



(42 page .pdf)

### Migration Opportunity Map Project (MOMP)



(28 page .pdf)

## Migrants Rights News ~ No: 17

Welcome to the April 2009 edition of Migrants Rights News

The Migrants Rights Network is working for a rights-based approach to migration, with migrants as full partners in developing the policies and procedures which affect life in the UK. Migrants Rights News aims to inform our members and other groups working on migration issues about regional and national policy developments, campaign news, recent research and upcoming events.

At the Heart of Migrants Rights News are the campaigns and strategies being developed by migrants to consolidate their position in British society. We focus on activities that extend the scope of the human, economic and social rights which apply to migrants' circumstances.

We would be happy to circulate information and bulletins sent by members in the following month's newsletter, subject to editorial/space limitations! Please send any contributions to:  
[info@migrantsrights.org.uk](mailto:info@migrantsrights.org.uk).

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In this month's newsletter, find details of:

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**(1) Migrants and the economy: untangling the myths and anticipating recession**

The impact of the recession on migrant workers has begun to be explored in papers emerging from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and a number of think tanks.

**Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) - Migration and the national labour force**

In a [study commissioned by the EHRC](#) from the Washington DC-based Migration Policy Institute, authors Will Somerville and Madeleine Sumption review what is currently known about the position of migrant workers in national labour forces. They state that the consensus amongst economists is that the impact of migration on average wage levels is small -neither depressing nor enhancing the remuneration of native workers to any significant extent. But beyond figures for average wage levels, migration is likely to have more serious impacts on specific groups of workers. Where the entry point into the labour market is low-paid, unskilled employment sectors, migrants are more likely to be in competition with previous immigrants, who had arrived in earlier years but who had not been able to

move upwards into better-paid, more secure jobs. Native workers with poor 'soft skills' will also experience greater competition from newly-arriving migrants.

In the longer term, migration appears to encourage native workers to specialise in different types of jobs than those sought by the bulk of migrants. They are more likely to be in sectors with better career prospects and security. For this group the effect of migration is positive and can be measured, amongst other things, in terms of higher wage levels.

The study suggests that policies aimed at addressing tensions in the labour market need to be targeted at the lowest skilled workers, and deal with issues, like educational levels and poor communication abilities, which exist independently of any effects from migration. With regard to the position of firms and communities affected by migration, better data forecasting would assist them in making the necessary adjustments to deal with new migration. The emphasis here needs to be placed on regional and local contexts, as differences from one area to the next have implications for the way migration is managed.

### **Centre for Cities - A8 Migration to the UK**

Also stressing the importance of regional factors in determining migration impacts, the think tank Centre for Cities has published a study entitled '[Accession to Recession: A8 migration in Bristol and Hull](#)', by Catherine Glossop and Fazia Shaheen. The report warns that headline claims of a 'mass migrant exodus', based on national aggregates of A8 migration patterns, can obscure local and regional realities. Their findings suggest that in Bristol at least, the trend towards longer-term settlement of

A8 migrants has become more pronounced in recent months. Nearly one-fifth (18%) of these group are now bring children and partners to join them, compared to a national UK figure of 14%. In contrast to this, in Hull only 7% of this migrant group is involved in family settlement.

The character of local labour markets is also a critical factor in understanding the way in which migration works in local areas. In Hull, 76% of A8 migrants have been channelled into employment in warehouses or processing plants, as packers, mechanics or on production lines. The influence of employment agencies is very much evident in bringing this about. A dual labour market is emerging as a result of this process, which the report's authors believe threaten longer-term prospects for

### **Effects of recession on migration to the UK**

Ali Rogers, research fellow at COMPAS, Oxford, has set out some views on the implications of the current recession on migration to the UK. In the report '[At Each Other's Throats? Recession, Vulnerable Workers and Immigration](#)' Rogers states that too little is known about the specific impact of the recession on migrants to make confident predictions on how they will fare in the immediate future. As things stand, it is difficult to distinguish between migrants as a group and the broader category of vulnerable workers, which extends to cover natives as well.

