

Migrants Rights News ~ October 2009

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Welcome to the October 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) 'Points test for citizenship' proposal stirs up the voluntary sector

Mounting opposition to 'points test' for citizenship

Opposition to the government's proposed 'points test' for citizenship has been mounting this month among many groups working in support of migrants. A Home Office consultation on this policy has been underway since August, but many within civil society feel that their voices are not yet being listened to.

The policy briefing and consultation papers outlining a 'points test' for citizenship were released by the Home Office in early August this year. A further 'points test for citizenship' – which would build on the 'earned citizenship' architecture laid in Parliament earlier this year – would make settlement in the UK more expensive and insecure for everyone wishing to settle or naturalise in the UK after July 2011. These proposals have been outlined by MRN in a short briefing paper

(www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/briefingpapers/MRN_earned_citizenship_briefing.pdf). The MRN response to the consultation lays out our substantial concerns about the prospect of a further hurdle within the naturalisation process.

(www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/policy_reports/MRN_earned_citizenship_consultation.pdf).

Many voluntary sector groups, trade unions and migrant community organisations were hoping to have the opportunity to debate these measures in full and to voice their concerns about the implications for people's lives and wider society. Although a series of UKBA 'stakeholder' meetings has been underway during the autumn – one in each of the UK regions – only minimal participation was invited from the voluntary sector. Rather, groups have been holding their own meetings within communities to discuss their implications and how best to respond in opposition to the proposals. Substantial community meetings have been organised within the Filipino and Chinese communities in London. Groups within some of the major UK trade unions advocating the rights of migrant workers, such as domestic workers, have been informing their members about the impact of 'earned citizenship'. A shortage of time and resources can make it difficult for local organisations to take part in official consultations. But their concerns about the implications of introducing further hurdles within the settlement/naturalisation process will be a critical perspective for the government to consider.

The message from all this for policy-makers is that, despite the difficulties for many of engaging with the consultation process, there are real fears about these proposals among the communities they will most impact upon, and those working in support of them. We anticipate that, over the coming months, an increasingly coordinated and concerted lobby will emerge to debate the impact of political proposals regarding immigration and citizenship on human lives.

If you wish to take part in the government consultation, please visit: www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/managingmigration/earned-citizenship/points-test-citizenship/

Earned citizenship will not apply to those with ILR

The 'earned citizenship' system is due to be brought into force in July 2011 – but many migrants in the UK who don't have British citizenship have been worried about how the changeover to the new system might affect them.

In September, the UKBA finally announced the 'transitional arrangements' that will be in place for non-British citizens already in the UK in July 2011. The main piece of news is that those people who have applied for or been granted indefinite leave to remain (or 'settlement') in the UK at the point when the new measures come into force will be allowed to apply under the current rules for two years after July 2011.

The key transitional concessions are:

- Those people with indefinite leave to remain (ILR) at the point when the new 'earned citizenship' system come into force will automatically move to 'permanent residence', with no payment or application required. They can then apply to be a British citizen under the current rules for two years after July 2011.

- Those people who have applied for ILR before the introduction of the new system, who are then granted ILR, will be able to apply to be a British citizen under the current rules for two years after July 2011.
- Those people who entered the UK under the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) will be able to pursue their 'legitimate expectations' of ILR, according to the established government obligations.

Unfortunately this means that all other non-British citizens present in the UK who do not have ILR or British citizenship by July 2011 will be treated under the 'earned citizenship' system, regardless of how many years they may have lived and worked here on a temporary residence basis.

For the full details of the transitional arrangements, read the UKBA press release at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/september/transitional-arrangements-earned

(2) *Immigration & the recession: MRN debates at the political party conferences*

Discussion about immigration was rather muted at the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conferences this year. In the cases of the three major parties the mood seemed to be one of caution in dealing with this issue, avoiding the danger that, months before a general election, ill-considered words might provoke a controversy that leads to the branding of having extreme views. Nevertheless, on the fringes at least, brave efforts were made to foster the sort of 'grown-up' discussion the leaderships are supposed to be all in favour of. MRN spoke on the panel at three fringe meetings concerned with immigration policy in the context of the recession over the course of September and October, organised by Barrow Cadbury in collaboration with, variously, CentreForum and the Work Foundation.

