



Migrants' Rights Network
Working for the rights of all migrants

Migrants' Rights News – March 2010

The **Migrants' Rights Network** is working for a rights-based approach to migration, with migrants as full partners in developing the policies and procedures which affect life in the UK. **Migrants' Rights News** aims to inform our members and other groups working on migration issues about regional and national policy developments, campaign news, recent research and upcoming events.

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1. Integrating Cities Conference in London – a missed opportunity? - MRN blog

"Integrating Cities Conference in London – a missed opportunity?" By Juan Camilo Cock, MRN:

On the 22nd of February the Mayor of London hosted the fourth 'Integrating Cities Conference' in City Hall. On the 22nd of February the Mayor of London hosted the fourth 'Integrating Cities Conference' in City Hall. The conference brought together mayors, European Commission representatives, members of migrant organisations and public officials from several European cities to share experiences and approaches to migrant integration and to sign the Eurocities Charter on Integrating Cities. The charter is a commitment by city authorities towards the integration of migrants. The charter was signed by London together with other cities such as Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Helsinki Rom, and Utrecht.

As has become the norm, there was agreement at the conference about the importance of integration being a two-way process, with the 'native' population being willing to adapt as much as migrants. The implications of this were not clear, however, with many people in the audience still feeling that the onus of integration is still expected to fall upon migrants. A lot of the discussion between representatives of the cities centred around the issue of language and on employing a diverse workforce in the public sector. Not speaking the official language is clearly seen as the biggest barrier to the integration of migrants, and different cities have adopted varying strategies to improve the language skills of migrants and their children.

Read the rest of this blog on [our website](#).

2. MRN – a Spring 2010 update

We are pleased to welcome Jan Brulc to the team as MRN's new Communications Officer, responsible for developing MRN's work on communications and the web. This spring, MRN will be redeveloping our website, revamping our newsletter and developing the usability of our web blog. We'll have an increased capacity to develop an evidence base about the experiences of migrants and those who work in support of them from across the UK regions. You'll also be able to follow our commentary on immigration development via our [Facebook group](#), [MRN twitter account](#) and other media forums.

A key aim of MRN's plan for 2010 is to expand our capacity to build a regional perspective on immigration into our work and to feed that into debates and policy formation which is often dominated by a Westminster-led agenda. Jan will be joined in April by MRN's new Network Coordinator who will lead MRN's work in four UK regions, increasing the presence of regional perspectives in MRN's progressive critique of immigration issues and the rights of migrants in the UK.

MRN's first perspectives paper into the situation of migrants in the UK regions will be released in May 2010, with a focus on London as a city where one in three residents are migrants. Written by Juan Camilo, MRN's London Project Officer, this report will present an overview of immigration to London, and of key policy challenges for London's policy-makers in developing integration strategies that can meet the needs and interests of migrants. We are planning to develop similar region-specific commentaries across the UK during 2010.

Keep an eye on our newsletter for more on these developments!

3. "One day without us" - virtual strike in solidarity with migrants in Italy

Organisations across Italy launched a 'virtual strike' in solidarity with migrants on 1st March, symbolically entitled 'One Day Without Us'.

One of the initiators of the action operating in the northern city of Turin, Luciano Scagliotti, has sent this report to MRN.

To organise 'One Day Without Us' we opted for a sort of "virtual strike" (going to work wearing a tallow ribbon, scarf or anything). The decision was taken mainly because of the weak position of most immigrants; a real strike would have put many of them at risk of heavy consequences, including loss of job. Furthermore undocumented immigrants, the most discriminated against, obviously can't strike.

Nevertheless most immigrant (and many Italian) workers didn't go to work in many factories in the North of Italy, especially in the steel and tannery sector. The same happened in the agricultural sector in Emilia Romagna (consider that Italy could not produce almost any cheese, including our famous parmigiano, without the work of the Sikh community in Emilia...). The strike has been an overwhelming success: in the area of Brescia, for example, the participation has been over 80% of the total (immigrant and Italian) workforce.

