

**Migrants Rights News ~ June 2009**

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**Welcome to the June 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](mailto:info@migrantsrights.org.uk).

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**In this month's newsletter, find:**

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**(1) Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill hits the Commons amid protests**

The Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill has continued to generate concern and protest across the UK during its passage through the House of Commons in June. The Bill moved through the House of Lords with minimal amendments earlier this year, and it is now MPs' turn to debate the Bill. But the voices of organisations and activists in opposition to the Bill have got louder, particularly around its proposals for sweeping changes to the naturalisation process. The new 'earned citizenship' provisions in the Bill would make it

longer, tougher and more costly to become a British citizen, and applicants would controversially have to become 'probationary citizens' before applying for full citizenship.

Some communities and organisations across the UK have been organising events to discuss and/or protest against the Bill's provisions. Earlier this spring, Kanlungan Filipino Consortium held a public AGM in London, with a presentation from the Immigration Law Practitioners Association on the Bill, to inform members of the Filipino community about the implications of the citizenship provisions in the new Bill. During May, UNISON Migrant workers in Northern Ireland brought petitions against the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill to their MPs. MPs were asked to vote against the Bill and in particular to oppose the clauses on the new path to Citizenship that would increase the number of years before migrant workers can apply for settlement. Migrant workers who attended UNISON information sessions on the Bill expressed their dismay at the proposed provisions. Many felt it was grossly unfair to continually change the rules and "move the goal post". Others were concerned by the language of the Bill, arguing that it would contribute to criminalizing migrant workers: *"Asking us to do voluntary work to prove that we are worthy to of this society sounds like community service. We are treated as offenders who need to be rehabilitated to show they can do their bit for the community. It's the same with the idea of probationary citizenship. I think that it is shocking and it will contribute to criminalising us in the public's eye."* (Christopher Ganacias, migrant worker, Northern Ireland). Most people underlined the vulnerable situation they are in during the years before they can settle and how they felt they had to 'keep their head down' no matter what, as their permission for being in the country depended on their employment. Following the petition campaign, UNISON NI migrant workers are now urging people to write directly to their MP to ask them to oppose the Bill as it makes its way through the House of Commons in June. Sample letters for migrant workers and their colleagues to support this campaign can be downloaded from: [www.unionbook.org/pg/groups/7290/migrant-worker-project-unison-ni/](http://www.unionbook.org/pg/groups/7290/migrant-worker-project-unison-ni/).

On the day of the Bill's Second Reading in the House of Commons (2<sup>nd</sup> June), migrant advocacy groups including Immigrant Welfare Ltd ([www.immigrantwelfare.co.uk](http://www.immigrantwelfare.co.uk)) and Reading Malayalee ([www.readingmalayalee.com/legal.php](http://www.readingmalayalee.com/legal.php)) took part in a small but vocal protest in Parliament Square. Protesters held banners denouncing the unfairness of the measures, which would extend the time required before migrants can apply for UK citizenship. A key concern of many protestors was how the new measures might be applied to migrants already in the country.

In addition to local action, national NGOs have been producing briefings for MPs to accompany its passage through the House of Commons, which provide a useful resource for groups working on this issue. Selected briefings can be found here:

- For a useful overview of the provisions in the Bill, see the May briefing paper from the Immigration Law Practitioners Association ILPA (<http://www.ilpa.org.uk/briefings.html>)
- For detail of the impact of the Bill on refugees in the UK, see the May briefing paper from the Refugee Council ([www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2009/revised\\_bci\\_briefing.htm](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2009/revised_bci_briefing.htm))
- For more on the impact of the Bill on civil liberties, see the May briefing paper from Liberty ([www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/publications/1-policy-papers/index.shtml](http://www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk/publications/1-policy-papers/index.shtml))
- For details on the specific impact of the Bill in Northern Ireland, see the briefing paper by the Northern Ireland Law Centre. ([www.lawcentreni.org/Policy/Briefing%20papers/borders.htm](http://www.lawcentreni.org/Policy/Briefing%20papers/borders.htm)). Or the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission ([www.nihrc.org/index.php?page=subresources&category\\_id=26&from=8&resources\\_id=112&Itemid=61](http://www.nihrc.org/index.php?page=subresources&category_id=26&from=8&resources_id=112&Itemid=61))
- And for the MRN perspective, see our February briefing paper on the Bill: ([www.migrantsrights.org.uk/briefing\\_papers.php](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/briefing_papers.php)) - and blog - (<http://migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/index.php/2009/06/10/citizenship-bill-hits-the>

[commons/#more-368](#))

Although the Second Reading in the House of Commons did turn up some concerns from MPs about probationary citizenship, there appeared to be a lack of willingness to press Immigration Minister Phil Woolas on the full implications of the Bill, particularly the notions of 'probationary citizenship', the proposed 'activity requirement', and the meaning of 'continuous employment' in the Bill.

