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Migration Opportunity Map Project (MOMP)



(28 page .pdf)

Migrants Rights News ~ No: 15

Welcome to the February 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.

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In this month's newsletter, find details of:

- (1) **Tough new 'Earned Citizenship' regime looms as Immigration Bill released**
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(1) Tough new 'Earned Citizenship' regime looms as Immigration Bill released

A new year, a tough, new 'path to citizenship'...? The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, introduced into Parliament this January, contains provisions which would revamp the naturalisation process in the UK. Contents of this Bill aim to 'fast-track' key aspects of the draft (partial) 'Simplification Bill' - a major, and controversial, Home Office project from 2008. Release of the 'Simplification Bill', aimed at replacing all immigration legislation from the 1971 Immigration Act, has now been postponed until autumn 2009.

The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill

The [Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill](#) was introduced into the House of Lords on 14th January. Its second reading in the Lords will be held on 11th February, and Committee stage will begin on 25th February. So what are the key provisions that the peers will be debating?

'Earned citizenship'

The Bill proposes the introduction of a new naturalisation process for foreign nationals from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) to become British citizens - referred to by the Government as 'earned citizenship'. Currently, a person must be resident in the UK for a minimum of five years before applying for citizenship, or for at least three years if they are a family member of a person with settlement or citizenship in the UK. Under the proposed measures, this residence period would be extended by an additional stage of between one and three years, called 'probationary citizenship'. This would extend the regular naturalisation process from five years to eight years for those whose application is based solely on residence in the UK, and from three years to five years for those applying because of a family connection - giving the UK one of the longest paths to citizenship in Europe. 'Probationary citizens' would be able to shorten this period by 'meeting an activity condition'. It is not clear what would qualify as an 'activity condition', although it is likely that this would refer to volunteering in the local community according to Government stipulations.

There are widespread concerns about the concept of 'earned citizenship', and this Bill raises more questions than it answers. We will not know the full picture until secondary legislation

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detailing the wider context of the changes is released by the Government. This is unlikely to be available until after the Bill has completed its journey through Parliament. In the meantime, it seems clear that extending migrants' 'trial period' would take its toll most severely on those who fall out of the system during their journey towards citizenship. It is likely that during probationary citizenship, migrants would continue to pay taxes but would not be able to access non-contributory social benefits, social assistance, local authority housing or homelessness assistance, leaving them virtually unsupported if their work or family situation fell apart during this period.

Last February's Green Paper made clear that 'earned citizenship' would expect migrants to "demonstrate a more visible and a more substantial contribution to Britain" in order to 'prove their suitability' for citizenship.

We view this as unnecessary and counter-productive, and note the failure of the Government to present evidence that such a move would either meet migrants' interests or support the development of diverse, stable and inclusive communities in the UK. MRN has responded to the 'earned citizenship' proposal in its various guises (including in last year's draft [partial] Simplification Bill), by repeatedly laying out our opposition to the introduction of an extended and toughened route towards British citizenship. Raising the costs and barriers for people to become British citizens belies the fact that migrants already make substantial contributions towards the UK's culture and economy. Moreover, by placing the onus on migrants to prove themselves as worthy of citizenship, the responsibility of British society to support migrants is disregarded. We believe that the Government should focus on enabling, rather than impeding, migrants' movement towards citizenship, in order to bring them to reach a point where they can plan their lives in the UK in security.

Duty to safeguard the welfare of children

In addition to the 'earned citizenship' proposals, the Bill also includes the implementation of a new UK Border Agency (UKBA) duty to 'safeguard the welfare of children'. As reported in our [January bulletin](#), we welcome the inclusion of a specific duty for UKBA staff to secure child welfare - duties introduced in a new Code of Practice which came into force at the beginning of 2009. We remain concerned, however, about the limited application of the Bill's provisions to children within the UK, meaning that UKBA staff dealing with children outside the UK borders would not be bound to adhere to these principles. The new duty will not address a number of acute ongoing human rights issues related to children, including the detention of children in the UK.

