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Migration Opportunity Map Project (MOMP)



(28 page .pdf)

Migrants Rights News ~ No: 8

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Welcome to the July 2008 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:

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(1) [New Immigration Crime Partnerships: concerns for local race](#)

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) plans to develop extensive '[Immigration Crime Partnerships](#)' across the public and private sector in the UK, increasing enforcement powers to detect and remove undocumented migrants. This approach raises issues which will be of concern to organisations and agencies working to develop cooperation and trust between migrants and local communities. It is also likely to conflict with the regional work of the Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMP) towards the integration of migrants, currently being developed across eleven UK regions.

'[Enforcing the Deal](#)', a UKBA policy document released on 19th June 2008, outlines Home Office strategy for increasing enforcement against undocumented migrants in the UK over the coming year. This 2008/9 strategy will effectively sow the seeds for a national surveillance system to monitor undocumented migrants in the UK, by creating 'Immigration Crime Partnerships' between UKBA and a range of public and private bodies. Local Immigration Teams, comprising 7500 UKBA employees in total, will also be set up to coordinate partnership work.

The new [Immigration Crime Partnerships](#) will be based on data-sharing - in particular the sharing of Home Office 'watchlists' of known 'immigration offenders' with key partners. UKBA aims to be able to detect undocumented migrants if they attempt to gain access to key public or financial services, public benefits or a driving license. MRN is concerned that Immigration Crime Partnerships will increase the pressure on public and private bodies to take on some duties of immigration officials, with potentially devastating results for race relations in the UK.

UKBA will prioritise the removal of 'the most harmful' undocumented migrants (those involved in immigration crime or working illegally) from the UK, through strengthening existing cooperation with the police, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Serious Organised Crime Agency. Beyond this, a broad range of public and private institutions will be brought into data-sharing partnerships with the UKBA. Home Office immigration 'watchlists' will be shared with government departments and agencies, beginning with the Department for Work and Pensions, and the HMRC during summer 2008 in order to monitor access to public benefits and tax credits

UKBA also intends to join the CIFAS fraud-protection agency, subject to Parliamentary approval this summer, enabling immigration 'watchlists' to be shared with over 270 financial services, utility and telecom companies

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across the UK. Intensified cooperation between UKBA and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (also awaiting Parliamentary approval), could extend the reach of UKBA powers to access information given through driving license applications or from driving offenses. Pilot partnerships between the Home Office and three NHS Trusts are also underway in order to monitor access to healthcare. MRN has already heard reports from healthcare professionals about the increasing surveillance duties placed upon hospital and GP staff. Local government will also be required to work with UKBA to "*protect local communities from the harm caused by illegal immigration*", including reporting landlords of undocumented migrants to UKBA.

MRN views the extension of UKBA Immigration Crime Partnerships across public and private sectors as posing a serious risk to migrants' rights within local communities. As well as criminalising undocumented migrants, the pressure on these institutions from the Government to monitor migrants is likely to encourage suspicion of all foreigners, damaging race relations more widely. MRN is also concerned that the ability of the government's new regional Strategic Migration Partnerships to promote trust and integration of migrants will be placed in jeopardy.

The work of the eleven regional **Strategic Migration Partnerships** builds upon the previous Asylum and Refugee Consortia. In April 2007 the Consortia were renamed Strategic (or Regional) Migration Partnerships, with an expanded remit to support the integration of all migrants. To this end, the Partnerships were tasked with coordinating and providing advice to local public services, private contractors and NGOs working with migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. The Strategic Migration Partnerships have provided an opportunity for a comprehensive and rights-based approach towards the integration of migrants. However, the infiltration of Government enforcement mechanisms into public services, local government and the private sector will inevitably damage trust between migrants and local communities.