([www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/debtext/90602-0004.htm#09060257000002](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/debtext/90602-0004.htm#09060257000002)). The Committee stage debates will be reported on in the MRN blog – [www.migrantsrights.org.uk](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk)

Despite the critical work of voluntary sector organisations to raise awareness about the impact of the Bill, it has been a challenge to generate sustained debate about the proposed measures, particularly among groups not normally involved in advocacy on such issues. However it is not too late to make your voice heard in opposition to the Bill – community groups interested in organising public meetings or lobbying their MPs should contact Ruth Grove-White, MRN's Policy Officer, to discuss ([r.grove-white@migrantsrights.org.uk](mailto:r.grove-white@migrantsrights.org.uk)). Concerned individuals can still lobby their MPs, either by letter or through MPs' surgeries. To find your MP and for his/her contact details, see: [www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/](http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/).

## (2) MRN releases Irregular Migration report in Parliament on 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### **MRN launch event**

During May, MRN cooperated with an independent research organisation MigrationWork ([www.migrationwork.org](http://www.migrationwork.org)) and the City Parochial Foundation ([www.cityparochial.org.uk](http://www.cityparochial.org.uk)) to produce a report challenging popular myths about the estimated 725,000 undocumented migrants in the UK, and ultimately making the case for a regularisation programme to resolve their status. MRN's new publication, 'Irregular Migrants: the urgent need for a new approach', was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at a meeting in Parliament.

The report launch event was an opportunity to highlight the findings of the report (see *below for summary*), and to foster a debate of these issues with an open and diverse range of other people. It was chaired by Jon Cruddas MP and attended by an audience of over 60 people. Panellists drew on the themes raised in the report, putting them in the context of the pressures created by the current political and economic climate. Kavita Datta (Queen Mary University) set the scene for the event by outlining the global economic forces influencing irregularity; Sue Lukes (MigrationWork) then introduced the research, its findings and policy implications; Jamima Fagta (Kanlungan Filipino Consortium) gave an impassioned account of life, and the contribution made by, foreign workers in the UK; finally Nicola Smith (TUC) spoke about the implications of irregularity for workers rights and the trade union perspective on a regularisation.

The discussion was lively and drew in perspectives from across the voluntary and public sector, highlighting the complexity of the issues. Don Flynn summed up by emphasising the need, widely expressed during the discussion, to foster a stronger exchange of information and coalition of support on issues around irregularity, from across a range of different sectors. Success in bringing about a progressive approach towards irregular migration will not happen overnight, but through cooperation we can build support for the fundamental principles behind a policy reform.

### **MRN Irregular Migrants report summary**

'*Irregular Migrants: the urgent need for a new approach*' draws together independent research findings, largely from academic sources, to highlight some key issues about irregular migration in the UK. Firstly, the report considers the nature of irregular migration

in the UK. It argues that, contrary to popular perception, irregular migration isn't primarily a matter of crossing borders. Evidence indicates that most irregular migrants arrive in the UK legally and become irregular later. The London School of Economics has estimated there to be approximately 725,000 irregular migrants in the UK; when looking at the proportion of irregular migrants in the UK population, it's likely that it is, on best estimates, similar to many other EU countries and half that in the USA.

The report examines the shortcomings of tough enforcement as a government strategy for dealing with the presence of irregular migrants. Although a strong policy focus has been on toughening up border controls as a public response to rising numbers of irregular migrants in the UK, evidence from other countries indicates that tougher border controls are unlikely to make a significant dent in the numbers of irregular migrants in the UK and may even increase it. Turning to in-country enforcement, finding and removing irregular migrants already present in the UK cannot solve the problem either. Current costs for removal action indicate that removing all irregular migrants, even if they could be found, would cost at least £8 billion and take decades. Moreover, heavy policing of foreign nationals in the UK carries very real social costs for a wide range of people.

