



[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)

[Migration](#)

[Events](#)

[Funding](#)

[Jobs](#)

The Newsflash is a bi-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.

CONTENT

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES – INCLUDING REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

- [The Government's New Plan for Immigration and Nationality and Borders Bill](#)
- [Changes to the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children](#)
- [Afghan Locally Employed Staff scheme accelerates](#)
- [Funding instruction for councils on UK resettlement programmes](#)
- [Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit report: Breaking Connections – lessons learned from working with young asylum seekers during Covid](#)
- [Supreme Court upholds Home Office age assessment policy](#)
- [Court orders asylum seeker brought back to UK after screening interview failures](#)
- [Double win for refugees seeking backdated benefits](#)
- [Displaced Talent Visa](#)
- [Refugee Council report – Living in limbo: a decade of delays in the UK asylum system](#)
- [UK refugee resettlement scheme doesn't discriminate against Christians](#)

MIGRATION

- [EU Settlement Scheme statistics](#)
- [Points Based System – Information for EU Nationals](#)
- [EEA nationals who missed the EU Settlement Scheme deadline](#)
- [Vulnerability in the EU Settlement Scheme: evidence from Law Centres' casework](#)
- [Social Market Foundation Article - The EU Settlement Scheme: The greatest story never told?](#)
- [EU Nationals – Benefits and Housing Eligibility](#)
- [EU Settlement Scheme Concession for Joining Family Members with Visitor Status](#)
- [Automatic British Citizenship](#)
- [EU Settlement Scheme – Paper Applications](#)
- [Right to Work Checks](#)
- [Right to Rent Checks](#)
- [Changes to Red/Amber/Green List rules for entering England](#)
- [Latest COVID-19 Concessions for Visa Applicants and Temporary UK Residents](#)
- [Housing for Hong Kong British National \(Overseas\) status holders](#)
- [Windrush Compensation Scheme – end date removed](#)
- [New High Potential Individual Visa Route](#)
- [Ten-year Routes to Settlement - Migration Observatory Briefing](#)
- [New Education Programme to Support Gypsy Roma and Traveller Children](#)



- [Norfolk and Waveney Mind Welcome service](#)
- [Modern Slavery – National Referral Mechanism Statistics](#)
- [Call for Practitioner Evidence – Responding to Child Exploitation](#)
- [Shiva Foundation Report - 'Support and access to justice for adult victims of modern slavery'](#)
- [End of Free Movement – Impact on Adult Social Care](#)
- [New Removals Agreement with Albania](#)

EVENTS AND TRAINING

- [Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion \(SI4RI\) conference: 'Sowing Innovation in the Cracks of Crisis' - 4-5 October 2021, online](#)
- [Conference: Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees - Tuesday 12 October 2021](#)
- [Webinar: No Recourse to Public Funds - Manufacturing Destitution - Tuesday 2 November 2021, 13:00 – 15:00](#)
- [Raising Awareness of Modern Slavery – New Training](#)

FUNDING

- [Support for BN\(O\) visa holders](#)

JOBS

- [Hong Kong Welcome Hub Administrator - Strategic Migration Partnership, East of England LGA](#)
- [East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership - Lawyer and Policy Officer Vacancies](#)
- [British Red Cross - Project Coordinator - Refugee Support, Norwich](#)

Asylum Seekers and Refugees – including refugee resettlement

The Government's New Plan for Immigration and Nationality and Borders Bill

Following a [consultation](#) on the [New Plan for Immigration](#), the government's [Nationality and Borders Bill](#) was introduced to Parliament on 6 July. The bill and the underlying plan have three main objectives:

- To make the system fairer and more effective so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum.
- To deter illegal entry into the UK breaking the business model of criminal trafficking networks and saving lives.
- To remove from the UK those with no right to be here.

Reactions to the New Plan for Immigration are available on the House of Commons Library page [here](#)
Comments from the Refugee Council on the plan and the bill can be read [here](#)

Changes to the National Transfer Scheme for unaccompanied asylum seeking children

[Announced](#) on 10 June and [launched](#) in July, the revised National Transfer Scheme (NTS) is a voluntary transfer arrangement between local authorities for the care of unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK and claim asylum. Under the NTS, an unaccompanied asylum seeking child (UASC) arriving in one local authority area already under strain caring for UASC may be transferred to another council with capacity. The announcement states that the revised scheme 'will provide local authorities with increased funding and take into account local pressures on local services. By having a 'rota' of these transfers, the updated scheme will provide regions and local authorities with greater clarity as to the number of children to expect and the timing of those placements, allowing them time to plan ahead and better manage their capacity'.

