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**Migration
Opportunity
Map Project
(MOMP)**


(28 page .pdf)

Migrants Rights News ~ No: 14

Welcome to the January 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) [Tight UK work restrictions renewed for Bulgarians and Romanians](#)
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(1) [Tight UK work restrictions renewed for Bulgarians and Romanians](#)

The Government's tight restrictions on labour migration possibilities for Bulgarians and Romanians ('A2 migrants') in the UK have been renewed for 2009, following the recommendation of the national Migration Advisory Committee. MRN is concerned that, as a result, the complicated restrictions will continue to cause confusion for A2 nationals trying to work in the UK.

Bulgaria and Romania - the 'A2' member states - joined the European Union (EU) in January 2007, ensuring that their citizens could enjoy the freedom of movement rights across the EU. But the British Government, wary of causing controversy by opening up UK labour markets to the two new member states, imposed tight restrictions on employment opportunities for Bulgarians and Romanians (or 'A2 nationals') coming to the UK. At this point a [tangled web of policies and procedures](#) was spun, differentiating the rights and entitlements of A2 nationals from those of other EU nationals.

As from January 2007, A2 nationals have been able to legally work in the UK as students, self-employed persons or as skilled migrants with a job offer under the skilled work permit system. In addition, Bulgarians and Romanians have been granted access to two specific Government schemes for lower-skilled work. The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) has allowed 16,500 Bulgarians and Romanians per year since 2007 to undertake 6-month seasonal work placements in agricultural work. The Sector Based Scheme (SBS) has allowed 3,500 migrants to work for 12-month periods in food processing. A2 nationals are required in most cases to apply for one of a complicated panoply of different documents to prove their right to work in the UK - including work permits, registration certificates of various colours, Accession Worker Cards and SAWS worker cards.

Confusingly, for all non-EEA nationals apart from Bulgarians and Romanians, the skilled work permit system was replaced in late November last year by Tier 2 of the Points-Based System. A2 nationals, however, continue to be able to continue to apply for work permits under the old system, adding another jumbled layer to the regulations around A2 labour rights in the UK.

Existing EU member states have been allowed to restrict the access of A2 member state nationals to their labour markets for a maximum of seven years, but under European law these restrictions must continue to be justified. In December 2008, the Government asked the [Migration Advisory Committee \(MAC\) to carry out a review](#) of the work restrictions for A2 nationals. Although the MAC found little evidence that A2 labour migration has had a negative impact on the UK economy thus far, its final report advised the Government against opening up the UK labour market more widely to A2 nationals during 2009. The MAC pointed to signs of contraction within the UK economy, resulting in rising unemployment and a decrease in job vacancies. Following these recommendations, [the Government announced](#) that existing arrangements for A2 migrants will continue throughout 2009, to be reviewed during the year. From January 2009 the Seasonal

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Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) will expand its work placements by around 5000. There will be no change to the Sector Based Scheme (SBS).

MRN anticipates that the renewed restrictions on the rights of A2 nationals to work in the UK will continue to create confusion among employees and employers about Bulgarians' and Romanians' rights in the UK. The existing regulations have hidden risks - and high costs - for A2 nationals. Both the recent MAC review and [MRN's Papers Please report](#) have found that, since January 2007, there have been significant levels of confusion about A2 nationals' access to UK labour markets among both migrants and employers. Obtaining the correct documentation appears to have been confusing and difficult for many migrants and, in particular, the definition of 'self-employment' for the purposes of immigration control seems to have caused widespread misunderstanding. Arising from this complex system, some Bulgarians and Romanians appear to have found themselves working irregularly, becoming particularly vulnerable to exploitation by employers, or the target of immigration raids.

A recent BBC report has caused controversy around its judgemental depiction of undocumented Romanian cleaners in a London hotel. The report - shown on the BBC1 News at Ten on 7th January - could have taken the opportunity to highlight the dire situation faced by A2 nationals who had sought false documentation in order to obtain low-paid work in the UK. Unfortunately the producers instead chose to take a more sensationalist angle on the story. MRN has lodged a complaint with the BBC and we would urge anyone who also objected to the tone and/or content of the report to register a complaint.