Discussing 'non-standard' forms of employment - which include part-time, casual and employment agency work - the report suggests that we should be concerned that these will extend to cover a higher proportion of the workforce during the recession, and will be hard to eradicate when the

economy eventually returns to growth. Some forms of non-standard employment - the temporary staffing industry in particular - are also factors in retarding recovery from downturn, and the entrenchment of agency work would therefore be an unwelcome development from a number of angles.

### **Overcoming vulnerability**

All of these reports suggest that we are still at the earliest stages of understanding the ways in which migration interacts with the dynamics of deep economic recession. The elusiveness of 'migrant' as a distinct category of analysis compounds this difficulty, with the position of the worker as being skilled, or their activity in different types of labour market or sectors of industry and services, as of more obvious salience than her national origins.

But a recurring theme in most discussions is that of the vulnerability of particular types of workers, and the extent to which can be exploited by firms as they struggle to find some competitive advantage in recessionary times. Experience suggests that once the advantages of capital over labour become institutional features of labour markets, the capacity of employment to deliver equitable outcomes and a degree of social justice is seriously impaired. Resistance to the demand that employers should be allowed to call all the shots as they struggle to survive will be essential if forms of economic growth capable of delivering equality and fairness can be resumed in the near future.

In tackling the vulnerability of workers in turbulent labour markets it will be necessary to develop more comprehensive strategies to support the rights of migrants. This will be just one part of a wider fight against exploitation and unfairness, but unless

perspectives are developed which address the needs of all vulnerable workers, a very heavy price will be paid for years to come in terms of low economic growth and greater social inequality.

## **(2) Access to healthcare - a battleground for migrants in the UK**

The battle for access to healthcare for all migrants, regardless of immigration status, will continue following the setback resulting from a Court of Appeal decision on 30th March. The judges at the Court of Appeal found that refused asylum seekers, even those who cannot be returned home, cannot be considered 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for the purposes of accessing free secondary healthcare. They also found that guidance issued by the Department of Health (DoH) for Primary Care Trusts in 2004 was unlawful in its lack of clarity on how hospitals should respond when a patient is unable to pay for urgent medical treatment, or if they require non-urgent treatment but are unable to leave the UK to seek it (e.g. in the case of a refused asylum-seeker who cannot be returned to their country of origin).

The decision overturned a previous ruling in the [High Court in April 2008](#), concerning a refused Palestinian asylum-seeker with chronic liver disease who could not afford to pay the bill for his treatment. The High Court judge found then that he could be considered 'ordinarily resident' in the UK and therefore would not be liable to pay for his hospital care. The latest decision has overturned this judgement, finding that refused asylum seekers cannot be considered 'ordinarily resident' for the purposes of accessing healthcare, and that it will be at healthcare providers' discretion as to whether they provide free treatment to

foreign nationals who cannot pay for it.

The Court of Appeal additionally found that guidance given by the DoH to Primary Care Trusts was unlawful, as it doesn't specify what hospitals should do if patients cannot pay for treatment and/or can't be returned to their country of origin. The guidance will not be lawful until it has been re-written by the DoH. Primary Care Trusts, healthcare charities and campaigners are still awaiting the now long-overdue joint Home Office/Department of Health review of access to healthcare in the UK for foreign nationals. Progress on the review was apparently slowed in 2008 due to drawn swords between the Home Office and the DoH over this political hot-potato.

The judgement of the Court of Appeal has drawn fresh attention to a crisis currently facing the healthcare sector. How can healthcare providers exercise their discretion in favour of enabling equal access to medical treatment on the basis of need, if they are simultaneously drawn into the business of immigration control? Home Secretary Jacqui Smith stated last year the government's goal to 'deny ... National Health Service (NHS) care to those who are here illegally', as part of enforcement measures against undocumented migrants. In order to do so the government requires Primary Care Trusts to become active 'partners' with the UK Border Agency, including sharing data on patients' immigration status. Details of how this strategy is to be rolled out can be found in the UKBA June 2008 ['Enforcing the deal' paper](#). Indicating that these measures are already well underway, a London-based PCT recently challenged a demand from the UKBA to provide information about GP consultations with named undocumented migrants registered with the Trust, to assist immigration investigations. In this case

the PCT successfully refused to comply with the UKBA request on the basis that this information was confidential and they were under no obligation to provide it.