Alongside the revised NTS, updated [funding instructions](#) set out the funding available for local authorities caring for UASC and former UASC care leavers.

Afghan Locally Employed Staff scheme accelerates

The Government is extending and accelerating the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and is requesting support from councils across the UK to welcome Afghan Locally Employed Staff (LES) who have worked for the UK and risked their lives alongside British forces in Afghanistan over the past twenty years and are now relocating to the UK with their families. The Home Office is providing a funding package to resource local authorities who come forward with offers to resettle Afghan LES and their families, enabling delivery of integration support for families and further support on employment, welfare benefits, and access to health, education and other local services. To find out more about participating in this programme, please contact us at the Strategic Migration Partnership: clare.hedges@eelga.gov.uk or kate.odriscoll@eelga.gov.uk

Funding instruction for councils on UK resettlement programmes

Information for local authorities on the funding instruction on UK resettlement programmes for refugees from Syria and the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region has now been published. To access this document, please click [here](#).

Migrant and Refugee Children's Legal Unit report: Breaking Connections – lessons learned from working with young asylum seekers during Covid

This [report](#) highlights key concerns for unaccompanied young people seeking asylum during the Covid-19 pandemic, including delays to asylum processes and decisions, as well as their mental health, increased vulnerability to trafficking or exploitation and the challenges of remote working. The report seeks to offer case examples, easy to read recommendations and creative ideas for both the Home Office and legal representatives, as well as a list of resources for those working with this vulnerable group.



Supreme Court upholds Home Office age assessment policy

On 30 July, the Supreme Court handed down its judgment in the case of [R \(on the application of BF \(Eritrea\)\) \(Respondent\) v Secretary of State for the Home Department \(Appellant\)](#), finding in favour of the Home Office and upholding the policy of treating asylum seekers who claim to be children as adults if two Home Office officials think that the person looks significantly over 18. As a result of a previous Court of Appeal ruling in the same case in 2019, current Home Office [guidance](#) reflects the interim policy that claimants must be treated as an adult 'if their physical appearance and demeanour very strongly suggests that they are 25 years of age or over'. The interim policy remains in place until the guidance is changed. Comments on the case are available on the Free Movement [blog](#).

Court orders asylum seeker brought back to UK after screening interview failures

The Court found that the Home Office had changed its asylum interview process at the start of the pandemic, which meant that officials omitted screening questions designed to pick up on indicators of human trafficking. The High Court intervened to restore the full questionnaire in November 2020. By then, asylum seeker AA had been removed from the UK on foot of the truncated version. He applied for judicial review, arguing that his shortened interview was unlawful. Wall J found "that the failure to ask these questions was material in that there is a real possibility that the outcome for the Claimant would have been different had they been asked". The judge has now ordered officials to use their best endeavours to bring AA back from France "as swiftly as possible" so that his claim can be considered properly. Please follow this [link](#) to the case as covered by Free Movement.

Double win for refugees seeking backdated benefits

The Court of Session in Scotland and the High Court in England and Wales have both ruled that newly recognised refugees have a right to claim backdated child tax credit. The essence of both cases is that a refugee can claim backdated [child tax credit](#) so long as:

- they make a claim within one month of receiving their status, and
- their claim covers a period which includes 31 January 2019, after which time Universal Credit replaced child tax credits.

The report concludes that it is important in such cases that a claim for backdated tax credits is made as soon as refugee status has been granted and certainly within one month. Those who have been wrongly refused in the past would be well advised to seek immediate reconsiderations. Please follow this [link](#) to read the details in full on the Free Movement blog.

Displaced Talent Visa

A new [pilot scheme](#) has been launched under the Skilled Worker visa route, to identify and address the administrative and legal barriers that refugees and other forcibly displaced job seekers face when seeking to move internationally as skilled workers. The pilot will run for 1-2 years and is expected to lead to applications by 50-100 people and their families.