At the **Liberal Democrat** gathering the useful work was done by Centre Forum, the 'liberal think-tank' which has taken a keen interest in the subject in recent years. Centre Forum attracted an audience of around 100 party activists to their fringe event. A panel of speakers made up of Keith Best, of the Immigration Advisory Service, Oxford researcher and migrant domestic worker campaigner Bridget Anderson, MRN director Don Flynn, and home affairs spokesperson Chris Huhne MP, placed the tone of the meeting decidedly on the side of supporters of migrant rights.

Huhne's speech was a thoughtful review of the current state of the immigration debate, during the course of which he made it clear that a Lib Dem government would take its obligations to support the rights of migrants seriously, though he provided little detail on what this might mean in practice. His criticisms of Labour's record were actually sharpest in relation to the policy on the 2004 accession and the decision to allow full free movement rights to A8 nationals. He implied that this would not have been his decision if he'd been home secretary at the time.

A week later, at the **Labour** party conference in Brighton, it was the turn of the Work Foundation to examine immigration policy. The bias of this think-tank is towards labour market issues, and their best known spokesperson, writer and journalist Will Hutton, set out the view that migration was an essential component in the running of a modern economy and the government's Points-Based System was proving successful in managing the movement of people tolerably well. This was welcomed by the immigration minister, Phil Woolas, who was in a mood that evening to mull over the difficulties of his office in response to the questioning of the panel chairperson, Channel 4 journalist Faisal Islam.

When the debate strayed into the issue of British Jobs for British Workers, Unite's assistant general secretary Jack Dromey agreed that the trade union movement faced significant challenges in dealing with immigration, and the popularity of the 'British Jobs for British

Workers' slogan at the Lindsey Oil Refinery dispute illustrated some of the problems it faced. Domestic worker and campaigner Marissa Begonia provided the meeting with a detailed account of what it is really like living a life within the confines of the UK system of immigration controls. A truly grown-up discussion would start with the story she had to tell, and not regard it as peripheral.

The fringe event at the **Conservative** conference, again organised by the Work Foundation, brought together Will Hutton as chair, David Coats of the Work Foundation, Richard Lambert from the Confederation of British Industry, shadow Immigration Minister Damien Green and Ruth Grove-White from the Migrants' Rights Network. The debate was broad-ranging and for the most part measured. Despite the different perspectives across the panel, there was broad consensus that, particularly within the context of a recession and the run-up to a general election, the political message about immigration must remain balanced and fair, with politicians avoiding playing the 'race card'.

As was later reported on the BBC website, Damien Green laid out Conservative party intentions if they form the next government. He indicated that the Points-Based System would stay, but quotas would be added to ultimately limit the numbers of economic migrants able to enter the UK. The Conservatives would seek to attract highly skilled migrants to the UK, whilst remaining tough on low-skilled and irregular migration. Damien Green expressed scepticism about the current 'earned citizenship' measures, although stated that the Conservative party supported the principles behind the new system. He raised particular objections to the introduction of incentivised community volunteering which might put an unreasonable burden on the voluntary sector.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8293812.stm

(3) Global Forum on Migration to meet in Athens – 2nd – 4th November

The third session of the **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)** will convene in Athens from the 2nd to the 4th November. Following on from previous events in Brussels, in 2007, and Manila, 2008, the Forum continues as a place for discussion of the inter-relationships between migration and development.

The Forum is structured into two sets of 'days' – **Civil Society Days**, which meet on the 2nd and 3rd November and **Government Days**, which meet on 3rd and 4th. This approach represents a cautious approach to the task of building dialogue between state officials and civil society. The plan is that both components will work through the same agenda during their separate discussions, with the overlapping day – the 3rd – providing some opportunity for interaction and exchange of viewpoints.

The theme for the Athens event, set by the Government side, is the need for policies aimed at **“accommodating migration through developmental actions and thinking, because migration is a consequence – not the cause – of the lack of development.”** The discussion will be organised around three roundtables, with the headings:

1. How to make the migration – development nexus work for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
2. Migrant integration, reintegration and circulation for development further discussion;
3. Policy and Institutional Coherence and Partnerships.

