

Welcome to the November 2009 edition of Migrants Rights News

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

At the heart of Migrants Rights News are the campaigns and strategies being developed by migrants to consolidate their position in British society. We focus on activities that extend the scope of the human, economic and social rights which apply to migrants' circumstances.

We would be happy to circulate information and bulletins sent by members in the following month's newsletter, subject to editorial/space limitations! Please send any contributions to: info@migrantsrights.org.uk.

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(1) Global Forum concludes in Athens: What lessons? – by Don Flynn

The third Global Forum on Migration and Development came to an end with the conclusion of the inter-governmental session on 5th November in Athens, Greece. So what lessons can activists draw from the tenor of the debate?

The Forum had attracted around 500 representatives of 130 national governments and a further 200 participants from civil society organisations from across the globe. Its structure involved separate sessions for both of these groups, with civil society meeting on the first two of the week in the resort suburb of Voulligmeni, and the government representatives in central Athens on the following two.

The Global Forum received its mandate from a high level consultation between member states of the United Nations which took place in 2006. Considering a report prepared by the Global Commission on Migration and Development at the request of the then secretary-general, Kofi Annan, the high level consultation had endorsed the proposal that a Forum be established to consider the issues raised on a non-binding basis. Following discussion sessions in Brussels in 2007, and Manila in 2008, the Forum had sketched out the general shape of the migration and development policy agenda and had achieved some sense of who could be usefully involved in developing it further.

Advised by leading experts from the worlds of economics and development, a consensus was established around the possibility of migration and development policies being organised on a complementary basis. This would maximise the potential of human movement across frontiers for the gains in human capital and the promotion of welfare. But the mix of politics this might involve, and the impact on issues as states' sovereignty over their borders and on migrants' rights, remained unresolved.

The organisers of the Athens GFMD attempted to move discussions beyond set-piece assertions of fundamental principles to a more concrete consideration of the sort of issues which would be involved in the better planning and organisation of migration. Four roundtable themes were identified which it was hoped would allow engagement with critical issues. These were: mainstreaming migration in development planning; migrant integration, reintegration and circulation for development; policy and institutional coherence; and, building alliances and engaging key actors.

Though not explicitly stated, the dual structure of the Forum, with civil society networks preceding national governments, also reflected the widely held view that the official representatives of states would not lead discussion in this area. Most operate with policy agendas rooted in very narrow approaches to policing and security matters. Original thinking would have to come from groups and networks not closely tied to governmental interests which could draw on a wider evidence base for their approach. The danger with the dual approach is that viewpoints become polarised and institutionalised in the separate structures of the two parts of the Forum. The challenge at Athens was to see if a more meaningful dialogue could develop between groups.

Amongst the various participants in the discussion two approaches were adopted to try and get beyond the polarisation of perspectives. One of these was pursued by groups supporting the initiatives of the Global Peoples' Alliance on Migration and Development (PGA), and network of migrants' rights groups coordinated by the Migrants Rights International. The PGA has organised at the GFMD since Brussels in 2007. It holds a parallel event to the official sessions of the Forum, consisting of days of plenary discussion, workshops and lobbying which primarily involve migrant groups, but which are open to all members of the public, as well as people attending the civil society and intergovernmental events. Its aim is to strengthen the coherence of the migrants' voice and to bring a human rights perspective to the migration and development agenda. The second approach concerned advocacy around the findings of leading research institutes. The organisers of the Athens GFMD facilitated this work by structuring discussion around a series of position papers which draw on state of art research.

At times some of the discussion during the civil society roundtables suggested tension between migrant networks and the, usually, university-based research community. The migrant groups preferred to draw on intuition drawn from direct experience and to push forward an agenda which had empowerment as an explicit goal. The researchers were more inclined to view large areas of the migration-development nexus as open questions which couldn't be answered without a great deal more resources being made available for research.

These differences aside, there was a sense that progress was made in Athens that hadn't been present at the conclusion of the Brussels and Manila GFMDs. Some of this could be due to the fact that the governmental side of the discussion no longer appears as quite the monolithic power bloc in favour of national state interests as it once did. As we move into the second decade of the 21st century we are seeing the emergence of migratory systems, such as those between the states of south Asia, Pacific Asia, and Mexico-US, where some key players are conscious of their position not just as sending countries, but as destinations for hundreds of thousands of migrants as well.