Strangely, the enforcement agenda discussed in **Enforcing the Deal** receives scant attention in two papers published in June by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG): **Review of Migrant Integration Policy in the UK** and **Managing the Impacts of Migration: A Cross-Government Approach**. The theme of both papers is the need to increase the capacity of local communities to receive and integrate new migrants by ensuring that public services are more responsive to needs and that the work of town halls is better coordinated with other agencies and central government.

Such perspectives, which generally reflect a willingness to engage positively with the migrant communities and the benefits they bring to local areas, appear oblivious to UKBA's expectations of close collaboration in surveillance and enforcement operations. The papers discuss the recent Home Office green paper **A Path to Citizenship**, but see it as proving only a 'clearer framework' for the admission of migrations and the routes into citizenship, rather than the step change in policing migration and citizenship which it actually represents. A more detailed review of the perspective set out by the CLG's strategies will feature in the next edition of Migrants Rights News.

For further information visit:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders.../

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/migrationimpact

[www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reviewmigrantpolicy ...](http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/reviewmigrantpolicy...)

(2) MRN trains Trade Union representatives about immigration checks and raids

Issues flagged up by MRN on the impact of increased immigration checks and raids on BME communities and migrant workers in the workplace, have fed into the piloting of a training programme for union representatives under the 'Papers Please' project during June 2008. The MRN now plans to develop a **professional training package** to be delivered within trade unions across the UK.

The **civil penalty regime**, introduced this year by UKBA on 29th February, stepped up employer fines to £10,000 per undocumented migrant worker, accompanied by a renewed enforcement drive which 'names and shames' penalised employers in local media. Since then, MRN has learnt from a range of sources across trade unions and community groups that many migrant workers - both legally and illegally employed - have been singled out for document checks by employers keen to avoid high fines. Workers often lack an understanding of the legal framework which prohibits employers from treating them differently because of a range of factors including ethnicity and nationality, and the realisation that these measures raise fundamental issues about procedures which involve stereotyping and discrimination is only beginning to emerge months after initial implementation.

In order to strengthen workers' ability to counter discrimination during document-checks, MRN piloted **two training sessions** for trade union shop stewards and activists during June 2008. The majority of participants were migrants working in the UK; most had had some experience of being asked for their papers by employers, and many had apparently been targeted because they were obviously migrants, in contravention of UKBA anti-discrimination guidelines. The trainings were delivered by Barbara Cohen, the previous Head of Legal Policy at the Commission for Racial Equality, who outlined the legal framework for document-checking and familiarised participants with the Race Relations Act 1976 as a tool to challenge employers acting outside the law.

New information from UKBA received in June about document-checking in relation to **TUPE transfers** was passed onto participants. MRN was informed that, contrary to the official UKBA 'Prevention of Illegal Working' guidance document, employers who have received staff through a TUPE transfer are not required to carry out the checks on their new employees. UKBA has not yet widely publicised this significant alteration to the printed guidance, although has been requested to do so by the Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA).

The training participants were keen to discuss legal means for opposing unreasonable document checks, in particular focusing on how **collective action** can protect workers. An RMT official reported that all workers from a company contracted to clean public transport facilities in London had refused to present their documents when requested - reportedly resulting in the employer giving up on the checks altogether. A similar action was reported to have taken place among the cleaners of a major London university, with equal success. This indicates that there is scope for employees to prevent workplaces from being a site of discrimination. Activists have arranged a meeting on 27th July 2008 in order to look at concrete actions for workers to challenge employers (see 'Upcoming Events'

section for more details).

MRN will also be fully expanding our concerns about the impact of UKBA enforcement against employers on **small, black and ethnic minority (BME) businesses** in the UK, in a private submission to the new Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry during July 2008. 69% of UKBA civil penalties issued across the UK in May 2008 targeted small black and ethnic minority (BME) catering businesses, despite the fact that none of those penalised had employed more than three undocumented workers. We feel it is highly unlikely that such businesses are the main source of employment for the estimated 500,000 undocumented migrants currently living in the UK, and that such targeted enforcement presents a risk to BME integration at local level. Early research results from a London Metropolitan University study into health and safety and migrant workers indicate that undocumented workers are unlikely to be employed mainly within the catering sector. The findings suggest it is more likely that undocumented migrants find employment within the cleaning, food processing/packaging and agricultural sectors - sectors often dominated by large sub-contracted companies. For more details, please see the MRN [June 2008 Special Bulletin](#).