These issues reflect the increasing interest on the part of many receiving country governments to promote short-term migration in place of opportunities for settlement. This has been justified by the argument that the rapid circulation of migrants aids development. The recent European Migration Pact, adopted at the Vichy Council under the French Presidency of the EU in November 2008, is an example of this type of approach to immigration policy. In the UK, the government's assertion that it has broken the automatic

link between migration and settlement, which is at the heart of the Points-Based System, is also justified on the grounds that it will aid development.

Discussion at the Civil Society Days (CSD) will provide an opportunity to unpick many of the assumptions which underpin this type of thinking. Bringing together representatives of 350 associations from across the world, the CSD will seek to review the latest evidence on the Forum themes and to offer up more challenging perspectives on the link between migration and development.

In addition to the official activities being promoted by the Forum, the **People's Global Action (PGA)** initiative, which has emerged from parallel events involving migrant rights groups, trade unions and faith community networks, will continue the tradition established during the Brussels and Manila GFMDs, or organising parallel events to maximise opportunities for grassroots involvement in discussions.

The PGA events will run from 1st to the 5th November and will be held at the Technopolis in the Gazi district of Athens. Participation is free and the involvement of all organisations working in solidarity with migrants is welcomed.

The PGA's parallel events has emerged as one of the few opportunities for migrant-led discussion about immigration policy, involving grassroots activists from all the world's leading centres of migration. Run on an open, democratic basis, the PGA provides opportunities for groups to network, hold workshops and discussions, exhibit their projects, and generally build momentum for a global movement for the rights of migrants.

- News about the official GFMD events can be viewed at: www.gfmdathens2009.org/index.php?id=9&L=0
- For more news about Peoples' Global Action, including registration for the parallel event, visit: www.mfasia.org/peoplesglobalaction/index.html

(4) European researcher to present findings on irregular migration to the European Commission at Brussels conference in November

A special conference has been convened to take place in Brussels on Friday 13th November on the subject of irregular migration in Europe.

Drawing on the work of two research projects – CLANDESTINO and the Undocumented Worker Transition Project, the event will consider findings and the way in which they challenge existing European policy in this area. As well as contributions from the research teams, representatives of the European Commission's Research and Justice, Freedom and Security, and Employment directorate- generals will give their responses to the work which has emerged from these two year programmes of research across more than 15 EU countries.

Participation in the conference is free and open to all. The programme for the conference is in the events section of this bulletin. For further information about attending, contact info@migrantsrights.org.uk.

(5) UK Tier 4 (foreign students) causes headaches at beginning of academic year

Since the implementation of the new Points Based System (PBS) Tier 4 category for foreign students applying to come to the UK in March this year, colleges and universities have been waiting anxiously until the beginning of the 2009/2010 academic year to see what the real impact of the measures on student enrollment and intake will be.

Complaints from a number of universities indicate that the new system has been causing substantial headaches for administrators, students and academics alike. And the result? It seems that many higher education courses will begin this month with under-sized classes whilst would-be foreign students are stuck in their home countries, caught in a costly and inconvenient process. Official data has still not been released by the Home Office on the levels of student visas granted during the summer of 2009. But the UK Council for International Student Affairs (www.ukcisa.org.uk) has indicated that registrations for pre-university English courses by international students have been down by 10-20% on last year. The Guardian newspaper recently reported that a huge backlog of student applications (estimated at 14,000) from Pakistan will not be resolved in time for this academic year. (www.guardian.co.uk/global/2009/oct/14/overseas-students-fees-visas). All in all, the issues seem fairly serious.

So what is causing these problems? Implementation of Tier 4 of the PBS for students has introduced substantial changes for foreign nationals from outside the European Economic Area applying for university places. Higher education institutions must be registered as 'licensed sponsors' with the UKBA before they can accept applications from non-EEA students. Registration of sponsors got off to a slow start in 2009 as universities and colleges were reportedly reluctant to leap into the new system.

For people applying to study in the UK, the difficulties involved in meeting application requirements have caused huge problems thus far. In particular, the 'maintenance fee' requirement requires students to prove that they, or a guardian, hold enough money in their bank account to cover the costs of course fees and living costs for up to 9 months in the UK – in some cases this could be as much as £25,000. The cash must be in their account for a full 28-day period during the month before the application is made. Failure to meet this requirement is understandably listed by the UKBA itself as a 'key reason' why many student applications are failing (www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2009/september/new-t4-support).

