



Migrants Rights News ~ December 2009

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Welcome to the December 2009 edition of Migrants Rights News ... with Season's Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year from the MRN team!

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.

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(1) 'Skilled chefs' under the Points-Based System: the impact on Chinese employers

After a struggle this summer, the Chinese catering industry finally persuaded the United Kingdom Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to retain the position of "skilled chef" on the recommended Shortage Occupation List (SOL) under Tier 2 of the Points Based System. Since then, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has accepted the MAC recommendation and skilled chefs will remain on the list – for now.

But there has been low use of the SOL for recruitment thus far among Chinese catering employers – just 30 out of an estimated 17000 UK Chinese restaurants and takeaway shops applied for immigration work permits under the SOL last year. The MAC report notes that very few employers have thus far registered under Tier 2 of the Points Based System (PBS) and that the Chinese catering industry has not resolved its worker shortages through this route.

Next autumn the position of skilled chefs on the SOL will again be examined. Despite the view that omission from the SOL, alongside other workers unable to qualify under Tier2, may lead to employers hiring undocumented workers, the MAC insists that this cannot be a reason for retaining skilled chefs on the SOL. On the contrary, this reflects the need to continue immigration enforcement to ensure that the employment of undocumented workers remains in check.

The new SOL comes into force on 14 December 2009. This means that a relatively easy route remains in place for the Chinese catering industry to recruit new chefs, removing some of the more exacting requirements under Tier 2 of the PBS. The Chinese Immigration Concern Committee (CICC) has welcomed the MAC's continued inclusion of this route. The criteria for applicants have been tightened since 2008:

1. The minimum hourly wage is set at £8.45 per hour (increased from £8.10) and that the wage is the net income after accommodation costs;
2. The applicant must have at least three years relevant work experience;
3. The applicant must meet the English language requirement set under the PBS Tier 2.

The CICC believes that the UK Chinese catering industry should make full use of the SOL to address staff shortages. Mr Yip Fai Liu, chairman of CICC said: "30 out of 17000 Chinese restaurants makes an application through the SOL is less than 1% of the total". Mr Liu said that if on the one hand, there is a claim of staff shortages and on the other there is no active use of the SOL, it is difficult to justify further inclusion of skilled chefs on the list and the industry will continue to live under the threat of immigration enforcement and fines.

In October 2007, the immigration authorities launched high-profile arrests of undocumented workers in London Chinatown. A total of 49 people were arrested, and a lingering fear today remains with many Chinese restaurants. Mr Liu said that CICC was established after that event and subsequently researched the shortage of chefs in the Chinese catering industry. At the press conference, Mr Liu provided a set of figures, from March 2008 to September 2009, from the UKBA website. There were 633 cases of illegal employment of undocumented workers involving penalties, with a total of 1260 undocumented workers arrested and fines totalling over £6 million. 414 of those cases occurred in the restaurant industry, of which 105 cases involved Chinese catering. This constituted 16% of the total. With fines of £1.2 million and a total of 247 undocumented workers arrested, these figures reach up to 20% of the total.

"Figures show that the Chinese catering industry is still subject to the threat of immigration enforcement and fines" said Mr Liu. According to an announcement in February 2008, the maximum fine of £5,000 per undocumented workers will increase to £10,000 and if the employer knowingly hires undocumented workers, the employer can be prosecuted for a criminal offence.

Although the MAC retained skilled chefs on the SOL, its report made veiled criticisms. It noted that only a small proportion of businesses had registered applications. It mentioned that they had heard about a large body of undocumented workers and that the problem was particularly pronounced in the Chinese catering industry. Mr Liu said that if these problems remain, there would be no further evidence remaining in favour of SOL inclusion and the Chinese catering industry would lose an important resource.

The MAC raised a further condition of continued inclusion, that of local training of chefs ("up-

skilling the local workforce"). At present, such training lacks adequate funding and the industry does not have a consensus about it. Jabez Lam, co-ordinator for CICC said that "*the MAC knows that training cannot happen overnight*". Denis Wong, managing director of Chinese Catering Solutions (CCS) said that his company would take a long-term view to resolving the skilled chefs shortage problem. He said up to now, local Chinese catering training had been for leisure purposes and had not met professional standards. CCS aimed to develop vocational courses suitable for the Chinese catering industry and had been conducting pilot training in order to adapt the existing course material to both meet the UK National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ) requirement and the future industry requirement.

Denis Wong was open about CCS as a commercial company, saying that the UK Chinese catering industry had arrived at a historic turning point. He asked: "*Is the Chinese catering industry's future long-term or short-term? Is it one of working together, or of working apart? Is it to undergo active or passive development? Is it to go through deep change or suffer a slow death? Colleagues in the industry and members of the Chinese community must choose.*" CCS Board member, Mr Jacky Kong, proposed that the government legalizes undocumented workers to resolve short-term shortage problems. The training of local chefs is long term and he did not think that legalisation of undocumented workers conflicts with this.