(3) PBS Tiers 1 & 2 - emerging issues across public & private sectors

The roll-out of the PBS has continued to attract serious concerns from both community organisations and businesses, at the time of a major Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into the impact of the PBS on specific sectors in the UK.

Tier 1

Tier 1, open to '**highly skilled migrants**', was expanded for all applicants from across the world on 30th June 2008. Tier 1 had been open to candidates already in the UK and from India from 29th February and 1st April respectively; however, early UKBA data from May showed that fewer than 100 people from India had submitted applications since Tier 1 opened. It is likely that the new requirement (a £2800 maintenance sum for the main applicant, plus £1600 per dependent) has been a serious deterrent, as this is a significant sum for applicants from developing countries who may meet all other Tier 1 requirements. The Immigration Law Practitioners Association (ILPA) reported at the launch of the Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry that, using the Home Office's multipliers, the Tier 1 maintenance fee for a family of four from Ghana would be equivalent to £86,000 in the UK. MRN will continue to monitor the roll-out of Tier 1, as we consider it likely that applications from other developing countries will also be substantially reduced as a result of this requirement.

Tier 2

Tier 2, aimed at '**skilled migrants with a UK job offer**' and due to open in November 2008, has also already generated widespread concern. As Tier 3, for low-skilled migrant workers, is currently suspended for the foreseeable future, Tier 2 represents the only means of general labour recruitment from abroad. Tier 2 will also introduce significant new responsibilities for employers of migrants, causing anxiety among small and large companies.

Jobs which will be eligible for application under Tier 2 must meet a skill benchmark of NVQ Level 3 - a higher skill level than that required by a number of existing Work Permit schemes. **Ethnic minority catering businesses**, in particular the Bangladeshi and Chinese restaurant owners have been vocal in their concern about the impact of this benchmark on their staff. The Bangladeshi Caterers Association, for example, estimates that 250,000 jobs in the UK are reliant on the 'curry sector'. Many of these jobs will not qualify as skilled jobs according to the Tier 2 benchmark, although BME caterers insist that they will continue to need migrants' ethnic know-how to carry out these jobs effectively.

Increased skill levels under Tier 2 also threaten to affect the 19,000 migrants currently working as **senior care workers** in the UK. The Home Office re-assessment of senior care workers in August 2007 concluded that these positions commonly require lower skills than NVQ Level 3, throwing into jeopardy the visas of the majority of migrant senior care workers in the country. In March this year, the government was forced to grant a concessionary 12-month visa extension to those workers who had been in the UK since prior to December 2003. However, the introduction of Tier 2 skill requirements will pose a long-term threat to migrant workers applying for extension of their leave, as the majority will no longer qualify for their position. UKBA is currently "*exploring possible transitional arrangements specifically for senior care workers under Tier 2*", although no specific arrangements have yet been made.

The impact of Tier 2 has not just been felt among those concerned about 'low-skilled' recruitment after November 2008. All employers recruiting migrant workers under Tier 2 will first need to be registered as 'sponsors'. Although it has been possible for employers to register as sponsors since 29th February 2008, early indications show that very few employers have yet registered, probably due to low understanding about UKBA requirements. At a meeting organised by ILPA in June 2008, UKBA officials fended off a barrage of questions which demonstrated the high level of confusion among employers about registration procedures and uncovered some procedural points which had not been properly considered by UKBA. Reports also indicate concern within the international financial and banking sector about this process.

Domestic workers win significant victory

A long-standing controversy over the position of **domestic workers** under the managed migration scheme has been resolved, at least for the time being, following intense campaigning from the domestic migrant workers organisation Kalayaan and its allies.

