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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

Refugee Council report – Lessons Not Learned: The failures of asylum decision-making in the UK

This report examines 50 reports from 17 different organisations, including parliamentary committees, the United Nations, nongovernmental organisations, academics and independent inspectorates. It charts a 15-year history of criticisms levelled against the Home Office. The analysis shows a convergence of views on the fundamental causes of poor decision-making, including the unrealistic and unlawful evidential burden placed on applicants and a starting point of disbelief. This report proposes a new way forward and acknowledges that there have been signs of progress within the Home Office. Specifically, policy and guidance relating to assessing credibility has improved over the years. It also highlights that the quality and adequacy of legal aid provision is connected to the capacity of a person seeking asylum to present their asylum claim; and to challenge effectively any decision to refuse their claim. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Lessons_Not_Learned_FINAL_Sept19.pdf

Refugee Action and NACCOM report – Missing the safety net

This report looks at the experiences of people who have been denied asylum by the UK government, but, for various reasons, are unable to return to their home countries. The data in the report shows that the Home Office is frequently failing to provide people with the support to which they are entitled in a timely manner. This means that people are left without a safe place to sleep or food to eat, sometimes for extended periods. Please follow this link to read the report in full: <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/Missing-The-Safety-Net-Report.pdf>

Migrant Help Asylum Services live from 1 September

The new Migrant Help number for all asylum queries is 0808 8010 503. All the calls come into Migrant Help's our First Response Centre (FRC) which is available 24/7/365. Their OISC registered team – EAGL - are extending their opening hours to 8am-8pm Monday to Friday. They also have new email addresses. For regular communications, e: AS@migranthelpuk.org. Please outline the query in full and provide details so that we can locate the service user's record and assist. For cases which need to be escalated to Migrant Help managers or for those with an immediate concern or need, the new email is e: escalations@migranthelpuk.org. Anyone using these emails, please always include a reference number and also a contact telephone number.

Migrant Help procurement announcement for move-on advice providers in east of England

Reed in Partnership nationally is the subcontractor for Migrant Help which was contracted to assist asylum seekers as they get a positive decision on their asylum claim and need support moving to mainstream services which refugees can access. However, Reed in Partnership has little presence in the east of England so Migrant Help have commissioned the following agencies to undertake this work:

- Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum
- The Bridge Plus, Norwich
- Great Yarmouth Refugee and Outreach Service (GYROS)
- New Routes Integration, Norwich

Home Office new multi-lingual guides published - Asylum support: UK rights and expectations

This guide is for asylum seekers staying in temporary accommodation while their claim for asylum is being assessed, explaining UK rights and expectations. It is available in ten of the main asylum seeker languages and English. Please follow this link to access the guides: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-uk-rights-and-expectations>

Home Office guide for new refugees – English version now available

This guide for adults who have been granted asylum in England to access public services and make the most of the opportunities in the UK is available in English via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-new-refugees>.

Other versions are available as bi-lingual resources - English and one of the major refugee languages.

New guidance from the department of Work and Pensions – claiming Universal Credit as a refugee

This new guidance outlines the urgent actions refugees need to do to claim Universal Credit and other benefits, once they have been granted leave to remain in the UK. Please follow this link to access the guidance in full:

<https://www.gov.uk/claiming-universal-credit-and-other-benefits-if-you-are-a-refugee>

BBC report - Displaced people: Why are more fleeing home than ever before?

The BBC takes an in-depth look at some of the factors behind record levels of forced displacement, a figure that has doubled in the past 10 years, according to UNHCR. They show that four out of five displaced people stay in their country of origin and if they flee, they mostly stay close by. Please follow this link to read the report in full:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world>

Migration

Coram Children's Legal Centre – Migrant Children's Project newsletter September edition

In this edition are details of how Coram can help vulnerable children and their families or carers apply for EU settled status by emailing them at e: mcp@coramclc.org.uk to make a referral. There is an article about Dublin regulations and the impact on family reunion if the UK leaves the EU without a deal, and another on the Dubs scheme and automatic grants of leave for some children. There are also details of upcoming training from Coram and links to news and reports concerning migrant children. Please follow this link to access the newsletter in full:

<https://september-newsletter->

Right to rent checks for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens after Brexit – Home Office guidance updated

Please follow this link to access the Government's information for landlords and letting agents on right to rent checks for EU citizens and their family members in the private rented sector in England now and after the UK leaves the EU:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/right-to-rent-checks-for-eu-eea-and-swiss-citizens-after-brexit>

Home Office EU Settlement Scheme statistics to the end of August 2019

This high-level data release shows that 1,339,600 applications have been received since the scheme opened. The detailed data release to the end of June 2019, which takes the figures down to local authority level, shows that 84,000 applications have been made by EU citizens in the East of England, with most applications received by people living in Luton (7,010), Peterborough (7,880) and Cambridge (5,550). Please follow this link to access the August data: <https://www.gov.uk/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-august-2019> and this one to access the June data by local authority: <https://www.gov.uk/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-june-2019>

Home Office Minister Brandon Lewis MP – letter to Guy Verhofstadt on the EU settled status scheme

In his letter, the MP gives an update on the EU Settlement Scheme and emphasises the UK government's commitment to citizens' rights. Please follow this link to read the letter in full:

https://government/uploads/Brandon_Lewis_Sec_Min_to_Guy_Verhofstadt_-_EUSS_-_13_Sept

Home Office policy paper - No deal immigration arrangements for EU citizens moving to the UK after Brexit

This policy paper explains the transitional immigration arrangements for EU citizens moving to the UK after Brexit if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. Please follow this link to read the paper in full:

<https://www.gov.uk/no-deal-immigration-arrangements-for-eu-citizens-moving-to-the-uk-after-brexit>

Maternity Action report – Duty of care: the impact on midwives of NHS charging for maternity care

This study investigates the impact of the policy of charging 'overseas visitors' for NHS care on midwives' practice or professional responsibilities. This study explored midwives' experience of looking after women who had been charged. NHS charging is especially damaging for undocumented migrant women, many of whom are socially and economically marginalised and vulnerable. There is evidence that NHS charging deters them from accessing maternity care. Migrant women also have a higher risk of maternal death and adverse pregnancy outcomes than native-born women do. Please follow this link to read the report in full: maternityaction.org.uk/midwivesreport/

Home Office expansion of the shortage of occupation list

The changes mean that occupations such as veterinarians, architects and web designers will be added to the shortage occupation list, giving people coming to the UK to work in these industries priority in securing a Tier 2 work visa, over occupations not on the list. It also means that employers can advertise job vacancies for the occupations included to all nationalities as soon as it is available. The Tier 2 shortage of occupation list is a list of occupations recognised by the Migration Advisory Committee as being in national shortage, which they assess would be sensible to fill, in part, through non-EEA migration. Please follow this link to read the story in full:

<https://www.gov.uk/news/expansion-of-the-shortage-of-occupation-list>

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) call for evidence – salary threshold and points based system

In June 2019, the MAC was commissioned to carry out an in-depth analysis of potential future salary thresholds to determine the best mechanism for calculating them and the rates at which they should be set. The salary threshold is a key component of the skilled worker route in the UK's future immigration system. The new Home Secretary has expanded this commission; in addition to the salary thresholds, the MAC has now also been asked to look into an 'Australian-style' points-based system and how this might work in the UK. Specifically, the MAC will consider how to award points to prospective migrants for different attributes, and to assess how salary thresholds could work within the context of this system. The commissioning notes detailing the above are on their [website](#). As part of the evidence gathering process, the MAC has released a call for evidence in an online form. The deadline for submission is the **5 November 2019**. Further detail of this, and information on how to submit evidence, are in the call for evidence document [here](#)

Department for Work and Pensions data release – national insurance numbers allocated to adult overseas nationals to June 2019