These problems are also affecting those foreign students already in the UK who are applying for extensions of their study leave and are wrestling with the new system – as reported at Edinburgh University this month (www.studentnewspaper.org/news/528-foreign-students-struggle-with-uk-visa-regulations).

Over the course of the next few months, when adequate data on the impacts of Tier 4 can be examined, there will be a growing need for an independent review of the system and its roll-out in the higher education sector. This would enable an evaluation of the bureaucratic implications of the scheme, in addition to the wider issues arising for individual students and university staff.

(6) Moves to regularise undocumented migrants across Europe

The presence of undocumented (or 'irregular') migrants presents national governments with thorny questions about how to respond – the UK government has remained firmly against an en masse regularisation of the estimated 725,000 people (including children born here) without legal immigration status in the UK. But the continued roll-out of time-limited regularisation schemes elsewhere in Europe over the summer and autumn of 2009 shows the continued relevance of regularization initiatives as a way of resolving the status of thousands of people.

Belgium

The July announcement by the Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy that the Belgian government would be launching a time-limited regularization initiative was a relief to

those who have been involved in negotiating this controversial policy over the past year (www.euractiv.com/en/socialeurope/belgium-legalise-25000-immigrants/article-184257).

The scheme, which will run from mid-September until mid-December, is open to applications from:

- undocumented migrants who have lived in Belgium for a minimum of five years
- undocumented migrants who have worked in Belgium for a minimum of two and a half years
- those who have been in the asylum system for an 'unreasonable' time period

Proof of circumstances will be required in all cases, and applicants will be more favourably considered if they can demonstrate signs of 'integration' such as language skills, employment status, social ties or having children at school. Despite the short-timeframe for this measure, it's been estimated by the Belgian government that 25,000 people will benefit.

Ireland

In September this year, the Irish government launched the 'undocumented non-EEA workers scheme', a limited administrative scheme aimed at a specific group within the 30,000 undocumented migrants currently estimated to live in the Irish Republic (www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Undocumented_Workers_Scheme_HP). The scheme is aimed at giving people who are currently irregularly resident a chance to gain legal employment. As a result, only those people who were previously legally resident in Ireland with an employment permit or green card, who have since become undocumented through no fault of their own (in other words, as a result of employer action or inaction) are eligible to apply. It is down to the applicants to present information to the Minister that could make their case – including how their status became irregular, how long they were living in Ireland irregularly and their prospects of getting legal employment if regularised.

Successful applicants will be issued with a four-month 'bridging visa' within which they should find legal employment and regularize their status. The scheme is time-limited, running from October until the end of 2009 and is likely to affect thousands of undocumented migrants. Although welcomed by the Migrants Rights Centre in Ireland (MRCI) and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), the scheme is a long way from being the long-term solution many would like to see. MRCI, for example, has been campaigning for a *permanent* 'bridging visa' to be introduced within the Irish immigration rules, rather than a temporary stop-gap. www.mrci.ie/policy_work/IrregMigrant_UndocuMigrant.htm.

Italy

In contrast to the aggressive publicity campaign aimed at irregular migrants in Italy, a recent, extremely limited regularisation initiative for the approximately 600,000 migrant domestic workers and carers in Italy was open for applications during September. It required workers to apply in conjunction with their domestic employers, and was open to a maximum of two carers and one domestic worker per family. Workers were only required to have been working for the family since the beginning of April 2009. www.comune.torino.it/en/employment/emergence-from-illegal-an.shtml. Media coverage indicates that almost 300,000 people applied under the scheme last month.

(7) Swedish Presidency announces 5 year programme on immigration policy

The Swedish Presidency of the EU announced its plans for the next stage of European immigration policy on 16th October. The 'Stockholm Programme' follows its predecessors, the Tampere and Hague programmes, which began in 1999 and 2004 respectively. Under these earlier stages the EU member states have agreed directives which form the basis of the Common European Asylum System, and the very earliest stages of agreement on the principles of managed economic migration.

