The Newsflash is a two-weekly 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

How children become ‘failed asylum seekers’: research report from Kent Law Clinic on the experiences of young unaccompanied asylum-seekers in Kent (2006 to 2013) and how ‘corrective remedies’ have failed them

The report reviews the cases of 20 refused Afghan asylum seekers assisted by Kent Law Clinic. They found:

- Most had not appealed against the initial refusal of asylum
- Most refusals and tribunal dismissals were on grounds of incredibility and implausibility
- Most claims refused on credibility grounds had also been age-disputed by social services
- Some refusals relied on initial ‘illegal entry’ interviews conducted on arrival without appropriate safeguards
- Some young people endured drawn-out appeal processes and had become 18 by the time their case reached a tribunal
- The best interests of the child were rarely considered other than by inserting standard text
- Family tracing was not carried out in any of the cases. In some cases the issue of family tracing was relied on by Home Office or Tribunal judge to discredit the applicant’s claim.

To read the report, please follow this link: [http://www.kent.ac.uk/law/clinic/how_children_become_failed_asylum-seekers.pdf](http://www.kent.ac.uk/law/clinic/how_children_become_failed_asylum-seekers.pdf)

Right to Justice: Quality Legal Assistance for Unaccompanied Children – report from European Council on Refugees and Exile (ECRE) and partners across the EU

The Right to Justice project looked at the issue of access and quality of legal assistance for unaccompanied children in various migration and asylum procedures in 7 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Spain and the UK). Please follow this link to access the report (main findings and comparative report): [Right to Justice - European Council on Refugees and Exiles](http://www.asyr-mw.org.uk). Please follow this link to access the response to the report from the Refugee Council: [Report says separated children should have guardians](http://www.asyr-mw.org.uk)

The move-on period: an ordeal for new refugees – British Red Cross report

The report uses qualitative and quantitative data to understand why many new refugees are at particular risk of destitution the 28-day timeframe which the Home Office gives people newly granted leave to remain before they withdraw asylum support. The report’s key findings were that:

- Moving to mainstream benefits usually takes much longer than 28 days: one person in their study had to wait almost three months to receive such support.
- This delay is usually because of red tape and inefficiency from government staff.
- In total, they identified 23 factors that can affect the process.

As a result, all the new refugees in the study were destitute. Please follow this link to access the report in full: [The move-on period: an ordeal for new refugees | British Red Cross](http://www.asyr-mw.org.uk). Please follow this link to read the response to the report from the Refugee Council: [New refugees left destitute, report says](http://www.asyr-mw.org.uk)
UKVI issues new in country guidance for Libya and Iraq
This guidance used by UK Visas and Immigration to make decisions in asylum and human rights applications. The Libyan guidance looks particularly at claims made by those likely to be perceived or recognised as a Gaddafi clan member, loyalist or support. The Iraq guidance looks at the security situation in the ‘contested’ areas of Iraq. Please follow this link to read the Libya guidance: Libya: country information and guidance - Publications - GOV.UK and this link to read the Iraqi guidance: Iraq: country information and guidance - Publications - GOV.UK

UNHCR bulletin calls for urgent political solution in Iraq and more help from Europe for Syrians
The bulletin describes the situation in Iraq for the Yazidi people fleeing Iraq for Syria, and calls on Europe to do more to help Syrian refugees who are trying in larger numbers to reach the safety of Europe. Four per cent of the 2.9 million Syrian refugees have claimed asylum in Europe - the majority are living in countries immediately neighbouring Syria. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full: UNHCR News

Monthly Asylum data released by Home Office for period of June 2014
The data is presented in tables which show the number of applications received for asylum in the UK and tables of pending applications received for asylum since April 2006. 2,474 asylum applications were received with 28,525 waiting for an asylum decision. Please follow this link to read the data in full: Monthly asylum application tables - Statistical data sets - GOV.UK

Refugee Council press release about Afghan Sikhs found in container in Tilbury
The Refugee Council issued a press release following the news that a group of 34 Afghan Sikhs had been discovered in a container on a lorry at Tilbury docks. Please follow this link to read the statement in full: Tilbury tragedy and lack of safe routes for refugees

Women’s Asylum News – August edition released
In this edition, the sector update features an opinion piece about the double standards for women and girls at risk of FGM and forced marriage. There are also legal updates, national and international news plus UK training and events. It also provides links to publications, such as the Save the Children Annual Report: State of the world's mothers. Please follow this link to access the document in full: http://www.asylumaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/WAN-124.pdf

Home Office releases data relating to children held under Immigration Act powers – July 2014
A total of 12 children were held in either Tinsley House or the Cedars, the family units in the Immigration Detention estate. However, one child aged between 12 and 16 was held at Dover Immigration Removal Centre, an adult unit at some point in July 2014. Please follow this link to read the data release in full: Children entering detention under Immigration Act powers - Statistical data sets - GOV.UK.

