

Migrants Rights News ~ January 2010

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Welcome to the January 2010 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 news bulletin, find:

- (1) MRN blog – Arguing Migration during the General Election Campaign 2010**
- (2) New MRN Vacancy!! – Network Coordinator position**
- (3) Reports and Research**
- (4) Upcoming Events**
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(1) MRN blog

MRN will continue our commentary on latest developments and analysis of immigration in the run up to the general election in 2010 on the MRN online blog. The latest blog posting is:

'Arguing Migration during the General Election campaign: how will the issues pan out?' By Don Flynn, director, MRN:

"The opening shots for GE2010 seem to have come from the Balanced Migration Group – the cross party parliamentary set-up formed to advance the position of MigrationWatch UK. Its "Declaration on Population" proclaims that "70 million is too many", thereby setting the parameters for a discussion destined to generate more heat than light....

But by reading such statements alongside the positions emerging from the political parties, and intuiting the broad shape of the mood of the voting public, it should be possible to get some sense of the way immigration will be discussed during the election campaign, and the options that might be available to the proponents of rights for migrants and refugees."

For the rest of this blog posting and more, please visit www.migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/.

(2) New MRN Vacancy!! – Network Coordinator position

MRN is pleased to announce a new vacancy, now open for applications. The Network Coordinator will be working alongside the Communication Officer on a new Migrants' Rights Network project, the Communication Strategies Project. This project will be aimed at strengthening the capacity of migrant community activists and organisations based in four different UK regions to communicate their perspectives, experiences and concerns. The project will create an accessible online platform through which regional partners can develop their skills in communicating with one another and more widely. It will also read the messages coming out of local level work into wider policy and advocacy debates in the UK. This person will be a key player within the MRN team. He/she will work full time (35 hours a week) in MRN's London-based office, with a requirement to work flexibly as and when required by network activities. He/she will also be frequently required to travel outside London, across the UK. This post is currently funded for 2 years beginning in March 2010, with a possibility for extension thereafter. For more information please email: info@migrantsrights.org.uk, or visit: www.migrantsrights.org.uk/opportunities.php

(3) Network Reports and Research

- ❖ ***The UK's new Europeans: Progress and challenges, five years after accession. Madeleine Sumption and Will Somerville, Migration Policy Institute, Equality and Human Rights Commission policy report. January 2010.*** www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/new_europeans.pdf

This latest report from the MPI team, commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, draws together available data about the migration to the UK of 1.5 million nationals from the eight East European countries to accede to the European Union in 2004 ('A8 countries'). It estimates that around half of all labour immigration to the UK in recent years has been from Eastern Europe, although overall Eastern Europeans remain a small proportion of the UK labour force. In the context of the recession, the 'new Europeans' have had a substantially lower unemployment rate than that of British-born workers. It plots out the mixed impacts of the migration, concluding that overall, A8 migration is likely to have been beneficial to the UK economy overall, notwithstanding slight potential wage decreases for some 'at the bottom end of the labour market' as a result. It urges that policy-makers respond to the needs of those who are most vulnerable to negative impacts of the 'new migration' – both migrants and British-born.

- ❖ **'No right to dream': being young and undocumented in Britain, Alice Bloch (City University London), Nando Sigona and Roger Zetter (Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford), Commissioned by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. December 2009**

www.staff.city.ac.uk/yum

What does it mean to be young and undocumented in contemporary Britain? How do young migrants cope with life in Britain at a time of economic downturn and the government 'tough touch' on undocumented migrants? 'No right to dream' contains the results of large-scale qualitative research into the social worlds and economic livelihoods of British-based young undocumented migrants from China, Turkey (Kurds), Brazil, Zimbabwe and Ukraine. The study was based on in-depth interviews and testimonies with 75 young people in London, the North West and the Midlands, conducted between August 2008 and January 2009. This research captures a complex reality, moving between the uniqueness of the individual experience and the search for patterns and commonalities across migrants' accounts of their everyday lives and experiences.

- ❖ **2006 – 2009 Work Report: Building platforms for progressive policies, Migrants Rights Network, December 2009.**

http://migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/policy_reports/work_review2006-2009.pdf

This report reviews the work of the Migrants' Rights Network since its launch in December 2006, outlining MRN's projects, policy interventions, regional work and strategic plans for 2010. The report outlines the importance of support and inputs from organisations, activists and volunteers to MRN's work, and emphasises how crucial this will continue to be to MRN. Finally, the report introduces a new membership structure for MRN, which will be another way for supporters to get involved in 2010.