Rallies, concerts, street actions took place in more than 70 cities across the country, the biggest demonstration being in Naples, with around 20.000 participants, Milan (10.000) and Rome (12.000).

The campaign is now going on under the logo “Anti-Racist spring”, promoted by a group of national organisations, until the International Day against racism, 21st March. We’re committed to use this mobilisation to build a permanent coalition nation-wide.

MRN will [report on further developments](#) on the Italian Anti-Racist Spring in the weeks ahead.

4. Reports and Research

❖ [The Children’s Commissioner for England’s follow up report to: The arrest and detention of children subject to immigration control](#), February 2010

This report, which contains recommendations to the UK Border Agency for further improvement, follows up one published by the Commissioner in 2009. Since that report, the Commissioner’s office has used documentary evidence, visits and face to face interviews with detainees to work with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) to improve conditions at Yarl’s Wood. This approach has been possible because of the unique powers granted to Sir Al by Parliament to investigate concerns from a child’s perspective. Since last year’s report, UKBA and SERCO, which manages Yarl’s Wood, have shown a commitment to change procedures and improve conditions. However, there are concerns that still need to be addressed. Children continue to report that they find the process of arrest and transportation distressing. Increasingly, children are separated from parents when transported to the centre. Most are not told what will happen to their belongings and pets left behind and many have difficulty contacting friends.

For more on campaigns to end the detention of children, visit:

- [Number10 End Child Detention Now](#) initiative
- [Outcry!](#) – the Children’s Society and Bail Immigration for Detainees joint campaign to end child detention

❖ [Fast-tracked unfairness: detention and denial of women asylum-seekers in the UK](#), Human Rights Watch, February 2010

The 69-page report documents how women asylum seekers with complex claims are being routed into a system designed for much simpler claims. The women are held in detention largely for the UK’s administrative convenience, have very little time to prepare a legal case, and have only a few days to appeal if refused. But the claims often involve such sensitive and difficult issues as sexual violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking, and domestic abuse.

❖ [Seeking Support: a guide to the rights and entitlements of separated refugee and asylum-seeking children](#), Kamena Dorling, The Children’s Legal Centre, Third edition 2009

This guide is about the rights and entitlements of separated children in England, and provides advice to professionals on how to support young people in accessing those rights. Often described as unaccompanied children, these are children under 18 years of age who are outside their country of origin and separated from both parents or their legal/customary primary care-giver. The majority of separated children come to the UK on their own.

However, some children become separated in the UK after informal foster arrangements or family breakdown. This guide specifically covers the rights and entitlements of separated children and young people in England. As immigration and asylum policy are non-devolved, the policy noted in this guide is also applicable in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, the provision of support services to separated children (including social services, health, education and housing) are devolved, and therefore different in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

❖ **[At the end of the line - restoring the integrity of the UK's asylum system](#)**, Still Human Still Here, February 2010

In 2008 alone, more than 10,000 asylum seekers in the UK approached the British Red Cross in need of emergency relief from destitution. The Red Cross is only one of dozens of organisations – many of whom do not have asylum seekers or refugees as the core focus of their work – that are increasingly finding themselves having to pick up the pieces of Government policies which leave asylum seekers destitute and with no means of supporting themselves. The situation has further deteriorated during 2009. This report aims to provide a detailed overview of the human and financial costs of the current system and to propose policy solutions which are humane, efficient and effective.

❖ **[Do points mean prizes? How the UK's migration policies could benefit the world's poor](#)**, Laura Chappell and Sarah Mulley, Institute for Public Policy Research March 2010

As the UK Border Agency launches its new international strategy, a new report by the leading independent think tank ippr says that the Government should take impacts on developing nations into account when designing UK immigration policy. But rather than focusing on the potential negative impacts on developing countries through brain drain, migration policy should also consider the potential benefits of migration to sending nations such as remittances. The report, called Development: Do points mean prizes?, says there are arguments for increasing the freedom of movement to migrants between the UK and their home countries for both skilled and low skilled workers. Where countries like Australia and New Zealand have implemented such policies, the evidence shows that this can lead to significant improvement in the lives of the migrants as well as the poor communities they leave behind.