To watch the news report, please visit news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7808430.stm
For MRN's opinion on this report and details of how to register a complaint about the report with the BBC, please visit <http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk>.

(2) National Community Forum report on attitudes of 'poor whites' to migrants - a blog from MRN Director, Don Flynn

The National Community Forum (NCF) published a report commissioned by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) on 'Sources of resentment, and perceptions of ethnic minorities among poor white people in England' at the beginning of January. The report was picked up in most of the national news media as providing evidence that the 'white working class' are dismayed about levels of migration in recent years. This was reinforced by statements made by CLG Secretary of State Hazel Blears which suggested that immigration had served as the trigger for dissatisfaction.

The Guardian (2nd January) quoted Ms Blears as saying: "White working-class people living on estates sometimes just don't feel anyone is listening or speaking up for them. Whilst they might not be experiencing the direct impact of migration, their fear of it is acute." Blears seems content, as do other New Labour politicians responsible for drafting immigration policy, to take anti-immigrant feeling at face value, manifesting a difficult-to-change truth about 'white working class' people - that essentially, they just don't get on with people from other ethnic groups.

In fact the NCF is considerably more nuanced in the presentation of its findings, and probes to a greater extent the meaning of anti-immigrant sentiment expressed by the people interviewed in its sample group. Locating the sources of resentment in a sharpened sense of unfairness in the allocation of resources and services amongst people in long-settled working class communities, the report suggests that expressions of hostility towards ethnic minorities and migrants mask a more profound reality of class tensions.

The salience of the report is limited by its small sample group (43 people) living in just four neighbourhoods in different parts of England. Migrants were present in noticeable numbers in only one of the districts it surveyed. Set within this context, the tales of outrageous levels of preferential treatment enjoyed by people from ethnic minority and immigrant backgrounds exist more in the realm of morbid fantasy rather than actual experience. The report discusses a structure of 'story-telling' about migrants in which poorly-attested claims of migrant advantages mask deeper messages about disempowerment and abandonment by public authorities and political elites.

Reports of the NCF kind have become increasingly significant in recent years, with interview-based research influencing a lot of Government policy making. In 2007 a series of 11 focus groups organised by Government opinion pollsters provided the basis for the 'Paths to Citizenship' green paper, which has gone on to figure in proposals for a radical overhaul of citizenship procedures in the Citizenship, Immigration and Borders Bill soon to come before Parliament.

There are good reasons to be wary of the use made by the Government of such research. Framed by concepts such as 'the white working class', this type of work is widely suspected of being biased towards an over-sensitisation of ethnic factors and the production of excessively negative outlooks on relations between ethnic groups. Writing in '[Towards a Progressive Immigration Policy](#)', East London MP Jon Cruddas warned that the term 'working class' had itself been reduced to a category defining marginality and delinquency in contemporary public discussion. The frame for understanding its older meaning, of people who stand in a combative and assertive economic and political relationships to capitalism, has been largely dismantled by the ascendancy of Thatcherite and New Labour outlooks over the past 30 years.

A return to perceptions of membership of the working class which is de-ethnicised and embodies the capacity of working class people to act on their own behalf, could well be the key to turning around discussions which currently privilege elements of demoralisation and defeatism. This approach could have great implications for strengthening the understanding of working class people of their relationship to immigration. It could also give new impetus to the value of forms of class solidarities which extend beyond the confines of ethnic groups. Regrettably, this is a message which seems to be a long way from being heard by Secretary of State Blears and her colleagues in Government at the present time.

(3) Women on the move - debating gender-sensitive migration policies

Women are particularly vulnerable to discrimination across the realm of international migration, but how can the difficulties they face be better addressed by states and civil society? A compelling online discussion, coordinated by the United Nations INSTRAW institute during November 2008, unveiled a complex array of issues around the development of gender-sensitive migration policies.