- ❖ **UNISON Migrant Workers Participation Project Evaluation Report, Dr Sian Moore and Max Watson, Working Lives Research Institute, London Metropolitan University, December 2009**

www.unison.org.uk/acrobat/B4847.pdf

The UNISON Migrant Workers Participation Project is reviewed in this report in order to measure its success and lessons learned. According to the report, migrant workers make up 13% of the workforce in the places organised by UNISON and this is likely to increase rather than decrease in the future. Despite the substantial numbers of migrant workers in public sector workplaces, it appears that they are under-represented in terms of UNISON membership and activists. The Migrant Workers Participation Project was generally considered to be a success, in terms of recruiting migrant workers to union membership and in terms of increasing migrant activism. It also introduced key services aimed at supporting and informing migrant membership. The report makes a number of core recommendations for others working within the trade union movement to support and mobilise migrant workers.

- ❖ **London Enriched: The Mayor's refugee integration strategy, Greater London Authority, December 2009.**

The Mayor of London's refugee integration strategy for 2009 – 2012 aims to lead the implementation of 'the Mayor's vision for refugee integration in London'. It outlines some of the issues which refugees living in London may face, grouping them into the following themes – English language; housing; employment, skills and enterprise; health; community safety; children and young people; and community development and participation. Under each theme the Mayor's office has identified core objectives, and actions which need to be taken towards meeting those objectives. Substantial emphasis is placed on the new role for the London Strategic Migration Partnership (LSMP), in driving the work envisaged in this document forward.

- ❖ **Beyond Stockholm: overcoming the inconsistencies of immigration policy, Elizabeth Collett, December 2009, European Policy Centre**

www.epc.eu/TEWN/pdf/954588169_EPC%20Working%20Paper%2032%20Beyond%20Stockholm.pdf

- ❖ **Home Affairs Select Committee Publications, December 2009**

- **The E-Borders Programme.**

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/170/170.pdf

- **The Work of the UK Border Agency**

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/105/105i.pdf

- ❖ **Independent Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency Report July 2008 – September 2009.**

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/ici-ukba-report-july08-sept09

The first full inspection report, released in December 2009, from UKBA Independent Chief Inspector John Vine outlines his activities for the past year, including staffing, set-up of inspection criteria and completion of six inspections within the UKBA.

- ❖ **ARK - Points-Based System Pilot Process Evaluation - Tier 1 Highly Skilled Applicant Survey.** Tim Hanson, Sam Sullivan, Keith Bolling, BMRB Social Research.
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr22c.pdf
This report presents findings from quantitative research into the experiences of highly skilled migrants who had applied to work in the UK under Tier 1 of the Points-Based System (PBS) between the launch of the PBS and beginning of October 2008.
- ❖ **Migration Statistics - Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, Third Quarter 2009.**
Available at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html.
- ❖ **Migrant Workers Health: Scottish Evidence in Perspective, Drew Millard, Researcher for the Scottish Public Health Network, June 2009.**
www.scotphn.net/projects/previous_projects/migrant_workers_health_scottish_evidence_in_perspective/
Following an internal ScotPHN discussion paper authored by Jo Morling in 2007, this literature review was conducted in 2009 in a context of increasing in-migration to Scotland of workers from the eight European countries who gained rights to work in the UK from May 2004, (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the two who gained more restricted rights to work in the UK from January 2007 (Bulgaria and Romania). It aimed to explore and describe recent Scottish work on the health issues raised by increasing European in-migrant workers, and to interpret these in relation to a wider context of international research findings assessing health needs (including health status, health behaviour, and service access and use) for international migrant workers. The report concluded, after reviewing around 40 Scottish studies, that there are varied patterns of service use and response by migrant workers across Scotland. Following this report, the Scottish Public Health Network is now developing a web-based Migrants' Health Action Resource for Scotland (MHAR(S)), and is seeking contacts in health and other public services throughout Scotland to contribute material. All are welcome to view more materials about this initiative on their website:
www.scotphn.net/resources/migrant_health_action_resource_for_scotland/.