Looking ahead, the report considers the pros and cons of regularisation policies – either one-off or ongoing programmes which enable people who have fallen outside the system to regularise their status. It puts the supposed 'pull factor' under the spotlight, concluding that a country's economic stability is likely to be a far more compelling attraction for migrants than a regularisation programme. Any extra demand on public funds from regularised migrants is likely to be substantially offset by their own contributions to tax revenue and by efficiency gains. Evidence is also used to indicate that, if accompanied by a range of wider policy reforms, a regularisation could improve labour market standards for low-paid workers more generally. Ultimately, a regularisation programme should form one part of a broad and cohesive immigration policy prepared to address the interests of migrants. To download a PDF summary and/or the full report, please visit: [www.migrantsrights.org.uk](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk).

### **Next steps...**

The next public contribution to the evidence base for a regularisation will be the release, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, of a report commissioned by London mayor Boris Johnson, outlining the fiscal implications of the regularisation of irregular migrants. Groups will be drawn together for a series of workshops to discuss the report findings by the Greater London Authority during June and July. It is hoped that this report will prove a useful tool in putting together a compelling case for a progressive policy on irregular migration. We also anticipate that groups will continue to come together to keep this policy proposal on the agenda, throughout the political turmoil likely to lie ahead.

### **(3) Immigration statistics show drop in A8 nationals coming to UK**

In last month's bulletin the Migrants Rights Network issued an article about the recent renewal of the Workers Registration Scheme (WRS) for nationals from the 2004 Central and Eastern European member states ('A8' nationals). In April this year the national Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), to Phil Woolas' 'delight', advised that in the light of the current recession, the WRS should be renewed for the next two years in order to prevent any increase in the numbers of A8 migrants coming to the UK.

However, new government figures released in May indicate that there has in any case been a significant decrease in A8 migrants' applications to the scheme. Statistics from the Home Office and National Statistics Office from the first quarter of 2009 (January – March) (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/stats-release.html>) show a steady decrease over the last two years and a sharp decrease since last year in the number of A8 Nationals applying for the Workers Registration Scheme. The scheme requires workers to register

within three months of first getting a job in the UK. Once they have completed 12 months of continuous employment in the UK they may stop registering for the scheme and may access full free movement rights and access to the majority of public benefits.

According to Home Office statistics, the number of A8 nationals making approved applications to the WRS is almost half that of numbers a year ago - 21,000 in the first quarter of 2009 compared to 47,000 a year ago in the first quarter of 2008 and 50,000 in the first quarter of 2007. This is largely due to the drop in applicants from Central European countries, primarily Poland. The number of approved applications for the WRS from Polish nationals from the first quarter of 2009 was 12,480, a drop from 32,365 for the same period of 2008 and 35,800 for that of 2007. Czech Republic nationals' approved applications were also down to 930 in the first quarter of 2009, from 1,735 the previous year. Slovakian nationals showed a similar drop, with numbers of approved applications down to 1,820 in the first quarter of 2009, from 5,450 in the first quarter of 2008.

The statistics also show that A8 nationals working in Britain are experiencing job losses. The number of A8 nationals applying for tax-funded income-related and housing support remains low relative to the total number of applicants in the UK but has increased marginally. For example, there were 6,732 applications from A8 nationals for Jobseekers Allowance and Income Support processed in the first quarter of 2009 compared to 3,007 in the same period of 2008.

Although these figures show a significant drop in approved applicants for the WRS, it remains difficult to know how many A8 nationals have returned to their country of origin at all, let alone if it has been for reasons of job loss, as there are no official statistics to show this. There is no means of deregistering from the WRS.

Overall, these recent statistics indicate that removing the Worker Registration Scheme would be unlikely to cause an increase in A8 migration to the UK, as numbers have clearly been dropping over the last two years, presumably in relation to the state of the economies in their countries of origin and the UK. The economic costs and benefits of living and working in the UK are likely to be the key motivating issues behind A8 nationals' decisions to come to the UK, rather than the existence, or not, of the Worker Registration Scheme.

*With thanks to Louise Tero for her work on this article*

#### **(4) Court decision on the right of asylum seekers to work in the UK**

The right of asylum seekers to access the UK labour market while waiting for their claim to be determined is a hugely contentious issue. The European Union 'Reception Directive' lays down the minimum standards for the 'reception' of asylum seekers in EU member states and requires that asylum seekers be able to access the labour market of host countries if their claim has still not been decided after 12 months of first applying. The UK, following the European Union 'Reception Directive', allows asylum seekers to apply for permission to undertake paid work in the UK after 12 months of waiting for an answer from the Home Office. But whether this allowance may also be applied to those asylum seekers who are re-applying for asylum in the UK has not been tested until this year.