An estimated 17,000 domestic workers enter the UK from outside the EU with their employers each year, through a renewable domestic worker visa which allows them the flexibility to change employers without risking possible leave to remain after 5 years. However, up until June 2008, the Home Office was pushing ahead with plans to subsume domestic worker visas under Tier 5 of the Points-Based System (PBS) - reducing visa duration to a non-extendable 6 month stay and preventing domestic workers from changing employers during their stay. This proposal was met with fierce criticism from campaigners, who argued that the vulnerability of workers employed in private households to abuse and exploitation would be greatly increased.

'**The New Bonded Labour?**' a report published by Kalayaan and Oxfam on the situation of migrant domestic workers in the UK, was launched in Parliament on 2nd July 2008. This coincided with a Home Office

announcement that, following the outcome of a public consultation exercise, the current domestic workers rule would be left in place for a two year period. Although speakers at the Kalayaan/Oxfam launch event welcomed this development, they argued that domestic workers require longer term security and requested that current domestic worker arrangements be officially continued through the PBS.

For further information visit:

www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/home_affairs_committee/hacpn080605no43.cfm
www.immigrationmatters.co.uk/uk_border_agency_will_implement_new_transitional_arrangement_post_tier_2.html
www.kalayaan.org.uk/documents/Kalayaan%20Oxfam%20report.pdf
www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/

4) Shaky Progress for EU Immigration Pact

The controversial **European Immigration Pact** has made shaky progress throughout June and early July 2008. The French EU Presidency, beginning in July, is likely to focus on the development of the Pact, at a time when the EU remains distracted by the fall-out from the Irish rejection of the Lisbon Treaty.

The **EU Returns Directive** was adopted in the European Parliament on 18th June 2008, despite protest from non-EU countries. It establishes common principles for the return of 'illegal immigrants' to their country of origin, including a maximum detention limit of 18 months and the extension of re-entry bans following removals to apply to all EU member states. Although member states will remain free to establish their own immigration rules, this Directive arguably introduces an easy justification for states with a lower detention period limit to raise this.

The Directive has been greeted with bitter disappointment from some non-EU countries. The President of the Republic of Bolivia, Evo Morales Ayma, wrote to the European Parliament before the vote to urge a rejection of the Directive, calling it "a directive of vengeance", and requesting the EU instead "to elaborate, over the next months, a migration policy that is respectful of human rights". Read the letter in full at: www.grupoapoyo.org/basn/node/321

Other aspects of the French EU Presidency's aggressive immigration plans have fared less well among fellow EU member states. At a meeting in Cannes on 7th July, EU Interior Ministers, apparently led by Spain, forced Nicholas Sarkozy to water down his proposal to prohibit 'en masse' regularisation initiatives. Spain's 2005 regularisation of approximately 700,000 workers attracted criticism from other countries within the Schengen zone, but was hailed as a success from a national perspective.

French calls for obligatory European 'integration contracts' for new migrants were also knocked out of the water. Sarkozy had envisaged that such contracts would oblige migrants to adhere to European liberal values as well as having to learn local languages. However, this proposal was dropped during early July following the failure of the French Immigration Minister to gain approval from other EU member states.

(5) Launch of UNISON 'Organising Migrant Workers' handbook

The Migrant Workers Unit of UNISON launched a branch handbook, '**Organising migrant workers**', at its annual conference in Bournemouth on 18th June. The 36-page booklet supplements the union's other organising material and addresses the specific challenges when organising migrant workers.

The handbook equips union representatives with useful background information on immigration status and the right to work, and signposts readers who need to know more to other sources of information. A section on 'myths about migrant workers' will help workplace activists tackle typical complaints like migrants undercutting wage levels, or overwhelming public services. Other key sections delineate the tasks which fall to the regional management teams and regional committees of the union, and branch committees as they build up membership amongst migrants. It recommends that organisers 'map' the location of migrant members and prospective members, establishing databanks on jobs, gender, nationality, age and terms and conditions of employment. This will allow recruitment campaigns to focus in on the specific issues that affect each group of migrants, and to build up the resources, including language skills, which will be needed.