Normal Skilled Worker visa rules will apply, but applicants will be supported by Talent Beyond Boundaries. Displaced professionals must register on Talent Beyond Boundaries' [Talent Catalog](#) providing detailed information about their skills, education and work history. They will receive priority processing, and case management support to overcome administrative barriers such as accessing passports or travel documents, employment references, and tax records. They will also have access to safeguards if they lose their job to ensure they are not returned to a country where they may face danger.

A separate [healthcare sector pilot](#) for around 25 nurses is also running in parallel under the Health and Care visa route.

Refugee Council report – Living in limbo: a decade of delays in the UK asylum system

The [report](#) looks at the rise in the number of people waiting for long periods for an initial decision on their asylum claim, a rise which has been commented on by the Home Affairs Select Committee, the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, the National Audit Office and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Refugees. This report is based on data obtained from Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from the Home Office to explore the growth of the backlog of cases awaiting an initial decision over the last decade (2010-2020), as well as published data from the Home Office for the year ending March 2021. The report looks at what the data reveals and makes recommendations about how to reduce the numbers of people waiting to have their asylum claim decided.

UK refugee resettlement scheme doesn't discriminate against Christians

In [R \(HNA\) v Secretary of State for the Home Department \[2021\] EWHC 2100 \(Admin\)](#), the High Court has rejected an argument that the UK's refugee resettlement efforts discriminate against Christians in the Middle East. The claimant HNA is a former Muslim convert to Christianity who fled Syria for Lebanon in 2014. His challenge concerned the now closed Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, but also sought an order for its replacement (the consolidated UK Resettlement Scheme) to include a quota for religious minorities. To achieve this he would have had to establish that there was discrimination against such minorities that needed to be fixed, which proposition the High Court rejected. Please follow this [link](#) to the Free Movement blog to read the details of the case.

Migration

EU Settlement Scheme statistics

The latest [headline figures](#) show that:

- overall, the total number of applications received up to 30 June 2021 was 6,015,400
- overall, the total number of applications concluded up to 30 June 2021 was 5,446,300

Total number of applications by nation as of 30 June 2021:

- England - 5,355,400
- Scotland - 291,200
- Wales - 98,600
- Northern Ireland - 98,400

Concluded applications by outcome type as of 30 June 2021:

- Settled - 52% (2,846,700)
- Pre-settled - 43% (2,329,400)
- Refused - 2% (109,400)
- Withdrawn or void - 1% (80,800)
- Invalid - 1% (79,800)

The figures reported account for the number of applications to the system, including individuals making applications on more than one occasion. As of 31 March 2021, 6% of applications were from repeat applicants (311,870). This suggests that an estimated 4,963,560 people had applied to the scheme up to 31 March 2021.

A more in-depth look at the EU Settlement Scheme statistics up to 31 March 2021 is available [here](#)

Points Based System – Information for EU Nationals

EU nationals who wish to move to the UK but who do not qualify for the EU Settlement Scheme will now fall within the UK's Points Based Immigration System. A basic [overview](#) has been provided to introduce them to the PBS.



EEA nationals who missed the EU Settlement Scheme deadline

The deadline to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme was 30 June 2021. Professor Bernard Ryan has written an [article](#) for the Immigration Law Practitioners' Association on the consequences of missing that deadline.

There are three groups of people who may now find themselves without valid status in the UK. Those who applied in time but are awaiting a decision; those who applied late; and those who have still not applied at all. This [briefing](#) from Free Movement summarises the position in respect of the different groups.

The Home Office has published [information](#) for late applicants. When submitting a late application, they must have "reasonable grounds to apply late". Non-exhaustive guidance on this is set out in the [EU Settlement Scheme caseworker guidance](#). Late applicants who are refused on the basis they did not have reasonable grounds have a right to apply for administrative review of that refusal. Toolkits for [local authorities](#) and [community groups](#) have been updated.

The Migration Observatory has also produced an [article](#) on "the next phase" of the EUSS.

Vulnerability in the EU Settlement Scheme: evidence from Law Centres' casework

Law Centres Network has published a [report](#) which looks at how vulnerable people with complex applications have fared in the EU Settlement Scheme and recommends certain changes to benefit those who have not yet applied.

Social Market Foundation Article - The EU Settlement Scheme: The greatest story never told?

Rather than focus on the detailed operation of the EUSS, this [article](#) considers the context in which it operates and how that has changed since the referendum.