❖ **[Making a contribution – new migrants and belonging in multi-ethnic Britain](#)**, Runnymede Trust, February 2010

This report, the last in the long-running programme of Community Studies, pulls together the qualitative research of the previous 11 small-scale studies for an overview of issues affecting emerging communities in the UK. New migrants' sense of identity and belonging is explored, as well as the more practical barriers to integration that newcomers face. The idea behind the Community Study series was to look beyond binary notions of 'White' and 'non-White' at the changing nature of ethnic diversity in the UK, in the hope of getting an insight into the way racisms are formed as people live out their day-to-day lives.

❖ **[ECRI report](#)**

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) has published its fourth report on the United Kingdom which deals with racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and intolerance in this country. ECRI's Chair, Nils Muiznieks, pointed out positive steps in fighting discrimination, but also expressed concern that racist incidents had become more frequent, police powers were exercised in a manner that disproportionately affected minority groups,

Gypsies and Travellers still faced serious discrimination and asylum-seekers remained in a vulnerable position.

As regards positive developments, the legal framework for combating racism and discrimination has been strengthened. New criminal provisions on the prohibition of religious hatred have been enacted and police forces now apply a uniform definition of racist incidents. In addition, an Equality Bill has been introduced in Parliament with the aim of harmonising discrimination law and raising existing standards; it should provide similar protection against discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief to that provided on the grounds of race.

❖ **[Asylum: Getting the Balance Right? A Thematic Inspection: July – November 2009](#)**, Chief Inspector of the Border Agency

Chief Inspector John Vine says: “...On 5 March 2007, the UK Border Agency introduced the New Asylum Model (NAM) to manage ‘new’ asylum applications made on, or after, this date. A separate process was introduced for managing cases where the application had been made prior to 1 March and had not been resolved. The UKBA estimated there to be between 400,000 and 450,000 such ‘legacy’ cases ... In this report, I have considered in particular how and whether the UKBA is meeting its targets for concluding cases; how it is managing those cases which fall outside its conclusion target; and the quality of its decision-making. Critically I have also looked at the impact of these on the individual asylum applicant. This is a complex area of work. My overall impression is of the difficult balance that needs to be struck between a performance culture that strives continually for improvement and the quality of decision-making that is essential when dealing with some of the most vulnerable people in society. The testimony of some of those individuals is reflected in my report and acts as a reminder to us all that, first and foremost, this is about people’s lives.”

❖ **UK Border Agency releases, February 2010**

- [Protecting our Border, Protecting the Public](#), The UK Border Agency’s five year strategy for enforcing our immigration rules and addressing immigration and cross border crime. February 2010
- [Refusing entry or stay to NHS debtors](#): A public consultation on proposed changes to the Immigration Rules

5. Upcoming Events and Initiatives

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

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

- ❖ **Immigration and the Challenges for the Left: A debate on the European progressive and radical left-wing parties' approach to the issue of immigration.** THE ITALIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN LONDON (Partito Democratico, PD Londra) and ASSOCIAZIONE 25 APRILE, 6:00-8:00pm Friday 12th March 2010, UCL Cruciform Building, Cruciform Lecture Theatre 2, Gower Street, London WC1E 61E

This Colloquium seeks to clarify and disentangle a complex set of issues by bringing together speakers with different expertises and backgrounds, and by trying to highlight, and tackle, the contradictions of the left in respect of the issue of immigration. Speakers include Professor Keith Ewing (Chair), Senator Massimo Livi Bacci, Professor Sonia McKay, Claude Moraes MEP, Gabriele Zimmer MEP