Registration of children as British

The Bill will make additional changes to the registration of children as British, proposing to remove the 'historical cut-off point' for children of British mothers born before 1961 to become British, and would enable foreign nationals serving in the British armed forces to register their children as British citizens.

Further detail on the Bill

The Bill contains additional immigration provisions, including integrating customs and immigration functions within UKBA, extension of immigration controls within the Common Travel Area between UK and Republic of Ireland, and extending fingerprinting powers of UKBA. For further detail on the contents of the Bill, detailed briefing papers are available from the Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA) and the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI). To view the full Bill and follow its progress through Parliament please visit <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

MRN will be submitting a critique of the Bill before the Committee reading on 25th February. In addition, the Home Affairs Select Committee has invited short written updates of up to 1,500 words on issues of particular significance contained in the new Bill. If anyone would like to contribute towards MRN responses, or would like support on making individual/group submissions about any specific issues within the Bill, please contact Ruth Grove-White, MRN Policy Officer, on r.grove-white@migrantsrights.org.uk.

(2) "British Jobs for British Workers" - what impact on migrants? - a blog from MRN Director, Don Flynn

The conclusion of the week-long strike at the Lindsey Oil Refinery (LOR) in North Lincolnshire at the beginning of February raises important concerns about the position of migrant workers in the UK labour force.

The deal won by the striking construction workers extracted a commitment from the Italian subcontractors, IREM, to employ 102 British workers out of a reported total of 195 jobs on the desulphurisation plant contract at LOR. It is being presented by the strike's defenders as a good outcome, alleging that it will protect national agreements on wages and conditions which have been undercut by firms competing in the European single market.

The views of the 90-odd Italian and Portuguese workers on site during the early stages of the IREM contract about the dispute which exploded over their heads has not been as well documented as those of the strikers, for whom the core issue was proclaimed on picket lines as 'British Jobs for British Workers.' Bussed between the site and their digs on a hired barge moored in Grimsby, union activists admitted that no communication had been made with these workers during the week of the strike and nothing was known about their views of the issues at stake.

Union representatives at LOR shifted the ground of the argument during the course of the strike by insisting that it was not the presence of migrants on site that was objectionable, but rather the circumstances of their hire. IREM had won a contract to take over from a UK-based firm, Shaws, which was considered to be failing to complete work in time. The company had intended to use its

Italy-based workforce as the main component of its work at LOR, allowing the trade unionists on the site to conclude that native British workers were being excluded from the contract.

In addition to this issue it was argued that the intention of the Italian company was to pay wages below the level of the 'Blue Book' national agreements which bind the majority of mainstream engineering and construction companies based in the UK. This claim was refuted by LOR's operators, the French transnational Total SA, and the main site contractor, Jacobs.

Whatever the truth of this matter, concerns that they were dealing with a union-busting operation were woven into a commentary on the state of EU law. This focused attention on the posting of temporary workers between member states, and decisions of the European Court of Justice which have placed serious restraints on the ability of unions to defend the terms of collective agreements against undercutting by companies based in other countries.

With this range of issues agitating workers in the industry, the slogan 'British Jobs for British Workers' acquired the patina of legitimate action in defence of working class interests against globalisation and the alleged neo-conservative economic agenda of the European Union. A socialist faction on the LOR shop stewards committee made efforts to challenge the overt nationalism of the slogan which had appeared on the majority of strike placards from day one of the dispute. In place of the phrase it substituted a list of demands which included trade union registration of workers eligible for employment in the industry and trade union membership for all migrants.