EU Nationals – Benefits and Housing Eligibility

As the deadline to apply to the EUSS has now passed, councils need to ensure they understand the implications regarding the rights and entitlements of residents. This [article](#) from the NRPF Network addresses some of the questions arising from recent legal and policy developments relating to late applications, Zambrano carers, and entitlement to benefits and social services' support.

The NRPF Network has produced a [factsheet](#) which provides information to help local authorities establish a person's support options when they are destitute or at risk of homelessness. The Chartered Institute of Housing has also updated its [website](#) with further information.

Meanwhile in *C-709/20 CG v Department for Communities in Northern Ireland* the Court of Justice of the European Union has held that refusing Universal Credit to EU citizens with pre-settled status is justified so long as there is no risk of breaching fundamental rights under the EU Charter. The judgement is available [here](#) and is reviewed by Free Movement [here](#).

EU Settlement Scheme Concession for Joining Family Members with Visitor Status

On 21 July 2021 a new temporary concession was added to the [EUSS Caseworker Guidance](#). Under this concession, a joining family member of a relevant sponsor may be in the UK as a visitor, so long as their visitor leave expires on or before 30 December 2021. They may have entered the UK from 1 January to 31 June 2021 with six months' leave as a visitor, or they may have arrived after 30 June but with visitor leave of less than six months. It also includes those who make a late application if they are still visitors when they apply and there are reasonable grounds for missing the deadline.

Automatic British Citizenship

On 1 July 2021, a new section 10A was added to the British Nationality Act 1981, by the [British Nationality Act 1981 \(Immigration Rules Appendix EU\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021 \(SI 2021 No. 743\)](#). This new section is highly unusual because it provides for automatic post-birth acquisition of British citizenship.

Where a parent was entitled to EU settled status before 1 July 2021 but is only granted it after the birth of a child born after that date, their child will be British from the date that settled status is granted. In such cases the child will be able to apply for a British passport and no registration application is required. This is intended to cover situations where there was a delay in deciding the parent's EUSS application, or they applied late.

EU Settlement Scheme – Paper Applications

Late applications to the EUSS should be submitted online. However, it is possible to use a paper application form if you are having significant difficulty applying through the online application process that cannot be resolved with support from the Home Office's assisted digital provider, or you do not hold a valid passport or national identity card and wish to rely on alternative evidence of your identity and nationality (or of your entitlement to apply from outside the UK). You will also need to apply using a paper application form where you rely to certain 'derivative rights' to reside in the UK.

Paper forms are no longer available to download from the government website. Instead, to obtain one of these forms, you should [contact](#) the EU Settlement Resolution Centre. Once completed, the form and any supporting documents must be submitted by post unless the Settlement Resolution Centre have assigned you a unique application number permitting you to submit the form by email.

Right to Work Checks

The Home Office has published an updated [factsheet](#) for employers. This confirms that repeat right to work checks are not required for EU nationals who were hired before 30 June 2021 but acknowledges that many employers will want to check their staff have applied to the EUSS, as part of their workforce planning and retention strategies. Any retrospective checks must be carried out in a non-discriminatory manner.

More detailed guidance on carrying out right to work checks from 1 July 2021 can be found in the fuller updated [Employer's Guide](#). This provides some reassurance on the position where an employer does a retrospective check on an existing employee and finds they have not yet applied to the EUSS: "It should be noted that the criminal offence of employing an illegal worker is generally reserved for the most serious cases of non-compliance with the Right to Work Scheme. It is not intended for employers who have employed EEA citizens in good faith having completed a right to work check in the prescribed manner and are acting in accordance with this guidance to support their employees to make an application to the EUSS."

Right to Rent Checks

Since 1 July 2021, EEA citizens (apart from Irish nationals) and their family members require immigration status in the UK. To prove their right to rent they can no longer rely on an EEA passport or national identity card and are now required to provide evidence of lawful immigration status in the UK, in the same way as other foreign nationals. The Home Office has provided updated [guidance](#) for landlords and tenants on how to complete a right to rent check and which documents are acceptable. The relevant [code of practice](#) has also been updated.

