

Migrants' Rights News - February 2010

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.

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1. MRN and MRCF launch 'Future of Volunteering' Survey

The government's new 'earned citizenship' policy will make it significantly longer and more difficult for migrants from outside the European Economic Area to become British citizens after July 2011.

'Earned citizenship' will, among other things, require people to do regulated volunteering before applying for citizenship. Only certain types of volunteering – specified by the government – will qualify. Migrants who do not, or cannot, volunteer will be penalised by a two-year delay before they can make a citizenship application.

A number of migrant community organizations as well as voluntary organizations have expressed concerns about these proposals and the lack of involvement of migrant communities in thinking them through. It is clear from the current proposals that the government's idea of volunteering does not correlate with the reality of how important volunteering already is for the survival and integration of migrants and that they have not thought through the practicalities of how this scheme would work. These are some of the questions that came up in a recent workshop with migrant and refugee community volunteers:

- Should volunteering be turned into a currency for immigration status?
- What will other volunteers think of us? Will they trust our passion and commitment?
- What will happen to those migrants who can't volunteer such as single mothers, domestic workers, the elderly and ill?
- How about those new citizens who are active in employment and do not have any free time to volunteer? Should they be disadvantaged for being economically active?
- Will I be able to volunteer in an organisation of my choice? Who will be monitoring my volunteering hours and contribution?

There is still time for us to make our voices heard. The Migrant and Refugee Community Forum (MRCF) and Migrants Rights Network (MRN) are putting together a report to present to the government and other interested parties.

If you want to help us think this through and add your voice to this report, please take 5 minutes to complete the [survey](#).

The online survey will be open for responses until Friday 26th February so please make sure to respond before then!

For various briefings on the ethos and implications of the 'earned citizenship' policy, visit the [Migrants' Rights Network website](#). We will keep you posted on all next developments.

2. Guest article! CADI briefing on the persecution of African migrants in Italy

CADI (Comitato Antirazzista Durban Italia) is very concerned about the facts occurred in January in Rosarno, a small village in the South of Italy where around 2.000 seasonal migrant workers coming from Africa have been ill-treated for many years and finally also attacked and expelled. They had to run away leaving their personal belongs and even their wages in the hands of their former employers because of their fear to go back to Rosarno. CADI is very concerned about the lack of protection that is affecting this group of migrant workers and refugees and calls everybody to express solidarity and to give solutions for these vulnerable persons, who risked their lives while living in conditions similar to slavery, while generously contributing to Italian economy and society. Many experts say that if in Italy there are 4 millions of documented migrants, the number of the undocumented could be estimated around 600.000. Many of them are the core of the Italian agriculture.

For understanding what happened it is necessary to provide some useful infos on the facts occurred in Rosarno: Rosarno is a small village in the South of Italy, in the region of Calabria, Close to Sicily. Its countryside is full of fields of olives and oranges that are sold everywhere thanks to the help of the European Funds dedicated to support traditional agriculture. People there are not rich enough to compete with the northern regions of Italy and their standard of life is much lower than in the North, this is one of the reasons why many emigrated from there to North of Italy, Europe, Americas, Australia.

At the same time, the territory is since twenty years one of the main places where many seasonal migrant workers coming from poorer countries of the South of the World, especially Africa, find a temporary employment, in living and working conditions that are much worse than the conditions of local workers. We can say that the normal wage for a seasonal migrant worker in agriculture, working 10-15 hours a day, is about 20-30 euros a day. It means that they are paid less than 2 euros an hour, less than one third of an Italian worker.

In Rosarno and generally in southern Italy agriculture is mostly sustained with the help of many seasonal migrant workers who are living on the street and in abandoned buildings, far from the help of trade unions, associations, NGOs, institutions. They have to survive in conditions that are very critical and have to move between the southern Italian regions following the seasons of tomatoes in Puglia and Campania in the summer, the wine yards in the fall, almonds, olives and oranges in

winter. In the case of Rosarno, those persons found a shelter in two abandoned buildings without toilets, electricity, schools, security, legality.