The fourth GFMD will be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, at the end of October 2010. An indication of what might be achieved during those discussions was given when the Mexican ambassador to the GFMD, Snr Gomez Robledo came across to the venue of the PGA parallel event to address representatives of the migrant rights organisations. He said the Mexican government saw the GFMD as an opportunity to address and overcome the contradiction in its immigration policies in recent decades, which had, on one hand, advocated on behalf of the human rights of its citizens who had migrated to north America, and its often heavy-handed approach to citizens of other states, mainly from central America, who had migrated to its territory.

This represents the challenge that will lie before people attending the GFMD in Puerto Vallarta in October next year. Can the migrants' rights agenda be articulated in a way that is relevant to Mexico, and other national governments? Can we anticipate that some countries at least will be less inclined to accept the leadership of the developed nations in the global north in setting down the rules for the movement? If it is the case that a bloc of influential countries will emerge in the coming years which is prepared to look at these issues in new ways, then we might see how to build new forms of institutional support. In turn this could help to develop credible, progressive approaches to the management of migration in the future.

MRN director Don Flynn was a member of the International Advisory Committee which advised the Alexander S. Onassis Public Interest Foundation on the organisation of the Civil Society Days (CSD) at the Athens GFMD. He attended both the CSD and also the sessions of the Peoples' Global Alliance parallel event as a representative of MRN.

Read the official report of the Athens Forum on the GFMD website

www.gfmd2009.org/default.aspx.

For the work of the PGA at the GFMD, visit www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction/.

The United Nations Development Programme also has a website reporting on the GFMD, at www.undp.org/eu/.

Participants from Sussex University's Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty blogged their views on the GFMD on their website

<http://community.eldis.org/.59ccc29e/Blog/> .

(2) MRN seeks Project Officer for new communications project!

MRN is embarking on a new and exciting programme of activities in the New Year, and we are now looking for the right Project Officer to contribute to this work.

The Project Officer will be working on MRN's new Communications Strategies Project, aimed at strengthening the capacity of migrant community organisations to communicate their perspectives, experiences and concerns. The project will work over a three-year period, in four UK regions, to support the presence of a migrant 'voice' in

debates about immigration in the UK. It will work in partnership with regional organisations, to conduct a targeted programme of work aimed at building the capacity of local activists and organisations to communicate messages in support of migrants. It will also create an accessible online platform through which regional partners can develop their skills in communicating with one another and more widely.

The Project Officer, a full-time (35 hour per week) position, will have specific responsibility for designing and launching a beta version website, with the capacity to manage multimedia and user-generated contents. The contract will be for a 6-month period beginning in January 2010, with a possibility for extension thereafter.

For the full job description and application form, please visit: www.migrantsrights.org.uk. The deadline for our receipt of applications is **Wednesday 9th December, 2009**. Applications will not be considered if received by Migrants' Rights Network after this date. Following the application stage, the first round of interviews will be held on **Thursday 17th December 2009**.

(3) Migrant worker rights in the UK: assembling the evidence base

Critiques of migrant workers in the UK regularly claim a great deal of space within public debate and media coverage, often drawing upon a limited evidence base and shaped by political rhetoric about 'us' and 'them'. Debates over the past month have drawn upon a wider evidence base about migrant workers, bringing the perspectives and wellbeing of workers into the centre of the debate.

A lively debate in the House of Lords took place in late October. Lord Harries framed the debate around the protection of vulnerable migrant workers' rights and the discussion was taken up by a number of peers, including Lord Parekh, Baroness Neuberger and the Earl of Sandwich. The chronic under-paying and over-working of many foreign workers in the UK was a key subject for discussion. Peers also raised the ineffectiveness of regulatory and enforcement mechanisms in place for preventing the exploitation of migrant workers by employers. There was lively discussion around the dangers of introducing immigration controls into workplaces – an area which MRN had briefed some peers on prior to the debate. In addition, peers raised concerns about the impact of entwining immigration controls within the remit of enforcement agencies such as the Gangmaster Licensing Authority, whose primary remit is to protect workers from exploitation. If followed through in the enactment of enforcement duties, this poses a risk to the ability of such bodies to act in support of migrant workers. For the full transcript of the debate, please visit:

www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/lhan124.pdf

Migrant workers are also the subject of a new public seminar series launched in early November by a coalition of British Universities concerned with '*Migrant Labour and Industrial Relations*'. The seminars will bring together academics and 'practitioners' (those whose work brings them into contact with migrant workers) to systematically consider the evidence about who migrant workers are, their impact on and contribution to British labour markets, employment-related support to workers (including trades unions) and how conditions for migrant workers are regulated. Ultimately, the aim is to bring research into migrant workers and industrial relations into the centre of research, and to help inform public policy by critiquing current issues through collaboration between researchers and practitioners.

The first seminar, held at Keele University in November, mapped out the aims and objectives for the series of six day-long events. It brought together trade unionists, academic researchers and NGOs (including MRN) and was hosted by Steve French from Keele University. Presentations from speakers touched upon issues including: the (limited) statistical data available on migrant workers (Anne Green – Warwick University); the mushrooming of employment agencies acting as intermediaries between migrant workers and employers (Chris Forde and Rob McKenzie, University of Leeds); migrants' health and safety in the workplace (Sonia McKay, London Metropolitan University), and union organising strategies (Kevin Brandstatter, GMB Southern Region). Papers are invited for future seminars and all are invited to attend. For further information visit:

www.keele.ac.uk/research/ppm/research/Migrantworkers.htm

(4) Gains on migrant child welfare – but the elephant in the room remains

At a time when campaigners are celebrating the new duties for the UK Border Agency to protect children moving through the immigration and asylum systems, the continued detention of children remains the elephant in the room.

Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 came into force at the beginning of November 2009, bringing with it a duty for UKBA to *"have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children"* during the course of its work. The duty relates to children subject to immigration control who come into contact with the UKBA, including at ports of entry to the UK, within the asylum system and when detained or removed from the UK. It does not include UKBA's contact with children outside the UK. By replacing the previous opt-out of the UKBA from the provisions of the 2004 Children's Act, the Border Agency has now been brought into line with other public bodies working with children.

This development is a significant achievement for campaigning organisations, such as those involved in the Refugee Children's Consortium, which have been lobbying heavily on this issue for a number of years, and particularly during the development of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009. It brings into the statute book duties to safeguard children which were previously limited to the level of UKBA staff guidance documents and political assurances. It also follows the decision of the government to lift the UK's opt-out to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in January this year.

But despite the substantial progress being made in this area, some big battles remain to be won. Perhaps most shockingly, hundreds of children continue to be exposed annually to the debilitating experience of immigration detention in the UK. Government figures, released in October, have revealed that, in the 15 months between July 2008 and September 2009, 1300 children subject to immigration control were detained in immigration detention centres in the UK. The majority of these child detainees (884) were held at Yarl's Wood detention centre – the main centre for women and families. Commentators have extrapolated that, on average, almost 200 children per year were held for over 28 days during the 15 month period

(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8335602.stm>).

The costs of immigration detention for those children who experience it are intolerably high. Campaigns such as the 'Outcry!' campaign led by the Children's Society and Bail for Immigration Detainees, hope to bring about an end to it. A recent report released this month by the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) has bolstered their case. Independent child psychiatrists and doctors examined 24

children held at Yarl's Wood, finding that the majority were experiencing physical and mental problems which were related to being in detention. The potential effects of immigration detention on mental health were demonstrated last month by the suicide attempt of a 10-year old girl, Adeoti Odunsola, who was being held in Yarl's Wood. It was the second time she had been detained and she was due to be deported to Nigeria imminently. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8330456.stm>.

For further information please visit:

- ❖ www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/closedconsultations/keepingchildrensafe/
- ❖ www.childrenssociety.org.uk/all_about_us/how_we_do_it/campaigning2/OutCry!/18498.html

(5) Restrictions tighten for migrant workers in the UK

Rising unemployment in the UK, falling job vacancies and the imminent general election of 2010 have been creating an uncertain backdrop for migrant workers coming to the UK. Recent announcements relating to A2 nationals (Romanians and Bulgarians) and to non-EEA nationals entering the UK under Tier 2 of the Points-Based System show the government's determination to project a restrictive message around the right of migrants to work in the UK.