Changes to Red/Amber/Green List rules for entering England

The lists of countries rated red, amber or green for COVID-19 and the associated rules for entry into England continue to change on a regular basis. The most significant change in the last few months was the announcement that from 19 July 2021 double vaccinated travellers do not need to isolate when returning from an amber list country, with the exception of France. Care should always be taken to check the latest version of the list which is available [here](#)

Latest COVID-19 Concessions for Visa Applicants and Temporary UK Residents

The Home Office continues to regularly update [guidance](#) on concessions for visa applicants and temporary UK residents in light of the pandemic. The 'exceptional assurance' scheme has now been extended until 30 September 2021. You can apply for exceptional assurance if your visa, leave or current exceptional assurance expires before 30 September 2021 and you are unable to leave the UK to return to a country on the amber or red list. There may also be exceptional cases where you may be unable to return to a country or territory listed as green where that nation has closed their borders or where quarantine facilities are temporarily over-subscribed in which cases you may also request 'exceptional assurance'. Note, if you intend to remain in the UK rather than leave when you can, then you should make the appropriate visa application instead.

If you are applying for a visa from outside the UK and your visa application centre is closed due to coronavirus restrictions, it remains the case that you can apply online and select a visa application centre in a different country to submit your biometrics. This concession has been extended until 31 December 2021.

The loss of income concessions in respect of applicants for a visa on the basis of family or private life have been extended until 31 October 2021.

On 24 June 2021 new guidance was added for migrants who are in the UK, but whose entry clearance was not activated due to COVID-19 restrictions. This applies to people who entered the UK outside the period stipulated in their entry clearance vignette. Under a new process they can apply for free to vary the leave and conditions granted on arrival, to match the conditions on their entry clearance. They will be required to provide details of how travel was impacted by COVID-19 regulations before they will be sent a biometric residence permit.

Housing for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) status holders

BN(O) visa holders are subject to a condition that they have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). However, it is possible for a BN(O) visa holder who is destitute to apply to have this condition lifted.

To reflect this The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (SI 2021/665) came into force on 29 June 2021. As a result, a person from Hong Kong with a BN(O) visa, who has applied for and been granted access to public funds and who is habitually resident in the UK, is eligible for an allocation of social housing or for homelessness assistance. Click [here](#) for further information.

Windrush Compensation Scheme – end date removed

The Windrush Compensation Scheme was due to end in April 2023. However, the Home Secretary [announced](#) on 21 July 2021 that the end date is being removed. In addition, a new package of support is being launched to help people who are making a claim on behalf of a deceased relative. The application form was also recently amended to make it easier to complete. Updated [guidance](#) for Home Office caseworkers has been published and confirms they should only ask applicants to provide the minimum information required to pay the maximum amount of compensation.

As at the end of June 2021 over £34 million had been offered in compensation, with almost £26.9 million of that paid to 776 people.

New High Potential Individual Visa Route

The [UK Innovation Strategy](#), published on 22 July 2021 states that "the UK government will introduce a new High Potential Individual route to make it as simple as possible for internationally mobile individuals who demonstrate high potential to come to the UK. Eligibility will be open to applicants who have graduated from a top global university. The UK government will explore the scope to expand eligibility to other characteristics of high potential. There will be no job offer requirement, giving individuals the flexibility to work, switch jobs or employers and make contributions to the UK economy. The route will also allow eligible individuals to extend their visa and settle in the UK, subject to meeting specific requirements."

Ten-year Routes to Settlement - Migration Observatory Briefing

The Migration Observatory has published a [briefing](#) looking at migrants whose immigration status puts them on a ten-year route to settlement in the UK, rather than the usual five.

Among the main findings, the briefing shows that the number of people holding status on the ten-year family life and private life routes has grown considerably over time, and is estimated at roughly 170,000 at the end of 2020, making these routes a substantial part of the immigration system. Migrants on ten-year routes face considerably higher costs than people on the standard 5-year routes (around £11,000 for a child, and just under £24,000 for a parent and child together). Most did not hold a mainstream work/study/family visa immediately before entering the route (this would include, e.g. children brought to the UK by their parents who have no legal status), although there are smaller numbers of people moving directly from the five-year partner route.

New Education Programme to Support Gypsy Roma and Traveller Children

The government has [announced](#) it is investing £1 million in a pilot aimed at boosting educational attainment, tackling exclusion and drop-out rates and improving pathways to employment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. This includes funding for the Open Doors Education and Training organisation to continue catch-up tutoring for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils whose education was disrupted by the pandemic.