Abridged and translated from an article by Wen Zhen for the EU Chinese Journal, 20th November 2009

(2) Simplification Bill and Asylum Support consultations underway...

During November 2009 the UKBA released a new set of immigration consultation documents – the latest in its ongoing project aimed at 'simplifying immigration law', underway since 2006. The key documents released last month include:

1. **Draft Immigration Bill** (plus accompanying documents including summary document entitled 'Simplifying Immigration Law: the draft Bill', impact assessment and equality impact assessment)
2. **Simplifying Immigration Law: A new Framework for Immigration Rules consultation document** (plus a response pro forma document)
3. **Reforming Asylum Support: effective support for those with protection needs consultation document** (plus a response pro forma document, impact assessment and equality impact assessment)

1. The draft Immigration Bill

The new draft Immigration Bill is the next stage in the government's complex project to overhaul primary immigration law in the UK. The government intends that the resulting act of law, and the new Immigration Rules accompanying it, will replace all existing immigration laws since the 1971 Immigration Act. A draft, but incomplete, Bill was released in July 2008 for consultation, and received a volley of criticism from immigration lawyers and migrant advocates. The core complaint was that this looked like more than a project of 'simplification' which would bring together existing legislation into one act. Rather it appeared in effect to be a fundamental re-haul of the concepts and terminology within UK immigration law 'by the back door', with extensions of state control that would have major implications for those navigating and working with the immigration system.

For most of 2009, news of the 'simplification project' was scarce. Sections of the draft partial Bill (including the introduction of 'earned citizenship, integration of customs functions within the UKBA, and new UKBA duty relating to safeguarding the welfare of children), have found their way onto the statute book through the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009, which received Royal Assent in July 2009.

But the main project has now come back into public view, as of November, with the release of a 'fuller draft' of the Bill for Parliamentary scrutiny. Some of the contents of the Bill repeat

the contents of last year's draft (partial Bill), on which MRN produced a briefing paper – http://migrantsrights.org.uk/briefing_papers.php. But significantly, there are new sections on immigration controls at the point of arrival and departure from the UK, UKBA powers to obtain biometric information, operation of a new Special Immigration Appeals Commission, provision of state support, and the inspection and oversight of the UKBA. In brief, the major proposals in the draft Bill, as it stands, are as follows:

- Introduction of '**permission**' (either temporary or permanent) instead of leave, entry clearance, right to abode and exemption from immigration control. Permission can be 'cancelled' for those who commit criminal offences or breach conditions of permission. This can be done before a migrant enters the UK.
- **Carriers** of migrants (for example airlines and ships) will be required to provide information to support the government's e-Borders programme. They will be liable to penalties if they carry undocumented or clandestine passengers.
- Introduction of a single, 'streamlined' power of '**expulsion**'. This will replace the current system of deportation or administrative removal. All those 'expelled' from the UK will face a ban on return.
- Introduction of '**immigration bail**' instead of separate provisions for temporary admission/temporary release/bail procedures.
- Limits on the grounds of **appeal**.
- Extension of UKBA powers to **obtain and retain migrant biometrics** – a single power will be introduced to take and check fingerprints and other biometrics.

This Bill is not yet complete, and we can expect to see more provisions in a **further full Bill**. In particular, things to watch out for are changes to the functioning of the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) in regulating immigration advisors; strengthening checks and regulations on 3rd country nationals married to EEA citizens; and 'simplification' of migrants' access to the welfare state. MRN will be producing an extended briefing on the draft Bill and its implications for migrants' rights early in the New Year. We can expect the continuation of a heated debate about these proposed changes in 2010.

To read these documents in full, visit:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/simplifying

2. Simplifying Immigration Law: A new framework for Immigration Rules

This major overhaul of primary immigration legislation will be accompanied by a full revision of the Immigration Rules. The Immigration Rules, together with various statutory instruments, make up the secondary legislation which supports the implementation of primary legislation. The Rules set out the practices to be followed in administering the Immigration Acts, including the requirements for visa and immigration applicants, and the basis on which migrants' applications are assessed.

The 'Simplifying Immigration Law' consultation document is very general, acting more as a statement of broad intention rather than laying out specific changes. Overall, it tries to explain the government's thinking on how simplification of primary and secondary legislation should be interlinked, as part of the same 'project'. The Immigration Rules are envisaged as, in the future, being based on the concept of 'Immigration Products', the new way of referring to anything that is applied for by migrants within the immigration system, for example a visa. All 'Immigration Products' will be based within one of four categories of migrant: visitors, temporary migrants (those coming for work, study, or as family members), people seeking protection and permanent migrants (including permanent residents and, confusingly, those in the *temporary* category of probationary citizenship). We would expect a wide range of people, including applicants, immigration lawyers and others, to have concerns about the effects of simplifying immigration categories.