It is important to know that Rosarno hasn't actually any ordinary City Council Administration. In fact, as many towns in the South of Italy, the town is managed from an ad hoc Committee nominated from the national authorities, because of the scandals of corruption that occurred during the last administration. The local organized criminality of Calabria developed during the last centuries a mafia entity called "Ndrangheta" that rules on any aspects of economy and politics and has a deep control on the entire society. Parallel to the 'Ndrangheta in Calabria, we can say that also in the rest of southern Italy the region of Puglia has its own organized Criminality that is called "Sacra Corona Unita", the region of Campania is under the control of the "Camorra" the region of Sicily is under the control of the well-known "Sicilian Mafia". All those organizations have local groups and are working together when their businesses are common, and all those organizations are very powerful not only locally, but also nationally and internationally, very able to recycle their hidden capitals in globalised financial markets. Unfortunately for seasonal migrant workers, those organizations developed a model of exploitation based on mid-slavery that works very well, better than the Italian State, and rules on agriculture, industry, buildings, services, and of course also rules on the sex-market and the illicit drugs market. Their political connections are very strong.

For having an idea of the dimensions of the deal, it has been calculated by several experts that the only 'Ndrangheta's and Camorra's international business of cocaine is bigger than the official yearly income of the biggest Italian legal company, the well-known FIAT, a factory of Cars and mechanics sold everywhere in the World.

Coming back to Rosarno, the recent problems started from an attack directed against two African migrants walking quietly on the street, who have been injured with a rifle the afternoon of the day 6th of January. The cruelty of this act that had no reason convinced the rest of the migrant workers living there to start a spontaneous march of protest, in which several cars resulted damaged and clashes happened between the migrants and the locals. As many journalists reported, the police participated to the clashes repressing especially the migrants. During the following days many newspapers reported that some persons strictly connected with the 'Ndrangheta' participated to the clashes focusing against the migrants.

After two days of clashes that brought 66 people to the hospital with serious injuries (but fortunately no people dead) the national government decided to intervene with the deportation of the group of migrants in different places in Italy. During the screening of the migrants, some of them resulted to be asylum seekers and refugees forced to survive in such a situation because of the lack of any proper protection from the Italian authorities, but even this news did not convince the government to manage the issue with more respect for their basic rights. The shelters provided for them had no adequate standards, and many migrants decided to leave the "program of assistance" and are now on their own (for instance 70 are sleeping in the railway station of Rome). Others, found in an irregular situation, have been prosecuted and had to leave the country. During the investigations on the clashes many migrants have been condemned. Other people simply disappeared because of their fear of further reprisals and are now not findable anymore.

Following to the international reactions condemning Italy's policies, some of the senators proposed a mass regularization for the seasonal migrant workers living in similar conditions in many other Italian places, with the proposal of a decree that will give a regular permit to stay to those who are in a similar situation, but the government already declared that this will not happen, because it would encourage many undocumented migrant workers to consider Italy as a country where rules are weak and would profit on that occasion for increasing the number of the undocumented coming from the rest of Europe.

The day 28th of January, the Italian Premier Berlusconi, while opening the special Council of Ministers held in Calabria because of the emergencies of the organized criminality, declared that “crimes are raising because of the presence of migrants” and that “ a reduction of the number of migrants will reduce the possibilities of the organized criminality to recruit supporters”. Two days before, the Interior Minister Maroni declared that he’ll be against any regularization of the undocumented, and that Italy is giving to Libya three more ships dedicated to the fight against migrants and refugees who are driving to Italy (after the three already given to Libya during last summer). The fact that several United Nation’s representatives, NGOs, Church representatives, protested for the block of the migrants and refugees from Libya had no consequences for the Italian policies.

Regarding the media coverage of such facts, some newspapers of the same party of the Minister of the Interiors openly call the African migrants with the name of “Bingo Bongo” and “Negri” and other offensive names. Regarding to this the opposition is quite silent, fearing to lose votes in occasion of the next local and regional elections in march. Even the recent proposal to reduce the term of 10 years to 5 years for obtaining the Italian citizenship for regular migrants has not been accepted from the government.

During a field visit that CADI organized in Rosarno and the surrounding area in January, while interviewing local people, we met many persons who were not happy to be considered as racists, some of them declared that migrants have been profiting on the Italians, some declared that Italians have been profiting on migrants. CADI’s vision is that the Country of Leonardo, Galileo, Colombo, Michelangelo, Dante, should be more open to foreigners, CADI’s vision is that a Land of emigrants should be more friendly to immigrants. CADI’s vision is that in a globalized world people should globalize human rights. In Italy, there are still many places similar to Rosarno. One of those places is Villa Literno, close to Neaples, land of tomatoes, it is the same place where one year ago 5 African migrants have been killed from the Camorra, it is the same place where the singer Myriam Makeba mysteriously died during a concert in memory of the five killed, it is the same place where next summer thousands of seasonal migrant workers will have to work hard in the same conditions as in Rosarno. In Italy, migrants are marginalized by the media, the trade unions, the political parties, the government, the laws. CADI claims for more respect for them as persons. Italian government has to change policy promptly and effectively. A country that has no memory has no future.