The handbook can be downloaded from the UNISON Migrant Workers Unit webpage (see below). This also contains examples of other leaflets and pamphlets which will interest all trade unionists working to support migrant workers.

www.unison.org.uk/migrantworkers

(6) MRN Event Reviews - June 2008

- '**2nd Class Migrants: Are Progressives failing Migrants?**', Compass Annual Conference Seminar, 14th June 2008

The Compass Conference 2007 was, as usual, an extremely diverse and interesting event. MRN's seminar, co-organised with the Barrow Cadbury Trust, featured a range of different perspectives on the state of migrants' rights in the UK. Chaired by Sukhvindar Subbs from the BCT, speakers included Don Flynn from the Migrants Rights Network, Jack Dromey from UNITE, Zrinka Bralo from the Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum and Austin Ivory from Strangers into Citizens. It was apparent from audience responses that this topic remains an issue of major concern at local, as well as national, level in the UK.

- '**Listening to Migrant Workers**' - MRN/UNISON Scotland/STUC Roundtable, Holyrood, Scotland, 18th June 2008

'Listening to Migrant Workers' gathered together around 35 migrant workers, as well as Members of the Scottish Parliament, MRN representatives and NGO workers, at the heart of the Scottish Parliament. It was an extremely successful event which enabled migrant workers to share their grievances about unfair treatment at the hands of

UKBA or employers. UNISON also launched a voluntary Code of Practice on Employing Migrant and European Workers, which was later taken up in the Scottish Parliament by Marilyn Glen MSP. For the full report please visit: www.migrantsrights.org.uk/new.htm

(7) Reports and Research

- **The Economic Impact of Immigration. UK Government. June 2008**

www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/GovernmentResponse.pdf

The battle between the Government and the House of Lords over the impact of economic migration on the UK continues with the Government's new submission during June. Responding to detailed criticism from the House of Lords, the Government defends its claim that economic migration benefits the UK, refuting suggestions that it creates unemployment of British workers or that it 'brings benefits only to migrants'. The Government argues against the proposed introduction of a set quota for immigration; rather, it claims that it is more effective to make use of the Points-Based System in order to respond to the varying needs of the UK economy.

- **Towards a Global Labour Market? Globalisation and the Knowledge Economy. The Work Foundation. June 2008**

www.theworkfoundation.com/Assets/PDFs/globalisation.pdf

Katerina Rudiger presents a comprehensive analysis of the 'global labour market', focusing on the crucial contribution made by highly skilled migrants to national economies. Although the UK needs such migrants in order to develop its labour pool of professionals, managers and graduates ('knowledge workers'), it is falling behind other countries such as the US in attracting highly skilled migrants. "Mobility is constrained by politics" reflected in narrow immigration categories, and the lack of an open and positive attitude which could attract highly skilled migrants.

- **Community Engagement and Community Cohesion. Published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. June 2008**

www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/2240.asp

Geraldine Blake, John Diamond, Jane Foot, Ben Gidley, Marjorie Mayo, Kalbir Shukra and Martin Yarnit examine the challenges of integration for new migrant communities. Although new migrants often want to be involved in society, this may be impeded by factors including language barriers, racism, unhelpful community 'spokespeople' or fragmented local governance structures. Various outreach and communication strategies are proposed, supported by case study evidence taken from Coventry, Newham and Oldham.