Prime Minister announces restrictions based on MAC Shortage Occupation Lists

In mid-November Gordon Brown proclaimed a new string of restrictions on migrant workers which has dominated the headlines. He gave the news that thousands more jobs will be closed for application by non-EEA foreign nationals without first being advertised in the UK. He confirmed that restrictions will first target occupations including civil engineers, hospital consultants, aircraft engineers and ships officers. And he assured the public that care workers and skilled chefs – 'borderline' shortage occupations which have already undergone rule changes to close down entry and visa renewal to migrant workers – will be next on the government's shortage occupation 'hit list'.

But what substance was this pronouncement based on? Chiefly, Brown's announcements on migrant workers were based on the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) review of its recommended Shortage Occupation Lists, released last month (October). This advises the government on setting the pathways for work in the UK and Scotland under Tier 2 of the Points Based System for economic immigration, by identifying those 'skilled' occupations with staff shortages that are open to application from overseas without first being advertised in the UK. In fact, the MAC report painted a more complex picture than that presented by Mr Brown. It outlined the difficult balance in judging the effects of rising unemployment in the UK on reducing labour shortages, with identifying those occupations which will continue to need migrant workers, even in the context of recession. It is certainly not a clear-cut calculation.

The MAC did make a number of recommendations for removal from the shortage occupation list, including non-consultant, non-training, medical staff posts in general internal medicine (acute) and pre-registration NHS & hospital pharmacists; teachers for special schools and skilled meat boners and trimmers. Occupations recommended for removal from the lists also included a number of healthcare consultancy positions in pharmacology, dermatology, immunology, paediatrics, and intensive care among others. Some engineering and construction jobs were among those occupations also advised to be removed. The MAC advised that skilled chefs continue to be included on

the shortage occupation list, but that applicants are required to earn a minimum of £8.45 per hour (after deductions for housing, meals etc), and to demonstrate at least three years' relevant experience.

Brown's announcement confirmed that the MAC recommendations have been accepted by the government in full. The MAC now appears to have been asked to work with the UK Commission for Employment and Skills to try to whittle occupations within catering, care and engineering jobs off the shortage occupation lists, however possible. They've been asked to do this by mapping out how 'skills trainings' can enable these positions to be filled by people who are already here. But will the political will behind ever-tightening pathways for skilled workers to come to the UK mean that the outcome of these enquiries is pre-determined? Gordon Brown's speech was reported as the first policy pronouncement on immigration in the run-up to the 2010 general election – we can expect many more to come.

Read Don Flynn's blog on the announcements at www.migrantsrights.org.uk.

For Gordon Brown's speech, visit: www.number10.gov.uk/Page21298

To read the MAC report, visit:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/first-review-lists1/

Restrictions on Romanians and Bulgarians right to work in the UK will continue

According to a further government announcement, A2 nationals (Romanians and Bulgarians) will continue to have only restricted access to the UK labour market until at least the end of 2011. Since the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the European Union in January 2007, there have been tight restrictions on their access to the labour market. A2 nationals can currently enter the UK to work under the work permit scheme. The UK also currently operates an annual quota system whereby approximately 25,000 workers from A2 countries can enter the UK, under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) and Sector Based Scheme (SBS). Under EU regulations, the UK must review labour market restrictions for A2 nationals periodically, and must remove restrictions 2011 unless 'serious labour market disturbances' would be the likely effect of doing so.

Although there were no high expectations that the restrictions would be lifted, the news has been a disappointment to those working in support of A2 migrants in the UK. The current restrictions have caused confusion and frustration among many Romanian and Bulgarian nationals. They find themselves enjoying dramatically reduced opportunities to Central and Eastern European counterparts, whilst experiencing the high costs of failing to navigate an enduringly complex system.