In May, a small but significant victory for asylum seekers in the UK was made when a court ruled that the provision in the EU Reception Directive around the right to apply for work after 12 months of awaiting a decision on their application should also apply to asylum seekers who had made a second or subsequent claim based on fresh evidence. The court case involved three asylum seekers from Somalia, Burma and Eritrea who had not been allowed to work in the UK for a number of years, while awaiting a decision on their second asylum applications. The judges found that preventing them from working

during this period breached their rights under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. This ruling will affect a large number of asylum seekers, many from war torn countries who are 'trapped' in the UK asylum system waiting for a decision and unable to work.

Until 2002, asylum seekers were allowed to work if they had been waiting longer than six months for a decision on their asylum claim. The Refugee Council has joined with the TUC to run a campaign entitled 'Let Them Work', which calls on the government to allow asylum seekers to work after six months if a decision has not been reached, rather than twelve months. The Refugee Council argues that not only are asylum seekers driven into destitution by not being allowed to work, but they also suffer by not gaining new skills during this waiting period, which often forces them to work in jobs far below their skills and qualification level, either in the UK if eventually granted asylum or in their home countries, if refused asylum. The campaign also points out the injustice of asylum seekers being labelled as 'scroungers' even though most would prefer to work.

#### (5) Concern about the tone of UKBA publicity materials

Anyone who bought The Observer newspaper on 10th May may have noticed a full-page advertisement by the UK Border Agency, aimed at warning potential employers of foreign nationals in the UK. The ad features a picture of an open drawer from an office filing cabinet, with tabs from the files reading **'You can't give a job to a migrant worker unless you have failed to recruit in the UK'**. The message is simple - too simple in fact, as employers of workers from within the European Economic Area, highly skilled migrants in the UK under Tier 1 of the Points Based System, or skilled migrants coming to fill jobs with known labour shortages are not required to advertise those positions within the UK first. Small print at the bottom of the advert clarifies that this message only applies to employers of *skilled* migrants from *outside the European Economic Area*. But does the average newspaper reader really study such adverts in enough depth to make this distinction? We are concerned that this ad will create a sense of risk and fear around the employment of *any* migrant workers in the UK.

The tone and content of UKBA press releases more generally has also been a cause of concern to some activists, who have complained during May to local MPs about the pejorative presentation of migrants on the UKBA website and other public releases. The UKBA's *Three Strand Equality Scheme* ([http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingforus/Three-strand\\_Equality\\_Scheme.pdf](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingforus/Three-strand_Equality_Scheme.pdf)) states that the UKBA recognises the potential of immigration policy to impact on race relations in the UK, and the aim of the UKBA is to act as a 'beacon of good practice', including presenting the benefits of migration.

But some UKBA press releases over recent months, particularly around the arrest of irregular migrant workers, seem to take a tone of mockery. Press release headlines such as:

- *'Pants migrant plan is foiled after brief encounter at border control'* (<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/pantsmigrantplanfoiled>, 11<sup>th</sup> May);
- *'Raids reveal failed asylum seekers with no right to work'* (sic <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/raids-reveal-failed-asylum>, 16<sup>th</sup> April)
- *'Mexican chef gets chilli reception'* (<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/mexican-chef>, 3<sup>rd</sup> March)

are not what is expected from a government agency acting as a 'beacon of good practice' on race relations.

If you are concerned about specific publicity releases from the UKBA then do drop an e-mail to Ruth Grove-White (MRN Policy Officer) - [r.grove-white@migrantsrights.org.uk](mailto:r.grove-white@migrantsrights.org.uk).

## (6) Migrants and Climate Change: A Call to Action

There are an estimated 25 million environmental migrants who have fled natural disasters in the world today. This figure is expected to soar to some 200 million by the middle of this century. The Climate Outreach Information Network (COIN) together with the Migrants' Rights Network and others is asking for your help in exploring what this means for migrants and refugees here in the UK.

The world's weather patterns are changing. Soaring temperatures, droughts and an increase in natural disasters are leading to an alarming rise in food scarcity and economic insecurity. This in turn is fuelling conflict and competition for resources, ultimately, compelling people to leave their homes for something better. EU countries and particularly northern Europe is likely to suffer less dramatic consequences from climate change and therefore provides something of a relative haven. An increasingly militarised border control called FRONTEX has been set up by the EU (with a 45 million Euro-budget for 2008) which has a surveillance system that monitors immigrant's movements via satellite. There are approximately 224 detention camps scattered across the EU, which can hold up to 30,000 people. As climate change takes its hold, it's anyone's guess how this wall might further be extended to ensure that those less fortunate are kept out.