(8) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- **West Africa Night: Centre for Democracy and Development. Amnesty International, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. Saturday 19th July. 6-11pm**

Contact Sylvie Aboa-Bradwell - sbradwell@cdd.org.uk / 020 7359 7775/ 07717051742

www.wegotickets.co.uk/event/33275

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) is proud to host its second annual West Africa Night and it promises to be an exciting event for all who attend! Helping to celebrate the achievements of the UK West African Diaspora in style will be the legendary Afrobeat Musician and Producer Dele Sosimi, performers from Adanta African Dance and Afrogroove DJs. MC for the evening will be BBC contributor and Colourful Radio Director Henry Bonsu and Keynote speaker is leading architect Ms Elsie Owusu, OBE. Guests will be treated to a sumptuous, mouth-watering feast of West African dishes and drinks, and the evening will include an auction of Ghanaian artefacts. Throughout the night success stories of the West African Diaspora will be highlighted including those of Femi Okutubo, Editor-in-Chief of The Trumpet Newspaper, Dr. Ola Sholarin, Senior-Lecturer Westminster Business School, Afua Yeboah, CEO, African Caribbean Business Network and John Mensah, Director, Outreach Management Services. Tickets are £25 in advance and are available now - a special £10 rate is on offer for those who book advance tickets and mention MRN; otherwise, it may be possible to purchase £30 tickets on the door. Group discounts are also available.

- **Exploring Integration: Third Country Migrants in the EU Seminar. Middlesex University, The Burroughs, Hendon, Room C207. Fri 25th July. 10.30-4.30pm / Contact Rosemary Sales.Tel: 0208 411 5497 /**

R.Sales@mdx.ac.uk

The seminar will launch two recent comparative European research projects which explore aspects of the integration and inclusion of non-EU migrants. It will also discuss the broader conceptual and policy issues arising from these projects. Presentations will focus on both the UK situation and recent developments in the EU and will include both members of the project teams and external speakers.

The Research Projects:

MITI (Migrant Integration Territorial Index) (UK, Italy (lead), France, Spain, Portugal). Part of the EU's INTI programme, this project critically explored the meaning of integration and the EU agenda of measuring integration in order to develop policy targets. This project reviewed national and EU policy on integration and explored the possibilities of using existing data sets to measure integration. Researchers: Rosemary Sales, Alessio d'Angelo

Civic stratification, gender and family migration policies in Europe (UK, Austria, Spain, France, Czech Republic, Italy) examined how immigration legislation affected different kinds of family migrants and their responses to it. It was based on policy analysis and interviews with NGOs, policy makers, academics and individual family migrants. Researchers: Eleonore Kofman, Sue Lukes, Veena Meetoo, Pauline Aaron
Final programme to be announced

- **Working Group on Checks and Raids Strategy Meeting. Transport House, 128 Theobalds Road, Holborn, London. 27th July, 2 - 5pm**

For more info contact: 07818 667192 / jacobin88@hotmail.com

The checks and raids working group of the Campaign Against Immigration Controls are holding a strategy meeting for trade union and community activists, following the mandate of the Conference Against Immigration Controls at the end of March. This is intended as a working meeting, to share experience, information and ideas to resist these

raids, in the here and now, to turn the tide of this assault. We hope to develop a plan of action for the coming months to take this forward as a matter of urgency. Practical tactics of resistance and solidarity need to be worked on and shared across communities, workplaces and trade unions and an overall strategy to put an end to this regime altogether. We hope you can participate on the Sunday, but please get in contact (details above) if you are able to be involved in this work but are unavailable on this date.

- **'Our Space' Youth Summer Camps 2008**

www.equalityhumanrights.com/ourspace

This year the Equality and Human Rights Commission will be running several projects for young people across Britain. One of these is Our Space, where we will take 100 young people from across England, Scotland and Wales on a week-long 'summer camp' in the Lake District. The aim of the project is to bring together a diverse mix of young people, and provide the opportunity for them get to know each other, develop their social interaction & leadership skills, and to learn from each others' backgrounds and experiences through a range of physical and group activities. This project will also provide an opportunity for the Commission to hear ideas and views directly from young people and use these insights to develop our work. Our Space is completely free and the only criteria is that all applicants must be aged between 14 and 15. Spaces are limited and the deadline for application is getting close - 27 June, so those young people interested need to sign up soon.