Submitted by Manfred Bergmann, CADI-MRI

3. Network Reports and Research

❖ ***Chance or Choice? Understanding why asylum seekers come to the UK, Professor Heaven Crawley, Refugee Council, January 2010***

This report presents the findings of research commissioned by the Refugee Council, which was undertaken by Professor Heaven Crawley, Director of the Centre for Migration Policy Research at the University of Swansea. The research investigated the decisions made by asylum seekers who come to the UK and explored the extent to which these decisions are a reflection of chance or choice. It builds upon the growing, but as yet still limited, body of evidence about the ‘choices’ that individuals are (or are not) able to exert over the country in which they will seek asylum, and the factors that might contribute to the decision making process.

- ❖ **[Europe's murderous borders](#), MigrEurop, January 2010**
For its first Annual report on the violation of human rights at borders, Migreurop has chosen to maintain the four symbolic poles of the misdeeds of the policy enacted by the European Union in the field of immigration and asylum. The Greek-Turkish border, the Calais region in north-western France, that of Oujda in eastern Morocco and the island of Lampedusa in the far south of Italy, are as many stops, more or less lengthy, sometimes definitive, in the odyssey of thousands of people who, every year, by trying to reach Europe, seek to escape the fate that they have been dealt through chosen or forced exile.
- ❖ **[The Refugee Roulette: The role of country information in refugee status determination](#). Natasha Tsangarides, Immigration Advisory Service, January 2010**
Country of origin information (COI) is an important part of the refugee status determination process. It assists decision makers to assess the credibility of accounts and the risk upon return against background evidence that details the conditions in the country of origin. This report explores how individuals from four stakeholder groups use country information and what factors impact on their level of use, using data from 100 questionnaires, 20 interviews and 6 focus groups. Information was gathered from UK Borders Agency (UKBA) staff, legal representatives, immigration judges and experts. Overall, insufficient usage of country of origin information is reported to be commonplace, particularly at the initial decision making phase, despite improvements under the New Asylum Model (NAM). This report shows the value of country of origin research in determining individual asylum claims and will assist in promoting a more rigorous asylum determination system.
- ❖ **[Connecting the Dots: A fresh look at managing international migration](#), International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), January 2010**
Over a period of three months, ICMC has consulted leading policy makers and actors within the migration field, bringing them together for informal discussions on the diverse challenges associated with global migration flows and approaches, and to discuss ways to improve international migration management. Connecting the dots offers a summary report of these first conversations, including recommendations for next steps.
- ❖ **[Fast and Fair? A report by the Independent Ombudsman on the UK Border Agency](#). February 2010**
The Agency has consistently generated a large number of complaints to the Ombudsman. In the first nine months of 2009-10 the Ombudsman received 478 complaints about the Agency and reported on 33 investigations of which 97% were upheld in full or in part. 'Fast and Fair?' includes eleven case studies that reflect the large number and wide range of complaints referred to the Ombudsman by Members of Parliament. The cases involve applications for asylum, as well as the Agency's core immigration and nationality work and applications for residence cards, which confirm rights of residence under European law. 'Fast and Fair?' clearly demonstrates that the Agency's failure to resolve applications within reasonable timescales can have serious implications for the individuals involved, for society in general and for the public purse. The Ombudsman's role is not to inspect the Agency's functions or to report on its effectiveness. However, in publishing the report the Ombudsman hopes that the issues identified will be of wider public interest, drive service improvement and inform public policy.
- ❖ **[Criminalisation of Migration in Europe: Human Rights Implications](#) Issue Paper commissioned and published by Thomas Hammarberg, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, February 2010**

This Issue Paper builds upon these concerns and examines systematically the human rights implications of the criminalisation of migration in Europe. It analyses the external border crossing, migrants' residence and protection of their social rights including employment, as well as asylum and detention. It concludes with a number of recommendations to Council of Europe member states, as a starting point to ensure the correct intersection of human rights standards and the treatment of foreign nationals.