Although there will be no major changes to the procedure for amending or introducing new Rules, the consultation document stresses that more attention will be given to the potential impact of new Rules on migrants already in-country. UKBA appears keen to avoid future cases, such as that successfully brought in 2008 by the Highly Skilled Migrants Forum, in

which application of new Rules has wrongly been retrospectively applied to migrants already in the UK. Apparently, "*future Rules changes will clarify how they impact on migrants in the UK and applications that have not yet been decided*". The UKBA will also reconsider the drafting style of the Rules, to make them more accessible and easier to understand. This is intended to include reducing repetition and using plain English where possible.

This is such a general document, and there is an extremely short consultation questionnaire to which groups are invited to respond, comprising just five 'yes/no' questions. The deadline for responding to the consultation is 3rd February 2010. Find the relevant documents at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifyng-imm-law-new-framewrk/ UKBA has also released a set of 'draft protection rules', which illustrate how the government envisages the asylum system would be managed under the new rules. To view the draft rules, visit: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/draftillustrativeir.pdf

3. Reforming Asylum Support: effective support for those with protection needs

The Reforming Asylum Support consultation was also released in November 2009 by the UKBA as part of the 'simplification process' and is again, a fairly broad statement of UKBA intentions, with only a few concrete changes on the table which will affect the ways that asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers and their families can access state support in the UK.

One key change is the **re-enactment of Section 55** of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. This will mean that people who do not claim asylum '*as soon as reasonably practicable*' can be prevented from accessing asylum support, unless it would breach the European Convention on Human Rights to do so. Organisations including the Asylum Support Partnership are extremely concerned about the effect this could have on people making late claims while they await their decision. For refused asylum seekers, there is a mixed picture. The consultation states that UKBA has no intentions currently to take measures to 'toughen up' on families who have been refused asylum. Section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc) Act 2004, which enabled support to be withdrawn from families refused asylum but remaining in the UK, is being repealed. However, the **introduction of a new payment card**, replacing vouchers for recipients of Section 4 support (i.e. those refused asylum seekers who cannot be returned home) may have serious implications for them.

The consultation envisages a more deeply embedded role for Local Immigration Teams in the asylum process, with presumably an emphasis on monitoring refused asylum seekers in local communities. There is also a bigger role envisaged for the voluntary sector, working more closely with local authorities, in working with refused asylum seekers. The consultation document states that UKBA will be getting "*tougher with legal representatives who make unmeritorious further submissions on behalf of their clients*", although how this threat would be put into practice is unclear.

The consultation on the Reforming Asylum Support proposals is underway, and all groups and individuals moved to respond are encouraged to do so by the deadline of 4th February 2009. Find the documents at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/simplifyng-imm-law-new-framew1/

(3) New survey provokes debate about attitudes of UK public towards immigration

A report by the Transatlantic Trends research project released in early December is the latest inquiry to offer some insights into the attitudes of the UK public towards immigration. *Transatlantic Trends in Immigration*, a collaboration led by the Barrow Cadbury Trust, German Marshall Trust and three other foundations, has carried out a survey into attitudes

about immigration in the UK, as well as the USA, Canada, France, Spain, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. 1000 people aged 18 and over were interviewed in each country during the first two weeks of September 2009.

Pundits, including in the *Spectator* and *Economist*, have been quick to pick up the findings and compare British attitudes unfavourably against those in the other countries involved in the research. It is worth bearing in mind the limit to the extent to which public attitudes can be compared across different countries. Variations in migration histories, media coverage and political messaging about immigration can all play into the way that public attitudes may vary across the countries. Nonetheless, turning to the UK, there were plenty of headline statistics to feed into a gloomy picture of public attitudes towards immigration. One in five people from the UK reported that immigration is the most important issue facing the UK today. Worries about the levels of immigration to the UK also proved high, with 68% respondents reporting concern about 'illegal immigration' and 36% concerned about 'legal immigration'. Perhaps most tellingly, the UK public's soaring disenchantment with governmental management of immigration was reported, with 71% of respondents assessing management as poor or very poor.

All of these figures look, and are, worryingly high, especially when compared with findings from other countries in the survey. But there is a more nuanced picture behind this. Public concern about immigration, and particularly mistrust about management of migration, does not necessarily equal hostility towards migrants themselves. It may be shaped by other, wider social issues, influenced by attitudes towards politicians, and influenced by the tone of media discourse. As Heaven Crawley from Swansea University explored in her *'Understanding and Changing Public Attitudes'* report earlier this year, asylum and immigration issues can act as 'touchstone issues', symbolising a range of other public attitudes and concerns. The concept of relative deprivation is also important – referring to the way that people's negative responses to 'outsider' groups may be boosted by dissatisfaction with their own circumstances.

The Transatlantic Trends report looked into the correlation between people's personal economic situation and their attitudes towards immigration. It found that in the UK, those respondents whose financial situation had worsened in the past 12 months were more likely to express worry about the levels of legal immigration to the country. The report findings also raise questions about the role of the public narrative about competition for public resources in shaping opinions on immigration. Respondents expressed concern about the impact of immigration on wider access to employment and public services. This is perhaps unsurprising since these issues have been the focus of media and political attention, fuelled by the 'British jobs for British workers' lobby and by debates over migrants' access to healthcare and social housing.