The UN-INSTRAW online discussion drew in 220 participants - including researchers, charity workers and analysts - from over 40 countries across the world. The nature and causes of female migrants' vulnerability were shared and debated, with a particular focus on irregular, forced and labour migration. Participants broadly agreed that states are often unwilling or ill-equipped to address the particular needs of female migrants, particularly within the context of more prominent enforcement agendas around migration. To tackle the issues, it was agreed that civil society, the media and the state have important roles to play, with positive examples from Columbia and Nepal showing how progress can be made. Ultimately, a deeper and more nuanced understanding of how gender can be an instrumental factor in determining migrants' possibilities and experiences is needed - with the perspectives and needs of migrants placed at the centre of research. A report from the discussion has been compiled by UN-INSTRAW and is available [online](#).

A number of ongoing British campaigns are seeking to protect the rights of women migrating to the UK. Asylum Aid's [Charter of Rights of Women Seeking Asylum](#), launched last November, lays out recommendations for the UK Border Agency in the treatment of female asylum-seekers, arguing that the British asylum system systematically fails to protect women. The Charter has been endorsed by 128 organisations to date, including MRN.

The [Women's National Commission Migration and Asylum Working Group](#) is also keen to see a stronger commitment at Government level to addressing issues faced by female migrants to the UK. In particular, the Working Group is concerned about the vulnerability of female migrant workers (particularly domestic workers) to abuse, the indirect gender discrimination caused by migrants' restricted access to public funds in the UK, and the need for urgent action to implement the EU Convention on Trafficking. The Working Group has outlined these issues in a recent letter to the Minister for Women and Equality, Harriet Harman. The letter urges the Minister to follow on from the ['Women's Changing Lives' report](#), released last July, with firmer action on protecting migrant women.

4) 'Papers Please' roundtable in Glasgow

MRN's Papers Please project has continued to gain momentum since the launch of the report: 'Papers Please: the impact of the civil penalty regime on the employment rights of migrant workers in the UK' in Westminster in November 2008. Following the London launch, MRN has received significant political and non-governmental interest in the report and its findings.

In December, MRN in conjunction with the Scottish Trade Unions Congress (STUC) organised a roundtable in Glasgow to discuss the impacts of immigration enforcement on Scottish workplaces. Speakers at the event included Sofi Taylor (STUC), Samantha Naik (Legal Officer, Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland), Jason Bergen (Project Manager, Oxfam Scotland) and Ruth Grove-White (Policy Officer, Migrants' Rights Network). The participants were drawn from a range of charities, trade unions, public services and Scottish Government. Following brief introductory presentations, the meeting was thrown open by the Chair to a wide debate. Initial feedback from the event indicated that participants had found it a useful discussion of the discrimination issues emerging from document checks in many UK workplaces. There was broad support for an MRN/STUC policy conference to be held in Glasgow during spring 2009 - details of this event will be included in the MRN newsletter soon.

Continuing the work under the 'Papers Please' project, MRN plans to hold further meetings on the implications of immigration enforcement for migrants' rights across the country. We will also be releasing a follow-up bulletin to 'Papers Please' over the course of the coming months, including new information gathered since publication of the report. We would welcome any information from network members about incidents of document checks in their area.

To access the full 'Papers Please' report and other related documents please visit www.migrantsrights.org.uk

5) Border Agency child welfare regulations

The UK Border Agency has proclaimed its commitment to securing the [welfare of children within the British immigration system](#), releasing a [new Code of Practice](#) for its staff. Although an important step towards securing the fair and humane treatment of children in the British immigration system, the UKBA will be watched carefully over coming months by campaigners for evidence that the Code is being implemented.

Under the new Code, UKBA will be required to take positive steps to protect children from harm, treating them in a way that ensures their safety and welfare. Children must be treated sensitively on arrival into the UK and during enforcement action and asylum-seeking children referred onto appropriate authorities promptly. Training will be introduced for UKBA staff coming into contact with children, and a system of accountability for children's cases introduced. MRN notes that UKBA has not made a commitment to stamp out the detention of children in the UK, nor to impose a limit on the length of time for which children can be detained. Further details on the [limitations of the Code](#) - and concerns about its effective implementation in practice - have been outlined by the Institute for Race Relations

A specific duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is also expected to be included in the imminent Border, Citizenship and Immigration Bill, expected by immigration lawyers to be released during January 2009. The inclusion of this duty would bring UKBA into line with other public authorities in terms of the treatment of children. In a December briefing paper outlining the likely contents of the draft Bill, the [Immigration Law Practitioners Association](#) (ILPA) has drawn attention to key areas in which the Bill may fall short in terms of securing the welfare of children. It

is also worth noting that the UK's reservation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has not yet been lifted, although the Government gave its commitment to do so last September.