The Swedish immigration minister, Tobias Billstrom, set out the principles which will guide the Stockholm Programme: *"In the Programme we want to highlight that well-managed migration can be positive for all actors, the Member States and the EU as a whole, as well as for the country of origin and the individual migrant. This should be an integral part of the further development of a common immigration policy. We also want to establish a common European asylum system that focuses on efficiency, the rule of law and predictability."*

Proposals for the Programme will be presented to the European Council Justice and Home Affairs Council on 30th November – 1st December. The Swedish Presidency has indicated that it will be heavily influenced by security considerations, with greater police cooperation being a priority. It also wants to push forward EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights, ensuring that all future policy and legislation fully accords with all of its provisions.

On specifically immigration issues, the Programme is expected to emphasise the importance of cooperation between EU governments and the national authorities in the migration sending states. This will include proposals to open new channels permitting labour migration, but also requiring stronger action against irregular movements of people. Also on the immediate horizon of EU policy is the launch of the 'Lisbon II' programme, which provides the framework for economic reform across the Union. The new raft of measures is expected to build a stronger role for the management of migration, as a component of the drive towards creating a high skill, knowledge-based single European economy.

(8) Reports and Research

❖ **Clandestino conference – Report of an International Workshop organized by PICUM, Migrants Rights Network and COMPAS on Understanding Irregular Migration in Northern Europe. August 2009**

www.picum.org/?pid=263

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), in cooperation with the ESRC Centre on Migration Policy and Society (COMPAS) and Migrants Rights Network (MRN) held a workshop on 27 March 2009 in London, UK, entitled "Understanding Irregular Migration in Northern Europe." The workshop was part of the EU funded CLANDESTINO project – "Undocumented Migration: Counting the Uncountable. Data and Trends across Europe" and brought together nearly 150 participants including representatives of NGOs and trade unions, researchers, local authorities, policy makers, journalists, and other professionals to discuss policies and responses to irregular migration in the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria. This report provides an overview of the contributions of the speakers as well as the main themes of discussion in the plenary and workshop sessions.

❖ **No Home from Home, Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, September 2009**

[www.nihrc.org/dms/data/NIHRC/attachments/dd/files/71/No_Home_from_Home_\(September_2009\).pdf](http://www.nihrc.org/dms/data/NIHRC/attachments/dd/files/71/No_Home_from_Home_(September_2009).pdf)

This report is an unsettling exposure of the way in which the immigration system can create homelessness and destitution in Northern Ireland. It finds that restrictions in current immigration legislation often prevent access to even the most basic levels of support from government agencies. In addition to interviews with government agency staff and input from the voluntary sector, 'No Home from Home' includes personal accounts from homeless individuals. Those who took part in the investigation explained how they had become homeless and their experiences included domestic violence, ill-health and racial intimidation. In many instances, they did not have access to the basic means of shelter or subsistence. The main recommendation from the report is that government should ensure that, regardless of nationality or immigration status, no one is allowed to fall into destitution.

❖ **Mobile solidarities: The City of Sanctuary movement and the Strangers into Citizens campaign, Findings of the Open University's Pavis Research Project, July 2009 Report written by Dr Vicki Squire**

www.open.ac.uk/ccig/news/mobile-solidarities-the-city-of-sanctuary-movement-and-the-strangers-into-citizens-campaign#attachments

Political and social concerns regarding the negative impact of migrants and asylum seekers on local communities have become widespread within the UK over recent years. What is often overlooked in such debates, however, is the growing significance of movements such as those associated with the City of Sanctuary network and the Strangers into Citizens campaign, which both grow out of and also contribute to the construction of solidaristic relations between migrants, refugees and more established local residents. This report, which summarises the findings of a project into such movements led by Dr Vicki Squire at the Open University, suggests that migrants and refugees do not necessarily encounter hostility from 'host' communities, nor do they necessarily form discrete groups that need to be integrated within the wider community. Rather, migrants and refugees often engage with more established residents within localised city spaces in terms that render problematic distinctions between citizens/noncitizens; between cultural, ethnic or national groups; and between different migrant categories. The mobile solidarities associated with such movements thus challenge assumptions regarding the hostility of 'host' communities, as well as assumptions regarding the 'natural' division of community groups - assumptions on which contemporary integration and cohesion policies are founded.