Public responses to other questions relating to migrants' integration showed more measured attitudes. A majority of people (59%) in the UK supported the proposal that 'legal migrants' be granted the right to political participation, in order to support their integration. A similar percentage (56%) thought that migrants coming to the country legally to work should have the chance to stay permanently rather than being restricted to temporary permission to work in the UK – an attitude largely motivated by the belief that security helps migrants' integration into society.

Further work to take the temperature of public attitudes towards immigration is also underway by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). The IPPR project has focused on looking at public attitudes about immigration through a series of focus groups in the West Midlands – allowing for regional variations to emerge in the attitudes towards and experiences of migration. In particular, IPPR is focusing on the way in which public attitudes on immigration are formed, and the ways in which these perspectives can be influenced. Initial indication of the findings indicate that the polarised media and political discourse on immigration is likely to be reflected in some negative attitudes but that, when open spaces are created for discussion about the issues among the general public, opinions may be far more moderate.

All this tells us that surveys which cast a light on public opinions towards immigration are important, but equally important is to contextualise the findings. Reported attitudes reveal plenty of things about a range of other issues aside from immigration itself. The challenge for politicians and advocates, as ever, will be to read behind the headlines.

To read the Transatlantic Trends: Immigration report, visit: www.transatlantictrends.org/trens/immigration/.

(4) MRN begins regional research in the West Midlands

A key part of MRN's work is around expanding our support to regionally based organisations. Since October 2008 MRN, in conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), has been funding a ESRC +3 CASE PhD studentship based at the School of Sociology and Social Sciences, Nottingham University, which is giving us the opportunity to develop our research base outside London. Here is a brief introduction from the PhD student we are working with:

Hi everyone. My name is Pamela Castro and I have been fortunate enough to be selected to study my PhD at the University of Nottingham in partnership with the Migrant Rights Network. I am conducting a 3 year research project on "the Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Integration of Migrants". I have been based in Birmingham since I came to this country from Chile in 1997, and I will be supporting the work of the MRN in the West Midlands. My work in the region during the first half of 2010 will be put together into a mapping report, exploring and identifying key issues for migrants and refugees in the West Midlands, looking at pieces of work developed by migrant and refugee communities and what opportunities there are for migrant communities to be involved in shaping local and regional government and public service responses to migration issues.

I am keen to hear from anyone who has relevant contacts in the West Midlands, or people interested in contributing to the research. Please email me on P.Castro@migrantsrights.org.uk.

(5) Asylum Support Partnership monitors roll-out of new UKBA 'payment card'

The Asylum Support Partnership ('The Partnership') consists of five lead agencies: Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Scottish Refugee Council, Welsh Refugee Council, and the North of England Refugee Service. These agencies are funded by the Home Office's UK Border Agency (UKBA) to deliver a range of services to asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers and refugees across the UK. The Partnership provides Initial Accommodation Wrap Around services for newly arrived people seeking asylum, as well as One Stop Services for those people with ongoing claims or who have been refused asylum, who require independent advice and support while they are in the UK.

The UKBA has just launched the 'Azure' payment card as the new method for delivering section 4 support to refused asylum seekers. The Partnership is monitoring the implementation and impact of the payment card support system from its launch on 30 November until the end of March 2010. The research aim is to ensure the best possible procedures and policies for the operation of the payment card across the UK. If you encounter any clients who are using the payment card or experiencing problems with it, please refer them, where appropriate, to one of the Partnership One Stop Services (more information can be found here: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/howwehelp/partners/partnership/asp.htm). Refugee Council advisers can assist clients to resolve problems with the card, and will offer the opportunity to complete the confidential Partnership monitoring survey.

For more information, please contact Helen Curry on helen.curry@refugeecouncil.org.uk or 0207 346 1154.

(6) Every Single Woman

“Everybody should be the same - they should treat every single woman the same.”
- Cecilia (**Every Single Woman** video)

The government strategy to end violence against women has just been released and, notably, makes very little mention of women seeking asylum. This is disappointing as there are currently vast disparities between the policies currently in place for women resident in the UK and those seeking protection here.

The following two stories, based on current policies for women going through the criminal justice and asylum determination systems, clearly demonstrate this:

When Malaika suffered domestic violence abroad she sought asylum in the UK. She had to explain what had happened to her to three different people (through a screen in a public room at the Asylum Screening Unit, at the First Reporting Event and to her Case Owner – the only time she could elect to see a female member of staff). After a few weeks she felt confident enough to tell her lawyer that she had also been raped by her husband. By then a negative decision had been made on her asylum claim. At the Appeals Tribunal the Immigration Judge said he didn't believe her story because she had disclosed the rape late.