- ❖ **Home Office / UK Border Agency releases, January and February 2010**
 - [Written Ministerial Statement Announcing Proposed Fees for Financial Year 2010/11 \(1\)](#)
 - [Written Ministerial Statement Announcing Proposed Fees at or above cost for 2010/11 \(2\)](#)
 - [Earning the right to stay: A new points test for citizenship. Analysis of Consultation Responses.](#)
 - [Written Ministerial Statement – Tier 4 visas](#)
- ❖ [Analysis of the Points Based System Tier 1](#), Migration Advisory Committee, December 2009
The first review by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) of the highly skilled migration routes (Tier 1) of the Government's Points Based System for managed migration recommends that the routes should be maintained.

4. Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- ❖ **Transnational Labour Citizenship: Restructuring Labour Migration to Reinforce Workers Rights.** Jennifer Gordon, Associate Professor of Law at Fordham University in New York City. 1-2pm Wednesday 17th February 2010. Seminar Room, The City Centre, Queen Mary, University of London Mile End Road.
Jennifer Gordon teaches in the fields of Immigration Law and Labour Law. Her recent articles have addressed the topics of low-wage labour migration, the intersection of race and immigration, and the role of law in struggles for social justice. Her book, *Suburban Sweatshops: The Fight for Immigrant Rights* was published in 2005 by Harvard University Press.
- ❖ [From Destitution to Empowerment: an EU agenda for change](#), 10am to 4pm Saturday 20th February 2010, 1 day Conference, Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8EP
Know more about what is happening in the UK. Know better how to help. Lobby in the UK. For workers, volunteers, activists, policy makers, churches, refugee groups, people of all faiths and none concerned about the treatment of asylum seekers in the UK and Europe. Cost: £10 - Some bursaries available for people on low income. Anyone currently seeking asylum is particularly welcome - please get in touch. For further information and to REGISTER (ESSENTIAL for catering purposes): marineharrington@btinternet.com or call JRS office on +44-20 7357 0974

- ❖ ***[Migrants in the Recession: Supporting Migrant Workers in Scotland](#)***, Conference and Evening Roundtable Discussion. Scottish Migrants Network. 23rd February 2010. Discovery Centre, Dundee, Scotland.

The Scottish Migrants Network (SMN) will be sponsoring a conference for migrant workers and support organisations in Scotland to share policy and practice on new migrants in Scotland. A roundtable discussion will follow this with politicians, migrants and others around policy and experience in Scotland. For information contact: Jason Bergen jbergen@oxfam.org.uk, or Seonad Forbes seonad@paih.org.

- ❖ ***[Tackling Race Inequality: Improving Opportunity, Strengthening Society](#)***, Conference. 9am – 2pm, Tuesday 23rd February 2010, Central London

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. [Book today!](#)

- ❖ ***[IMPACT project approach to addressing high levels of unemployment of migrants who are third country nationals](#)***. Free seminar. Organised by NIACE and the IMPACT project. Thursday 25th February 2010, Birmingham.

This event will present the results of the transnational IMPACT project, the UK element of which were carried out in partnership between NIACE and Leicester City Council. The IMPACT project (Integrating Migrants through the Provision of Adaptability and Competence Training) aimed to address the problem of high rates of unemployment among particular groups of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU. This event will be of keen interest to representatives of organisations and practitioners concerned with the employment of migrants. For further information and a booking form please contact Ljaja Sterland, Project Officer- Equality and Migration Team, NIACE Direct: 0116 204 7085; Mobile: 07884186728; ljaja.sterland@niace.org.uk

- ❖ ***[Gangmaster Licensing Authority Worker Representative Liaison Group meeting](#)***. 11am, 3rd March 2010. New Link, Lincoln Road Centre, 439 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, PE1 2PE.

Contact the GLA Communications Assistant Janette Bonham if you would be interested in attending, or would like further information. Email: janette.bonham@gla.gsi.gov.uk

- ❖ ***[Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion in Europe through Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education in Adult Learning](#)***, Black & Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland (BEMIS) and Democracy & Human Rights Education in Adult Learning (DARE) network EU Conference in Scotland. 3rd – 5th March 2010. Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow G2 1DU

The conference aims to: Highlight the topic of tackling poverty and social exclusion sharing experiences from EU and Scotland and debating progress since the Lisbon Treaty; Raising awareness of tackling poverty and social exclusion through Education and Democratic Citizenship (EDC) and Human Rights Education (HRE). Reflect on learning from a Scottish perspective and EU approaches. Assess how Human Rights Education can be instrumental in combating poverty at various levels (legal, political, economic, etc). Help promote a renewed sense of understanding of Poverty and social exclusion beyond definitions. Help promote enhanced engagement of diverse communities, policy makers and various equality strands in addressing issues regarding tackling poverty and social exclusion. Full program will

be sent out in coming weeks; however, to register your interest & REQUEST A REGISTRATION FORM, please email conference@bemis.org.uk or phone Mrs Tanveer Parnez, Director of National Development, 0141 5488047

