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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 refugee resettlement

Coram Children’s Legal Centre – Migrant Children’s project newsletter: January edition released

In this edition is an article about the Law Commission’s report into the ‘complex and unworkable’ immigration rules which it recommends should be redrafted and the number of annual updates limited. It also looks at a report commissioned by the Mayor of London on undocumented children and young people, which estimates that there are 215,000 undocumented children in the UK and looks at what the potential future issues might be for them. The final article is about the challenge of student loan refusal for someone with humanitarian protection. Please follow this to access the newsletter in full: <https://mailchi.mp/essex/december-3220681?e=3933e14268>

Migrant Help update on AIRE service for asylum seekers

The Migrant Help First Response Centre is seeing improved call answering times thanks to recruitment and training of new advisers – most calls to their helpline 0808 8010 503 are now being answered within 60 seconds, across all 24 hours’ opening. However, there are other ways to contact Migrant Help which are recommended as the fastest way to report certain issues. For maintenance issues on the asylum property, payment queries and requests for assistance, use ‘Ask a question’ as this triggers an immediate incident and is then sent automatically over to the accommodation provider (if maintenance box is ticked), payment team etc. To see a client file and what’s happening then individuals can sign up to the ‘service user portal’. Migrant Help’s outreach service for AIRE is available nationally and helps service users who are at risk, have specific needs or are unable to use digital contact methods. Support from the outreach team can be requested by e: outreach@migranthehelpuk.org or by phoning t: 0808 8010 503.

Migration

EU Settled status – suite of new materials issued by the Home Office

Please follow these links for the following resources:

Leaflet, factsheet, poster and presentation: [EU Settlement Scheme: leaflet](#) - [EU Settlement Scheme: poster](#) - [EU Settlement Scheme: factsheet](#) - [EU Settlement Scheme: presentation](#)

Councils’ resources: [EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for local authorities](#) - [EU Settlement Scheme: local authorities toolkit](#)

Community groups’ resources: [EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for community groups](#) - [EU Settlement Scheme: community groups toolkit](#)

Employers’ resources: [EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for employers](#) - [EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit](#) [EU Settlement Scheme: template letter to EU citizen staff](#)

Housing Rights quarterly newsletter for migrants – January edition

The January quarterly newsletter about developments in housing rights for migrants has been released. It includes an article about rough sleeping and removals, and details of the Aire Centre’s toolkits for permanent residence and EUSS and can be downloaded here: <https://cihnews.org/YRX-6O9B9-50VND1-3WHPGU-1/c.aspx>

EU Settlement Scheme data release – up to the end of December 2019

The number of applications received in December 2019 was 163,300. Overall, the total number of applications received up to 31 December 2019 was over 2.7 million. The number of applications concluded in December 2019 was 219,200. Of these, 55% were granted settled status and 44% were granted pre-settled status. One application was refused on suitability grounds during the period from 01 December to 31 December 2019. Overall, the total number of applications that have been concluded, as of 31 December 2019, was 2.45 million. Of these, 58% were granted settled status, 41% were granted pre-settled status, and six applications were refused on suitability grounds. Please follow this link to see the data in full: [government/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-december-2019.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-december-2019.pdf)

EUSS clinics for Suffolk

The Suffolk Law Centre in Ipswich is, as part of Law Centre Network EUSS Complex Cases project, offering help to vulnerable EU citizens who need help making their application for settled status. Please see link below: <https://www.lawcentres.org.uk/lcn-s-work/eu-settlement-scheme> and contact Pippa on e: pippa@iscre.org.uk if you want to refer anyone for this free service. Those without complex needs should attend the migrant drop-in run by Gyros on Mondays at the Volunteering Matters building on Civic Drive, Ipswich <https://www.gyros.org.uk/our-services>

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) Report – points-based immigration system and salary threshold