For more, visit: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/Government-keeps-work-restrict

(6) Reports and Research

- ❖ ***Pushed Back, Pushed Around: Italy's Forced Return of Boat Migrants and Asylum Seekers, Libya's Mistreatment of Migrants and Asylum Seekers, Human Rights Watch, September 2009***

www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/09/21/pushed-back-pushed-around-0

This Human Rights Watch (HRW) report examines the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in Libya through the eyes of those who have managed to leave and are now in Italy and Malta. It focuses on the plight of 'boat migrants' travelling from

North Africa (in particular Libya) to Europe (primarily Italy), and the way in which they are treated by national authorities, and the European Union Frontex borders agency. In particular, HRW is concerned with the plight of migrants who are intercepted en route to Europe and returned to Libya, regardless of potential protection needs. It points out that Libya's asylum system is not in conformity with international refugee standards and condemns that detention conditions faced by migrants there.

❖ ***Migrant Workers, Racism and the Recession, UNISON Northern Ireland, October 2009***

[www.unison.org.uk/file/MW_Racism_and_the_Recession_-_final_report\[1\].pdf](http://www.unison.org.uk/file/MW_Racism_and_the_Recession_-_final_report[1].pdf)

Launched during Anti Racist Workplace Week, this latest report from UNISON has mapped out the effects of the recession on the experiences of their migrant members. A questionnaire was sent to all black and minority ethnic members, overseas and European migrant workers, to gauge their perceptions about the current climate. Among the findings, UNISON reports a high sense of job insecurity among migrant members, fed into by exposure to comments in the workplace about migrant workers taking local people's jobs. Although racist behaviour predates the recession, it had continued during the financial downturn – and 83% respondents reported that they had encountered racism in their workplace. Respondents reported that trades unions play an important role in supporting workers and that support must continue during the recession.

❖ ***Human Rights, Inequality and Poverty: Do Human Rights Make a Difference? Alice Donald and Elizabeth Mottershaw, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, September 2009***

www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-human-rights-full.pdf

People working to tackle poverty in the UK are increasingly interested in using human rights in their work. This study looks at how this has been done in other countries, its impact on affected communities, debate, policy and government programmes, and its relevance for the UK.

The report covers:

- how human rights have been used to understand poverty;
- how communities experiencing poverty use human rights to act against injustice, build alliances between disparate groups, and articulate their conditions and claims;
- the tools that communities and their allies use to hold the state accountable for its human rights obligations;
- how human rights have been implemented in practice in anti-poverty work by governments and other organisations; and
- lessons for integrating human rights and anti-poverty work in the UK.

❖ ***Migrant Workers in the UK sex industry: Final Policy-Relevant Report, Dr Nick Mai, Institute for the Study of European Transformations (ISET), London Metropolitan University, October 2009***

www.londonmet.ac.uk/research-units/iset/projects/esrc-migrant-workers.cfm

This report challenges the common portrayal of migrant sex workers as victims of trafficking or wider exploitation, drawing its conclusions from interviews with 100 migrant men, women and transgender people working within the sex industry in the UK. The ISET team reports that the majority of interviewed sex workers had consciously decided to take on this work, many drawn into it via friends or colleagues. Just 6% of the female interviewees reported that they had been tricked and forced into selling sex in the UK, with no share of consent or control in this development. However, ISET reports the vulnerability of migrant sex workers to infringements of their rights in their professional and private lives and exposure to exploitation – this is often affected by insecure immigration status, greatly increasing their vulnerability to violence and crime.

(7) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- ❖ **Academic Network for Legal Studies on Immigration and Asylum in Europe, Conference, Identification of Vulnerable Asylum Seekers with Special Needs in the Framework of the Reception Conditions Directive 2003/9: Concepts, Procedure and Purposes, Thursday 19th November 2009, La Maison des Associations Internationales (MAI), The International Association Centre, Salle MAGISTRAT, Room 40 rue de Washington, 1050 Bruxelles**
- ❖ **'Understanding and Benefiting from a Diverse Workforce', WMSMP, Refugee Council, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, 9:30am – 1:00pm, Friday 20th November with lunch included. Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham, B15 3DH.**

As part of the West Midlands Diversity Week (16th-20th November), WMSMP, the Refugee Council and Birmingham Chamber of Commerce are holding this FREE event funded by West Midlands Employers Coalition and Advantage West Midlands. It is principally for employers and aims to give participants a better understanding of the rights refugees and migrants have to work. It also will build understanding of regulations concerning the migrant workers, along with the barriers to work migrants and refugees can face. In addition, the benefits of having a diverse workforce, including the high levels of skills migrants can offer, will be showcased. For any further information, contact Clare Daley at the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership on 0121 678 1078 or c.daley@wmleadersboard.gov.uk. To book your place, please email David Hingley on d.hingley@wmleadersboard.gov.uk
- ❖ **Children of Darfur: Silent Witnesses to Genocide, Drinks reception, 6.30pm – 8.30pm, Wednesday 25th November. Louise Blouin Foundation, 3 Olaf Street, London W11 4BE**