### **A forum on migration and climate change**

It's within this context that a forum on migration and climate change is being organised to give UK migrants and refugees the opportunity to talk about climate change. The forum has been set up by the UK charity, the Climate Outreach and Information Network, who are looking for interested people to get involved. The first four hour forum will be held in London in July in partnership with Migrant Rights' Network, Praxis, Refugee Action and the Refugee Council. We hope this will be the first of a series of forums. The kinds of questions will be:

- Are things changing in your country?
- Will the rich world's action on climate change affect the developing world?
- Should refugees and migrants in the UK be doing something about it?

### **Can you help COIN?**

As part of the forum COIN hopes to arrange small workshops to discuss the effects of climate change in particular countries or areas. It is looking for people from the refugee and migrant community to start the conversation off in small group discussions about what is happening in their own country. It is particularly looking for people from Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Liberia, South Africa, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Whether you feel you'd like to act as a community leader for one of these groups or would just like to come along and participate in the forum, do get in touch.

### **What are the aims?**

What happens at these workshops will be entirely up to what you want to discuss and explore. Ultimately though, COIN hopes to work with you in creating a strong partnership between the UK migrant community and climate change movement and forge a powerful voice on migration and climate change issues. Please contact Catrina Pickering at: [catrina@coinet.org.uk](mailto:catrina@coinet.org.uk) or: 01865 403334 if you would like to get involved as either a community leader or forum participant.

## (7) Reports and Research

### ❖ **The Vulnerable Workers Project: Final Report, Informing Strategies for Vulnerable Workers**

[www.vulnerableworkersproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/vwp\\_final\\_report\\_final.doc](http://www.vulnerableworkersproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/vwp_final_report_final.doc)

The Vulnerable Workers Project was a two year pilot project aimed at developing and implementing good practice for helping vulnerable workers effectively enforce their employment rights. The project finished in March 2009 and this is its final report. Funded by DBERR and delivered by SERTUC, the project set up an employment rights advice service specifically designed to reach vulnerable workers and engaged them by inviting all those who made enquiries to monthly Vulnerable Workers Group meetings. These meetings served to raise awareness and confidence about how to resolve employment issues, built a presence in the community and informed the project of day-to-day issues faced by the workers. The project also ran information sessions on employment rights that have reached up to 700 people. In order to develop strategies for unions to support vulnerable workers more effectively, the project worked directly with unions, funding the training of union shop stewards to run “one stop” employment rights advice surgeries. The report concludes with more recommendations on how unions can organise and address the issues of vulnerable workers.

### ❖ **Vulnerable Migrant Workers and the Responsibility of Business, The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility**

[http://www.eccr.org.uk/module-Downloads-prep\\_hand\\_out-lid-8.html](http://www.eccr.org.uk/module-Downloads-prep_hand_out-lid-8.html)

Government and business have encouraged flexible labour practices that allow food production, manufacturing and retailing companies to have higher production, quicker delivery, lower costs and higher profits. This means that workers are often vulnerable to low pay, poor accommodation, over-long hours, poor health and safety conditions and discrimination. This report compares the practice and policy of nine food production and manufacturing companies and retailers (supermarkets) and maintains that companies and investors have the moral responsibility to address the vulnerability and exploitation of workers in their supply chain. The report recommends that companies recognise the vulnerability of migrant, temporary and agency workers, apply codes of conduct for suppliers, increase workers' awareness of rights and strengthen monitoring. This report is recommended reading for investors, companies, policy-makers, unions and consumers.

### ❖ **Guide to ratification of the International Migrant Workers Convention**

[www.icmc.net](http://www.icmc.net).

The International Catholic Migration Commission has joined with the International Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrants Rights Convention to launch the Guide on Ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The ICMC welcomes this guide as a user-friendly, practical tool to increase awareness of the Migrant Workers Convention. The policies based on the convention will have implications such as better protection for migrant and non-migrant workers, better social cohesion between migrant and long-term settled communities, more economic development between home and host countries and a decrease in human trafficking. Forty-one states have ratified the convention so far, which is seen as a first step in ratifying and implementing this rights-based framework.