An important feature of the dispute was the demonstration of solidarity with the LORs workers which came from construction workers on power plants and oil refineries across the UK. LORs workers were already a part of a national network of grassroots trade unionists registering concern about the success of non-British subcontractors winning substantial contracts at such sites as the Staythorpe Power Station in Nottingham, and the Isle of Grain Power Station in Kent. The news that strike action had broken out in Lincolnshire instigated a grassroots mobilisation of union members at 20 other installations across the UK, stretching from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to the southern counties of England. Reported as the first major defiance of UK legislation constraining solidarity action between workers based at different sites in many years, the action came to acquire a remarkable significance far beyond the confused facts which had ignited the strike in the first place.

The new enthusiasm for militant trade union action in the UK has been welcomed by many on the left as evidence that the working class is prepared to fight back against conditions that are in danger of being imposed on them during what is now expected to be a long period of recession. But [right wing columnists](#) in the Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph have also offered surprising support for the wildcat walkouts and the mass pickets, on the basis that they represent the stirring of an anti-European, nationalist consciousness on the part of British workers. The bottom line concern for those dealing with the issue of the rights of migrant workers is that a settlement which has as its centrepiece the securing of jobs for one group of workers over another on the basis of their nationality has the potential for generating huge problems for all workers in the future. <http://conservativehome.blogs.com/torydiary/2009/02/right-wing-comm.html>

Agitation over the awarding of contracts to companies based in other EU states will continue in the weeks ahead as the unions step up campaigns on issues at Staythorpe and the Isle of Grain. A lobby of Parliament by members of the GMB on 10th February will focus on the failure of the British government to transpose provisions in the EU Posted Workers Directive which would afford better protection against firms seeking to undercut collectively agreed industry norms. This will be followed by demonstrations organised by Unite and the GMB at Staythorpe and Isle of Grain.

It is interesting that, in the case of Staythorpe and the Isle of Grain, the main contractor Alstrom has engaged subcontractors who will be recruiting workers from Poland. Both Unite and the GMB have worked hard over the past five years to recruit Polish workers and have gained experience which hopefully can be put to good use to bring recruits into union activity at the Nottingham and Kent sites. Success in this area would do a great deal to resolve the ambiguous messages projected in the LORs dispute and to settle the question in favour of the defence of collective agreements rather than the nationality of the workers.

But, against the naive enthusiasm of some of the LORs strike supporters, it should be at least acknowledged that dangerous consequences could well arise from trade union mobilisation on the basis of nationalistic slogans. As well as hoping that the Staythorpe and Isle of Grain sites might develop as centres forging solidarity between British and migrant workers, we should be alert to news coming from Scotland that should give rise to concern. [Glasgow's The Herald reported on 2nd February](#) that workers who had supported the LORs strike with solidarity action at the Longannet and Cockerzie power stations are planning an Edinburgh to London march against migrants in the construction industry, despite the fact that their own jobs are not remotely threatened by the use of foreign workers. The trade union movement needs to be vigilant against the threat of further divisiveness directed against migrants during what will undoubtedly be very difficult times in the months ahead.

Wider fears about the impact of the global financial crisis on migrant workers have been expressed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in its [January Policy Briefing](#). As well as the prospect of job losses and wage cuts as wide swathes of the economy are hit, the IOM reports that migrant workers may face scapegoating and discrimination from the wider population. The IOM insists that 'sending migrants home' in the time of a recession is not the answer, and urges governments to adopt ever-more flexible policies which could enable migrants to contribute towards an alleviation of the financial downturn. This report comes at a time when

the UK media reports that cabinet ministers are currently considering a [new package of measures to restrict labour migration to the UK](#) under the Points-Based System, within the context of the recession. Official release of information about the nature of such measures is expected during February or March.

(3) Challenges for the 2009 Czech EU Presidency

As immigration issues continue to occupy the headlines across Europe, the Czech Republic looks set to have a tumultuous time during its 6-month Presidency of the European Union (EU). It will follow the no-holds-barred leadership of the French Presidency under Nicholas Sarkozy - which led EU member states to sign up to the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum and further the development of common - and in many cases controversial - policies on immigration and asylum.