When Angela suffered domestic violence in the UK she was considered to be a vulnerable victim who should receive an enhanced service from all the agencies in the criminal justice system. Consequently, she asked for and was given a female police officer when she made her statement. After a few weeks she felt confident enough to tell the police officer that she had also been raped by her husband. She was then given a specially trained officer who supported her throughout the criminal justice process until the trial. At the trial the defence said Angela must be lying because she had reported the rape late. Because of this, the judge explained to the jury the delay in reporting can also be due to the traumatic feelings that follow a rape.

Every Single Woman, the campaign launched by the *Charter of rights of women seeking asylum*, argues that a change of culture to produce a genuinely gender sensitive asylum system is urgently needed to ensure that women seeking asylum receive a comparable standard of treatment to women in similar situations who are settled in the UK. The government is already bound by CEDAW and domestic equalities legislation to promote gender equality. Surely, if we really believe in equality and justice, then every single woman in the UK should be treated with equal sensitivity.

For all the information about the campaign including a short film and written briefings, and to endorse the *Charter*, just go to www.asylumaid.org.uk/charter

(7) Reports and Research

- ∇ ***Employer use of migrant labour - motivations, experiences and HR responses, 2009***, prepared by Dr Sonia McKay (Working Lives Research Institute, London Metropolitan University) on behalf of Acas Research and Evaluation Section www.acas.org.uk/researchpapers

This report focuses on the construction and hospitality sectors. It investigates the procedural and ER challenges surrounding the employment of migrant labour, with a particular focus on the impact on HR arrangements. The research highlights two

opposing models of employment. On the one hand it shows that, while formal policies may not have changed, there is evidence of changes in practice - with employers having adapted practices (relating to, for example, communications) and providing support outside the workplace. On the other hand, the *distancing* of the employment relationship - in particular the growth of agency and sub-contracted work - allows for a greater use of flexible and short-term labour, with associated reduced job security and variable terms and conditions.

- ▼ ***The Employment of Migrant Labour in the East Midlands*, Alan Tuckman and Lynette Harris (Nottingham Business School, Nottingham Trent University), on behalf of Acas Research and Evaluation Section**

www.acas.org.uk/researchpapers

The second of two new research studies on employer use of migrant labour - this shorter paper is based on interviews at three case study companies in the East Midlands. It considers the impact that employment of migrant workers has had on human resources and employers' practices at this significant destination for migrant workers from the EU Accession States.

- ▼ ***Monitoring the implementation of social and human rights of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in the Border region of the European Union and Ukraine. Activity Report, November 2008 to June 2009. Border Monitoring Project Ukraine (Uzhgorod, Zakarpattya).***

<http://soderkoping.org.ua/files/pages/26152/1.pdf>

In November 2008 a Border Monitoring Project was set up in Zakarpattya, Western Ukraine, to monitor the implementation of social and human rights of refugees and other vulnerable migrants and access to protection in Ukraine, on the border and its European Union neighbours, notably Hungary and Slovakia. This activity report for 2008-9 exposes the conditions faced by many migrants in the external border countries of the EU. Findings include the legal violation of maximum holding period in Chop detention centre, inhumane conditions, serious obstacles to access to RSD procedures; insufficient conditions in temporary accommodation centres for refugees in Latorica/Mukachevo; lack of support for those not staying or not admitted to centres, including lack of housing, benefits, food and health care; frequent and ongoing refoulement from Hungary and Slovakia to Ukraine, refusal of access to RSD procedures and generally to international protection in both countries. A full first report is expected at the beginning of 2010. For the report and further information visit <http://bordermonitoring-ukraine.eu/>.

- ▼ ***Who Cares? How best to protect UK care workers employed through agencies and gangmasters from exploitation. Oxfam and Kalayaan, December 2009***

www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/policy/trade/downloads/bp_ukpp_who_cares.pdf

Thousands of care workers employed by agencies are being exploited at work, a new report using research from Oxfam and Kalayaan has reported. The report find that many are migrant workers particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. The number of care workers is set to rise as the UK population ages and the government fulfils new commitments on care for the elderly. Low wages, low status and unsociable hours, make it difficult to attract British workers to care positions, so the number of migrant workers in the sector is set to rise significantly in the next two decades.

- ▼ ***An Evaluation of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority: A report for Oxfam, Dr. Mick Wilkinson with Prof. Gary Craig and Aline Gaus. University of Hull, October 2009.***

www.oxfam.org.uk/resources/ukpoverty/downloads/Research%20on%20GLA%20by%20Hull%20University.pdf

- ▼ ***The Detention of Children in the Immigration System*, House of Commons Home Affairs Committee, November 2009**

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/73/73.pdf

- ∇ **The Economics and Policy of Illegal Immigration in the United States, Gordon H. Hanson, University of California-San Diego, and National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2009**
www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Hanson%20-Dec09.pdf