But many healthcare providers are torn over new pressures from the UKBA. By increasing the pressure on staff within medical institutions to identify patients' immigration status for the purposes of levying a fee, there is a risk that a wide range of people will face problems in accessing treatment. Accounts from GPs and hospitals indicate that some are understandably choosing to 'play it safe' in such a pressurised context, refusing access to care to those who cannot provide adequate documentation at the point of treatment. We expect that other migrants or individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds will also find that new barriers to equal treatment spring up, as press-ganging of healthcare services by the UKBA intensifies.

With thanks to Anne Gumuschian for her contributions to this article.

### **(3) Clandestino Conference debates Irregular Migration in Europe**

How can debates about irregular migration move on from myths and stereotyping to a more accurate and nuanced consideration of the dynamics and features of irregular migration? On Friday 27th March, campaigners and researchers came together for a day-long conference 'Clandestino: Counting the Uncountable', enabling wide exchange of experiences and perspectives about undocumented migrants in Northern Europe.

The conference was a joint venture between the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), the ESCR Centre on Migration Policy and Society

(COMPAS) and the Migrants' Rights Network (MRN). Over 120 participants attended, from a wide range of backgrounds from NGOs, local authorities, policymakers, researchers and journalists from across Europe. Keynote speakers included Zrinka Bralo from the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum (MRCF), Michelle Levoy (PICUM), Frank Duvell (COMPAS), Dita Vogel (Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI), Jean-Eric Malabre from the Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigres (GISTI), and Rian Ederveen from Stichting LOS. The conference was part of the European Union (EU)-funded CLANDESTINO project "[Undocumented migration: Counting the uncountable, data and trends across Europe](#)".

The findings of the project thus far were released at the conference, indicating that panicked policy responses to irregular migration in the EU may be based on unrealistic assumptions about the numbers of migrants actually present. Instead of the 4.5 - 8 million undocumented migrants living in Europe commonly taken as the ball-park figure, the Clandestino researchers estimate that there are between 2.8 and 6 million. Through the adoption of tough immigration regimes aiming to show control over irregular migration, state practices and regulations are in fact key actors in the creation of irregularity across Northern Europe. Focusing on the situation in the Netherlands, UK, Germany and France, presenters highlighted the acute problems faced by many migrants who lack legal status within labour markets, in accessing basic public services, and as a result of negative media portrayals. In addition, the conference considered the possibility of bringing about sustainable regularisation programmes in Europe, and examined particularly the

campaign work carried out by London Citizens through the '[Strangers into Citizens campaign](#)', which will be holding a pro-amnesty rally on 4th May in London.

MRN Director Don Flynn closed the Clandestino conference by encouraging individuals and organisations to find opportunities to work with researchers, to develop a progressive narrative on irregular migration. "It is not a campaign we expect to win tomorrow, it is about entrenching ourselves in a process that will develop over the future ahead. So we can dispel pessimism and be optimistic. We can look at the opportunities, not the obstacles". A detailed report of the workshop proceedings will be available soon.

The tragic death of many undocumented migrants in the days following the Clandestino conference provided an indication of how crucial it is to pursue better strategies and cooperation at international level on this issue. [News sources](#) on 31st March reported that an overloaded boat carrying 250 undocumented migrants from Libya in the hope of reaching the Italian island of Lampedusa had capsized, with at least 200 feared drowned. Their needless deaths remind us that the struggle for a better life can too easily become a struggle for survival.