- **Rights of Women Training Courses, London. September 2008**

For details on both courses please contact: training@row.org.uk. Tel: 0207 251 6575/6 or fax: 0207 490 5377

www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Meeting the needs of trafficked women: immigration and criminal law course

London 10th September 2008. 9.30am - 1pm. Women-only course

To coincide with the coming into force of the Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2005 in Spring 2008, which the UK has signed, this exciting new course will look at immigration and criminal law around trafficking including: What is trafficking? The international and domestic response; The immigration position of trafficked women in the UK (including applying for asylum and the rights of women from the EEA); Trafficking for sexual exploitation: the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and protections for survivors of sexual violence; Trafficking for purposes other than sexual exploitation (for example, domestic servitude); Supporting trafficked women in the UK

Protecting women from persecution: claiming asylum in the UK and financial support throughout the process course - with the Asylum Support Appeals Project / London 22nd September 2008. 9.30am - 4.30pm. Course open to men and women

This practical course is designed to introduce participants to the law that determines who should receive asylum or human rights protection in the UK, how their claim is determined and what financial support they are entitled to. It has a particular focus on the needs of asylum seeking women who are experiencing or have experienced gender-based violence, covering: The legal framework for protection (including the Refugee Convention 1951, the European Convention on Human Rights 1950 and the EU Qualification Directive); Applying for asylum in the UK (including the New Asylum Model and Legacy Cases); The different types of status given and refusal; Financial support throughout the status determination process; Financial support for failed asylum seekers including section 4 Support; Supporting women asylum seekers and refugee women

- **Annual LESLA Symposium. Antwerp, Belgium, 23rd-25th October 2008 / www.lesla.org/workshops.htm**

The fourth annual LESLA symposium will be held in Antwerp, Belgium on 23-25 October 2008. Low Educated Second Language and Literacy Acquisition (LESLLA) for Adults is an international forum of researchers who share an interest in research on the development of second language skills by adult immigrants with little or no schooling prior to entering the country of entry. It will be a fairly small conference with lots of time to interact and share ideas around common concerns and interests. Anyone involved or interested in the intersection of adult literacy, second language acquisition and socio-cultural issues would benefit (and have a grand old time). If you work with migrants, immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers who struggle with literacy both in the primary language and the second (or third etc) language, you will consider sending a proposal for a presentation - you could also suggest a panel or round table you may want to be part of. Alternatively, you would be welcome to just attend the conference.

- **Migration and Social Protection: Exploring Issues of Portability and Access' Conference. Migration DRC, University of Sussex. 5th - 6th November 2008 / www.migrationdrc.org**

The Migration DRC, together with SCMR and IDS, will be hosting a conference on 'Migration and Social Protection: Exploring Issues of Portability and Access' to be held at the University of Sussex. Proposals for papers from researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field would be welcomed. Of particular interest are research findings, and policy debates on South-South and South-North migration flows. Where migration between higher income countries is discussed we would like to see how the implications of this work apply to lower income country settings. The papers should fall broadly within the main themes above. Abstracts of proposed papers (500 words) are due by 8th August. Applicants will be notified by 22nd August. Complete papers are due by 15th September.

- **'Managing Economic Migration and its Impacts', IES Annual Public Employment Policy Conference 2008. London. 19th November 2008.**

www.employment-studies.co.uk/policy/event.php?id=191108p

Increases in migration and new patterns of mobility have had profound consequences for the UK at the national, regional and local levels. In response to these, the UK government has increasingly sought to manage migration in order to maximise economic benefit to the UK, while minimising associated challenges. The IES Annual Public Employment Policy Conference will provide an opportunity to hear expert evidence on the impacts of migration, both on the labour market and more widely; engage with speakers and fellow delegates to discuss this evidence; and reflect on the latest policy developments regarding a managed migration system. The keynote address will be delivered by Professor David Metcalf CBE, Chair of the Migration Advisory Committee.

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