This event marks the opening of a unique exhibition of children's drawings depicting their experiences during the six year conflict in Darfur, western Sudan. These graphic yet innocent pictures were collected from Darfuri children living in refugee camps in Chad by an Article 1 researcher in July 2007. They were subsequently accepted by the International Criminal Court as contextual evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity. These important historic documents have been exhibited worldwide to draw attention to the horrifying situation in Darfur and Chad. Now, they have come to London for a limited period. Please RSVP to Olivia.warham@article1.org or 020 7243 0300.
- ❖ **Migrant Workers' Rights Conference, Govanhill Law Centre, Langside Halls, 1 Langside Avenue, Glasgow, G41 2RQ, Friday 27th November 2009, 10am-4pm**

This major new conference from Govanhill Law Centre is aimed at advisors and practitioners advising A8 and A2 migrant workers in Scotland. It hopes to provide delegates with an understanding of the rights of A8 and A2 nationals. During participatory workshops, experienced practitioners will share tips and suggestions to help attendees to enforce their clients' rights in the fields of housing, employment, welfare rights and education. Keynote Speaker: Ian Japp, Gangmaster Licensing Authority, Head of Enforcement for Scotland. Practical Workshops on Housing, Employment, Benefits and Education. Plenary Session- speakers include representatives from OXFAM, Positive Action in Housing, GMB Union and Crossroads. Cost: Statutory agencies £80; Voluntary organisations £40 (lunch provided). To book your place or for more information, please email admin@govanhilllc.com or telephone 0141 4332665. For further details visit: www.govanhilllc.com.

- ❖ **Stephen Lawrence – 10 years after. A TUC conference on tackling racism in the workplace. Monday 30th November 2009 10.00am – 5.00pm, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS**

This year marked ten years since the publication of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report. The report was a watershed in UK race relations as it encouraged organisations to tackle institutional racism. This conference will look at the way that the report has impacted on public policy and campaigning on tackling racism in the workplace over the last ten years and examine the lesson for the future. Speakers include Doreen Lawrence, Frances O'Grady Deputy General Secretary, TUC, Dr Rob Berkeley – Director, The Runnymede Trust, Pragna Patel – Chair of Southall Black Sisters, Liz Fekete – Institute of Race Relations. Please contact wsullivan@tuc.org.uk for further information or a registration form.

- ❖ **Wales Equality & Diversity in Health & Social Care, North Wales Conference, Engagement, Inclusion, Equity: Tackling Race Equality for 21st Century Conference, 1st December 2009 Optic Technium, St Asaph Business Park, Denbighshire, North Wales. www.nwren.org/Conf-E.htm**

Wales Equality & Diversity in Health & Social Care (WEDHS) is a research and support group that forms part of Clinical Research Collaboration Cymru (CRC Cymru). It aims to deliver, support and encourage high quality research in Wales around the health and social care needs of black and ethnic minorities. The current portfolio of WEDHS projects is nearing completion and the conference is an opportunity to showcase the work of NWREN, the WEDHS north Wales hub, disseminate the key messages that have emerged from research and bring interested parties together to share research ideas and good practice.

The conference is aimed at health & social care practitioners, policy makers, equality managers, academics, researchers, those working in the area of patient, user, public and community engagement as well as individuals interested in ethnic minority health and social care issues. Conference themes will include Engagement, Inclusion & Equity Race equality in rural areas, Healthcare needs of undocumented migrants, developing effective engagement with minority ethnic households, supporting professionals working with cultural diversity. Confirmed speakers include Dr Philomena de Lima, Professor Robert Moore, Professor Charlotte Williams OBE. For info visit: www.nwren.org/Conf-E.htm

- ❖ **Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) Worker Representative Liaison Group meeting, 11am Wednesday 2nd December 2009. Wychavon District Council, Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT (in the Conservatory).**

Lunch to be provided. If you are interested in attending or for further information, please contact the GLA at: Telephone: 0115 900 8962, Mobile: 07825 797 130, Email: communications@gla.gsi.gov.uk.