News from the United States suggests that President Obama will be shortly opening discussions with Congress on legislation allowing a route to regularisation and settlement for the estimated 12 million undocumented migrants in that country. Opposition is expected from Republicans opposed to liberalisation of immigration policies, and also some union-supported Democrats who are concerned about the effect on the jobs market. If Obama

does press ahead on this he will be fulfilling commitments given to migrant communities who provided him with overwhelming backing during the presidential election campaign.

With thanks to Chen Chen Lee for her contributions to this article.

#### (4) 'The Jungle Story' - part 2

This article by Lily Bouillet, a worker at Terre d'Errance near Calais, is the second in a 2-part series about her impressions of the lives of the undocumented migrants who travel through France to seek asylum in the UK.

As I outlined in Part 1 of my article (in the [March bulletin](#)), my aim in coming to England this year on behalf of my organisation Terre d'Errance has been to find out how undocumented migrants and asylum seekers are pushed into invisibility here, as is so easy to see in France, Italy, Greece and many other places.

The European Union (EU) has recently toughened up its policies, increasing European cooperation through regulations controlling asylum-seekers. The [European Council Dublin II Regulation](#) aims to restrict asylum applications in Europe to being made in more than one member state, setting out guidance for how the member states should ensure that this doesn't occur. As a result, many migrants who seek asylum in an EU member state have their details and fingerprints taken and kept on file in the EU-wide [Eurodac database](#). There is increased security and police monitoring of irregular migrants, particularly at the borders of the EU, by both [Frontex](#) and by national police forces.

The result of these increased regulations has been the growth of informal camps of undocumented migrants, or "jungles", across the points of EU territory where migrants commonly try to enter, for example in Calais (France), Lampedusa (Italy), Patras (Greece), Ceuta, Mellila and the Canary Islands (Spain), as well as across the "external borders" of Europe including Turkey, Morocco, Libya, Mauritania, Senegal. Migrants live and wait in informal camps for chance to enter Europe in order to find protection or to improve their lives. They are completely pushed outside society by police force and harassment, states withholding access to information and rights, and persecution of citizens and organisations who try to protect them.

The European policies themselves create many of the problems faced by undocumented people. The Dublin II Regulation enables many European states to avoid taking any responsibility for undocumented people, many of whom have been persecuted and tortured. Even aside from their experiences in their country of origin, the route of an irregular migrant across Europe is peppered with traumatic experiences - detention, police and mafia harassment, illness, fear and homelessness. But European states don't even acknowledge these problems.

In the UK it seems to me that the way that this international issue is concealed is different: there are no clearly defined "jungles", but undocumented migrants seem to disappear instead within urban jungles. Many of the refused asylum seekers I've met in the UK seem to be trapped in a cycle - travelling to the UK to seek asylum, being refused and deported, making their way back across Europe to seek asylum or work illegally again because they have nothing else to

hope for... Some people, who in my experience are mostly from Afghanistan and Iraq, are not granted asylum but cannot return home because of the conflicts still continuing there. They are denied the right to escape from that hell and are deported again and again. How many of them did I meet in the jungle or in London, just back from their country after being rejected to asylum and being deported? Some asylum-seekers have already been fingerprinted in other European countries that they have travelled through, but try to seek asylum anyway in case their details didn't make it onto the Eurodac system or an immigration official takes pity on them.

In March this year I travelled back from France to the UK. While I was waiting for the boat in Calais, I saw one migrant going back to his 'jungle' in the woods nearby. I talked to him. It was easy to see that he had already lived in England: he had different behaviour, not afraid of others, quietly confident but full of sadness about his life, and a pretty good English speaker. I asked him where he was from and he told me Afghanistan. I asked whether he was going to seek asylum in the UK and he said "no, I don't think so. I've already been rejected and deported, so I'm going to manage over there by myself. What else can I do?" Others are seeking asylum for the second, third, fourth time, vanishing underground to try to avoid being deported again after they are refused.