(8) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- ∇ **National Seminar for UK Platform for Migrant Women's Groups, The Innovation Centre, 49 Oxford Street, Leicester, LE1 5XY, Tuesday 15th December 10:30am – 2:30pm**
As part of a European network of 15 national platforms, co-ordinated by the European Network of Migrant Women (EUNoM), we will be holding a national seminar in Leicester on Tuesday 15th Dec from 10:30am to 2:30pm. Groups working with migrant women, particularly groups led by migrant women, are welcome. It is important that the platform represents the diversity of migrants in the UK and we would therefore urge you to send this out to any groups you feel would benefit. With presentations by Parvin Ali and Elenor Koffman. For more information, email mehareen@fatima-network.com or phone 0845 331 2373.
- ∇ **Language at the Border: Assessing Language Ability for Study in the UK, Westminster, London. Wednesday 13th January 2010**
How can the UK ensure that overseas students coming into the country have the language skills they need? What can the UK learn from the experience of other countries? How can language assessment contribute to efficient, fair and secure implementation of the Tier 4 requirements? This one day forum will be of interest to policy-makers, academics, admissions officers and educators interested in immigration, student recruitment and language assessment. Speakers include experts from UK Border Agency, English UK, University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. To reserve a place, visit www.CambridgeESOL.org/lang_border. Please contact ESOLEvents@CambridgeESOL.org with any enquiries.
- ∇ **Migration Policies: UK Perspectives in a Global Context, 9.30am – 5.30pm Friday 22nd January 2010. One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA**
This workshop is aimed at policymakers and advisors in the UK government and voluntary sector. The objective is to stimulate thinking on concrete approaches to 'migration management' in the context of needing to 'work with other countries to better understand and manage global migration', according to the Managing Global Migration Strategy. This year's training workshop will particularly look at the realities of illegal migration, how successful assisted return policies are and the effects of the economic downturn on migration patterns and migrant behaviour. The day will be led by Richard Black, director of the Migration DRC, and each session will be introduced by academics. Registration for the workshop costs £130* and will be for a maximum of 40 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees may be waived for statutory or voluntary organisations— please enquire. To register for the workshop, visit www.migrationdrc.ac.uk.
- ∇ **Refugee Council Policy Update Conference. From theory to practice: How asylum policy impacts on the refugee experience. 5th February 2010, Central London. www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/conferences/conference2010/**
The Refugee 2010 conference will focus on asylum policy and how changes in legislation impact on the experiences of refugees. Learn about the key developments in asylum policy and how these impact on the day to day lives of refugees in the UK today. Delegates are invited to participate in two workshops from the following options: Health access and entitlements; Unaccompanied children in the asylum system; Asylum support and destitution; Detention, removals and returns; After status

- the transition to mainstream services; Limited leave and earned citizenship; EU and international asylum policy.

▼ **Tackling Race Inequality: Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society, Conference. 9am – 2pm, Tuesday 23rd February 2010, Central London**

<http://insidegovernment.msgfocus.com/c/11fALF97WkINL4vre>

Britain is now a more ethnically, racially and culturally diverse society than ever before. Despite the government's race equality strategy - Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society: A Third Progress Report (February 2009) - outlining that progress has been made in tackling race inequalities and building more cohesive communities, it does state that new approaches are still needed. With this in mind, this forum offers delegates the opportunity to explore, examine and question topic field experts on the key areas surrounding race inequality in Britain, including:

- Supporting communities in promoting race equality
- Increasing political engagement among black and minority ethnic communities and examples of best practice
- Strengthening the role of faith institutions and faith leaders
- Role of school and education institutions in tackling discrimination and promoting community cohesion
- Tackling racially motivated crime
- Using BME role models from the science, technology, engineering and maths community
- Working with strategic partners to raise attainment of minority ethnic groups

Book today: <http://insidegovernment.msgfocus.com/c/11fANXmiPAzE2XrvF>

▼ **INVISIBLE WOUNDS – Dignity & Vulnerability MIGRANTS Integration through active participation & inclusive solidarity European Seminar, SMES: Athens, Greece 24-26th February 2010**

SMES invites you and your Institution to participate in Athens European Seminar, in order to: Reflect together on dramatic consequences, wounds, on mental health of migrants of current European policies on migration – in particular on irregular migration. Introduce and evaluate efficient and innovative projects. Propose some models of welcoming and integrating migrants, based on the respect of human rights. Converge in a common declaration concerning some fundamental and non-renounceable points. Send contributions before the end of 2009, including abstracts of speeches for the plenary session and intervention in workshops and examples of daily practice & knowledge, experience & competence in one of the 4 themes. posters, documentaries & videos. The deadline is 31st December! Your active participation will be very useful & important for all participants in order to exchange, evaluate and propose! http://www.smes-europa.org/ATHSEM_callabstracts_UK.htm. REGISTRATION: All interested participants of the Seminar should complete and send the registration form, online or by e-mail. Special conditions before 31st December! www.smes-europa.org/ATHSEM_registration_UK.htm. For further information, please consult the web page: www.smes-europa.org or contact directly.

(9) Other Announcements

▼ **Medecins du Monde campaigns for medical care for women and children**

It has been 20 years since the UK government signed the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. In December 2009, humanitarian aid charity Médecins du Monde UK (MDM UK) has added a new layer to reports that the government has reneged on its Convention obligations, by failing to provide medical care for pregnant women and children.

