham. £26,470. Full time and permanent.

Refugee Action is looking for a committed and motivated individual to join them as Project Coordinator – Asylum Crisis Project West Midlands. The Project Coordinator will provide asylum support advice and complex casework to people seeking asylum who are destitute in Birmingham, Stoke and Coventry. The successful candidate will be responsible for providing immigration and asylum legal advice particularly in relation to the preparation of further submissions. In addition, s/he will lead on recruiting, supervising and supporting the project's volunteers with the support of the Project Manager. To succeed, applicants should have:

- Experience and detailed working knowledge of the asylum system and insight into the needs, experiences and hopes of those going through it.
- Experience of recruiting, training and supporting a team of volunteers in an advice project or service.
- Knowledge and understanding of recognised 'good practice' in relation to volunteering within organisations.
- One year's experience of providing advice around the asylum process, asylum legislation and related support entitlements.

- Experience of working with asylum legal representatives and an understanding of the legal aspects of claiming asylum.

- Experience of working in partnership with other professionals in support of clients, particularly in relation to their claim for asylum.

The office base for this post will be in Birmingham but the post holder will be expected to travel to and from Stoke and Coventry as and when required. Candidates are required to be accredited at OISC Level 2. For more information and to apply, please follow this link: <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/job/project-coordinator-asylum-crisis-project-west-midlands/> Completed applications should be sent to e: recruitment@refugee-action.org.uk by 09:00am on **26 November 2018**. Those with lived experience as a refugee are encouraged to apply. Interviews will take place Friday 7 December 2018 in Birmingham.

Pool Tutor (ESOL) - Reference: 0313, Realise Futures, Ipswich. Salary details: £15.57 - £24.23 ph, No Guaranteed Hours. Appointment: Fixed Term

5 hpw tutoring in the form of 2 x 2.5-hour sessions on Tuesday and Friday mornings during term times. Fixed term until 31 July 2019, where a probationary period applies. Required from early January 2019. Realise Futures Learning and Development is looking for an enthusiastic and flexible Pool Tutor to deliver ESOL to a group in Ipswich. You must have a relevant qualification and experience in teaching ESOL. Previous delivery towards City and Guilds ESOL qualifications is an advantage. For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Isabel Gavra on m: 07738 704750. Closing date: **13 December 2018 01:00 PM**. To request an application pack, please contact Samantha Austin on e: samantha.austin@realisefutures.org. Interviews will take place in the week commencing 17 December 2018.

Researcher in Migration – The Migration Observatory, Oxford. £32,236 - £39,609. 2 years, fixed term

The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford is seeking to appoint a researcher with a strong interest in migration policy. They are looking for someone who is committed to communicating with non-academic audiences and who over time will become a senior member of the Migration Observatory team. The successful candidate will be involved in a wide range of Migration Observatory activities, producing analysis to help policy audiences and practitioners understand migration policies and data. They will be responsible for developing new ideas for briefing and commentaries, conducting descriptive data analysis, meeting with stakeholders inside and outside of government, and representing a high-profile organisation in public fora. In addition to work with non-academic audiences, they will also be expected to contribute to academic journal articles and will be supported to develop a programme of academic work alongside the Migration Observatory responsibilities. Candidates should have a strong interest in UK immigration policy and its impacts; a good understanding of quantitative data sources, their uses and limitations; and the ability to communicate complex ideas to non-technical audiences. They will have either a doctorate in a social sciences discipline or equivalent research training gained on the job (e.g. in government or a non-government organisation). Applicants will be required to upload a supporting statement and CV as part of their online application. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on **17 December**. Please follow this link for more details: <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/about/vacancies/>

Training to become an ESOL Tutor – Ipswich. January 2019.

This CELTA course is a part-time day course at West Suffolk College in Ipswich. It will start on Wednesday 23 January 2019 and will run every Wednesday for 20 weeks. The Cambridge CELTA course is the Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. It is an internationally recognised introductory training and certification programme at level 5 and is designed to give you the essential skills, knowledge and hands-on teaching practice you need to teach English to adults. If you want to teach English in this country or abroad, this is the course for you. If you have any questions about the course please contact Vicky Skinner on e: vicky.skinner@wsc.ac.uk or t: 01284 701301.

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