Migration

Home Office statistical news release: immigration statistics for the period April – June 2014
The press release reviews and comments on the immigration data relating to workers, students, asylum seekers as well as visitor and family visa numbers. It also reviews the number of people held in detention and those volunteering to leave. It identifies that 50 Syrians have been granted Humanitarian Protection under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (section 8.10). Please follow this link to access the complete suite of data tables: Immigration statistics, April to June 2014 - Publications - GOV.UK and this one to read document that presents data with commentary: immigration statistics, April to June 2014 - GOV.UK. Please follow this link to read a press release from the Refugee Council in response to the data release: UK resettles just 50 refugees from Syria
Expressions of interest from local government sought to run pilot partnerships to combat migrant worker exploitation

This invitation stems from cross-government work on illegal working and exploitation of migrants carried out by the Cabinet Office. It looked at how national and local agencies tackle illegal working and also how they stop legal workers from being exploited by unscrupulous employers and landlords. The vision for these pilots is that local and national partners will develop new ways of sharing risk information, intelligence, and coordinate their actions so that they are more responsive to local priorities and that businesses are helped to comply with resources focused on the worst rule breakers - a rule breaker in one area may also break rules in another (a business that employs illegal workers may be more likely to avoid tax, for example). For more information about the pilot partnership please contact Gosia Strona on e: Malgorzata.strona@eelga.gov.uk or t: 01284 758324. Please note that there is a deadline for an expression of interest submission of 12 September.

Department for Work and Pensions data release: National Insurance number (NINo) allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK – registrations to June 2014

The headline figures are highlighted as follows:
- The total number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals in the 12 months to June 2014 was 566,000, a fall of 7,000 (1%) on the previous year.
- Within the European Union - the number of NINo registrations from EU nationals in the 12 months to June 2014 was 421,000, an increase of 23,000 (6%) on the previous year.
- The number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from EU2 nationals (Bulgaria and Romania) in the 12 months to June 2014 was 85,000, an increase of 57,000 (207%) on the previous year.
- Rest of the world - The number of NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals from outside the EU the 12 months to June 2014 was 144,000, a fall of 30,000 (17%) on the previous year.

The data is broken down by local authority. Please follow this link to access the data in full: National Insurance number allocations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK to June 2014 - Publications - GOV.UK

Stronger Together new guidance: Transparency in the UK Food Supply Chain - Guidance on ensuring ethical labour standards

The document lays out pragmatic good practice for UK-based growers and producers to prevent labour exploitation. Businesses are encouraged to incorporate three-steps into their management practices. Step one is to map and risk assess the supply chain. Step two is to set and agree standards with key suppliers for the supply and management of labour and services. Step three involves working in partnership to ensure due diligence with those agreed standards. To access the document, please click on http://www.stronger2gether.org/

Opinion piece from IPPR – Boris, a centre-right visionary on immigration?

This article from Tim Finch of IPPR offers the view that Boris Johnson’s return to national politics may herald a new direction on immigration. Boris - a centre right visionary on immigration? | Immigration A balanced agenda

Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) – resources to extend housing rights website into private rented sector

The housing rights website www.housing-rights.info which provides help to migrants and their advisers about access to housing and housing benefit has been funded to extend its coverage into the private rented sector (PRS). The aim will be to guide migrants and their advisers on access to the PRS, problems they may encounter, how to exercise their rights, access to LHA, the checks that will be imposed by the Immigration Act, etc. It will particularly benefit recent migrants who are often forced into poorer parts of the sector, are unaware of their rights and find it difficult to access advice services. Please get in touch with the CIH if you have any documents or advice notes which might help to build up the material on the site or if you know someone with particular expertise in this area (whether advising migrants or advising on entry to the PRS in general) who would be willing to look at draft material before it goes live. The expectation is that the new material will go live in early 2015. For more information and to share resources please contact John Perry on e: john.perry@cih.org
Demos report – Making ESOL policy work better for migrants and wider society...