So what can we expect from the remaining period of the [Czech Presidency](#)? Although the Czech Republic has stated intentions to "support a balanced approach" towards migration issues, its 2009 strategic priorities for the Presidency do not point to anything particularly different from the course already set by its vigorous French predecessors. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) has produced a comprehensive [set of recommendations](#) for the Czech Presidency aimed at improving the existing framework for refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe. [Wider concerns](#) also remain about the ongoing calls from some member states, such as Greece, for wider EU enforcement strategies which will further limit the rights of non-European Economic Area migrants.

Measures to 'control' migration in Europe, however, may present a conflict with implementation of the EU's anti-discrimination and equalities frameworks. Most recently, proposals to introduce a [European directive related to employers of "illegally staying third-country nationals"](#) have come under debate within the European Parliament. This proposal gained ground during January and early February 2009, as parliamentarians examined, and amended, the contents of a draft directive put forward by the European Commission in 2008. Under this directive, employers across the EU will be required to carry out document checks on the immigration status of potential workers, and failure to do so may be classed as a criminal offence. Positive news for undocumented workers is that, if the directive were introduced, it would require national legislation to secure the recovery of any unpaid wages from penalised employers within member states. It would also establish a 'grievance procedure' for undocumented migrant workers, which could reward those workers who report their employers with a temporary residence permit. A ['compromise' text](#) for the directive is now on the table and is thought likely to be voted in imminently. The UK has not opted into this directive, due to unsubstantiated claims that the recovery of back-pay and other such measures would act as a 'pull factor' for undocumented migrant workers into the country.

Although MRN supports the spirit of the directive in penalising employers rather than undocumented migrant workers, concerns remain that increasing employers' immigration responsibilities could open the door to widespread discrimination in workplaces. The implications of employment and immigration regulations in the UK has been highlighted through MRN's ['Papers Please' report](#), which laid out accounts since February 2008 indicating the emergence of tensions between employers and migrant workers over the issue of immigration status. We believe it is critical that the long-term impact of such enforcement measures be fully considered by the Members of the European Parliament.

4) Woolas throws down the gauntlet to the Geneva Convention

Immigration minister Phil Woolas caused a stir in January when he told [BBC Radio 4's Beyond Westminster programme](#) that the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (referred to as 'the Geneva Convention') may be limited in dealing with the practical realities of asylum in the contemporary world.

Woolas commented in the interview that it was time to debate the British application of the Convention, which enables people in fear of persecution by national states to seek refuge in signatory countries such as the UK. He based his comments on an assessment that "A significant number of people who claim asylum are doing so for broadly economic reasons". [His comments caused indignation among campaigners](#), including human rights doyenne Helen Bamber. Figures released by the Home Office indicate that the claim that asylum seekers are largely economic migrants has no credence outside the headline rights of the tabloid press. [Government statistics](#) show that the top countries of origin for asylum seekers in the UK in early 2008 were Afghanistan, Iraq, Zimbabwe, Iran and Eritrea - all countries led by oppressive regimes and/or in the midst of entrenched conflicts. The 'culture of disbelief' within the UKBA towards asylum seekers was recently reported on in the Centre for Social Justice's ['Asylum Matters' report](#).

Woolas is not the first Labour minister to review the UK's application of international humanitarian requirements under the Geneva Convention. His words echo sentiments by Jack Straw who, when Foreign Secretary, pointed to the UK's inability to manage numbers of asylum seekers within the last decade. In 2001 [Straw proposed](#) increasing development aid towards countries of origin whilst introducing a list of 'safe countries' whose nationals would not be eligible to apply for asylum within the EU. These proposals were not taken up at the time and few would now agree that these strategies would meet the UK's obligations under international law.