(4) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- ❖ **Migration Policies: UK Perspectives in a Global Context, 9.30am – 5.30pm Friday 22nd January 2010. One Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AA**
This workshop is aimed at policymakers and advisors in the UK government and voluntary sector. The objective is to stimulate thinking on concrete approaches to 'migration management' in the context of needing to 'work with other countries to better understand and manage global migration', according to the Managing Global Migration Strategy. This year's training workshop will particularly look at the realities of illegal migration, how successful assisted return policies are and the effects of the economic downturn on migration patterns and migrant behaviour. The day will be led by Richard Black, director of the Migration DRC, and each session will be introduced by academics. Registration for the workshop costs £130* and will be for a maximum of 40 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees may be waived for statutory or voluntary organisations— please enquire. To register for the workshop, visit www.migrationdrc.ac.uk.
- ❖ **'Immigration detention and the right to liberty: pressing concerns for 2010' and the BID Annual General Meeting. Bail for Immigration Detainees. 6.30pm, Tuesday 26th January 2010. Amnesty International UK, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**
What is the impact of detention on those who are forced to experience it? What are the pressing issues in 2010 for those concerned by the increasing use of immigration

detention and the erosion of the right to liberty? These and other questions will be discussed at BID's 2010 AGM. Hindpal Singh Bhui will give his views as HMIP's immigration detention team leader; Simon Hughes MP will talk about his experience supporting constituents affected by immigration detention; John Vine CBE will speak from his perspective as UKBA's Chief Inspector; and a further speaker will give their first-hand experience of immigration detention. Travel expenses payable for unwaged asylum seekers or migrants by prior arrangement –please contact Kamal on 020 7650 0722 to discuss.

❖ ***Dr Krishna Sarda: 'Social Justice: the need to create a Global movement', FREE seminar. Thursday 28th January 2010 3.30pm. The Dining Room, The Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, Westminster, London SW1A 2HJ.***

Dr. Krishna Sarda was born in Tanzania, East Africa, and trained and qualified as a lawyer. Since his arrival in Britain, Krishna has lobbied and campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness of the needs of minority ethnic individuals and communities. For the past 5 years, Krishna has been Chief Executive of EMF. The EMF is an independent organisation that seeks to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice present in society. His previous positions include Director of Equality at Camden council. Krishna has also been awarded from the V. K. Krishna Menon Institute in India for his work on poverty and social exclusion, and an honorary doctorate for his contribution to integration and social justice. Please email holly.davey@cemvo.org.uk to reserve your place.

❖ ***'Explaining the Stockholm programme: Changes and novelties on Immigration and Criminal Justice Cooperation and importance for the United Kingdom' conference, European Commission Representation in the UK, 9.30am, Friday 29th January 2010, Great Hall, Strand Campus, King's College London***

By December 2009, the European Council will have adopted the new multiannual programme on Justice and Home Affairs, better known as the Stockholm programme. This programme will have substituted the previous Hague programme adopted on 5 November 2004, which was itself a continuation of the Tampere programme adopted in 1999. The new Stockholm programme will have been adopted under the current Swedish Presidency. The objective of this conference is to inform academics, practitioners, policy makers and the civil society in general about the Stockholm Programme. It will explore its strengths and weaknesses, particularly with regards to immigration and criminal justice co-operation, and on the role that the United Kingdom will play in these areas at a European level in the future. Free of charge, all welcome. To Register please contact Christine Copping, Centre Manager, Centre of European Law. christine.copping@kcl.ac.uk The conference will be accredited for CPD with the Solicitor's Regulation Authority and the Bar Standards Board

❖ ***Engage to Change Question Time Meeting at MRCF on Future of Volunteering for Migrants and d Refugees, on Wednesday 3rd February at 1 p.m. at the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum , 2 Thorpe Close, W10 5XL***

The Government is proposing to introduce a set of criteria for new citizens that will require them to volunteer in order to speed up their applications for permanent stay and nationality. The proposals are vague and there is still time to add our voice to this debate. It is not clear what kind of volunteering will be considered as valid and how the system will work in practice. We think **you** should have your say on this. So please come to MRCF for a joint MRCF/MRN meeting on Wednesday 3rd of February 2010 at 1.30pm and contribute to the discussion. Lunch will be provided from 1pm. The debate at MRCF will feed into a report that will be distributed to all key stakeholders and the Government in order to ensure that your voice is heard and considered when important decisions are being made.

Places are limited so please book early via info@mrcf.org.uk or call 020 8964 4815.