The report by Ally Paget and Neil Stevenson puts the case for England needing a national ESOL strategy. The report outlines the importance of the English language to the capabilities and integration of migrants who wish to build a future in the UK. However, the authors find that current ESOL policy in England suffers from a lack of, about the aims and intended outcomes of learning, fragmentation, disagreement over the analysis and description of English language levels and abilities, and a tendency to take a short-term view. Both Scotland and Wales have an ESOL strategy and the report argues that ESOL in England is not functioning as well as it could – or as well as it will need to, to meet the demand associated with demographic projections. To read the full report, please follow this link: http://www.demos.co.uk/files/On_speaking_termsweb.pdf?1408395571

Home Office releases new document – Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK: timeline

The document contains details of policy changes, together with information on changes to immigration legislation that affect immigration statistics over time, dating back to the British Nationality Act 1981. Please follow this link to read the document in full: Policy and legislative changes affecting migration to the UK: timeline - Publications - GOV.UK

A flowchart to establish if local authorities should join NRPF Connect to reduce NRPF caseload and spend

NRPF Connect is the Home Office’s preferred way of working with local authorities to reduce No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) caseload and spend. Please follow this link to the flowchart which shows the number of NRPF cases and annual spend by a local authority which would make this a value for money solution: www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Documents/Steps to joining Connect.pdf

Bulgarians and Romanians in the British National Press – report from the Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford

The report covers the period from 1 December 2012 to 1 December 2013, the period before the lifting of transitional labour market controls. During this time, Britain’s 19 main national newspapers published more than 4,000 articles and other items mentioning Romanians or Bulgarians - in total more than 2.8 million words. This report uses methodology from corpus linguistics to analyse the language used by the newspapers to discuss Romanians and Bulgarians. It found the language used by tabloid newspapers to describe and discuss Romanians as a group often focused on crime and anti-social behaviour. The verbs used in connection to Romanians and Bulgarians together were frequently related to travel (come, arrive, move, travel, head) and in tabloids these included metaphors related to scale (flood, flock). Words appearing before mentions of Romanians and Bulgarians as a unit frequently related to prevention of movement (in broadsheets; deter, restrict, dissuade - in tabloids; stop, control, block). Please follow this link to read the full report: Bulgarians and Romanians in the British National Press | The Migration Observatory

Service update from GYROS

GYROS, the Great Yarmouth advice agency, has issued a service update bulletin. It includes links to new leaflets it has produced about benefits for EEA nationals, available in English, Polish, Portuguese, Lithuanian and Russian. Please follow this link to access the bulletin in full: GYROS Service Update

Updated UKVI guidance – applying for a UK Visa: approved English language tests

From 1 July 2014 ETS was removed from the list of English language test providers approved by the Home Office. The Home Office will ensure that applicants who have not yet applied for a visa are not affected. Please follow this link to access full details of those applicants via partner and parent applications who need to meet the A1 English Language level, the complete list of approved tests, providers and the list of countries without a secure English language test provider: Applying for a UK visa: approved English language tests - Publications - GOV.UK
### Platform for undocumented migrants (PICUM) – August bulletin issued
The bulletin covers news from across the EU about undocumented migrants. It provides links to reports and updates on policy and law, both EU and in individual member states. Please follow this link to read the bulletin in full: [PICUM — PICUM Bulletin — 25 August 2014](#).

### Association of Labour Providers ‘Stronger together’ campaign to tackle labour exploitation – multi-language resources now available
Printed workplace posters and worker leaflets can now be ordered for free (just cover P&P) from the Stronger Together website. The following resources are available:
- Multi-language A4 Worker Leaflets in English, Bulgarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian & Slovakian
- Multi-language A4 Worker Poster in a variety of designs and language combinations

### The Guardian newspaper asks for readers’ views on using ‘illegal immigrant’
The request for views on what words should be used comes in response to a letter from ‘Right to Remain’ which was written to express concern that the Guardian had chosen to use the term ‘illegal immigrant’, which it describes as ‘inaccurate and dangerous….treating all undocumented migrants as a homogenised mass. The United Nations and the European parliament have called for an end to using the term, promoting the use of ‘undocumented’ or ‘irregular’ migrants instead’. The Guardian would like readers’ views on what terminology they would recommend that the paper uses. Please follow this link to read the article: [Open door: The readers’ editor on... whether we should use the term ‘illegal immigrant’ | Comment is free | The Guardian](http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/01/open-door-readers-editor-illegal-immigrant). Please send views to e: reader@theguardian.com