The pilot involves 150 schools in Bradford, Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Hillingdon and Surrey, on the basis these areas have the highest number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils attending primary and/or secondary school, according to data from the DfE 2020 National Pupil Database.

Norfolk and Waveney Mind Welcome service

Norfolk and Waveney Mind has launched a new service for people from a diverse ethnic background. This is part of the Norfolk and Waveney Mind Adult Community Recovery service for Great Yarmouth Borough and Waveney. “Welcome” supports ethnically diverse groups and individuals to achieve good mental health, access services and feel less isolated. They also work with other sector organisations to identify gaps in the provision of mental health services and reduce health inequalities. Appointments can be booked [here](#)

Modern Slavery – National Referral Mechanism Statistics

[Statistics](#) were published on 3 June 2021 regarding the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred into the National Referral Mechanism or via the Duty to Notify process from 1 January to 31 March 2021.

Despite the ongoing restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and a decrease in adult referrals since the previous quarter, quarter 1 2021 saw the third-highest number of quarterly referrals to the NRM since it began. Referrals for UK based (rather than overseas) exploitation increased. Child potential victims were most often referred for criminal exploitation. This was partially driven by an increase in the identification of ‘county lines’ cases, which accounted for 17% of all referrals during this quarter.

The most commonly referred nationality was British, followed by Albanian and then Vietnamese. It remained the case that around 9 out of every 10 referrals received a positive decision.

Call for Practitioner Evidence – Responding to Child Exploitation

The Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner has launched a [call for evidence](#) inviting practitioners, academics and policymakers to share promising practice in the field of responding to child exploitation and trafficking (including domestic servitude, forced labour, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation including county lines).

The deadline to respond is 6 September 2021. Evidence submitted will then inform a [conference](#) taking place in October 2021 at the educational institute Cumberland Lodge on ‘Emerging good practice: What looks promising in responding to child exploitation’.



Shiva Foundation Report - 'Support and access to justice for adult victims of modern slavery'

Shiva Foundation has carried out research into the gaps in support for victims of modern slavery and access to justice for adults. The [report](#) develops a structured understanding of existing policies and legislation. Then, taking Hertfordshire as an example, the report highlights the disconnect between national policy and local-level implementation and explores the reasons for this disconnect.

End of Free Movement – Impact on Adult Social Care

The Home Secretary has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee to carry out an [independent review](#) of adult social care, and the impact the ending freedom of movement has had on the sector. The report is due by the end of April 2022.

New Removals Agreement with Albania

The UK and Albania have signed a [new agreement](#) to strengthen the existing arrangements the UK has to remove Albanian nationals who have no right to be in the UK. This includes failed asylum seekers, foreign national offenders (FNOs), and individuals who have overstayed their visas.

Events and Training

Social Innovation for Refugee Inclusion (SI4RI) conference: 'Sowing Innovation in the Cracks of Crisis' - 4-5 October 2021, online

This conference, organised by MPI Europe, sponsored by the United States Mission to the European Union, and done in partnership with the EESC and Mission of Canada to the European Union, will explore how the diverse landscape of partnerships, social enterprises, participatory models, and community-led initiatives spearheading social innovation for inclusion has fared during COVID-19. It will also discuss how this ecosystem can emerge strengthened from the crisis, and how innovations can reach underserved places and highly vulnerable groups. For any questions, please email events@migrationpolicy.org

Conference: Improving Mental Health Support for Asylum Seekers and Refugees - Tuesday 12 October 2021

Chaired by Renae Mann, Executive Director of Services, The Refugee Council, this conference will give a national update looking at the importance of mental health services for asylum seekers and refugees and current key issues. Extended focus sessions and best practice case studies will provide you with practical guidance for; providing mental health crisis support, supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of unaccompanied young people, working with refugees who have experienced trauma, and providing services for victims of human trafficking and torture. For the full programme content, speaker line-up and to book click [here](#)

Webinar: No Recourse to Public Funds - Manufacturing Destitution - Tuesday 2 November 2021, 13:00 – 15:00

With the number of people seeking advice on no recourse to public funds doubling during the pandemic, this webinar - hosted by ACH and Migration Mobilities Bristol (MMB) - will look at the affects NRPF has on migrants at a national and local level. It will also explore the findings of those working with lived experience of NRPF and discuss next steps and actions for change. ACH and MMB will be joined by a panel of experts in the field of migration. Register your place [here](#) or email marketing@ach.org.uk

Raising Awareness of Modern Slavery – New Training

The Home Office has launched a new [e-learning module](#) aimed at all First Responders and frontline professionals who come into contact with children. The training focuses on the child victims of modern slavery, the steps practitioners should take to safeguard victims and the role of the NRM in these cases.