- ❖ ***The London Detainee Support Group welcomes you to attend an information evening on the practice of indefinite immigration detention at our Detained Lives Roadshow: 8pm – 9.30pm, Wednesday 3rd February, 2010. Okinaga Room, Wadham College, Oxford University***

LDSG is calling for an end to indefinite detention through our campaign Detained Lives. We are holding Roadshows throughout the UK to raise awareness and facilitate dialogue about this most pressing human rights issue. To find out more about our campaign, please visit www.detainedlives.org. First Hand Testimony: Former detainee and LDSG client (TBA) will speak of his experiences of Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre. LDSG will be screening the short film 1000 Voices, an animation inspired by and starring LDSG clients which powerfully depicts the experience of incarceration in immigration detention without time-limit. See the trailer here: www.detainedlives.org/events/. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session opening up discussion and debate on this most pressing human rights issue in the UK. The evening will be hosted by co-animator of 1000 Voices Anna Benner. Representatives from Student Action for Refugees (www.star-network.org.uk), Close Campsfield (www.closecampsfield.org.uk), Barbed Wire Britain (www.barbedwirebritain.org) and Asylum Welcome (www.asylum-welcome.org) will also be attending to speak about the local opportunities to offer support to detainees and take action on indefinite detention. If you would like to host a Detained Lives Roadshow, please e-mail us at campaign@ldsg.org.uk or call 0207 226 3114.

- ❖ ***Migration, Racism and Religion: A conference on faith organisations, sanctuary and civil society, Thursday 4th February 2010, University of East London, Docklands Campus, University Way, London E16 2R. Organised by Centre for research on Migration, Refugees and Belonging (CMRB) and Runnymede Trust. www.uel.ac.uk/rcc/.***

This conference considers the increasingly prominent role played by faith organisations in support of refugees and other vulnerable migrants, and in contesting racism in contemporary Britain. It critically examines the history of sanctuary; concepts of refuge and asylum in religious traditions; the roles of the secular state and civil society in refugee protection and welfare; faith organisations' initiatives to contest racism and advance migrant rights; and the emergence of national campaigns energised by faith and non-faith groups which challenge policies of racism and exclusion. Speakers include: Prof Chetan Bhatt, Goldsmith's College; Rev Angus Ritchie, Strangers into Citizens; Humera Khan, An-Nisa; Prof Nira Yuval-Davis, University of East London; Rev Arlington Trotman, Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe; Prof Rob Furbey, Sheffield Hallam University; Mufti Barkatulla, Imam, Finchley Mosque; Dr David Muir, Evangelical Alliance; Dr Edie Friedman, Jewish Council for Racial Equality; Dr Abel Ugba, University of East London; Prof Pnina Werbner, Keele University; Dr Rob Berkeley, Runnymede Trust, Pragna Patel, Southall Black Sisters; Dr Peter Morey, University of East London; Dr Philip Marfleet; University of East London. Admission to the conference is free but places are limited. For further information and to reserve a place please contact Dr Helen Taylor; email: h.m.taylor@uel.ac.uk.

- ❖ ***Refugee Council Policy Update Conference. From theory to practice: How asylum policy impacts on the refugee experience. 5th February 2010, Central London. www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/eventsandtraining/conferences/conference2010/***
The Refugee 2010 conference will focus on asylum policy and how changes in legislation impact on the experiences of refugees. Learn about the key developments in asylum policy and how these impact on the day to day lives of refugees in the UK today. Delegates are invited to participate in two workshops from the following options: Health access and entitlements; Unaccompanied children in the asylum system; Asylum support and destitution; Detention, removals and returns; After status - the transition to mainstream services; Limited leave and earned citizenship; EU and international asylum policy.

- ❖ **Morecambe Bay Victims Fund sponsored walk. 6th – 7th February 2010, Liverpool to Morecambe Bay.** www.ghosts.uk.com/
 23 Chinese migrant workers were drowned at Morecambe Bay on 5 February 2004, picking cockles when they were cut off by the incoming tide in the bay at night. Workers made calls to emergency services for help, but partly because of the language barrier, the rescue arrived late and only one of the workers was rescued. A total of 21 bodies of men and women between the ages of 18 and 45, were recovered from the bay in the days that followed. Two were never found. In total, 15 cocklers survived. The workers were all undocumented. On the sixth anniversary of the Morecambe Bay tragedy, the Morecambe Bay Victims Fund is organizing a sponsored walk. We are walking 60 miles from Liverpool to Morecambe Bay in commemoration of the victims. We are walking to help their families relieve their burden of debt by raising a total amount of £100,000. We would like to appeal to you for sponsorship and participation, for this quiet and meaningful walk that will take place on the weekend of 6th – 7th of February 2010, a few days before the Chinese New Year when we celebrate our spirit of generosity, especially for others who need our help. If you'd like to support the walk or for more information please email Morecambewalk@gmx.co.uk or Hsiaored@yahoo.co.uk. Or please call Hsiao-Hung Pai on 07811 722463.