- ❖ **Representation, Rights & Migration of the British-Chinese Community conference, 10.30am to 3pm (Registration from 10am), Tuesday 16th March 2010, Committee Room 10, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.**

A report from the Monitoring Group-Min Quan Project into levels of racism experienced by members of the UK Chinese community published last year found that *People of Chinese origin in the UK experience substantial racism, perhaps as much as or more than any other minority ethnic group; perpetrators can be as young as 10 years old, with their behaviour often dismissed as 'a bit of fun'; owners and workers in the Chinese catering industry face verbal abuse and non-payment for goods every day. This behaviour sometimes escalates to physical assault and even murder. Panellists include Shahid Malik MP (Under-secretary of state for Communities & Local Government); Dr Sylvia Sham (Wai Yin Chinese Women Society); Dr Rob Berkeley (Runnymede Trust); Dr Robin Pharoah (Ethnographic Social Research Options); Ruth Grove-White (Migrants Rights Network); Dr Ping Hua (Chinese Association of Southampton); Suresh Grover (The Monitoring Group); Bobby Chan (The Monitoring Group Min Quan).

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

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

- ❖ **Europe's Muslim Women: Under Cover and Under Pressure, Our Shared Europe. 16th March 2010, Hotel Stanhope, Brussels**

This event, organised by the British Council & EPC, will focus on the issues and challenges surrounding the integration of Muslim women into European society. With speakers such as Malika Hamidi, (European Muslim Network) & Sajjad Karim (Member of the European Parliament), this debate will look at if Muslim women are being oppressed in Europe, why

integration is not higher, and what can be done to solve this. For further information please contact osedebate@britishcouncil.be

❖ **“Good Neighbors” Community Drama in Renfrewshire, 3pm 18th March 2010, The New Tannahill Centre, 76 Blackstoun Road, Paisley, PA3 1NT**

WSREC invites you to attend the community drama performance of ‘Good Neighbours in Renfrewshire’. ‘Good Neighbours in Renfrewshire’ is a community drama project run by the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC) with funding from Awards for All Scotland and the Safer Renfrewshire Partnership. This drama highlights the issue of racial harassment and antisocial behaviour in housing faced by the Polish community. This event is based around a short drama about a Polish family living in Paisley who are experiencing racial harassment and anti-social behavior and how they go about reporting it. The actors are local Polish people living in Renfrewshire and this event is open for everyone to attend. Also on offer at the event will be Polish food and information stalls comprised of local service providers. For more information, contact Joanna Wisniewska, Development Officer (Migrant Worker Communities) at the Good Community Relations Project - jwisniewska@wsrec.co.uk

❖ **Climate Change and Health: understanding the impact before it's too late. Friday 19th March, Medecins du Monde UK annual conference in London. 10am – 4pm, Friday 19th March 2010**

Lead experts in the field, including Jonathon Porritt, Andrew Haines and Jean Lambert MEP, will set out the key issues around climate change and consequences for health. We will explore a range of subjects from changing migration patterns to new conflicts and the global impact on public health. Afternoon workshops will give you the chance to share your own ideas on how best to address the issues raised.

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

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

❖ **CReAM Public Lecture, Professor Gordon Hanson, 5:30pm – 7pm 23rd March 2010, followed by a reception, University College Campus, London.**

I have the pleasure to invite you to a public lecture by Professor Gordon Hanson, Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego, on the topic of Managing Immigration Policy in High Income Countries. The lecture is hosted by CReAM within UCL’s Global Migration Symposia Series in cooperation with the UCL Grand Challenge of Intercultural Interaction. The lecture will be followed by a panel discussion and a reception. Professor Hanson’s talk will be followed by a discussion of three panelists and questions by the auditorium to the panel and the speaker. The panel consists of David Coats, Associate

Director Policy, The Work Foundation; David Goodhart, founder and editor Prospect magazine; Jonathan Portes, Chief Economist, Cabinet Office.