❖ **[Undocumented Migrants and the Stockholm Programme: Assuring Access to Rights?](#)**
9th March 2010. Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Place du Congrès 1, B-1000 Brussels – Conference Room

The Justice and Home Affairs Section at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) is organizing together with the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and EURO CITIES a conference on Undocumented Migrants and the Stockholm Programme: Assuring Access to Rights? The event focuses on the status of undocumented migrants in the EU and aims at structuring a pluralistic dialogue on their fundamental rights in light of the implementation of The Stockholm Programme by the Spanish Presidency and the adoption of the implementation plans by the Commission. The discussions taking place at the conference will be structured around the specific themes addressed in the final report and set of policy recommendations conducted by the Justice and Home Affairs Section of CEPS on the status of undocumented migrants in Europe and their access to rights. The booking deadline is 7th March.

❖ **[NHS Newham Conference: World Class Commissioning in an Age of Migration.](#)**
9.30am–4.30pm. Tuesday 16 March 2010, West Ham Football Club, London, E13

The people of migrant communities in England face widespread difficulties when seeking access to health services. This conference, sponsored by NHS Newham, will examine the barriers to health services experienced by migrant communities; consider the commissioning skills needed to support diverse and mobile populations; assess the costs, benefits and risks of restricting migrant people's access to NHS services. The following have been invited to speak at the conference: Joan Sadler OBE (DoH); David Stout (NHS Confederation); Shami Chakrabarti (Liberty); Professor Richard Wilkinson (Equality Trust); Edwin Borman (BMA Council). Workshops and seminars will be led by Médecins du Monde (UK), Migrants' Rights Network, British Medical Association, TUC, and London Wide LMC. A new production by the award-winning playwright Peter Cox will also be presented. Delegate fees: NHS organisations: £100; Voluntary organisations: £50; Private sector: £200. A full conference programme will be published shortly. There are a limited number of places so please register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. To pre-register please email c.andreatta@migrantsrights.org.uk with *WCC Migration* in the subject line.

❖ **[Book launch: Global Cities at Work: New migrant divisions of labour \(Pluto Press, 2010\), The Octagon, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, E1 4NS, 7–9pm Monday 22nd March 2010, including a reception](#)**

Please come to discuss and celebrate the publication of *Global Cities at Work: New migrant divisions of labour*. Kavita Datta, Jon May and Cathy McIlwaine will introduce *Global Cities at Work*, followed by responses from: Marzena Chichon, London Citizens' living wage campaign; Mark Abani, The Central Association of Nigerians in the UK (CANUK); Don Flynn, Migrants' Rights Network; Chaired by Jane Wills. *Global Cities at Work* is about the people who always get taken for granted. The people who clean our offices, care for our elders and change the sheets on the bed. The book draws on testimony from more than 800 foreign-born workers employed in low-paid jobs in London during the first decade of the 21st century. We link London's new migrant division of labour to the twin processes of subcontracting and increased international migration. The book calls attention to the issue of working poverty and its impact on unemployment and community cohesion in London. For a discounted copy of the book, see [Pluto's website](#).

- ❖ **[Migration, the media and the message – Migrants using media to turn around the immigration debate.](#)** European Conference. 29 – 30th March 2010. University of East London.

The 'Migrants and the Media Project' (MMP) and the 'Centre for Research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging' (CMRB) at the University of East London (UEL) are organising a conference for groups involved in media and cultural activities which promote a positive engagement with the issue of migration. The European conference will be an opportunity for others working on similar projects to showcase their work and to join in discussion about the value of these activities, both intrinsically as creative work, and as a contribution to process aimed at bringing about change in public perceptions and policy. The conference will offer space to selected projects to present aspects of their work to participants and to discuss the ideas behind it and what they are hoping to achieve. There is no charge for participation, but registration in advance is essential. If you would like to showcase/exhibit your work, please provide a synopsis of what you are doing and what you hope to offer the conference. Contributors to plenary sessions will include Don Flynn, Migrants Rights Network, (UK), Nazek Ramadan, (UK), Aine O'Brien, FOMACS, (Ireland), Mica Nava, UEL, (UK), and speakers from other European organisations.