- ❖ **Question Time- Style Debate, 11th February 2010, 7pm, Norwich City Hall, Norwich.**
www.runnymedetrust.org/news/112/30/Question-Time--Style-Debate-in-Norwich.html
 MPs Charles Clarke, Keith Simpson and Norman Lamb will participate in a Question Time-style debate on racial equality in Norwich City Hall on the 11 February 2010 at 7pm. BME community activist Dr Chris Michel will also join the panel alongside the three local MPs. The debate, organised by the Runnymede Trust and supported by the Norwich and Norfolk Race Equality Council, will mark the re-launch of the Race and Community All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in Westminster. Runnymede is supporting the APPG, which will include MPs from each of the major political parties, in facilitating top level debate on the issues of race, equality and community cohesion. The debate in Norwich will be the first in a series of regional events held by Runnymede all around the UK, with the aim of promoting racial awareness and community cohesion.

- ❖ **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**
http://svp-tyne.org.uk/docs/Andes_conference_Feb2010pp.pdf
 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.**
www.scottishmigrantsnetwork.org.uk/home.asp
 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***

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

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

- Supporting communities in promoting race equality
 - Increasing political engagement among black and minority ethnic communities and examples of best practice
 - Strengthening the role of faith institutions and faith leaders
 - Role of school and education institutions in tackling discrimination and promoting community cohesion
 - Tackling racially motivated crime
 - Using BME role models from the science, technology, engineering and maths community
 - Working with strategic partners to raise attainment of minority ethnic groups
- Book today: <http://insidegovernment.msgfocus.com/c/11fANXmiPAzE2XrvF>

❖ ***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. The work of the project has been to develop methods to enable managers and practitioners in mainstream employment services to recognise and audit the skills and qualifications that migrants who are third country nationals have acquired prior to their arrival in the UK, in order that such services can support the social and vocational integration of migrants. The seminar aims to present the information about the employment situation of third-country nationals; examine ways in which managers and practitioners from employment services can respond to the skills assessment and recognition of third country nationals, and provide appropriate and effective information, advice and guidance; and introduce the training resource developed to support education and employment advice practitioners in their work with third country nationals. 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

❖ ***Workshop on International Labour Migration, International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin) in collaboration with International Migration Programme of the ILO (Geneva). 15th – 26th March 2010. Turin, Italy.***

www.migration4development.org/content/ilo-workshop-international-labour-migration-turin-italy

The main objective of this interregional training course is to strengthen the capacity of planners and main actors in migration issues (government and social partner) in both sending and receiving countries to assess international labour migration challenges and opportunities at the national and regional levels and to enhance capacities for managing labour migration as an instrument for development. The workshop is open to policy planners, advisers and professionals dealing with international labour migration issues. The workshop is offered for two weeks at the cost of 3,250 Euros – not including travel (see details in the attachment). Applications to attend the course

should be supported by a nomination letter from the sponsoring/funding institution, indicating how the candidate will be financed. Applications and nomination forms should arrive not later than 8 February 2010.

❖ ***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.***

www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/initiatives/migrants_Media_europeanconference.pdf

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. Breakout workshops will include presentations and discussion of the work of:

- FOMACS (Ireland)'s digital video-making and radio-journalism;
- CEPAIM (Spain)'s 'La Ruta Prometida' exhibition
- Menedek (Hungary)'s poster campaign
- Migrant Resource Centre (UK)'s 'New Londoners' journalism project
- 'Playback Theatre' (UK)
- CRWI (Greece) on women and the media

(5) Other Announcements

❖ **VACANCY: Office and Financial Administrator, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), based at the PICUM office in Brussels, Belgium.**

http://picum.org/data/Office_and_Financial_Administrator_2010.pdf

PICUM is a leading European non-governmental organization that aims to promote respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe, including the right to health care, housing, education and fair working conditions. This is an excellent opportunity for a committed individual to occupy a key position in a dynamic non-profit organization based in Brussels and operating at the European level. The Office and Financial Administrator will have responsibility for office administration, accounting, financial reporting, grant administration, donor management, budget development, staff benefits, membership records, travel and event logistics as well as supporting the Executive Committee, Director and other staff where necessary. The Office and Financial Administrator will report to the Director and work closely with other staff members. The deadline for applications is Monday, 1st February 2010.