❖ **Transatlantic Trends**

www.transatlantictrends.org/trends/doc/TTI_2008_Final.pdf

This report on British attitudes on immigration topics draws evidence from the 2008 Transatlantic Trends: Immigration (TTI) survey. The survey is a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Barrow Cadbury Trust, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Compagnia di San Paolo, and the Fondation BBVA. Some of the key findings of this report, which focuses specifically on the UK are:

- ❖ Brits are more worried about immigration than Americans and other Europeans
- ❖ People are much more worried about illegal than legal migration
- ❖ Older people are more worried about immigration than are younger people
- ❖ A majority of British people think that there are too many migrants in the UK
- ❖ People who have contact with immigrants are more positive about immigration

The first public opinion data for the TTI survey, on which this report was based, were collected just before the financial crisis began in earnest in late September 2008. The second edition of Transatlantic Trends: Immigration will be released in December 2009 and will again examine attitudes in the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, with the addition of Spain and Canada.

❖ **Migration and the Global Recession, Migration Policy Institute, September 2009**

www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MPI-BBCreport-Sept09.pdf

The global financial crisis that began in September 2008 can be viewed as having a deeper and more global effect on the movement of people around the world than any other economic downturn in the post-World War II era of migration, finds a new MPI report commissioned by the BBC World Service. The report explores how the recession has affected the movement of some of the world's more than 195 million migrants and their remittances in locations around the globe. It provides data on migration, remittances, employment, and poverty rates for immigrants and the native-born alike; and examines the policy changes some countries have enacted to suppress migrant inflows, encourage departures (including through recent "pay-to-go" plans), and protect labor markets for native-born workers. In terms of the UK, it finds that about half of the 1.4m Eastern Europeans who traveled to the UK for work since are likely to have returned home by the end of 2008, as a result of the recession. This is part of a wider cyclical shape to the migration patterns from Eastern Europe to the UK.

(9) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- ❖ **3rd Central and Eastern European Forum (CEEFF), 7pm – 9pm, Monday 19th October. Thamesreach Greenhouse Walk-in, 19 Tudor Road, London E9 7SN**

The Forum aims to promote contacts among CEE Nationals and the Agencies who work with them. It seeks to encourage good practise and shared knowledge amongst its members. Please feel free to bring along printed material that promotes your service. Places are restricted to 2 persons per organisation. Please confirm your attendance by email. For telephone queries please call 07967312207.
- ❖ **Free BME Advocacy Seminar, Supported Voices Project. 9.30 until 4.30pm 22nd October, The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London**

The seminar, a partnership event by Advocacy Resource Exchange, Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and Afiya Trust will explore BME advocacy issues reflecting on the 3 year Supported Voices project and the work of partner organisations involved in the event. Featuring action learning workshops and presentations from EHRC, the Afiya Trust, the Advocacy Resource Exchange Supported Voices project, Galup, BME Health Forum/MRCF Good Practices for Access and Wellbeing programme, National Mental Health Development Unit Community Development stream and the Delivering Race Equality Dashboard. Supported Voices is an ARX free training programme designed to strengthen BME advocacy across London through action learning and the development of good practice for BME advocates. To book a place, complete the attached registration form and return by email to andrea.dixon@advocacyresource.org.uk.
- ❖ **Anthony Walker Memorial Lecture, National Union of Teachers in partnership with the Anthony Walker Foundation. To be delivered by Mrs Gee Walker. Friday 23rd October, 5 – 8pm, International Slavery Museum, Dock Traffic Office, Albert Dock, Liverpool, LL3 4AX**

Anthony Walker was a Black British A-level student from Huyton, Merseyside, a churchgoer and a keen basketball player. He was brutally murdered in a racially motivated attack on 30 July 2005, near McGoldrick Park in Huyton. The crime shocked Anthony's community, as well as the people of Liverpool, and gained widespread national publicity. The perpetrators were brought to justice and received lengthy prison sentences. The NUT, in partnership with the Anthony Walker Foundation, instituted an annual memorial lecture in the name of Anthony Walker in 2007. To attend this year's lecture please contact Angela Halls by 2nd October, Education, Equality & Professional Development Department, National Union Of Teachers, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD, Tel: 020 7380 4762 Fax: 020 7387 8458, or Email: a.halls@nut.org.uk.
- ❖ **A Taste of Africa in Renfrewshire, Scotland. Saturday 24 October from 3pm – 7pm at the Christian Growth Centre, 31 Broomlands Street, Paisley.**