- ❖ **[Rights of Women training Courses spring 2010](#)**

Rights of Women have many courses running throughout 2010 in London, Cardiff, Darlington, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester and Doncaster. For more detailed information and/or booking form for all courses, please visit the website: www.rightsofwomen.org.uk or contact the Training Officer at Rights of Women: training@row.org.uk. Tel: 0207 251 6575. Rights of Women are able to offer a limited number of free places on trainings to women from Refugee Community Organisations. Upcoming courses in 2010:

Forced Marriage: gaining protection through the law. Dates: Darlington 10/03/10, Leeds 29/04/10, London 20/10/10

Forced marriage is an abuse of human rights and a form of violence against women. This half-day course will enhance your knowledge of the law and enable to support women and girls at risk of, or who have experienced, forced marriage. You will receive a copy of Pathways to Justice: BMER women, violence and the law and the Government's Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines.

Protection from persecution? Asylum law and process. Dates: London 21/10/10

This one day course, co-trained with Asylum Aid, is a practical and insightful introduction to the law that determines who is entitled to protection in the UK and how decisions are made and challenged. This unique and innovative course focuses specifically on the needs of asylum-seeking women who are, or have experienced, gender-based violence. Each participant will receive a copy of Seeking Refuge? A handbook for asylum-seeking women.

Stop the traffic: protecting and supporting trafficked women in the UK. Dates: Sheffield 29/03/10, London 06/10/10

One year on from UK's ratification of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings this one day course, trained in partnership with the POPPY Project, will enable you to identify and support women who have been trafficked and covers elements of both the criminal and asylum law. You will receive a copy of Seeking Refuge? A handbook for asylum-seeking women and From Report to Court: a handbook for adult survivors of sexual violence.

No recourse? EEA national? Overcoming the barriers. Dates: Cardiff 11/03/10, London 21/04/10, Manchester 12/5/10, Doncaster 27/10/10

Meeting the needs of women who have no recourse to public funds, or who are EEA nationals, is incredibly challenging. This one day course will give you the skills and knowledge you need to support women who have experienced domestic violence and who

have an insecure immigration status with confidence. Each participant will receive a copy of Pathways to Justice: BMER women, violence and the law.

Seeking Refuge? claiming asylum and accessing financial support. Dates: London 23/06/10

This one-day course, co-trained with the Asylum Support Appeals Project, is a practical and comprehensive guide to the law that determines who is entitled to protection in the UK and what financial support asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers can receive. Each participant will receive a copy of Seeking Refuge? A handbook for asylum-seeking women.

❖ ***Institute of Race Relations (IRR) training workshops, spring 2010***

The Institute of Race Relations (IRR) is running a series of training workshops during March, April and May for voluntary sector organisations working on race/refugee or migrant issues. The free half-day practical workshops on fundraising, the media, immigration and racial violence will allow for the exchange of information and provide practical suggestions for effective campaigning. The workshops will be held at the IRR's offices at 2 Leake Street, Kings Cross Road, London WC1X 9HS. Details of the workshops are listed below and you can now register for places for the first two workshops. For further information on any of these workshops please email Harmit Athwal: mit@irr.org.uk (<mailto:mit@irr.org.uk>).

Basics of fundraising in the race/refugee sector - Friday 12 March, 1.30-4.30pm

A half-day workshop for voluntary sector groups in the process of getting established or having difficulty raising funds for new initiatives. The workshop will discuss the funding climate, teach the basic preparation needed for effective fundraising, possible sources of funding, how to write an application and what to do once you obtain funding. Speaker: Jenny Bourne - IRR Company Secretary and fundraiser. To apply for a place please email Harmit Athwal (mit@irr.org.uk (<mailto:mit@irr.org.uk>)) with a phone number so that the IRR can see if you are suitable for this workshop. Places are limited.

Dealing with the media - Friday 26 March, 1.30-4.30pm

A half-day workshop to enable those who are part of or are working with BME groups or newly arrived asylum seeking, refugee or migrant communities to learn how media organisations work and how to challenge them; to exchange views with other groups with similar experiences; to be informed of the advantages and disadvantages, the risks and dangers involved in working with different media organisations; to learn how to make the most effective use of the media; to work together on media strategies and to learn from each other. Speaker: Arun Kundnani (IRR). To apply for a place on this workshop please email: Harmit Athwal: mit@irr.org.uk

Combating racial violence - date to be confirmed

A half-day workshop to enable those who are part of or are working with newly arrived asylum/refugee/migrant communities to be informed about the extent and parameters of the problem of racial violence; to hear from a community-based monitoring group about the variety of strategies that can be used to tackle the problem; to find out from a lawyer in the field about legal strategies against racial violence; to learn about 'best practice' being developed by other groups. Speakers: Cilius Victor (Newham Monitoring Project), Rebecca Wood (IRR) and Harmit Athwal (IRR).