Although the commitments made by Government to secure the fundamental rights of children within the immigration system are welcomed, such assurances must be followed by clear evidence of action.

(6) Reports and Research

- **Supporting disabled refugees and asylum seekers: opportunities for new approaches**, Refugee Support/Metropolitan Support Trust, December 2008

Download the executive summary at:

www.refugeesupport.org.uk/documents/MST_RCU_DisabilityExecSummary_screen_1108.pdf

Download the full report at:

www.refugeesupport.org.uk/documents/MST_RCU_DisabilityFullReport_1108.pdf

Refugee Support/Metropolitan Support Trust has released a new research report: Supporting disabled refugees and asylum seekers: opportunities for new approaches. It examines the role played by refugee community and mainstream disability organisations in assisting disabled refugees and asylum seekers in London. The research was commissioned and conducted by the Information Centre for Asylum and Refugees.

- **ALL I WANT IS TO LAND!**, Save the Children Sweden, December 2008

ALL I WANT IS TO LAND! is the final report from Utanpapper.nu, a helpline for undocumented children. The project was operated by Save the Children Sweden for two years. The report introduces the stories of 470 children and young adults who, directly or indirectly, came in contact with the helpline from different places in Sweden. Their experiences of broken families, fear of deportation and lack of rights in Sweden are described in examples and quotations, and also by extensive documentation of who they are, what they need and how they became undocumented. The report contains advice on how to support undocumented children, voluntarily or professionally. There is also a chapter about children in migration, and which consequences could follow if migrating children are always held up as victims. The fact that undocumented children certainly are victims of war, repression and migration policy, but also individuals with rights, hope and dreams of the future, is present throughout the report.

- **The Labour Market Impact of Relaxing Restrictions on Employment in the UK of Nationals of Bulgarian and Romanian EU Member States**, Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), December 2008

The MAC report is a comprehensive examination of the effects of Bulgarian and Romanian migration on the United Kingdom economy and labour market. It draws on a range of information sources, including an overview of the known effects of A8 migration in the UK. For more detail on the content and implications of this report, see Article 1 of this bulletin - 'Tight UK work restrictions renewed for Bulgarians and Romanians'

- **'Continental Drift: Understanding Advice and Information Needs for A8 Migrant Workers in Scotland'**, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Scotland

In this report the CAB has drawn together the profiles of its users from the 'A8' countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia) in order to analyse the specific needs of migrant workers from this group. The CAB found that the A8 migrants sampled needed a substantial amount of information on the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS), as well as wider queries on immigration issues, employment in the UK and accessing benefits; indications that A8 migrants may be at risk of exploitation by employers are also reported. It advises that the Government addresses these issues by better surveying the A8 population in Scotland, producing more targeted information at this group, and taking steps to reduce the possibility that A8 nationals are maltreated in the workplace.

- **Employment in Europe report**, European Commission, November 2008

The UK Government decided in December 2008 to continue the restrictions on the labour market possibilities for Bulgarians and Romanians (see Article 1). This report outlined the positive impact of labour mobility post-2004 enlargement, concluding that "empirical studies have consistently found little or no negative impact of east-west intra-EU labour mobility on local workers' wages and employment.", and presenting a compelling case for existing EU member states to remove any restrictions on EEA workers

- **Sources of resentment and perceptions of ethnic minorities among poor white people in England**, National Community Forum, January 2009

For a review of this report, see article 2 of this bulletin 'National Community Forum report on attitudes of 'poor whites' to migrants'

(7) Events

- **Barnado's Lecture Series: Shami Chakrabarti on Children and Families in the Asylum System**, 61 Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET 6.15pm - 8.30pm Wednesday 21st January 2009