Meanwhile, the New Asylum Model (NAM), introduced into full operation by March 2007 to ensure that all asylum applications are handled by the same case manager within UKBA until their

conclusion, has come under further scrutiny this year. The [National Audit Office report](#) into the working of the NAM was released at the end of January, concluding that it was unlikely that the UKBA would be able to conclude the 400,000-450,000 legacy cases by 2011 as promised by the Home Secretary in 2006. [Breaking news in early February](#) that the personal files of over 17,000 refugees and their families are registered as lost within the Home Office demonstrates that there is a long way to go before the asylum system's enduring legacy of inefficiency is overcome.

5) Schools and universities set to take on immigration duties under Tier 4

Despite concerns among many academics and teaching staff, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) is continuing to lay the foundations for the next stage of the new Points-Based System for foreign work and study in the UK. 'Tier 4', the system by which people can apply to study in the UK, is due to come into force at the end of March 2009.

Under the new system, as with Tiers 2 (for 'Skilled Migrants with a Job Offer') and 5 (for temporary workers and youth education/work schemes to the UK) educational establishments will be required to become registered sponsors with the Home Office before being able to accept applications from overseas students. The bar will be raised for student applicants, who will need to demonstrate that they have a maintenance fund of a minimum £9,600 per year of study in the UK. Once a foreign student has begun study under the new scheme, the school, college or university will be required to take on new responsibilities for monitoring them, reporting to UKBA if they do not attend courses or leave the university, and keeping copies of immigration documents on file. Students will also be issued a biometric identity card before they travel to the UK.

The Home Office claims that over 800 educational establishments have already registered under Tier 4, and has urged others to apply by early February in order to be registered before the roll-out of Tier 4 next month. MRN is keen to learn about opposition to the new duties among academics and/or teaching unions, as we believe that increasing the immigration responsibilities of education providers could have serious implications for ensuring freedom from discrimination within education, as well as having a corrosive effect on teacher/student relationships. Those opposed to the new duties may wish to [sign a petition requesting the withdrawal of new duties](#).

(6) Reports and Research

Detained Lives: the real cost of indefinite immigration detention, London Detainee Support Group (LDSG), January 2009

The UK remains one of the few countries in Europe that has not yet adopted a time limit on the administrative detention of migrants. This report draws upon the real-life testimonies of individual detainees whom the LDSG has supported through its front-line work. The report asserts that "indefinite detention simply does not work: as a means of deporting people it is ineffective and grossly inefficient. The testimony of detainees shows the human cost to be vast: the opaque implementation of detention without time limits leads many people to despair". Powerful personal accounts are accompanied by an examination of the legislative gaps which allow 'immigration offenders' to be locked up without limit in the UK. For more information please visit the campaign website www.detainedlives.org, where the report and additional articles can be found. For articles about this issue in the Guardian please visit:

www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jan/28/asylum-seekers-detention
www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/jan/28/foreign-detainee-case-study

Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions, The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), January 2009

Undocumented children in Europe may be living with members of their families but can also be unaccompanied, living alone without their parents or guardians. Whatever their condition, the fact that these children are in Europe without protection through official family reunification programs or asylum processes makes them "undocumented" and as such affected by policies on irregular migration. This report aims to investigate the particular vulnerability that characterizes the reality of undocumented children and analyze their specific needs and problems encountered in various European countries. The report is specifically focused on the discrimination that these children might face in accessing their basic social rights in the areas of education, health care and housing. Attached you will find the order form for the printed version of the report. You can download the pdf version of the report on Picum website at: www.picum.org, or order a hard copy by e-mailing administration@picum.org / Fax: +32 2 2741448 Price : € 13.00

Rethinking migration: Work and welfare in a mobile economy, Elena Jurado & Annie Bruzzone, Policy Network, January 2009