*With thanks to Louise Tero for her input into this section*

## (8) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

Refugee Week (14<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009) events – For the full listings please visit: [www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Events/Events+Calendar.htm](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk/Events/Events+Calendar.htm)

❖ **Dungavel IRC Solidarity Gathering Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 1:00pm**  
**Dungavel IRC, Strathaven, South Lanarkshire, ML10 6RF. Ayrshire Friends of The Refugees Group**

The event will take the following format

1:00pm 1 minutes silence for those who continue to be imprisoned within Dungavel

1:05 pm - Speeches / Messages / Songs

1:25 pm - Signing of Cards to hand into Dungavel

1:30 pm - Handing in of lifts and Cards to Dungavel

1:35 pm - Close

Please pass the word round family, colleagues, friends and please come along. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Arthur on 07803 936 228 or email: [arthurwest@btconnect.com](mailto:arthurwest@btconnect.com).

❖ **Northern March Against Immigration Prisons! Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009, Assemble 11:00 am, Centre for Life, Newcastle (Next to Central Station)**

Tyneside Community Action for Refugees has called a Northern March Against Detention centres to highlight the grim reality that many refugees and other migrants have faced in Britain's Immigration Prisons. At present there are a total of 3,105 bed spaces, in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) and Short Term Holding Facilities (STHFs), a planned increase of 1,300 bed spaces will bring the capacity to 4,405. For more information please contact: Tyneside Community Action for Refugees (TCAR), E-mail: [tynesidecarn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tynesidecarn@yahoo.co.uk); [www.tynesidecarn.co.uk/](http://www.tynesidecarn.co.uk/) ; 075 0417 4530

❖ **Demo to mark International Refugee Day, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Embankment to Trafalgar Square, London**

Assemble 12 noon at Embankment and head off past Westminster to Trafalgar Square, where a rally in support of asylum seekers will be held. Amnesty International groups in London have teamed up with the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Hackney Refugee & Migrant Support Group, London Detainee Support Group and others to organise a demonstration calling for an end to the destitution of refused asylum seekers. Speakers at the rally will include: Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International UK; Jeremy Corbyn MP; Maurice Wren, director of Asylum Aid; Donna Covey, director of the Refugee Council; Jean Roger Kaseki, human rights campaigner from the Democratic Republic of Congo; Marilyn Bonzo, refugee from Zimbabwe; Makola Mayimbika, Poetic Justice; Emma Ginn, Medical Justice; and Weyman Bennett, joint secretary of Unite Against Fascism. Further details contact: [info@refugeeweek.org.uk](mailto:info@refugeeweek.org.uk); 020 7346 6752

❖ **'London's BAME Third Sector: Managing the Economic Downturn' Event, 9.30 – 4.30pm, Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, NCVO, 8 All Saints Street, London, N1 9RL**

Speakers will include Lisa Greensill, Communities and Third Sector Team Leader, Government Office for London and Ian Redding, Head of Grants, London Councils, NCVO representative. Workshop coordinators: Sona Mahtani, Chief Executive Selby Trust, and Terrence Simmons, Project Manager, Croydon BME Forum. Further speakers to be confirmed. For event details or to register for a place online, visit MiNet's webpage at [http://www.rota.org.uk/pages/MiNet\\_Activities.aspx](http://www.rota.org.uk/pages/MiNet_Activities.aspx).

- ❖ ***THEATRE AT RICH MIX: SUSPENDED LIVES.*** By Change of Frame with Identity Performance and Social Action, Thurs 2, Fri 3 and Sat 4 July / 7.30pm, Venue 1 / £10, £8 concs, Bethnal Green Road, London

What do you think of when you hear the word refugee? What happens when refugees become the 'object' of the play? Using the real life stories from diverse refugee groups, Suspended Lives is a drama which breaks away from stereotypes and brings forth a multiplicity of refugee voices. After a successful run at Tara Arts in October and further workshops with the audience in February this year, Suspended Lives comes to East London where the original research on refugee identities was conducted. This is an interactive piece which provokes debate and dynamic interventions from the audience. Directed by Karen Tomlin. Written by Erene Kaptani and Julia Munrow. Devising team: Ruth Frances, Devrim Incedal, Erene Kaptani, Simeon Moore, Julia Munrow, Redley Silva and Andrea Ughetto, plus stories from the Kurdish Community Centre, Somali Women Advice Network, Shpresa Albanian speaking group and Shoreditch Trust peer education group. Visit [www.richmix.org.uk](http://www.richmix.org.uk) for more info.