The data release shows that national insurance numbers allocated to EU nationals was unchanged from 2018 – but that 9% more applications had been made by EU 15 country nationals, but 16% fewer were applied for by EU 8 country nationals. Applications from the rest of the world were up by 32% leaving an overall total increase of 10%. The largest number of applications for a national insurance number came from Romanians, followed by Indians and then Italians. Please follow this link to access the data in full: <https://www.gov.uk/national-insurance-numbers-allocated-to-adult-overseas-nationals-to-june-2019>

Events

Roma Stories: Oral Histories project exhibition – now to 2 December, locations across London

The 'Roma Stories' Oral History Project explores the experiences and stories of Roma people from Eastern and Central Europe who live in London. It focuses on the key themes of:

- Roma persecution during the Second World War (Roma Holocaust),
- life in post-war communist countries,
- migration to the UK,
- Roma identity,
- and feelings of belonging in the UK.

The exhibition will include extracts from interviews, rarely seen archive photographs (courtesy of the Robert Dawson Collection), a video, and artwork by Roma artist Robert Czibi. The Roma 'voice' has often been marginalised, 'hidden' or written out of mainstream historical narratives due to discrimination and racism. This project has presented an opportunity to record Roma history, which has been passed down across generations orally, before it is lost. The exhibition can be seen in these London locations:

Stratford Library, E15 1EL to 11 October 2019.

London Metropolitan Archives, EC1R 0HB from 28 October to 2 November 2019 and 18 November to 20 November 2019 (Launch Monday 18 November 3pm).

The Wiener Library, WC1B 5DP from 26 November to 2 December 2019 (Launch Tuesday 26 November 2pm)

New asylum contracts briefing session – 11 October, Bury St Edmunds

This is a half day event on new asylum accommodation and support contracts in the East of England from 13:00 to 16:00 at Conference Room West, West Suffolk House, IP33 3YU. To book a place and for further details please follow this link: <https://smp.eelga.gov.uk/events/new-asylum-contracts/>

Hertfordshire Equalities conference - 15 October, Hertford

This conference will be held from 18:30-20:30 hours (registration and light buffet from 17:30) at [County Hall](#), Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8QF. In collaboration with the Herts Equality Council, the conference brings together a wide variety of partners to consider current equalities issues for Hertfordshire and to discuss ways in which partners can work together to tackle them. This event will assist in creating better understanding of the equality and diversity picture across Hertfordshire including challenges and barriers to participation by groups and communities and will discuss ways to engage in a meaningful and constructive way with these groups to help shape more effective future community engagement. This will be an excellent opportunity to shape thinking on this key topic. We are keen for your organisation to be represented, if you are unable to attend please forward this invitation onto a colleague. Registration is from 17:30 onwards followed by finger buffet. The conference closes at 20:30. For more information and to register, please email: equalities@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Voluntary Returns Service - eligibility, support options & referral pathways – 18 October, Bury St Edmunds

This event will take place from 13:00 to 16:00 at Conference Room West, West Suffolk House, IP33 3YU.

To book a place and for further details please follow this link: <https://smp.eelga.gov.uk/events/voluntary-returns/>

BME Art workshops from Suffolk wellbeing service – 26 October and 2 and 9 November, Ipswich

The Workshops are free to BME communities in Ipswich (including refugees and migrants) to any one above 17 year old. This is a fantastic opportunity for someone who would like to learn how to express them self, from their own cultural & ethnic background through art while having as theme mental health at the centre. But it's not just for beginners. Anyone with any level of visual art training and experience could participate and would be more than welcomed. The organiser would particularly like to involve individuals from local Ipswich's refugee

communities on this art project. There will be art professionals and art supplies (paint, art brushes, design paper, painting canvas) provided in the series of six workshops that will be held in Ipswich Museum from 10.30 to 12.30 or 13:00 to 14.30. To book a place, please contact Shpetim on e: shpetim.alimeta@nsft.nhs.uk or m: 07584142561.