The MAC report recommends a skilled worker route for entry with a job offer (currently, the Tier 2 General route) and a work route for entry without a job offer (currently named Tier 1 Exceptional Talent) and a route for settlement. Tier one and tier two routes were introduced from 2008 as part of a points-based system (PBS) with tradeable points, but it is currently a PBS in name only, with successful applicants having to meet all criteria. The MAC does not recommend changes to this framework; as they believe that the combination of skill eligibility and a salary threshold works well for an employer-driven system. On the level of salary thresholds, the MAC supports the current structure, where the relevant threshold is the higher of a general or an occupation specific salary threshold. The occupation specific threshold should be set, as it is now, at the 25th percentile. However, as they recommend expanding eligible jobs into medium skilled occupations, setting the threshold at the 25th percentile for the eligible occupations would mean this would currently be about £25,600, a reduction of around £4,400 on current levels. Please follow this link to read the report in full: www.gov.uk/mac-report-points-based-system-and-salary-thresholds

Government announces unlimited visa offer for fast-track entry to the UK

A new, fast-track visa scheme to attract the world's top scientists, researchers and mathematicians will open on 20 February. The bespoke Global Talent route will have no cap on the number of people able to come to the UK and replaces the Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route - and for the first time UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will endorse applicants from the scientific and research community. Please follow this link to read the announcement in full: www.gov.uk/news/boost-for-uk-science-with-unlimited-visa-offer

Cities of Migration – January edition

Cities of Migration identify and share international promising practices from cities around the world. This edition includes details of the Peterborough (Ontario) Newcomer Kitchen where recent arrivals socialise and build entrepreneurial skills; there are details of the Ottawa Newcomer Health Centre where multi-lingual staff guide newcomers through the local health system and there are details of a report on labour mobility, how skills are a passport out of displacement for refugees, as well as other articles. Please follow this link to read the [Cities of Migration newsletter](#) in full.

Events

Film screening – 12 February, Cambridge

TRACE is an award-winning documentary about the 2015 European refugee crisis, focusing on the strange and concerning triad that occurs between refugees, rescuers and NGOs. There will be a Q&A with the director, Raluca Bejan, after the screening. Tickets are free but please book via [Eventbrite](#). The screening will take place at the Institute of Criminology, Sidgwick Ave, Cambridge, CB3 9DA.

National Refugee Women's Conference – 14 February, Birmingham

The conference, hosted by Women with Hope, WAST Manchester, CARAG, Refugee Women Connect, Women for Refugee Women and other grassroots groups will be made up of workshops, discussions and performances to build our energy and skills to create change. Conference organisers will be launching new research that documents the experiences of over 100 destitute asylum-seeking women. This evidence shows that destitution comes from a policy which harms vulnerable women and prevents them from rebuilding their lives with dignity. Please follow this link for more information and to book your place [here](#).

Harmful practices and the quest towards gender equality for International Women's Day – 10 March, London

The National FGM Centre is hosting an exciting conference, Harmful Practices and the Quest Towards Gender Equality, with leading experts to explore current socio-political issues concerning harmful practices which affect women and girls today. It will be held between 10am-4pm at St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street EC4Y 8EQ. A range of topics will be explored, including:

- The link between FGM and witchcraft
- FGM medical examinations in immigration cases
- The appropriate timing of de-infibulations for survivors of FGM
- Honour related abuse including "early" marriage, forced marriage & virginity testing
- Trauma informed practice

To book a place, please follow this [Eventbrite](#) link to register.

NATECLA East of England Regional Conference 2020 – 13 March, Colchester

The second annual conference of the regional branch of NATECLA will take place at Colchester Institute. The conference will host keynote speakers, practical workshops and a teach meet. There will be an exhibition attended by Awarding Organisations and companies involved in the delivery of ESOL. For booking information please see the main NATECLA Events page: <https://www.natecla.org.uk/events> list. For any other enquiries, please contact Rachel Öner on e: nateclaeast@gmail.com.

Global village summer market open for applications – 5 and 6 June, Norwich

The Norwich [Global Village Summer Market](#) in the Forum is a two-day indoor market plus an outdoor market on the Saturday only, including delicious global street food and fantastic performances. They are looking for traders to join them. The organisers advertise extensively via social media, digital boards at the venue and through leafleting to make the event a welcoming and successful event. Anyone interested in joining should complete an online application form and they will get back to you to let you know if they have a place for you. Please follow this link to apply for the Global Village Summer Market: <https://forms.gle/SUx76kccietxAdcv8>

Funding

Organisations to deliver outreach services for Migrant Help Asylum Help contract – commissioning framework open

Migrant Help's next round of procurement for our Commissioning Framework is now open and can be accessed using this link: <https://www.delta-esourcing.com/respond/6T45H7WEM6>. The portal will close on 28 February at 15.00. They are looking for organisations to help them deliver Outreach Services on a spot purchase basis.