- ❖ ***'Destitute A8/A2 Migrants and Access to Public Funds',*** Wednesday 8th July, 1-5pm, Norwegian Church, Cardiff Bay, South Wales.

This one day conference is the fourth in a series of NRPF Network/British Red Cross conferences addressing issues relating to no recourse to public funds. The conference aims to explore issues and solutions to the problems facing A8 and A2 migrants who have limited or no recourse to public funds (NRPF); discuss good practice in assessing and supporting A8 and A2 migrants who have NRPF and promote cooperation and understanding between local authorities, the voluntary sector and central government. Speakers will include Rebecca Pritchard (Rough Sleeping), Janet Williams (British Red Cross Wrexham), Olivia Fellas (Islington Council) and Adam Weiss (The AIRE Centre). Participants will also have the opportunity to participate in the following workshops: Entitlements of A8/A2 migrants to mainstream benefits; Social services responsibilities to A8/A2 migrants with NRPF; Getting to the truth: British Red Cross Society assistance to vulnerable migrants in Wrexham. Conference is free of charge. Booking deadline: Wednesday 17th June. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

- ❖ ***'Domestic Servitude: what the law can do': Employment rights for migrant domestic workers and victims of trafficking Conference.*** North Kensington Law Centre and Kalayaan. 7pm, 9<sup>th</sup> July. Freshfields Bruckhaus, Deringer LLP, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y. [emily@nklc.co.uk](mailto:emily@nklc.co.uk)

A discussion followed by drinks and nibbles. Speakers will include Juliette Nash (North Kensington Law Centre), Camilla Brown (Kalayaan), "P", a migrant domestic worker will describe her experience. Please extend this invite to colleagues.

- ❖ ***A Moving Story: Is There a Case for a Major Museum of Migration in the UK?*** Migration Museum Working Group. Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 3 – 5pm, Royal Commonwealth Society, 25, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5AP.

This event launches a new report by the Migration Museum Working Group. The Migration Museum Working Group was set up to explore how the story of migration to the UK could be best represented in the museums and heritage sector. At this event the group will present its findings and recommendations. These present a challenge to those working in museums and migration, so we want the event to be an active conversation among leading players in these two fields. The conversation will be led by Barbara Roche, the former Immigration Minister, who was Chair of the Migration Museum Working Group. There will also be input by Dr Mary Stevens, who led the research on migration in museums for the working group, and the event will be hosted by Dr Danny Sriskandarajah, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society. If you would like further details, or to confirm your attendance, please contact [events@ippr.org](mailto:events@ippr.org) or telephone 020 7 470 6100.

❖ ***Migrant Workers in the UK Sex Industry, 10.30 am - 3.30 pm, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Graduate Centre, London Metropolitan University, 166-220 Holloway Road London N7 8DB (Entrance to Graduate Centre via Tower Building)***

ISET invites you to the launch of the ESRC-funded project. Principal Investigator: Dr. Nick Mai. In the morning, the project findings presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. In the afternoon, we will organise participative feedback discussion groups on research findings, policy implications and future research needs. Lunch will be provided at 12:45. For more information about this event please visit: [www.londonmet.ac.uk/iset/events](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/iset/events). For more information about the project please visit:

[www.londonmet.ac.uk/research-units/iset/projects/esrc-migrant-workers.cfm](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/research-units/iset/projects/esrc-migrant-workers.cfm)

## (9) Other Announcements

❖ **Employing Refugees guide released by Refugee Council**

[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/employersguides/employing\\_refugees.htm](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/practice/employersguides/employing_refugees.htm)

*Employing Refugees* is a short guide, produced in partnership with the Equality and Human Rights Commission, that outlines the main documents refugees and asylum seekers have to demonstrate entitlement to work in the UK. The guide is aimed at employers but will also be useful to advisers working with refugees.

❖ **Free courses for Refugees**

Refugees into Jobs is offering these courses with accredited qualification, funded by London Development Agency, in partnership with Workers' Educational Association:

- Community Interpreting Level 2&3 (next course in July 2009 on Saturdays)
- Understanding Community Interpreting Level 1 (next course from 10th June 2009 for 7 weeks on Wednesdays)
- ESOL Entry Level 1,2&3 (next course from 12th June for 10 weeks on Fridays)

All the courses are intensive, 7-10 weeks, one day a week. One to one advice and employment support. Travel and childcare costs will be provided. For more information and registration please contact Refugees Into Jobs on 020 8908 4433

❖ **South Tyrone Employment Programme**

Are you:

- In need of more meaningful engagement with the issues affecting migrant worker communities?
- Searching for a reliable, highly accessible source of information, research and publications relating to migrant issues?
- Eager for your organisation to benefit from gaining a more fulfilling role in developing shared advocacy and exchanging best practice ideas?
- Wishing to maximise your networking potential?
- Interested in forging North/South relations?