- ❖ **Migration, Refugee and Asylum Networking Event: University of Glasgow, 4th December 10.00-16.00, venue Glasgow University, Room tbc.**

The University of Glasgow is hosting a 1 day workshop. The purpose of this workshop is threefold: to invite in to the University those agencies and organisations who work on migration, refugee and asylum issues at policy and provider level in Glasgow and from across Scotland; to bring together researchers from across the university who have/ are/ plan to work on issues relating in any way to Migration, Refugees or Asylum; to establish common concerns and areas for future collaboration as well as to consider pressing issues, exchange of good practice and stories of successful partnerships. The format of the event will be open and designed to create opportunities for exchange of knowledge and input from all participants. The event will be used to establish areas of possible future collaboration, exchange and funding partnerships in this field. One of the

planned outputs of the event will be the creation of a network for collaboration and a Research Partnership Database as a resource for organisations, policy makers and researchers. If you are interested in taking part in this event or if you have queries or suggestions please contact Taulant Guma (Taulant.guma@googlemail.com) by Friday 13th November.

❖ **Launch of *Sinking and Swimming: Understanding unmet needs in modern Britain*, Monday 7th December 9.00am - 12pm, Riverside Room, Institution of Engineering and Technology, 2 Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL.**

On 7 December the Young Foundation will launch a new study that has been backed by a consortium of the UK's leading foundations and social scientists with the aim of mapping Britain's current and future needs. The event will share the findings of this two year research programme which has sought to reach underneath official statistics, using innovative research methods to explore how Britain's unmet and emerging needs can be understood and met. The event will feature input from foundations and experts as well as politicians (Liam Byrne, Vincent Cable and Oliver. If you wish to attend, please e-mail to director@youngfoundation.org by Friday 27 November.

❖ **ISET Other Europes Colloquium, Friday 29th January 2010, Graduate Centre, London Metropolitan University, 166-220 Holloway Road London N7 8DB, European Futures? Migration, Cohesion, Recession**

The second ISET Other Europes Colloquium focuses on current concerns about the impact of the global financial crisis on the policies and the politics of migration. ISET's Other Europes Colloquia are distinguished by their focus on innovative ways to appraise, critique and engage with counter-hegemonic processes and agents of transformation. This Colloquium will offer an occasion for innovative thinking on the interplay between the unfolding financial and economic crisis, social cohesion across Europe, and existing policies and geopolitics of migration. Discussion of the most suitable methodological and thematic approaches to address these issues will be included. There will be two plenary sessions and two panel discussions. Confirmed Plenary speakers: Steve Vertovec Director, Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen Linda McDowell Professor of Human Geography, University of Oxford Bridget Anderson Senior Researcher, Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) University of Oxford Mary Hickman, Director, Institute for the Study of European Transformations (ISET) London Metropolitan University 10am to 6pm, followed by a wine reception. Early bird registration: £35 waged/£15 concessionary (£40/£20 on the day) To register and for further information, please contact ISET at: www.londonmet.ac.uk/research-units/iset/index.cfm.

❖ **JOURNEYS AND JUSTICE: Forced migration, seeking asylum, and human rights. A conference at the University of Leeds, UK, Friday 29th January 2010**

This conference will examine the journeys of forced migrants. It will explore these journeys through the lenses of justice and human rights. A key part of the conference will be to debate better solutions to the problems of injustice and human rights denial that so often taint the journeys of forced migrants. Its focus is mainly on the UK, but contributions from elsewhere are welcome.