Report Abstract - 'Governments across Europe are responding to public concerns about the economic impacts of migration by developing and implementing more selective immigration policies. Using a variety of sophisticated tools, including the UK's new "points based system", policymakers are trying to attract "useful" migrants to our borders, while keeping "unwanted" migrants out. By letting in only those migrants who will contribute positively to our economies, the aim of these policies is to maximise the economic benefits of migration while minimising its (apparent) social costs. This paper questions the utility of this approach. The costs and benefits of migration are too tied up with the regulatory structures of our labour markets and welfare systems to try to achieve this objective simply by selecting the "right" kind of migrants, as if their particular skills-set was the only variable that mattered. If our aim is to enhance the productive

incorporation of migrant workers, existing efforts to manage migration require a much more holistic approach. This does not mean that states should abandon efforts to select migrants, but rather that immigration, labour market and welfare policies need to be developed in tandem.' The report can be found at:

www.policy-network.net/uploadedFiles/Publications/Publications/Rethinking%20immigration-online.pdf

Three reports commissioned by Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI):

New Migration, Equality and Integration: Issues for Northern Ireland Agnieszka Martynowicz and Neil Jarman, Institute for Conflict Research, January 2009

This report looks at the unprecedented scale of recent inward migration into Northern Ireland, and the challenges to government policy makers and the society that this situation entails. Recent migration very quickly highlighted the lack of strategic preparation by public service providers, government and employers for dealing with additional needs and expectations of the new communities, going well beyond the labour market issues. This paper aims to highlight gaps in our knowledge and understanding of the current situation, offering some practical recommendations for future policy-making. The report is available at:
www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/ICRMigrantworkersOctober2008.pdf.

Investigation into the Role of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses in the Recruitment and Employment of Migrant Workers in Northern Ireland - A Literature Review Sarah Toucas and Agnieszka Martynowicz, Institute for Conflict Research, August 2008

In April 2008, ICR was commissioned by the ECNI to collect information that would provide a background to the Commission's investigation into the role of employment agencies and employment businesses in the recruitment and employment of migrant workers in Northern Ireland. In fulfilment of this brief, the following review considers the situation of migrant workers vis-à-vis the recruitment sector - that is employment agencies and employment businesses. The review is available at:
www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/LiteraturereviewagenciesfinalCR.pdf.

We asked for Workers but Human Beings Came Dr. Robbie McVeigh, An Dúchán, 2008

The Newry and Mourne Council published a local report on the impact of inward migration on the two border districts - Newry and Mourne (Northern Ireland) and Louth (Republic of Ireland). The report, commissioned by the cross-border Challenge of Change project, found that in the past few years both Newry and Mourne and Louth have benefited enormously from inward migration. The report, can be found here:
www.newryandmourne.gov.uk/pdf/Migrant%20Workers.pdf

(7)Upcoming Events

- **Scottish Migrants Network Reception and Conference, Supporting Migrant Workers in Scotland, Feb 18th 2009 1 - 6.30 pm, STUC, Woodlands Road, Glasgow**

The Scottish Migrants Network (SMN) is sponsoring a half-day conference for migrant workers and support organisations in Scotland to share policy and practice five years after accession. This will be followed by a Reception and Networking event to launch a migrant workers' rights poster and the website of the Scottish Migrants Network (SMN).

Programme:

1-2 pm Lunch, 2-3 pm Plenary including: Migrants, Unions, SMN, EHRC and Migrant Rights Network (London), 3-5 pm Workshops (choice of two presented by various organisations), 5:15 to 6:30 Reception and Networking Event (Scottish Government Representation). The conference is free and travel costs will be met for migrants.