Supporting asylum seekers - date to be confirmed

Asylum seekers, particularly those who remain in the UK following refusal of their claim, and community groups seeking to support them, face multiple challenges - including denial of subsistence support, legal and practical obstacles in accessing medical treatment, and lack of legal help in making a claim and/ or presenting an appeal. This workshop is designed to provide relevant information and strategies to enable community groups to provide effective support. * Speakers include: Fizza Qureshi (Project London at Doctors of the World) on diseases of poverty and obtaining access to health care and Frances Webber (Garden Court chambers/IRR) on effective help in asylum claims or appeals without lawyers.

Combating immigration detention and deportation - date to be confirmed

As deportation and administrative removal affect more and more people - refused asylum seekers, minor offenders and undocumented migrants - the use of immigration detention continues to increase, and building programmes indicate the policy of large-scale detention is not going to stop. Children, victims of rape and torture, and other vulnerable people should not be detained but frequently are. This workshop is designed to provide the information and strategies to enable community groups to deal with immigration detention and to fight a deportation decision. Speakers include: Medical Justice on who is in detention and why they shouldn't be; Frances Webber (Garden Court Chambers/IRR) on bringing the community into the courtroom in bail and deportation hearings.

❖ ***The Future of Services for Children Seeking Asylum- Best Practice and Support” Conference, Care Matters Partnership, in association with The Refugee Council. 22nd April 2010, Central London.***

This will be the first public conference focusing on children in the care system seeking asylum since the Supreme Court decision on age and the new duty on the UKBA through the BCI Act. It will facilitate professionals to develop the expertise they need, ranging from good placement planning through to effective implementation. We will hear from trailblazing local authorities, policy makers, frontline practitioners and academic experts who will inform on best practice development and future strategy. The programme is designed to be interactive, encouraging good debate and exchange of ideas. Speakers include: Dr Alayarian, Refugee Therapy Centre; Judith Dennis, The Refugee Council; Nadine Finch, Garden Court Chambers; Ailish King-Fisher, UK Border Agency; Lisa Nandy, The Children's Society; Jeanette Pugh, DCSF. For further information or to book, email: bookings@carematterspartnership.co.uk, or tel: 020 3393 7307. Place your booking before 19th February and receive a £50 early bird discount.

❖ ***SAVE THE DATE! Care work in focus: the changing nature of work in care sectors conference. Lancaster University Centre for Gender and Women's Studies. Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July 2010. Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), Lancaster University.***

This conference will bring together scholars, care practitioners, and the public to explore the changing nature of care work, which is of major importance for policy and practice. Speakers will include a mix of academics, care practitioners and stakeholders. For more information, please contact: Sondra Cuban s.cuban@lancaster.ac.uk or Gemma Wibberley at g.wibberley@lancaster.ac.uk. Registration and more information will be available later in the year.

5. Other Announcements

❖ **The sponsored walk to Morecambe Bay – £280,000 raised!**

During the weekend of the sixth anniversary of the Morecambe Bay tragedy, a 60-mile sponsored walk from Liverpool to Morecambe Bay was organized on behalf of the Morecambe Victims Fund, to commemorate the tragedy and to help the families of the victims to relieve their burden of debt. The fifteen walkers completed the two-day walk along the canals in Lancashire and reached Morecambe on the evening of the 7th. A total of £280,000 was raised at the end of the walk. Sir David Tang and his family, who led and sponsored the initiative, all took part in the walk. The walkers included Nick Broomfield, Jez Lewis, Jabez Lam, Eddie Chow (Chinese Migrants Network), Raymond Wong, Hsiao-Hung Pai, and Steve Rowlett, a representative of Unite the union that has been an active supporter of the Fund. The amount of raised fund will clear ALL the debts for the victims' families in

Fujian. This will enable the families and their children to start rebuilding their lives. Thank you for your help!

❖ **OutCry! Campaign on immigration *detention* of children – new online action**

OutCry! campaign have just launched a new online campaigning action which makes it easy for people to set up and send an email to their local newspaper editor and local MP calling for an end to the immigration detention of children. In the run-up to the General Election, OutCry! hopes that actions like this taken by thousands of campaigners will create a real sense of local outrage about the awful effects of immigration detention on children. We've already seen the power of local communities to raise this issue and generate media coverage. Outcry! hopes that sitting MPs, and crucially, candidates running for election, will be forced to take notice and act to end this shameful practice. The action is available via the [OutCry! Website](#).