To me it doesn't make sense to have a policy which results in millions of undocumented people across Europe who are not being (and cannot be) removed, being denied legal status. It doesn't make the problem go away - as I've seen, many of those who are deported find their way back across Europe because they don't have any

other choices. Our question should really be: at this point, when we all fear global conflict, shouldn't we be building a better relationship with the rest of the world? Surely denying rights, protection and dignity to people is the best way to foster hate, intolerance and terrorism?

## (5) Reports and Research

- [Underground Lives: an investigation into the living conditions and survival strategies of destitute asylum seekers in the UK](#), Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (PAFRAS), March 2009

'Underground Lives' is an examination into the refused asylum-seekers living in the UK in conditions of destitution, based on interviews with 56 destitute asylum-seekers from twenty different countries. The majority of the report's interviewees had left wealthy and/or professional circumstances in their home countries. A further majority was sleeping (or had slept) rough in the UK. Most of those featured in the report were living in the UK on less than £5 per week. Underground Lives hopes to raise awareness about the acute problems faced by a group which is effectively invisible, and falls almost entirely outside formal support systems.

- [Migrant Worker Availability in the East of England: An Economic Risk Assessment](#), Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), March 2009

Commissioned by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA), IPPR has produced a

timely evaluation of the role of labour migrants in the East of England - comprising 12% overall of the regional workforce - within the context of the national recession. The report concludes that there is strong reason to believe that the region will continue to demand migrant labour, even within a financial downturn. The recent reduction in the number of European migrants coming to the region leads its authors to speculate that the main migration-relation risk in the East of England could be posed by a shortage of migrant workers rather than a surfeit.

- [Report of PICUM's International Conference on Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions](#), Brussels, January 22-23 2009, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), March 2009

For the first time in Europe, more than 150 representatives of NGOs, local authorities, social workers, policy makers, researchers and other actors came together at the PICUM conference to specifically address the situation of undocumented children and how control policies directed against irregular migration affect them.

Representing more than 20 countries both in the EU and beyond (some participants travelled from the United States, Canada and Morocco to attend the event), participants highlighted numerous examples of violations of undocumented children's rights. Undocumented children face various obstacles when trying to access basic

social services such as housing, health care and education, and several recommendations were made to address these issues. Participants called for more visibility of undocumented children and stressed the need for greater recognition of their inherent rights as children. This report seeks to provide a general overview of the conference itself, what was discussed by the speakers and participants, and to deliver the overall themes and sentiments shared during the event.

- [Equality and Human Rights Commission](#), March 2009

The EHRC commissioned two reports from the Migration Policy Institute, to examine the economic impacts of immigration, with specific reference to the UK context. See Article X 'Migration and the Financial Crisis'

- o Immigration and the labour market: Theory, evidence and policy, Will Somerville and Madeleine Sumption, Migration Policy Institute
- o Immigration in the United Kingdom: The recession and beyond, March 2009, Will Somerville and Madeleine Sumption, Migration Policy Institute

- [Away from Home: Protecting and supporting children on the move](#), Save the Children, November 2008

Drawing on the experiences of migrant children themselves, *Away from Home* provides insights into why children move and the risks they face. It looks at how policy-makers and service-providers can support children

who are on the move, including tackling the worst forms of children's movement and exploitation. It argues that child protection systems and other services, as well as migration policies, need to be adapted so that they work for children on the move.

- [Recent Migration of Roma in Europe, Council of Europe](#), December 2008

## (6) Upcoming Events

- ['ESRC 'Is there a migrant experience?'](#) seminar. Abbey Buildings, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, 9.30am-5pm, 21st April

Researchers at Swansea University's Centre for Migration Policy Research (CMPR) have been awarded an ESRC grant to host a series of one-day seminars which aim to increase understanding of the migrant experience. The first seminar in the series which is entitled 'Is there a migrant experience?' will take place at Swansea University on Tuesday 21st April. The aim of this seminar is to explore the links between micro-level understandings of 'the migrant experience' and macro-level theories and trends from an interdisciplinary perspective. Speakers include Dr Keith Halfacree (Swansea University), John Henson (Liverpool John Moores), Zrinka Bralo (Migrant and Refugee Community Network), Dr Michaela Benson (Bristol University), Selina Moyo (Wales Strategic Migration Partnership) and Arten Llazari

(Migrant Rights Network).  
Sessions at this conference will explore: Theoretical and historical understandings of the migrant experience; experiences of migration; and the migrant experience in the policy process.