Outreach services could include:

- New asylum support applications.
- Change of circumstances for existing supported applicants.
- Assisting with Positive move on.
- Assisting with Negative move on.

Organisations applying must name the adviser they will use to complete the work and that person will need to be willing to undergo a CTC check. OISC is required to assist with asylum support applications, change of circumstances and negative move on. For organisations wishing to assist with positive move on OISC is not required. Please also note that any work under AIRE contract must be delivered by paid members of staff only.

Jobs

Employment Skills Advisor (reference 49851 SSAE) for People from Abroad Team, Norfolk County Council Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich - £14,414 - £15,604 per annum. 22 hours per week. Fixed-term contract until 31 December 2020

A development opportunity has arisen for a part-time Employment Skills Advisor to help us deliver a project working in the People from Abroad Team until 31 December 2020, which is subject to review and possible extension. The post is based within an award-winning social work team providing innovative and creative support to migrants and their families who require social services support and to help them achieve their full potential. This includes refugees who are resettled to Norfolk as part of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme. We are seeking a dynamic and innovative employment skills advisor to deliver our pathways to employment programme in Norfolk, collaborating with a team of skilled social care professionals. The successful candidate will need to work occasional evenings and weekends and will be based in the centre of Norwich for which no parking is provided. Duties include supporting refugees to explore their opportunities to obtain employment, developing links with prospective employers, helping refugees to prepare for applying for jobs and interviews, support new employees during their probationary period of employment and acting as the link person between employers and the team. You will also need to collaborate with colleagues in similar positions around the region and measure successes during the project. Enhanced DBS clearance is required for this post. Experience of working with or supporting migrants, asylum seekers, people from other cultures and using interpreters is essential, as is a positive, creative and non-judgmental approach. If you are motivated and have a passion for supporting people to realise their employment prospects and wish to help us develop this exciting project, including working with people who do not have recourse to public funds, you are the type of person we are looking for. Working collaboratively is key to this role, as well as exploring and developing new opportunities, building networks and liaising with other agencies and employers, such as the DWP. You will have a wide range of skills, including delivering training, supporting clients, and working with other organisations in the public and voluntary sectors. The ability to think creatively, be well-organised with a positive outlook, to prioritise effectively and work calmly under pressure are vital attributes. Good IT, communication and networking skills are essential. Fluency in another major European language would be an advantage (but not essential) to complement the range of languages spoken by members of the team. For an informal discussion about this vacancy and the work of the team, please email nrpf@norfolk.gov.uk quoting this job reference: 49851 SSAE. For further details and how to apply, please follow this link: www.norfolk.gov.uk/jobsandcareers. Please quote job reference: 49851 SSAE. The closing date for applications is **16 February 2020**.

The Refugee Journalism Project open for applications

The 2020 scheme is now open for applications from UK-based professional journalists with a refugee background who want to rebuild their careers. Between March and August, 15 participants will have the opportunity to acquire new media skills, publish journalistic content and build professional networks through collaborations. In September, all participants will be invited to apply for the second phase which offers three six-month paid traineeships.

Those participating in the scheme will take part in workshops that are delivered either by London College of Communication or by media organisations including The Guardian Foundation and Google News Initiatives. They will be mentored by an experienced UK-based journalist and get the opportunity to publish their work. They will receive career guidance, and workshops to support their English language development. To be eligible for the programme, applicants must have Refugee status (or Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave to Remain as a result of an asylum claim) and an average IELTS of 5.5 (or able to demonstrate a good command of English). They must have experience or qualifications in journalism, communications or a media-related field and must be able to attend workshops between March and September 2020 (the exact dates will be supplied later). In order to be considered for the project, please send a Curriculum Vitae, with the name and contact details of a referee, and a 400-word written piece explaining why you are applying for this opportunity to e:

refugeejourno@protonmail.com. Candidates will be selected based on the information provided and may be asked to attend an interview. Applications must be submitted by **22 February 2020**. All applications will be notified of the outcome by 2 March 2020.

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