❖ ***Destitution should play no part in the asylum process: help make sure it doesn't Still Human Still Here public meeting, 6.00-8.00pm, Tuesday 23rd March 2010, Amnesty International, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA***

Still Human Still Here invites you to a public meeting to discuss how the UK's system for providing protection to refugees could be improved to make it more humane and more efficient. The speakers will be Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York; Jan Shaw, Amnesty International and Chair of Still Human Still Here; Sir Nicholas Young, Chief Executive of the British Red Cross; Donna Covey, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council. After the speakers there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion and from 7.00-8.00pm there will be a reception. Copies of Still Human Still Here's new report, At the end of the line - restoring the integrity of the UK's asylum system, will be available free of charge on the evening. The meeting is free, but places are limited, if you wish to attend please [book on-line](#).

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

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

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

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

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

Care Matters Partnership, in association with The Refugee Council is pleased to announce the launch of a conference entitled "The Future of Services for Children Seeking Asylum- Best Practice and Support" on 22nd April 2010 in Central London. This will be the first public conference focusing on children in the care system seeking asylum since the Supreme Court decision on age and the new duty on the UKBA through the BCI Act.

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

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

❖ ***Rights of Women training Courses spring 2010***

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

- *Forced Marriage: gaining protection through the law. Dates: Darlington 10/03/10, Leeds 29/04/10, London 20/10/10*
- *Protection from persecution? Asylum law and process. Dates: London 21/10/10*
- *Stop the traffic: protecting and supporting trafficked women in the UK. Dates: Sheffield 29/03/10, London 06/10/10*
- *No recourse? EEA national? Overcoming the barriers. Dates: Cardiff 11/03/10, London 21/04/10, Manchester 12/5/10, Doncaster 27/10/10*
- *Seeking Refuge? claiming asylum and accessing financial support. Dates: London 23/06/10*

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

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

- *Basics of fundraising in the race/refugee sector - Friday 12 March, 1.30-4.30pm*
- *Dealing with the media - Friday 26 March, 1.30-4.30pm*
- *Combating racial violence - date to be confirmed*
- *Supporting asylum seekers - date to be confirmed*
- *Combating immigration detention and deportation - date to be confirmed*

5. Other Announcements

❖ **Research project: Identity cards and foreign nationals**

Researchers at Loughborough University are conducting an independent piece of research into the impact of the UK national identity card on migrant communities. They are interested in speaking to charities and networks that support migrants in the Midlands, as well as speaking to individual migrants about their experiences in relation to the scheme. All meetings will be undertaken in accordance with the protocols of Loughborough University's Ethical Advisory Committee. Individuals and their organisations will be kept anonymous.

If you wish to participate, or would like further information, please contact directly, either Dr Elizabeth Mavroudi (E.Mavroudi@lboro.ac.uk) or Dr Adam Warren (A.P.Warren@lboro.ac.uk). Drs Mavroudi and Warren are experienced researchers, employed at the Department of Geography. Further information about their previous work can found [here](#).

❖ **Challenging unlawful detention in documentation cases: *An invitation to submit evidence to BID's /Detainee Documentation Project/**

BID's Detainee Documentation project will provide legal advisors with a resource tool in cases where documentation issues arise. This will help legal advisors when assessing whether or not the length of detention and the purposes for which detention is being used, have become unlawful. Evidence regarding the time-scales and the procedures that need to be followed in the documentation process are essential if a proper assessment is to be made regarding the steps the UKBA may have failed to take, the steps that a detainee can reasonably be expected to take and the period of time that is required for the documentation process to be completed.

BID's Detainee Documentation project will provide a set of practical information tools on this issue. Please help BID by submitting evidence to them on:*

1. *Documentation procedures and the length of time it takes for such procedures to be completed with respect to individual countries.
2. *Expert reports or comments by experts on issues relating to documentation procedures.
3. *Case outcomes or your legal strategy in cases with detained clients where documentation has been an issue.