Renfrewshire residents can get "A Taste of Africa" as part of Black History Month. The event is being hosted by Karibu and West of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC) aims to bring together the African communities in Renfrewshire to celebrate their diverse cultural heritage and share it with others. The event is open to everyone and will showcase African culture, food and music. It will include an African marketplace with stalls of food, textiles and hair art. There will also be an African fashion show which will see local African residents modelling traditional African clothing and musical and dance performances. If you have any questions please contact Michael Wilson on 0141 337 6626 or email mwilson@wsrec.co.uk.
- ❖ **Festival of Learning, 'Understanding Community Cultures', 10am – 6pm Saturday 31st October 2009, GMB & UnionLearn/Union Learning Fund. Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Brook Green, London W6 7BL**

Information; Skill Training; Networking; Career Development; Advice for Migrant Workers. Guest Speakers: Megan Dobney SERTUC Regional Secretary Andy Slaughter MP Paul Hayes GMB London Regional Secretary

Workshops on:

- Education & Learning
- Workplace Safety
- Employment Rights
- BBC National 'My Story' Writing competition
- Food & Entertainment:
- International Cuisine
- Central & Eastern European Live Music
- Points test for citizenship

Transport: Lots of buses to Hammersmith Bus Station or tube to Hammersmith Broadway then a 5-minute walk. Please check <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/> before travelling for weekend closures. For further information or programme details contact Arthur Barrett 07960002061 / Raj Gill 07983977775 (raj.gill@gmb.org.uk).

❖ **TAKE ACTION - Abolish No Recourse to Public Funds Mass Lobby 4th November 2009! 10am – 3:45pm Wednesday 4 November 2009, Westminster, London**

Amnesty International UK is leading on a mass lobby of parliament that will bring hundreds of activists together to urge the UK government to protect all women from violence and abuse in the UK. A mass lobby is when a large group of people go to the House of Commons to raise the same concern with their MPs at the same time. As many people as possible, from different locations across the UK are needed to take part and to make an appointment with their MP for Wednesday 4 November between 12:45 – 3:45pm at the House of Commons – try to get an appointment as close to 12:45pm as possible. . A meeting for lobbyists will be held before the lobby at Westminster at 10am on 4 November – more details will be available soon. It's hoped that this groundswell of support will signal to MPs that this is a critical human rights issue facing women in this country. For more information on this event, including on how to contact your MP and how to make an appointment with them, visit: www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1378. If you think you will be taking part, email on norecourse@amnesty.org.uk.

❖ **Undocumented and irregular migration: policy developments, data and social implications. Centre Borschette, Brussels. 13th November 2009. Room 1D**

PROGRAMME:

9:30 Registration and welcome coffee. Chair: Giulia Amaducci, DG Research

10.00 Opening by Jean Michel Baer (Director, DG RTD)

10.30 Introduction by Anna Triandafyllidou, ELIAMEP – Project Coordinator of CLANDESTINO and Tessa Wright, London Metropolitan University-Project UWT, Undocumented Worker Transition.

11.00 **Statistics and pathways of irregular migration.**

Policy developments at EU level concerning irregular migration. Speaker: Diane Schmitt, DG JLS

Presentation on numbers of UDM in Europe: main research findings of CLANDESTINO and methods used to make sense of the estimates. Speaker: Dita Vogel, Hamburg Institute of International Economics, Germany

Paths into irregularity in Europe and discourses about UDM in member states (CLANDESTINO project). Speaker: Franck Duvell, Compas, UK.

12.00 Discussion and responses by stakeholders and civil society organizations Moderator: Ann Singleton, University of Bristol

13:00 Lunch

14:30 **Employment and social implications concerning irregular migration**

Migration status, immigration policy and employment outcomes (UWT project). Speaker: Tessa Wright, LMU, UK

Labour Migration: Policy challenges in the post-2010 Employment Strategy. Speaker: Constantinos Fotakis, DG EMPL

15:30 **Discussion and responses by stakeholders and civil society organizations.** Moderator: Don Flynn, Migrants Rights' Network and PICUM - Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants

16:15 Concluding remarks by Anna Triandafillidou, ELIAMEP, GR

❖ **Invisible Wounds – Dignity and Vulnerability. European Seminar. 18th – 20th November 2009, Athens, Greece. SMES Europa - www.smes-europa.org**

The SMES seminar will be an opportunity to share information with professionals and volunteers involved in this field around the theme of the right to dignity and health for all. Lecture themes will include: fundamental rights and opportunistic legislation; access to health for all as a right; access to employment; access to a home. Migrants are particularly invited in order to share their experiences and proposals. Abstracts for contributions are invited from potential participants, and an outline must be submitted by 15th September. For more information please visit:

http://www.smes-europa.org/info_schedule.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.