This lecture is the third event in Barnado's lecture series and addresses the tensions around our moral duty to protect asylum seeking children while they are in the UK whilst many children and their families awaiting decisions on their futures face destitution, abject poverty, racial harassment and demoralising uncertainty. Why shouldn't this vulnerable group of children have the same rights as any other child? Why shouldn't this vulnerable group of

families have the same rights as any other family? Hear Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, give her views on the asylum system and answer questions from the audience. The lecture will start at 6.15pm and will be followed by a free drinks reception at around 7.30pm where you can continue the debate and find out more about Barnardo's work helping children, young people and families survive the asylum application process. The lecture is open to the public and free to attend but please RSVP to lectures@barnardos.org.uk to guarantee your place.

- [London's response to the new migration Conference](#), Barka UK and Partner, Hammersmith & Fulham Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU, 23rd January 2009

The conference will address the question of how London is responding to the new migration waves following recent enlargements of the European Union, with primary focus on unsuccessful economic migration. Responses from European Union along with national and local governments and non-profit organizations will be covered. Issues concerning provision of housing and the use of health and social services are important part of the conference. The aim is to influence European Union, national and local governments in order to improve the situation of migrants from new accession countries, and to bring together decision makers, service providers and other practitioners working in migration or migration-related fields to share knowledge and good practice, exchange ideas and discuss their research findings. Plenary sessions accompanied by four different workshops will enable an examination of all the issues covered. For more information visit www.barkauk.org/.

- [Creating a better place for all Conference, Yorkshire Futures](#), St George's Centre Leeds, Tuesday 27th January 2009

The Yorkshire Futures report 'Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in Yorkshire and Humber, 1999-2008' will be launched at a half day conference in Leeds 'Creating a better place for all', at St George's Centre, Leeds on Tuesday 27th January. The conference will launch four regional strategies, reports and projects and provide opportunities for networking and discussion. To register, please go to www.yorkshirefutures.com/eventDetails.aspx?event=1204290b-301c-4ce7-84af-76c8d2de8919 and fill out the registration form or email c.mcosh@leedsmet.ac.uk or phone Cara McCosh on 01138129295 to ask for a registration form.

- [Job & Training Fair](#), Southwark Muslim Forum - Peckham Library, London, Wednesday 28th January from 1pm to 5pm

This training, organised by the Southwark Muslim Forum in partnership with Peckham Library, is open to all and it is envisaged as an opportunity for participants to learn more about job, training and business opportunities. For more information please contact Pascale Vassie, Southwark Muslim Forum, on 020 7525 7499 or at pascale.vassie@southwark.gov.uk

- ['Detained Lives' Research and Campaign Launch](#), London Detainee Support Group (LDSG), Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre, London, 6.30pm, 29th January 2009,

Many people who cannot be deported are being detained for periods of years, yet there is very little wider awareness of the issue. The event will launch the "Detained Lives" campaign, calling for the UK to adopt a maximum time limit on detention, in line with the rest of Europe. The report will be based on 24 in-depth interviews with current detainees who have been held for more than a year. LDSG's research marks the first wide-ranging investigation of detainees' experiences of the UK's policy of indefinite detention of people who cannot be deported. Alasdair McKenzie of Doughty Street Chambers and Alison Harvey, General Secretary of the Immigration Law Practitioners Association, will be discussing the civil liberties implications of this policy and how voluntary groups and lawyers can work together to challenge it. Published poet and ex-long-term detainee Clifton Cameron will be performing some of his most recent poetry about detention. An exhibition will also mark 15 years of LDSG's work in Harmondsworth and Colnbrook detention centres.

- ['The pathways and experiences of undocumented migrants' Conference](#), Graduate Centre, London Metropolitan University, North Campus, Holloway Road, London N7, 4th February 2009

This event will be the Final Conference marking the successful completion of the London Metropolitan University project on Undocumented Worker Transitions. The project was funded under the 6th Framework Programme of European Commission, coordinated by the Working Lives Research Institute, London Metropolitan University and carried out by seven partner institutions, the Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle Arbeitswelt (Austria), Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), International Centre for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (Bulgaria), Roskilde University (Denmark), University "Ca'Foscari" of Venice (Italy), Gabinet d'Estudis Socials (Spain) and the Working Lives Research Institute (UK). The Conference will report on the main findings of the project, focusing on the pathways and experiences of undocumented migrants in seven European Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Spain and the UK. There will be a platform of distinguished experts in the field of migration who will contribute in sessions on: Migration in Europe Today: Trends, Perspectives, Challenges; Shadow Economies, Legal Status and Migration; Managing Migration in the European Union; Migration and Labour Market Impacts.