BID are especially interested in those cases where a person is claiming nationality of the following countries: Algeria, Morocco, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Zimbabwe, China, Eritrea, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jamaica, Liberia and Palestine/OT. You can send your evidence or comments, preferably by email to pierre@biduk.org or by post to Pierre Makhoulouf, Assistant Director, BID, 28 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LS. Submissions can be in any format. BID want to hear about your experiences with the documentation process. Details of all submissions will remain anonymous.

❖ **VACANCIES: RUNNYMEDE TRUST**

- A part-time **Arts Manager** to lead and develop the groundbreaking arts education/policy project 'Generation 3.0'. Generation 3.0 is an intergenerational project to help young and older people. **Type of contract:** Fixed-term contract until March 2011, **Salary:** £27,000 pro rata, **Hours:** 50% FTE (17.5 hours per week), **Deadline:** Midday on 11 March 2010, **Interview date:** 15 March 2010, **Start date:** 5 April 2010.
- A full-time **Project Assistant** to assist and support our director in conducting research for a variety of short projects as and when they arise. **Type of contract:** Fixed-term contract

until December 2010, **Salary:** £19,000 pro rata, **Deadline:** Midday 11 March 2010, **Interview date:** 22 - 24 March 2010, **Start date:** 5 April 2010, Please **click here** for the full job description and person specification.
For more information on either position, visit [their website](#).

❖ **VACANCIES: ASYLUM AID**

- **Trustee (2 positions).** Asylum Aid are seeking to recruit two new Trustees, preferably with experience in charity financial management and human resources. The role of Trustee is a voluntary, unpaid position, though all expenses will be met. To discuss the role of Trustee at Asylum Aid, please contact Maurice Wren, the Director, on 020 7354 9631 x201.
- **Communications and Public Affairs Officer.** Salary: £29,290.
For more information, please visit the [Asylum Aid website](#).

❖ **Stand up and join the fight for justice!**

The government in April 2006 changed the requirements of obtaining Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK from 4 to 5 years i.e. one must complete a total of 5 years in the capacity of a Work Permit or HSMP or Ancestry to qualify for ILR. The policy change was applied to all immigrants regardless of whether they were already in the UK. Immigrant Welfare was created on July 2009 as a reaction to this home office's unfair policy change that affected all those who were currently in the UK and got affected. As per the data received from the Home Office shows 40,000 work permit holders entered the UK during the period between March 2005 and April 2006.

A company by the name of HSMP Forum Ltd (supporters of HSMP Visa Holders) challenged the government's retrospective nature of this policy. The court ruled in favour of HSMP Forum Ltd and now all people who entered the UK before April 2006 on HSMP can now obtain their ILR in 4 years, as originally promised. Since Work Permit holders and or Ancestry visa holders were not covered by HSMP Forum Ltd judgment we (Immigrant Welfare) are now working to help both Work Permit and Ancestry Visa Holders to also obtain ILR in 4 years, as originally promised. In that respect Immigration Welfare Limited (IWL) are very close to filling a case against this unfair policy change.

Some of the hardships people, especially those with work permits, have continued to experience are around having no freedom to change jobs (without affecting ILR), progress one's career with choice, send a child to university without paying high international fees, unable to climb the property ladder. If migrants were not subjected an extra year many could have acquired ILR and hence citizenship a year earlier, could go to university on native students fee terms, find a suitable mortgage at a good rate and better support their families.

IWL has formulated a case (with the help of a solicitor firm) which is waiting to be launched shortly. The barrister assigned to our case is very experience and has agreed to take up our case to court. We have managed to get support from members from all immigrant categories, namely Work Permit Holders, HSMP and Ancestry Visa Holders. Also those who have already obtained ILR are also joining us in this cause for justice.

IWL needs to raise a total amount in the range of £50K to be able to successfully launch the case and are asking for financial support to help to fund it. For more information, visit: <http://www.immigrantwelfare.co.uk>