South Tyrone Empowerment Programme would like to hear from you! Our Migrant Worker Support Network (MWSN), established in 2006, promotes the sharing of ideas, knowledge and resources between organisations and individuals working to support the significantly increased population and developing communities of migrant workers and their families. With the objective of providing shared knowledge for a shared inter-cultural future, the network work tirelessly to ensure provision of accessible, reliable and up to date information on migrant worker issues. Through the dissemination of such information, it hopes to bring about a more efficient and convenient provision of service for those individuals and organisations working with migrant workers and migrant issues. If you have any

additional queries or would like to receive an application pack via post, contact the Network and Development Officer, Keelin McGartland, [keelin@stepni.org](mailto:keelin@stepni.org), or on 028 87729 002.

❖ **ROTA Policy Officer vacancy**

Policy Officer: £27,588 (NJC salary scale 6, point SO1-29), 5% non-contributory pension. 37.5 hrs p/w, 12 month contract

**Race on the Agenda (ROTA) is London's leading social policy think-tank focusing on issues affecting Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities and the Third Sector that serves them.** We are committed to working towards achieving social justice and the elimination of discrimination and promoting human rights, diversity, equality of opportunity and best practice.

To assist in ensuring ROTA is responding to policy change to the benefit of BAME communities and the BAME third sector.

**Closing Date for applications: Monday 29th June 2009 10:00am (by post or email). Successful candidates will be notified on Wednesday 1st July 2009 to attend an interview on Friday 3rd July 2009. We would like the successful candidate to start as soon as possible.** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. CV's will not be accepted

❖ **JRCT Racial Justice Committee Vacancies**

- Are you passionate about justice?
- Do you understand how racial injustices impact on life in Britain?
- Do you look for the big picture and take the long view?
- Are you interested in new thinking?
- Could you offer a few days' a year to help us fund radical change?

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust is seeking to co-opt new voluntary members to its Racial Justice Committee. This committee oversees the Trust's Racial Justice grants programme, which makes grants of around £1million a year. It operates at three levels: locally (within West Yorkshire), nationally (except Northern Ireland which is funded separately) and at a European level. The commitment is around seven days per year plus additional reading between meetings. For more information, see [www.jrct.org.uk](http://www.jrct.org.uk). If you would like the information on paper, or to discuss this invitation, please contact Sally Scarlett: 01904 627810; [sally.scarlett@jrct.org.uk](mailto:sally.scarlett@jrct.org.uk). Deadline: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.

❖ **Domestic Worker Rights, International Labour Organisation**

By 2011, the International Labour Organisation will adopt an international standard listing our rights as workers. Domestic/household workers want the right to be treated properly as workers. An ILO Convention would be an important step forward. Please let them know about the actions you take - to share with other organisations. Have a look at the Action Plan and how mobilization for an ILO convention develops: [www.domesticworkerrights.org](http://www.domesticworkerrights.org). Find here the download to an 8-page leaflet: [www.domesticworkerrights.org](http://www.domesticworkerrights.org) Use this report to support your activities. If you want to translate it into a language you work in, please do! But please mention the source. The leaflet is also available in Portuguese, Russian and Chinese. See <http://other.domesticworkerrights.org/>. Versions are prepared in Urdu and Hindi. For a draft version in Polish, Bulgarian and Tagalog write to [Anneke.vanLuijken@iuf.org](mailto:Anneke.vanLuijken@iuf.org)

❖ **Black Neighbourhood Renewal & Regeneration Network is seeking ...**

Community Engagement Officer - £29,241 and London and Policy and Information Officer - £29,241, London. For further details please see: [www.jobs.guardian.co.uk](http://www.jobs.guardian.co.uk). For an application pack please contact Symone Robinson on 020 8981 3003. Email: [symone@bnrrn.org.uk](mailto:symone@bnrrn.org.uk) Closing date 30th June at 4pm. Interview dates 13th July 2009 (Community Engagement Officer) and 14th July (Policy and Information Officer)