❖ **VACANCY: Campaigns Officer – Pregnancy discrimination at work, Maternity Action office, London.**

www.maternityaction.org.uk/recruitment.html

As Campaigns Officer, you will be working to end pregnancy discrimination in the workplace. Over half or all pregnant women at work experience pregnancy discrimination and over 30 000 women each year lose their jobs because of it.

You responsibilities will be: Prepare campaign materials in conjunction with the Director; Liaise with campaign partners and the public; Prepare distribution plan for campaign materials in conjunction with the Director; Distribute campaign materials using mailouts, emails and other strategies; Organise seminars and training events; Organise meetings of the project reference group; Undertake any other duties as may be required. You must have at least one year's experience in a campaigning, workplace organizing, policy development or community development role. You will need a good understanding of the framework of employment relations in the UK, and some knowledge about discrimination in the workplace and maternity and paternity rights at work. Good written and spoken communication skills are essential. You will need the ability to develop communication materials for different audiences, including employees, employers, community organizations and health workers. To apply, please download an information pack from the Maternity Action website at www.maternityaction.org.uk/recruitment.html Please post your application to our Finsbury Office address or email to recruit@maternityaction.org.uk.

❖ **'Rights! Art! Action!' campaign launch, by the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women, Bangkok, Thailand.**

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) is launching an international Art Action contest titled Rights! Art! Action! Almost without exception anti-human trafficking campaigns have used words and images of violence, distress and horror to draw people's attention and provoke them into taking action. All too often we have shown women's fearful faces and crouching bodies. And yet many times we have been concerned with the ethics and voyeurism of those depictions. GAATW thinks it is time to move beyond images of victimhood and vulnerability. They invite you to draw on visual imagination and rights affirming politics, to create empowering images with strong messages. Take up the challenge, think creatively to show the strength and agency of women. **Who?:** Human rights advocates from around the world. **What?:** You can submit paintings, photographs, posters, drawings, banners or any kind of visual art. Email GAATW the photograph of your entry. Please be sure to fill in a submission form and send it to info@gaatw.org **Prize?:** A roundtrip ticket to Bangkok and entry into GAATW's international members' congress in July 2010. Selected submissions will be displayed at the congress. **When?:** Deadline is 20 February 2010 Winners will be announced on 8 March 2010.

❖ **Messages from Paradise film project tours the UK in January 2010**

<http://zimweb.nl/paradise/>

Messages from Paradise is an art project in progress, led by the Netherlands-based film company Zenith. The project is based on a fictitious dialogue between young people from Egypt, Morocco and Turkey and migrants living in Vienna, Rotterdam and Berlin, telling about their lives, dreams, and expectations of migration. The first film from the Project is called *'Messages from Paradise 1: Egypt:Austria. About the permanent longing for elsewhere'*. The synopsis of the film is as follows: In a village in Egypt, young men dream of migrating to Europe where they hope to realise all the good things they lack at home: money, freedom, new horizons. In Vienna, Egyptian migrants long back home. Their tales of migration reveal that the realities of living in Europe are more complex and nuanced than they themselves might have dreamt of. Paradise, both sides of this fictional dialogue tell, is always elsewhere. And perhaps happiness lies not in making old dreams come true, but in finding new ones. For a 5 minute preview of the film visit: www.vimeo.com/4317848. The film-makers are also interested to show the film to people outside academia, who might be interested to use it as a tool for talking about migration issues.

Planned screenings in January are as follows:

- Tuesday 26th January, 4.15pm, University of Sussex; T 01273 872 565 (ext 2565); J.P.Mitchell@sussex.ac.uk
- Wednesday 27th January, 3– 5pm, SOAS main building, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London; T 07840 075 869; E mm101@soas.ac.uk

- Thursday 28th January, 5–7pm, LG04, Lower Ground Floor, Migration Research Unit/Department of Geography, University College London;
www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/mru/
- Friday 29th January, 5pm, Oxford University, Middle East Centre;
www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/index.html