### Government issues new factsheet on landlords’ right to rent checks: tackling illegal immigration in privately rented accommodation – update
In the last newsflash, we provided a link to a Government factsheet which subsequently became unavailable. This is the link to the factsheet that has now been issued and placed on a page of factsheets, issued to support different parts of the Immigration Act 2014. Please follow this link to access all the factsheets: [Immigration Bill: part 3 - landlord immigration checks and access to services - Publications - GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk)

### Events

#### GYROS and Norfolk Community Law Service: free legal advice sessions – 4 and 9 September, Great Yarmouth
The session on 4 September and will be at the CAB, with the one o 9 from 2-4pm in the library. Both sessions will focus on family law. To book an appointment or to refer a client please contact Fiona on e: [fiona@gyros.org.uk](mailto:fiona@gyros.org.uk) or t: 01493 745260.

#### BME health promotion event from DHIVERSE – 13 September, Huntingdon
The event is at The Medway Centre, Medway Road PE29 1SF and is for anyone who wants to gain a better understanding of the importance of taking care of our health and wellbeing and some of the concerns and issues faced by some people in the BME communities in accessing the support and care they need. There will be speakers, information, food, music and much more. Everyone is welcome but places are limited, so to reserve a place please contact Florence on m: 07904 337737, t: 01223 508805 or e: [Florence@dhiverse.org.uk](mailto:Florence@dhiverse.org.uk)

The event, which includes food and entertainment, with a keynote speaker talking on the theme of ‘Breaking Barriers’, will start with registrations at 18:00 at the Waterfront Building, UCS, Neptune Quay. For more information or to register to attend, please contact ISCRE on e: office@iscre.org.uk or t: 01473 408111.

From the Boardroom to the Decision Table: Training Diverse Leadership – 24 September, free webinar event

If visible minorities and immigrants make up a growing share of the urban population, why are they still largely absent from the city’s boardrooms and corridors of power? Programmes like DiverseCity onBoard (Toronto, Canada), and West Midlands Civic leadership (Birmingham, UK) aim to close the diversity gap through practical strategies to engage and promote diverse leadership. Join Cities of Migration for an online discussion about what it takes to change the faces of civic and political leadership and connect public institutions to the talent they need for competitive growth. The webinar will take place at 3pm and for more information and to take part, please follow this link: Webinar: From the Boardroom to the Decision Table: Training Diverse Leadership | Cities of Migration

‘Tackling Hidden Worker Exploitation' workshops – 3 October, London and 6 November Spalding, Lincolnshire

These two workshops are part of a series being organised by the ‘Stronger together’ campaign to tackle labour exploitation. There is one free delegate place provided per organisation for Association of Labour Providers’ members, charities, NGOs and Project Sponsor own label suppliers. N.B. This is one free place only per organisation, not per workshop or per site. Please call 01276 919090 if you are booking a free delegate place. The cost is £125 (+VAT) per delegate. This is non-refundable for cancellations less than seven days before the workshop. Please follow this link for more information and to book to attend: Upcoming Events : Stronger Together

Freedom charity in partnership with Norfolk Constabulary, conference about Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – 22 October, Norwich

This Conference to raise awareness of Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comes as forced marriage is criminalised in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act and the government publishes its renewed action plan in A Call to End Violence against Women and Girls. Due to changes in legislation and guidance there has never been a more important time to come together as partners in a multi-agency preventative response to these critical issues. The event will allow delegates to hear from expert colleagues from the police, health, government, criminal justice services and the voluntary sector on driving forward partnership working to enable prevention, support and protection for victims and those at risk in Norfolk. A place at conference will cost £100, which will support future initiatives of Freedom Charity. The event will be held at the Mercure Hotel from 09:30 to 16:30 and includes lunch and refreshments. To register or for any other queries, please email: HBAConference@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.