Forced Displacement: Why Rights Matter, Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, WC1H 0XA, 3-5pm 23rd April

For enquiries contact:  
[migration@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:migration@sussex.ac.uk)

This seminar will launch the recently published book 'Forced Displacement: Why Rights Matter', which is the outcome of a collaborative research project coordinated by the Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty. The workshop features presentations from the editors; Katarzyna Grabska and Lyla Mehta, also from contributors Behrooz Morvaridi, Gaim Kibreab and Barbara Harrell-Bond. Chaired by Richard Black.

- Performance of [The Illegals](#), Bolivar Hall, Venezuelan Consulate, 56 Grafton Way, London W1T 5DL, 5 - 6.30 pm 25th April

The Illegals is a new Actors for Human Rights script which comprises of first-hand accounts of undocumented migrants living in London. By presenting their diverse and illuminating experiences, The Illegals gives a platform to the individuals behind the stereotype.

Entry is FREE- donations encouraged.

- Optimistic Immigrants, film night, Optimistic Productions, East End Film Festival 2009, Vibe Live Bar, London, 28th April

For enquiries contact

[dan@optimisticproductions.co.uk](mailto:dan@optimisticproductions.co.uk)

'Optimistic Immigrants' is a film night event, building on the themes of Eastern European exile, immigration and integration and bringing together films, music and discussion exploring similar themes in diverse and exciting ways. 'Optimistic Immigrants' is open to all stories and explorations of migration but each event is increasingly site-specific drawing out and clustering the layered stories of the locality. This upcoming event will be held in Vibe Live (above the Vibe Bar in the Truman Brewery on Brick Lane, London) - as such the focus will be on films, music and debate centred on the immigration history and stories of Brick Lane, East London and the surrounding area.

- [After Metock: EU Free Movement Rights in the UK, Migration and Law Network Seminar](#), Council Chamber, Institute for Advanced Legal Studies, Charles Clore House, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR, 2 - 6pm 29th April 2009,

This seminar will examine the current interplay between EU family rights and United Kingdom immigration law. The topic is of interest because of recent difficulties in the area, including the reluctance to comply with the Metock ruling, the narrow interpretation of the concepts of permanent residence and

extended family member, and the long delays in the processing of EEA immigration applications. The aim of the seminar is to provoke a discussion both of the mismatches between EU law and UK law and of possible responses to them. It will be of interest to academics, lawyers and policy-makers interested in EU law or UK immigration law.

- Strangers into Citizens Rally, Meeting point: Tothill Street SW1, London, 11:30am 4th May

Join the largest ever call for justice for migrants! Strangers into Citizens will be holding a National Rally on the May Bank Holiday (Monday 4th of May) in Trafalgar Square in Central London, aiming to show the UK government that there is a broad coalition that supports an earned amnesty for irregular migrants. Back in May 2007 London Citizens organised its first National Rally calling for support for Strangers into Citizens. 15,000 people came from London, Birmingham and other cities to Trafalgar Square to show their support. This year the campaign is bigger than ever. So save the date, spread the word and join us when we demand for the UK government to recognise the contribution of migrants to UK society.

Agenda: 11:30am Meeting point for Walk to Trafalgar Square Tothill Street SW1

12pm: 'Strangers into Citizens Rally' at Trafalgar Square. Live acts include the Asian Dub Foundation and ThePETEBOX, Ukrainian folksinger Ludwig and others.