In 2008, MDM UK saw 75 pregnant women and 40 children at its east London clinic, Project:London, who have all had problems registering with a doctor. One recent case of particular concern is that of a mother who delivered her baby here in the UK.

Five months after the birth, mother and child still have no doctor. Furthermore, the baby has been without medical checks or inoculations despite being legally entitled to care through the Convention. For volunteer doctor, Dr Naomi Hartree, who has been advocating on behalf of the mother and child at Project:London, the situation is nonsensical: "*This illustrates how bureaucracy and the requirements of computerised databases can prevent vulnerable people from receiving basic healthcare. This mother and baby have very simple needs - a postnatal check and a course of standard immunisations for the baby. These would take 30-40 minutes of doctor time and 30 minutes of nurse time in total. Postnatal checks and immunisations are standard forms of preventative medicine, and it is poor public health practice if these are not provided.*" MDM UK has called on the UK government to immediately observe the Convention and realise the rights of children and pregnant women. It also strongly recommends it revises their regulations to provide free antenatal care and free healthcare to all children and pregnant women regardless of their immigration status. For the MDM network's European-wide study on Access to Health Care, visit: <http://www.mdmuk.org.uk/lib/docs/121111-europeanobservatoryfullreportseptember2009.pdf>

▼ **Launch of new Ice and Fire script project**

Everyone Has the Right is a rolling script submission service provided by iceandfire theatre for plays with human rights at their heart. A joint initiative with Amnesty International UK *Everyone Has the Right* provides a natural home for writers exploring human rights stories to create surprising and entertaining theatre. If you have a theatre script that you feel fulfils the aim of the initiative please have a look at the iceandfire website at www.iceandfire.co.uk/everyonehastheright to find out more about the project and what we mean by a 'human rights story'. All scripts will receive written feedback with the best plays having professional readings at Amnesty International's central London Human Rights Action Centre or partner venues. The plays that iceandfire feel have the most potential will be taken into further development with the long term aim of full theatre production.

▼ **Keele University seeks papers for Migrant Workers Seminar Series 2009/10**

www.keele.ac.uk/research/ppm/web%20documents/ESRC%20Migrant%20labour/CaII%20for%20papers%20final-1.pdf

This seminar series has been developed by the British Universities Industrial Relations Association (BUIRA) study group on 'Migrant Labour and Industrial Relations'. The aim of the seminar series is to present and analyse research into the impact of migration upon the operation of labour markets and the regulation of the employment relationship in the United Kingdom. The first seminar was held in November 2009 and further seminars are planned for 2010. Researchers are invited to submit papers for presentation for future sessions – please visit the above web-link for details.

▼ **Celebrate International Migrants Day and Join the Radio 1812 Event!**

For the fourth year in a row, Radio 1812 will bring together migrant groups and radios from around the world to celebrate International Migrants Day on 18th December. Last year, 175 radio stations produced, broadcasted and shared programmes on migration, turning the event into a successful opportunity to make migrants' voices heard across the world. This year, 70 radio stations from 28 countries already confirmed their participation (see below). They will be adding the names of the participants on a special map which you will find on the home page of the Radio 1812 www.radio1812.net/en/site/. On the site, you will also find special content which you can re-broadcast, such as reports on the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Athens www.radio1812.net/en/story/2009/11/voices_global_forum_migration_and_development and the Youth Forum in Assilah www.radio1812.net/fr/audio/2009/11/raportage_du_forum_de_la_jeunesse_a_assilah

[maroc](#) (French version only). Please let them know as soon as possible if you want to take part by writing to the Radio 1812 team at radio1812@december18.net.

▼ **OPPORTUNITIES: Asylum Aid**

Invitation to tender for research project. Asylum Aid is seeking tenders for a qualitative research project for the Women's Project at Asylum Aid. The research is to investigate the quality of initial decision making by the UK Border Agency in the cases of women asylum seekers. Applicants should have at least three years professional research experience and an ability to analyse asylum case files from a legal perspective. For further details, download the recruitment pack from www.asylumaid.org.uk. For an informal, confidential, conversation about the tender, please call Debora Singer, on 020 7354 9631 (ext 208). Closing date for applications: 10.00am Monday 21st December 2009 interviews to be held week beginning 11th January

Legal Analyst (Women's Project), London

(£29,290 pa, plus 4% employers pension contribution). We are seeking a Legal Analyst (Women's Project at Asylum Aid) to contribute to Asylum Aid's policy development, strategic litigation and research on issues affecting women asylum seekers. We are looking for someone with experience as a legal practitioner representing asylum seekers in the UK and/or with an LLM or equivalent in UK or international human rights or refugee law. For job descriptions and further details, download the recruitment pack from www.asylumaid.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html & send your application to recruitment@asylumaid.org.uk. For an informal, confidential, conversation about the post, please call Debora Singer, on 020 7354 9631 (ext 208). Closing date for applications: 10.00am Friday 18th December 2009.