As Government takes forward the Modern Slavery Bill, this seminar will be an opportunity to discuss options for policy, key implementation issues, and best practice for businesses, local authorities and law enforcement. It will bring out latest thinking on how new legislation will impact on victim support services and tackle the threat of serious and organised crime, and it will also consider what more can be done to encourage ethical trading and business compliance. Please follow this link for more information and to register to attend: Westminster Forum Projects | Booking Form.
Funding

**Preparatory Action - Funding for the rehabilitation of victims of torture: Call for proposals for action grants**

The fund objectives are to create and support rehabilitation centres for and provide multidisciplinary assistance to victims of torture, including physical and psychotherapeutic treatment, psycho-social counselling, legal service and socio-economic support. There are four priority themes:
- **Priority 1** - to provide victims with access to holistic rehabilitation by providing funds for the costs of rehabilitation centres for victims of torture established in the EU (new or existing ones).
- **Priority 2** - to support the capacity building of rehabilitation centres established in the EU via networking activities in and outside the EU.
- **Priority 3** - to support activities aiming at the empowerment of torture victims themselves and, in general, at supporting the integration capacities of torture victims in EU countries.
- **Priority 4** - to support advocacy actions aiming at ensuring that Member States comply with the right to rehabilitation as defined in General Comment 3 to Article 14 of Convention against Torture.

A proposal which covers more than one priority area will be favoured, as will those with high EU coverage. But this call will fund only transnational projects designed, submitted and implemented by a partnership of at least 2 eligible distinct organisations from at least 2 EU Member States. Eligible organisations (as coordinator or beneficiary partner) are national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, public or private bodies, university departments or research centres. Please follow this link for more information: The Commission publishes the call for proposals HOME/2014/PAVT/AG. Note the deadline for applications is **25 September 2014**. The requested amount of EU grant cannot be less than €300,000 and more than €750,000. The EU co-financing rate requested cannot be higher than 90% of the total eligible costs.

**Rosa third round of small grants funding to tackle FGM**

Rosa has announced the opening of their third small grants funding round aimed at tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK. Applications are now open and will close on **Monday 22 September 2014**. Funding decisions will be announced during the week beginning 10 November 2014. Funded by Comic Relief, in Round 3, they will make an estimated 8-10 grants of between £500 and £5,000 to voluntary and community organisations for projects tackling FGM across the UK. Grants will be available for training, mentoring, research, networking and delivering advice, support, and awareness-raising services. Please follow this link to download the Guidance notes and Application Form. More details about the FGM Small Grants Programme-Round 3 are available [here](#). Email FGMsmallgrants@rosauk.org for any inquiries.

**Jobs**

**Refugee Council - Therapeutic Caseworker (Women), Stratford, East London. £17,436 pro-rata per annum – part time (21 hours per week)**

The Therapeutic Casework Unit offers time limited, crises intervention therapeutic services to asylum seekers and refugees presenting with mental wellbeing needs. Their services include one to one wellbeing assessments, referrals, casework support and therapeutic groups. Powerful Women Project is a joint project by the Therapeutic Casework Team and Policy and Campaigns sections of the Refugee Council, providing holistic support to women who have experienced rape and other forms of sexual violence; this includes casework support from a Therapeutic Caseworker in the Therapeutic Unit, and the involvement of the Policy and Campaigns Teams who are using the experiences of the clients to develop policy positions and campaign for improved treatment of women in this situation. The post holder will develop a gender and culturally sensitive service and deliver individual and group therapeutic services to rehabilitate and meet the holistic needs of vulnerable asylum seekers and refugees women including torture survivors, and to support clients throughout their journey from involuntary dislocation to relocation and settlement. Please follow this link for more
Overseas Services Manager for Refugee Action Choices service – can be based in London, Birmingham or Manchester - £37,578 p.a. plus £3,333 ILW if based in London - Fixed-term basis initially funded until 31 March 2015. Dependent upon further funding, the post may be extended until 31 October 2015.

The successful candidate will play a part in the Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR) service, which helps families and individuals make informed decisions about whether to use UK Border Agency programmes to return to their country of origin. The team also manages the logistics of returns and helps clients plan for reintegration and forge a sustainable new life in their country of return. This role calls for a compassionate and well-informed individual who can ensure that Refugee Action’s vision, values and culture remain at the heart of all plans. The Overseas Services Manager will develop a sustainable network of overseas partners who can deliver an evolving range of high quality, appropriate services to AVR clients in the main countries of return.

Refugee Action is looking for an inspiring team leader with experience of remote managing and of managing a team in a service delivery and development environment. Applicants should have a background working with NGOs and grass roots development organisations in a non-European context, and will have insight into the needs and experiences of refugees and the area of voluntary return.

All applications must be received by 11.59 pm on the closing date of 7 September. For more information and to apply, please follow this link: Overseas Services Manager

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