Registration:

Please email your name, organisation (if any), any additional requirements (travel assistance/childcare/dietary/other), and top 3 choices of workshops to: New Migrants Action Project, Positive Action in Housing Email: seonad@paih.org Phone: 0141 353 2220 Fax: 0141 353 3882

- **'Managing Migration In Britain's Communities: Ensuring Fair and Effective Enforcement' Conference, The Commonwealth Club, London, 24th February 2009**

This summer the Government announced a major refocus of the work of the UK Border Agency with around 7500 new staff up and down the country organised into Local Immigration Teams. As outlined in the Home Office document 'Enforcing the Deal' these teams will work with local authorities, public bodies and service providers to reduce immigration related crime and enforce immigration legislation. This Westminster Briefing will give delegates the opportunity to discuss and be informed about the Government's proposals and the implications for immigration services, local authorities and service providers, businesses and police forces. For further information on this event, or to book online, please visit

www.eventsforce.net/DODS/media/uploaded/EVDODS/event_1015/Immigration%20Feb.pdf

- **REFUGEES INTO SCHOOLS**

Education Action's REFUGEES INTO SCHOOLS project supports refugees to visit schools in London and help children and young people understand the impact of conflict and why people are forced to flee their countries. Through getting involved in schools, refugees will have opportunities to learn about education in England. They will also gain valuable skills and experience. Some refugees may also find this experience useful if they want to pursue a career in education. For schools and local authorities wishing to be partners with the project, REFUGEES INTO SCHOOLS will make a useful contribution to assisting schools in developing a culturally inclusive curriculum, and support work that contributes to the duty to promote community cohesion. All refugees who volunteer to participate in the project will be provided with:

- Training
- Resources and materials
- Guidance and support from experienced mentors
- Help with travel expenses.

There is an information and training day for refugees taking part in the project:

Date: Friday 27 February 2009

Time: 10.00am - 3.00pm

Venue: Shelter Training, Unit 13, City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 2PU

Places must be booked beforehand.

For more information or to indicate a wish to take part in REFUGEES INTO SCHOOLS please get in touch with Education Action by phone or email.

Tel: 020 7785 7217

Email: info@education-action.org

Information flyers (for schools and local authorities, and for refugees interested in taking part) can also be obtained by emailing the project coordinator, Angela Taylor:

amt1314@btinternet.com

- **Research Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures (RICC) Launch Festival, Whose Cosmopolitanism?, Manchester, 2nd - 6th March 2009**

To attend any of these events register at www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/ricc/

- **Monday 2nd March** Writers' Evening (with the Centre for New Writing) 6.30 - 8 p.m.
Jackie Kay and Joe Pemberton, John Thaw Studio Theatre, The University of Manchester

- **Tuesday 3rd March 2 - 5p.m.** Debating Cosmopolitan Cultures: Common Places/Imagined Politics, David Harvey (City University of New York), Tariq Ramadan (St Antony's College, Oxford), Jacqueline Rose (University of London), Manchester Town Hall, 5 - 6.30p.m. Reception (drinks and light supper), Reception Room, Manchester Town Hall. 6.30 - 8.30p.m. Claiming the City: Belonging and Exclusion, 'BBC Question Time'-style Panel, moderated by Jim Hancock (Liverpool Daily Post), Irene Khan (Amnesty International), Gary Younge (The Guardian), Don Flynn (Migrants' Rights Network), Alex Poots (Manchester International Festival), Katya Sander (Danish Academy of Art), Manchester Town Hall

- **Wednesday 4th March** Individual Workshops with Speakers from the Tuesday Debate: David Harvey, Tariq Ramadan and Jacqueline Rose, The University of Manchester

- **Friday 6 March** Ruinous Recollections Art Exhibition, 6 - 7 .30 p.m. With Nina Chua, Bec Garland, Nick Hamilton, Paul Harfleet, Victoria Lem, and, Jessica Longmore, Victoria Baths

- **February - March 2009** Leading up to the launch festival, artist Katya Sander will be working on a project in Manchester entitled: If you read this, I'll give it to you.