Rosmini Centre Conference - 6 November, London

The conference that will be taking place at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, will give an insight into both the impact of migration and modern day slavery in a rural setting. It will be of interest to those working in both front line and more strategic roles in areas where migration together with exploitation are features of the local landscape. The conference will be based around these twin themes with presentations of reports from academic teams who have been working with the Rosmini Centre on these projects in Fenland. The presentations on the reports will be supported by a range of other speakers who will put their own perspective on the issues raised. Support from the Department for Communities and Local Government via the Controlling Migration Fund allows the Rosmini Centre to offer places at this event free of charge. For further information or to reserve a place, please contact the Rosmini Centre on e: RosminiConference@gmail.com.

Funding

Home Office funding to organise an awareness event about the Windrush compensation scheme

The Home Office has funding available for community events for registered charities or recognised community groups who want to organise an event to provide information about the Windrush Scheme and Compensation Scheme to local people. Funding is available for venue hire, light refreshments and other associated costs such as projector screens. Eligible events should meet the following criteria:

- to increase awareness of the Windrush Taskforce, the Compensation Scheme and claimant assistance available and encourage eligible people to apply for compensation
- a representative from the Home Office will be invited
- it must be open to all members of the public.

The Home Office will prioritise funding for events in locations that have not previously held similar events, or with communities who have not yet been reached through such events. Please contact them on e: Windrusheventfunding@homeoffice.gov.uk for an application form and further information. So far, in the east of England, events have been held in Luton and Ilford.

Jobs

East Midlands regional UASC foster carer recruitment and training project – Team Manager. Salary: £40,701. Permanent, full and part-time hours will be considered.

Leicestershire County Council is the lead authority and all upper tier councils in the region are project partners, along with East Midlands Councils. A key role within the project will be the Team Manager. This is an exciting and innovative new post for a qualified social worker to help shape the recruitment, assessment, training and retention of foster carers and supported lodgings hosts for migrant children and young people across the East Midlands. The post holder will lead a new team of Social Workers, delivering a high-quality service and driving the recruitment of carers for migrant young people. The project is an East Midlands' initiative, with the post holder being employed by Leicestershire County Council. Leicestershire County Council is also willing to consider a secondment opportunity (from another local authority), based on an 18-month duration, subject to line manager's approval. The closing date for applications is **8 October 2019** at midnight. For further details and to apply, please [click here](#).

GYROS Debt Lead and Local Service Manager – Ipswich. 25 hours per week, FTE £25,000

The Debt Lead and local Service Manager will join the Senior Management Team at GYROS. As Lead of the debt service provision the post holder will deliver debt advice and support to the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities in and around Ipswich. The post holder will line manage GYROS Debt advisors, develop other advisors to achieve the IMA qualification and maintain qualifications and registrations with the FCA. As the senior staff member in Ipswich, the successful candidate will be a proactive member of the Senior Management Team with GYROS and the new National Lottery Funded 'Community Pathways Partnership' (CPP). The successful applicant will be responsible for identifying, engaging and supporting staff, partner organisations and other local key agencies to complement, where practical, other service delivery, to make best use of resources and avoiding duplication. The post holder will co-ordinate and participate in outreach to residents and will further establish and maintain the reputation of GYROS and the CPP within Suffolk, to residents and other service providers. Applicants should have a track record of delivering money and debt advice to vulnerable people who face complicated life challenges, particularly those who are culturally and linguistically diverse. They will have experience of working with people facing deprivation/complex circumstances and have knowledge of legislation on Money and Debt and how these relate to vulnerable client groups. An understanding of other local services including the services provided by voluntary and statutory partners is preferred. **GYROS** supports newcomers and migrant communities in the Great Yarmouth area. As an organisation, GYROS can neither discourage nor encourage migration to the UK or indeed to Great Yarmouth. But what we can do is support people who have chosen to come here - to help them settle and integrate into our local community. We strongly believe this benefits everyone. It minimises the stress and potential dangers newcomers face and, through our bespoke services, we relieve pressure which would otherwise fall on local service providers who are already stretched to their limits. Please note that the chosen candidate will undergo security checks including DBS, BPSS and possibly other types of checks. To apply contact GYROS on e: admin@gyros.org.uk t: 01493 745260 to request an application pack. Please do not send CVs, only fully completed application forms will be accepted. The closing date for applications is **16 October 2019 12 noon**.

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