Religious services confirmed for  
4th May:

10.00: Free Church Gospel  
Service Methodist; Baptist;  
Salvation Army; Pentecostal  
Central Hall Westminster,  
Storey's Gate, London SW1H  
9NH

10.30: Roman Catholic "Mass for  
Migrants" Westminster Cathedral,  
London SW1P 1QW

10.15: Chinese Service Soho  
Outreach Centre, 166A  
Shaftesbury Avenue, London  
WC2H 8JB

11:00: Strangers into Citizens  
Anglican service Anglican  
service, Preacher: Bishop Tom  
Butler, Bishop of Southwark, St.  
Margaret's Church, Parliament  
Square, London SW1P 3PA

11:00: Latin American Service,  
Christian Church London, Fusion  
Centre, 22 Elephant & Castle,  
London SE1 6S

- [Migrants - contribution, integration, destitution?](#)  
Homeless Link, 21st May 2009,  
London

Migrant populations new to the UK are vulnerable. Without recourse to public funds, and without the right help, there is a high likelihood that they will end up sleeping rough. In November 2008, the Government committed to tackling rough sleeping, with one of the aims targeted at supporting migrant populations. This conference is an opportunity to support this aim and improve the outcomes for these vulnerable groups, by bringing together Local Authorities and voluntary sector organisations to share understanding, solutions and approaches. The event is particularly aimed at exploring the short and long-term support

options, as well as the housing, health, employment and benefit entitlements of 3 different migrant groups; these groups being those who are most likely to face destitution: Central and Eastern Europeans, failed asylum seekers, other migrants outside the asylum system.

- [Sickle Cell and Deaths in Custody Conference 2009](#), De Montford University, Leicester. £130 (inc VAT), 10th June

A sudden death in police, prison or military custody is an important point of scrutiny for the powers of the state, especially when such a death is someone of minority ethnic descent. Sickle Cell is a multi-system disorder that in the UK, predominantly but not exclusively, affects those of black and minority ethnic communities, but is not widely understood. This conference aims to examine the health, justice and human rights issues surrounding Sickle Cell disorders and deaths in custody.

- [Rights of Women \(RoW\) training courses](#), 2009

The Rights of Women will be holding various training courses across the UK during 2009, the titles of which are included below. For more information on the content and location of the courses, please click on this link to go to the [Rights of Women website](#). Please note that all training courses are free to refugee community organisations.

- The titles of the RoW training courses are as follows:  
Eliminating violence against women - rhetoric or reality?;  
Violence against women - what's

the policy?; Violence against women - what's the strategy?; No recourse to public funds - where's the policy?; Supporting survivors of domestic violence: domestic violence injunctions and the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004; Supporting survivors of sexual violence: the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the criminal justice system; Forced marriage: the new law; Meeting the needs of trafficked women (in partnership with the POPPY Project); Finding refuge? Claiming asylum in the UK and financial support throughout the process (in partnership with the Asylum Support Appeals Project); Protecting women from persecution: supporting asylum-seeking women in the UK (in partnership with Asylum Aid); Supporting survivors of sexual violence and meeting the needs of trafficked women; Asylum and immigration law: protecting women from violence and securing their position in the UK

## (7) Other Announcements

- [UNISON migrant workers newsletter March 2009](#)

The UNISON migrant workers newsletter is produced by the migrant workers unit and is part of the Migrant Workers Participation Project. The aim is to keep migrant workers in UNISON informed about the latest developments and to encourage them to become active in their union. You can read more about what we are doing on the [migrant workers website](#).

**Contract in place for a new**

## **national information portal for migrant workers**

- The East of England Development Agency has completed the procurement of the National Information Portal for Migrant Workers project. The project will build on a successful pilot in the East of England and will provide information about living and working in the UK, such as housing, employment rights, access to public services and rights to live and work in the UK. One of the main objectives is to ensure that there is good quality and up to date information available to migrant workers, employers and service providers through a single portal. Expressions of interest in investing in the project have been received from other areas of the UK and the intention is to add features and functionality as additional funding becomes available. The new website is due to be launched in early summer after which time there will be opportunities for other organisations to link to the main website. Anyone wishing to know more about the project should in the first instance contact [migrantworkers@eeda.org.uk](mailto:migrantworkers@eeda.org.uk)

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