- For the full agenda and to book a place please visit <http://www.undocumentedmigrants.eu> and go to the section on Conference. Alternatively you can email Eugenia Markova: E.Markova@londonmet.ac.uk; Anna Paraskevopoulou: a.paraskevopoulou@londonmet.ac.uk; Tessa Wright: t.wright@londonmet.ac.uk; or Sonia McKay: s.mckay@londonmet.ac.uk.
- ['A Better Deal for Polish Workers' event](#), TUC/BERR Vulnerable Workers Project and the Federation of Poles in Great Britain, POSK Centre, 238-246 King Street, London W6 0RF, Saturday, 7th February 2009 11.00am-5.00pm

The aim of this event is to introduce Polish workers to their rights at work and how trade

unions and service providers can support and help them. There will also be a number of workshops aimed at Polish workers, which at present are likely to include: How can I get a better job? - training and qualifications in the Building Services sector; How do I know I'm not being exploited? - employment rights information and advice; How can I enforce my employment rights? - getting involved and building self-empowerment; How does Tax and National Insurance work? The organisers aim that the event can be used as a platform to enable unions to extend their reach into areas most at risk so that they can provide help and support to the most vulnerable workers. For more information please contact Bob Blyth, Vulnerable Workers Project, SERTUC, 0207 467 1355

- ['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 this [link](#).

- Resrch Institute for Cosmopolitan Cultures (RICC) Launch Festival, Whose Cosmopolitanism? , Manchesterea, 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.

(8) Other Announcements

[Reach in project launched by hact](#)

Reach in is a new project developed by hact, which will run in partnership with Housing Associations across England to provide free housing training and work placements for refugees. The project work will be focused in six areas: Bolton, London, Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. However, hact will welcome enquiries from all parts of England. If you, your organisation, or anyone from your community would enjoy this opportunity to work with hact and its leading Housing Association partners, please contact Devan Kanthasamy at hact by emailing devan@hact.org.uk

[Beyond Survival: the BME Strategy Programme](#)

Do you want to help frontline BME organisations become more successful and sustainable? If so, then you could become one of 25 'strategy champions', receiving free training and support, and £4,000 to help BME organisations to develop stronger strategies. Beyond Survival: the BME Strategy Programme is an exciting new initiative run by brap and NCVO. It is now recruiting 'champions' to attend eight training sessions in Birmingham or London between April 2009 and May 2010 and to then support five frontline BME organisations to develop their own strategic planning skills. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2009** and you can find out more from www.strategy-impact.org.uk/beyondsurvival .

[Research on issues facing lesbian,gays,bisexual and transgender \(LGBT\) asylum seeker in London](#)

Metropolitan Support Trust/ Refugee Support has commissioned Michael Bell Associates (MBA) to conduct its second piece of research for 2008-09. Entitled 'What are the housing and homelessness issues specific to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) asylum seekers living in and returning back to London and what policy recommendations are required to address them?', the research aims:

- To increase knowledge and understanding of the issues and barriers LGBT asylum seekers face with regards to accommodation, housing and homelessness in London;

- To identify potential causal relationships between accommodation, housing and homelessness and health/well being, personal safety, alcohol and substance misuse; etc.

- To provide evidence to help develop more effective ways of responding to the

housing/accommodation needs of LGBT asylum seekers in London; and

- To produce robust policy recommendations.

The research is due to be released at a launch event in April 2009.

If you would like any more information about this research project, or would like to contribute, please contact the Research and Consultancy Manager, Charlotte Keeble: Charlotte.Keeble@mst-online.org.uk or visit www.refugeesupport.org.uk/

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