Border Force also now offers two free [e-learning courses](#) on modern slavery and human trafficking. These are aimed at travel industry staff, overseas law enforcement and other stakeholders.



Funding

Support for BN(O) visa holders

On 31 January 2021 the government launched a new visa route for BN(O) status holders from Hong Kong. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is leading delivery of a £43.1 million HM Government funded national 'Welcome Programme' to support BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members to help them to successfully settle in their new communities. Click [here](#) for details of all the different funding streams available.

In particular, £124,467.00 has been allocated to the East of England, to be used for grants of £10k-£40k each to charities, CICs, community groups and other not for profit organisations who will support BN(O) visa holders and their families, in line with our [regional strategic priorities](#). There is a tight timeline and the deadline to apply for this funding is **1 September 2021**. For further details please click [here](#) or contact Clare Hedges: clare.hedges@eelga.gov.uk

Jobs

Hong Kong Welcome Hub Administrator - Strategic Migration Partnership, East of England LGA

We are seeking a professional and committed individual to join our dynamic team in the role of Hong Kong Welcome Hub Administrator. This person will provide high-quality, flexible support to the Strategic Migration Partnership at the East of England LGA, based at West Suffolk House, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds.

The East of England LGA is a politically-led organisation that works on behalf of the 50 local councils in the East of England with an over-riding purpose "to support our member councils to be the best that they can be for their communities". The Strategic Migration Partnership is a tiered regional network, which works with partners to develop and support local migrant workers', asylum seekers' and refugees' networks.

The Hong Kong Welcome Hub Administrator is expected to assist the Policy Officer responsible for the Hong Kong Welcome Hub and, from time to time, other members of the Strategic Migration Partnership including the Senior Manager, other Policy Officers, regional ESOL Coordinator and those undertaking the AMIF-funded project: [Well being and Work for Refugee Integration Project - EELGA SMP](#). The role primarily involves developing and maintaining the regional Welcome Hub for Hong Kong nationals arriving in the East of England.

The role is for 3 days a week for the period from 1 September 2021 (or as soon as possible) to 31 July 2022.

The closing date for applications is **9am on Wednesday 18 August** and the interviews will be held on Monday 23 August.

For further information and to apply, click [here](#)

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership - Lawyer and Policy Officer Vacancies

East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (EMSMP) is hosted by East Midlands Council. EMSMP is one of 12 Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMP) within the UK and covers the county areas of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. They are recruiting for three new roles:

- Professional Support Lawyer- Immigration (Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Refugees) Grade J
- Resettlement Policy Officer (Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas) Grade H
- Resettlement Policy Officer (UK Resettlement Scheme) Grade H

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#), and for an informal discussion about any of the job opportunities, please contact Brein Fisher, Regional Migration Manager at Brein.fisher@emcouncils.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is **Monday 23 August 2021 at 9am**. Virtual Interviews are anticipated to take place week commencing 6 September 2021.



British Red Cross - Project Coordinator - Refugee Support, Norwich

As part of the Refugee Support and Restoring Family Links team, the Project Coordinator will be responsible for developing, coordinating, and delivering casework and social, wellbeing and integration activities for refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants in the Norfolk area and will undertake a range of duties designed to develop, maintain and promote the service.

The team of 5 staff, supported by a small yet dedicated team of volunteers, provides destitution and emotional support to refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants living in Norwich and Norfolk, many of whom are experiencing social isolation, trauma and separation while trying to navigate complex legal systems within the UK.

British Red Cross Refugee Support work closely with the refugee sector and wider community partners participating in City Wide forums to promote access to services and support integration.

Deadline for applications: **Sunday 8 August**

For further information and to apply, click [here](#)

If you have had this passed on to you and you want to receive e-mail updates yourself, you can subscribe by emailing helen.hancock@eelga.gov.uk

If you wish to unsubscribe from the Newsflash please email helen.hancock@eelga.gov.uk