(8) Other Announcements

❖ London Borough of Wandsworth seeks migrant interviewees for new housing study.

www.communities.gov.uk/communities/racecohesionfaith/asylumandimmigration/migrationimpactfund/

Wandsworth Council Environmental Health (Private Housing Sector) department are conducting an action study on the housing experiences of legal migrants that find accommodation in the private housing sector. They have been funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to run this study until May 2011. The aim is to achieve a portfolio of local evidence in order to inform the council about the current picture of migrants housing experience in the borough. The scope is to be all legal migrants and not just those from A8/10 countries. However, in terms of housing need it is more likely that it will need to focus more on those for whom English isn't their first language. Wandsworth wish to know: What is the likely number of migrant households living in the borough and what is the approximate breakdown of nationality? How does that compare with any published figures for other London Boroughs? Are the council able to assess whether they are more likely to live in non-decent housing than non-migrants? Are they choosing to occupy housing at the bottom of the market? even though they can afford better? What level of awareness of their housing rights do they have? Being Environmental Health Practitioners authorised to enforce the Housing Act and other public health legislation they aim to use the report to improve the conditions of housing being experienced by migrants in this borough.

Wandsworth are interested in hearing from other Local, Regional and National Authorities, Civil Service, NGO's, Universities, research establishments, charitable organisations and anyone else with an interest in this area that may be able to help them in some way. If you are interested, please contact Timothy Bage, Project Officer, London Borough of Wandsworth: TBage@wandsworth.gov.uk.

❖ Radio 1812 is back for International Migrants Day 2009

December 18, the international resource centre on the rights of migrant workers announces the launch of the 4th edition of its worldwide radio marathon project "Radio 1812" which takes place annually on and around the 18th of December: International Migrants Day. This is the day when events are organized around the world to address migration-related issues. It is also an occasion to promote the ratification and implementation of the UN Migrant Workers Convention.

Last year, 175 radio stations from 48 countries participated in the Radio 1812 event. They were encouraged to explore the questions, polemics, and wider issues facing millions of migrant workers everyday. In order to mark this special day, participants produce, broadcast and share programs with a focus on migration, showing migrants in our own communities that they are not alone, and to raise public awareness with regard to migrant issues. Radio 1812 brings together participants from all continents: national-level radio stations, international broadcasters as well as community-based initiatives and civil society organizations (migrant groups, solidarity groups, trade unions, churches, etc). In Brussels, the December 18 team will gather the audio material as it is broadcast or made available by the participating radio stations and put it on our Radio 1812 website where visitors will be able to listen to a special play list and download the programmes for re-broadcasting. To find out more visit the website at www.radio1812.net, where you can also upload your current new audio material on migration issues. Or email at radio1812@december18.net.

❖ **Vacancy: Office and Financial Manager, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Brussels.**

PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, is a leading European non-governmental organization that aims to promote respect for the human rights of undocumented migrants within Europe, including the right to health care, housing, education and fair working conditions. PICUM currently has a vacancy for a full-time Office and Financial Manager. A job description and detailed task list are available on the PICUM website at www.picum.org/data/PICUM%20Office%20and%20Financial%20Manager%202009.pdf and www.picum.org/data/Task%20List%20-%20PICUM%20Office%20and%20Financial%20Manager%202009.pdf.

❖ **Vacancy - Research Officer, EUMAGINE Project (Ref: VG-09-017), International Migration Institute James Martin 21st Century School, Grade 7: Salary £28,839-£35,469**

The International Migration Institute (IMI) is seeking to appoint a research officer to work on a major collaborative research project "Imagining Europe from the outside" (EUMAGINE) funded by EU's Seventh Framework (FP7) programme involving 7 different research partners across Europe and Africa. The successful candidate will play a central role in qualitative and quantitative fieldwork in Morocco, prepare project reports and working papers and scientific articles, and will play a coordinating role in the project-wide design and implementation of surveys including sampling as well as the compilation and analysis of survey datasets. Qualifications include a doctorate in a relevant social science discipline with strong experience with fieldwork, and in particular the design and implementation of surveys, sampling, strong statistical skills, excellent communication and writing skills and good knowledge of French. Based in Oxford, the post requires limited fieldwork travel to Morocco and other project countries. This full-time post is for three years, to start in February 2010.

Further particulars may be obtained from the link below and from the Administrator, Queen Elizabeth House, 3 Mansfield Road, Oxford, OX1 3TB (tel: 01865 281805, email: recruitment@qeh.ox.ac.uk) Applications must quote reference no.VG-09-017 and enclose a completed cover sheet (available via the link below), a letter addressing the selection criteria, a curriculum vitae, and the names of two referees. The closing date for applications is noon on Friday 20th November 2009.