▼ **VACANCY: Upper Rooms Meal Programme Project Manager, London**

www.ur4jobs.co.uk/2/Job+List

The Upper Room is looking to recruit a Project Manager for its central service - UR4Meals. UR4Meals serves around 20,000 meals to approximately 700 people per annum. It provides a variety of services to the homeless, vulnerably housed and socially excluded of West London. Previous management experience essential; previous social work experience desirable; Good communication skills; good time management, self motivated, a compassionate but firm approach, knowledge of Eastern European languages an advantage. Closing date for applications is: 18.00 on Friday 18th December 2009. For more info, visit www.ur4jobs.co.uk/2/Job+List or email info@hrinlaw.co.uk.

▼ **VACANCY: Leeds Refugee Forum Project Worker**

18.5 hours per week, £22,221 – £23,708 pro rata NCJ scale 6 pt26 – 28. Leeds Asylum Seekers' Support Network is seeking a dedicated individual to develop projects for Leeds Refugee Forum based at the One Community Centre in Leeds. Projects will aim to improve community cohesion by bringing together newly arrived and long term residents through One Community Centre; develop the range of resources and services provided through One Community Centre; strengthen and develop the capacity of Refugee Community Organisations; improve the inclusion, participation and influence of Refugee Community Organisations in the decision making processes at a local and regional level. To apply for this post or get further information, please visit LASSN's website www.lassn.org.uk or send a self addressed A4 envelope to Mas Lal, LASSN, 233-237, Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4HS. Closing date for applications: 11am on Monday 7th December. Interviews will be held on Monday 14th December. Refugees are strongly encouraged to apply for this post.

▼ **VACANCY: CeMIS Senior Researcher, Antwerp**

The Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies (CeMIS) of the University of Antwerp has a vacancy for full time position of a senior researcher (Phd) (m/f) (starting preferably in February 2010) for a research project funded by EU's Seventh Framework (FP7) programme EUMAGINE, Imagining Europe from the Outside. EUMAGINE studies the impact of perceptions of human rights and democracy on

international migration aspirations and decisions. The project will offer a contract as a post doctoral researcher (salary depending on the academic qualifications and former professional experience). Starting date: Preferably from February 2010 for one year with possible extension for another two years after positive evaluation. To apply Please complete the mandatory application form online before Monday, January 04, 2010. www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=*VACATURES&n=76924&vid=216114&fac=CEMIS&empl=100&ec=Applications.cemis&ed=ua.ac.be. Selection interviews will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010. For further information, contact Ina Lodewyckx (ina.lodewyckx@ua.ac.be or +32 (0)3 2655965 +32 (0)3 2655965).

▼ **STAR Internships: Are you committed to improving the lives of refugees in the UK?**

STAR (Student Action for Refugees) is looking for three enthusiastic individuals to support the work of the STAR national team. STAR is a national network of student groups working to improve the lives of refugees in the UK by promoting positive images of refugees, volunteering for local refugee projects, and campaigning for better conditions for refugees. The STAR national team works with groups to provide training, resources and advice to enable the network to achieve the maximum possible impact for refugees. There are currently three internship positions available:

Campaigns Internship

You will coordinate STAR's national campaigning, in particular the 'Equal Access' campaign to improve access to higher education for refugees and asylum seekers.

Communications Internship

You will support our communications with the STAR student network. This will include maintaining and developing the STAR website and developing a social networking strategy for STAR.

Events and Training Internship

You will support the STAR national team to provide quality training opportunities and events for the STAR network.

You should be able to commit 2-3 days per week for 3 months from January 2010. These positions are unpaid but travel and lunch expenses will be provided. Closing date for applications: 12pm Wednesday 6th January For more information, role descriptions and application forms go to www.star-network.org.uk.

▼ **New City of Sanctuary film online**

City of Sanctuary is a movement to make our towns and cities welcoming places for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. A new short film tells the story of City of Sanctuary so far, and shows some of the local groups that are helping to build a culture of welcome and hospitality. You can watch the 9 minute film free online at: www.cityofsanctuary.org/film. For more information about the City of Sanctuary movement, to get in touch with your local City of Sanctuary group, or to find out how to start a new group in your town or city, please see the City of Sanctuary website: www.cityofsanctuary.org or contact: craig@cityofsanctuary.org.

▼ **UN-Instraw mapping exercise**

UN-Instraw is currently working on a mapping exercise on legal and programmatic initiatives to better protect Migrant Women Workers' rights. In the Forum, UN-Instraw has placed the full text (in Spanish and English) of CEDAW's General Recommendation #26, which deals with this topic. You are invited to share your ideas about the protection of women migrant workers, especially concerning their citizenship status, both in countries of origin and destination. Additionally, it would be interesting to assess to what extent migrant women workers could potentially develop a sense of "ownership" of this international instrument. Please feel free to use the Forum for any comment that could help to better explore this topic.