- **Engaging Migrant Workers through Museums Conference, Renaissance East Midlands, The Collection, Lincoln Tuesday 17th March 2009, 10.00am - 4.00pm**

Why are migrant workers coming to England, and how can museums work with them to encourage social cohesion and English language acquisition? Migrant workers are an increasingly important part of our economic, cultural and environmental landscape, particularly in rural communities in the East Midlands and East of England. This conference will explore why people are moving from across the world, and specifically Eastern Europe, to live and work in rural England. As well as examining the national policy context, the conference will illustrate how museums can address issues of social cohesion through the development of projects and resources that enable the acquisition of English and encourage cross-cultural understanding. Conference Fee: £30 for the day (including refreshments and lunch).

- **Oxfam's Migrant Workers Project - end of project seminar. 3.00 - 7.00pm Tuesday 17th March 2009, at the Britannia Hotel, 35 Portland St, Manchester, M1 3LA.**

The seminar will bring together organisations who have been involved with Oxfam's Migrant Workers Project as the project draws to a close. It will provide an opportunity for us to reflect

on the learning, progress, successes and challenges of all of our work, share experiences and explore future ways of working together to protect and promote the rights of migrant workers. Keynote speakers to include: Julie Jarman - Oxfam's Country Director for England, Don Flynn - Director Migrants Rights Network, Lisa Mok - Assistant Director Wai Yin Chinese Women Society, Members of the Migrants Supporting Migrants group
For a booking form please contact Helen Welch - hwelch@oxfam.org.uk.

Refugee Council Conference 2009, In partnership with Integration: Building a Life in the UK, 25th March 2009, Inmarsat, 99 City Road, EC1Y 1AX London

This report is billed as the 'must attend event for organisations in the housing sector who work with refugees'. The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) is currently reviewing the Government policy for refugees "Integration Matters". UKBA has committed to respond to the recommendations made by this conference - including how as practitioners we can be involved in the solutions. For a full programme or to book your place please [click here](#).

- **PICUM conference in partnership with MRN and COMPAS: 'Understanding Irregular Migration in Northern Europe', 27th March 2009, Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA**

This workshop, organized within the framework of the EU 'CLANDESTINO' project entitled 'Undocumented Migration: Counting the Uncountable, Data and Trends Across Europe' and financed by the European Commission, DG Research, will be an opportunity to present its main findings on irregular migration in selected EU countries, namely: Netherlands, UK, Germany, France and Austria. The event will enable participants to compare approaches on similar issues and also exchange opinions on possible policy alternatives in relation to undocumented migration. The workshop will address various themes such as the presence of undocumented migrants in the labour market, regularisation policies concerning undocumented migrants, access to public services (e.g. health care, housing, education), and role of the media in social policies and political discourse.

More information on the workshop can be obtained from PICUM's website at www.picum.org, where a detailed programme and a registration form are available for download.

Registration is open until 20 March 2009.

Please note that a £ 5 registration fee, which includes attendance at the workshops and a contribution towards the cost of the Lebanese buffet lunch provided at the venue, will be asked upon arrival.

(8) Other Announcements

- **Free sight tests and glasses offered in East London**
Vision Care for Homeless People together with Crisis offer free sight tests and glasses to people who cannot afford to pay, regardless of their immigration status. They offer two drop-in sessions at Crisis 66 Commercial street E1 6LT, Mondays and Thursdays 2pm - 6pm.
- **RMT Cleaners campaign page set up**
There is now a section of the RMT London Transport Regional Council website - dedicated to the fight to [defend victimised cleaners](#). Please check in on the website regularly, and if you have any material - reports, photos, messages of support, links to press articles etc - or any ideas for what else would be useful to include on the website, please email them to Janine Both: janine.booth@btopenworld.com.
- **Online Survey calls for migrants working in social care sector**
I am writing seeking your assistance in finding participants to a short online survey aimed at exploring the experience of non-UK citizens who currently work in the social care sector in the UK. The survey is part of a wider research conducted by the social care workforce unit, King's College London. For details on how to take part, please visit: www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/interdisciplinary/scwru/index.html

Ruth Grove-White
Policy Officer
Migrants Rights Network
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