❖ **Migrante UK launches two UK campaigns**

VOTE FOR MIGRANTS' RIGHTS! campaign

Vote for Migrants Rights! is a joint project of Kanlungan, Migrante UK and CHRP-UK, that aims to highlight pertinent issues and aspirations of Filipino migrants in the UK and their families that they want to put forward this Philippine election season. The project aims to gather issues and opinions from different Filipino migrant community organisations and individuals in the UK, in the light of producing a consolidated migrant agenda of the country. A national consultation is planned to take place on 17 April 2009 in London, where selected delegates from different migrant organisations across UK regions will gather to unite on their issues and endorse our own agenda.

Student Visa (Tier 4) Campaign

The issues and problems faced by overseas students are worsening. With the UKBA's recent stance in furthering restrictions in Tier 4 visa, there is a growing concern as regards accountability of overseas (Filipino) students by the Philippine government and their satellite consulates, which are evidently turning a blind eye on the gravity of the situation, and unfairness and unreasonableness of the UK government to overseas students who are affected by the constant changes in immigration rules. It is in this light that Migrante UK, in cooperation with Migrante International, is conducting a Student Questionnaire in order to gather case studies from the students themselves to be able to properly design action plans to address their rights and welfare.

For details of both campaigns, visit the [Migrante UK blogsite](#), or email migrante.uk@gmail.com.

❖ **CALL FOR PAPERS! DEADLINE 15TH FEBRUARY 2010**

Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism (CRONEM) 6th Annual Conference 2010, Living Together: Civic, Political and Cultural Engagement Among Migrants, Minorities and National Populations: Multidisciplinary Perspectives, 29 – 30 June 2010 University of Surrey / Roehampton University.
<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/Arts/CRONEM/>

This joint international conference with the Runnymede Trust will range across different academic disciplines and explore links between academic knowledge, policy, practice and the media. The format will consist of keynote addresses, parallel paper sessions, convened symposia, a poster session and a panel debate organised by the Runnymede Trust. Speakers already confirmed: Benjamin R. Barber and Walt Whitman Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University, USA; Constance Flanagan, Penn State University, USA; Yvonne Galligan, Queen's University Belfast; Jørgen S. Nielsen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Lord Bhikhu Parekh, University of Westminster, UK; Antje Wiener, University of Hamburg, Germany.

❖ **CALL FOR PAPERS! DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS 1ST MARCH 2010**
European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshop In/equality for third country nationals: implementation and effects of EU directives on migration and asylum. 28–30th June 2010, Oxford Brookes University

This international, interdisciplinary workshop will bring together around 30 academics and policy makers from a number of different organisations and institutions located in the European Union, to discuss equality issues for third country nationals in access to key social goods such as employment, education, health and housing. We hope that contributions to the workshop will be made by researchers working in two areas. The first includes research focused on the study of law and policy developments in relation to ethnic discrimination and/or migration policy, on a national as well as an EU level. The second area of research is that focused on different forms of discrimination experienced by third country nationals legally residing in different EU countries. The team will welcome papers addressing any of these issues. Please send your abstract (up to one page) to Sonia Morano-Foadi smorano-foadi@brookes.ac.uk and Maja Cederberg mcederberg@brookes.ac.uk.

❖ **CALL FOR PAPERS! DEADLINE 15TH MARCH**
Proposed session: Migration and North-South linkages during the economic crisis, Convenors: Kavita Datta and Cathy McIlwaine, Queen Mary University of London. Eighth European Urban and Regional Studies Conference: Repositioning Europe in an era of global transformation. 15th-17th September 2010, Europahaus Vienna Austria

The impacts of the economic downturn upon migration are beginning to be traced along a variety of lines of enquiry including changing migration flows, intentions to return to home countries, and changing remittance sending behaviour. This session will explore: the nature, extent and limits of north-south linkages; the myriad ways in which these links have aided migrants and their families to cope with the crisis; The role of networks in linking migrants to not only home countries but also broader diaspora; The role of remittances (however reduced) in assisting home country populations weather recession; How these linkages challenge conceptualizations of migration, North-South relations and global development. A one page abstract should be sent to Kavita Datta (k.datta@qmul.ac.uk) and Cathy McIlwaine (c.j.mcilwaine@qmul.ac.uk). Further details of the conference are available from Kathy Wood (Kathy.Wood@durham.ac.uk).