❖ **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.

The conference will examine the forces causing people to involuntarily leave their homes; explore the often traumatic and chaotic routes forced migrants take in their journeys; investigate forced migrants' arrival experiences; consider how forced migrants are treated and supported in the UK; evaluate how well forced migrants are integrated; delve into what, why and how forced migrants return to their home country; focus on practical solutions and their policy implications. Keynote speakers are Eleonore Kofman (Professor of Gender, Migration and Citizenship, Middlesex University), Hsiao-Hung Pai (author of 'Chinese Whispers: The True Story Behind Britain's Hidden Army of Labour'). The conference will culminate in a 6pm 'Question Time' panel (free to attend) chaired by broadcaster Jenni Murray, with well-known figures such as Jeremy Seabrook (author of 'The Refuge and the Fortress'), Eleonore Kofman and Mike Kaye (Still Human Still Here coalition & Amnesty). Papers and other types of contributions (e.g. poetry, photography, film, art) which reflect on the below key issues are invited. Please send your ideas (abstracts of no more than 250 words) to Louise Waite (email below) by October 30th 2009. For conference registration (£40 full cost, £20 reduced cost, + limited bursaries): please see registration form at www.geog.leeds.ac.uk/research/conferences/journeys-and-justice.html. Closing date for registration is December 1st 2009.

(10) Other Announcements

❖ **Vacancies Menter (East of England Black and Minority Ethnic Network):**

Regional Infrastructure Project Manager (RIPM)

Salary: £26,784 to £28,353, full time, Initial contract to April 2012

The Regional Infrastructure Project Manager will take responsibility for the development and delivery of a regional infrastructure project as delegated by the project steering group. The project is called Front Line Engagement through Regional Infrastructure [FERI] and is run for the East Region Infrastructure Network [ERIN], a consortium of around twenty two regional

third sector networks. Menter is looking for someone with a sound understanding of infrastructure needed at regional level, excellent project management skills and good knowledge of regional agencies and policies. The appointed postholder will be someone with excellent communication skills, ability to influence strategic engagement, good partnership development skills and sound organisational abilities. The post also requires someone with the ability to supervise project staff and the ability to submit good fundraising applications. For more information, email office@menter.org.uk.

Administrator (Finance and Office)

Salary: £19,427 to £21,306, full time. Permanent subject to funding

Menter is looking for an Administrator to provide financial and administrative support in the Cambridge head office. The successful applicant will ideally have a minimum of two years of financial and administrative experience, sound ICT / office management and organisational skills, experience of working with databases, filing systems. The appointed post holder should have sympathy for the issues that affect BME communities and the willingness to learn about these issues and about different cultures. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 30th September. For more information, email office@menter.org.uk.

❖ **HACT refugee housing volunteering and training project**

Are you interested in gaining a housing qualification? Are you interested in a career in housing? Would you like to gain new skills and improve your chances of finding a job? Hact is arranging volunteer work placements for 4-6 months in housing organisations in Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Leeds, London, Nottingham, Norfolk /East of England, Stoke-on-Trent and Greater Manchester. Successful participants will receive credits towards the nationally recognised Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Level 3 Award (you must be able to attend three 24 hour CIH training days).

Who can take part? Refugees with any of the following types of permission to stay in the UK: Refugee status, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave. Because of European funding rules, to qualify you must be a refugee and not yet a British Citizen

Applications: Applications open 2 October 2009 and close 2 November 2009.

Information sessions: Successful shortlisted applicants need to be available for the following dates: West Midlands 16 November 2009; Manchester 17 November 2009; Leeds 18 November 2009; London 19 November 2009; Norfolk/East of England 20 November 2009;

Interview dates: 23 November – 4 December 2009

Housing placements: The housing placements will start week beginning 11 January 2009

What to do next: Register your interest now, or for an informal discussion, please contact Devan Kanthasamy on 020 7458 1160 or email hact@hact.org.uk.