

Migrants Rights News ~ September 2009

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Welcome to the September 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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In this month's newsletter, find:

- (1) Speak out against further changes to citizenship!
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- (3) Setting the agenda for migrants' rights in Scotland
- (4) Further restrictions announced for skilled migrants coming to the UK
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(1) Speak out against further changes to citizenship!

In the August MRN bulletin we reviewed some of the latest proposals put out by the government - centring on a new 'points test for citizenship'. A government consultation on these changes is now running until 26th October. **This is an opportunity for many of us to tell the Home Office exactly what we think of the changes.**

The proposed changes

The new 'earned citizenship' system is due to come into force from July 2011. This will,

among other changes, add a new 'probationary citizenship' stage to the naturalisation process. The new system will effectively make becoming a British citizen longer and more difficult.

The government now wants to add to the 'earned citizenship' system, with a series of new proposals released in August 2009. Read the new proposals in full at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/managingmigration/earned-citizenship/points-test-citizenship/>. MRN has serious concerns about the government's latest proposals and the ethos behind them, in particular:

- **Bringing in a new 'points test' for those applying for British citizenship.** The new paper suggests bringing in an additional test for migrants, probably before they applied for probationary citizenship. This would mean that only those people who are able to clock up enough 'points' would be able to move towards citizenship. Under a points test migrants would gain extra points for showing they have particular qualities – likely to include high earning potential, special qualifications and high English language skills. On the other hand, migrants could also lose points for 'failure to integrate into British life'. Family members and refugees would pass the points test if they could show that they had a continuing family relationship or need for protection so the test would mainly affect economic migrants in the UK.

MRN is concerned that a points test would add to the already objectionable 'earned citizenship' framework, and that there would be no justification for these changes. The main outcome of a points test would be to disadvantage many migrants coming to the UK to live and work, who if they had applied under the current system could have reasonably expected to settle here.

- **Introducing additional English language and Life in the UK tests.** Migrants moving towards citizenship could be required to take **two** Life in the UK tests, at the beginning and the end of their probationary citizenship period. People taking the 'ESOL with Citizenship' test could also be required to take two tests. The current Life in the UK/ESOL with Citizenship tests have not yet been shown to have any beneficial effect on migrants' local integration or sense of belonging. MRN is concerned that introducing additional tests would add pressure to migrants without serving any wider purpose.
- **Introducing (compulsory, paid-for) local orientation days for migrants.** Although orientation days aimed at helping migrants to settle into local communities would be welcome, in this document the government envisages that they could be both compulsory and paid for by migrants. This would be completely unfair.

What can you do?

- **A government consultation** is underway at the moment—<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborders/managingmigration/earned-citizenship/points-test-citizenship/>. Anyone can take part in the consultation, either by filling in the form on the website above, or by writing a letter to the Home Office before the deadline of 26th October. The government needs to hear how these changes would affect people's lives, so **it is very important that as many people and organisations as possible respond to this consultation**. If you decide to hold a local meeting to discuss these proposals then do let us know.
- **Regional consultation events** – As part of the consultation on new changes to citizenship, regional consultation events are planned. They are not public meetings but if you have the chance to go to one, then don't pass up the opportunity to voice your opinions.

- **Contact your local MP** – None of these changes are certain to happen and your local MP could be a useful source of support in campaigning against them.

We will keep providing comment on the citizenship process, and on other developments in immigration and asylum policy, in the MRN news bulletin and on the MRN website and blog, accessible at: www.migrantsrights.org.uk.

(2) The Gangmasters Licensing Authority and migrant worker rights

How far does the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) protect migrant worker rights, and could it cover a wider number of employment sectors? A new report from Oxfam released in August 2009 reviews the work of the GLA, feeding into upcoming Parliamentary debates this autumn about extending the GLA remit.

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority was introduced in the context of a desperate need for better protection of workers' rights. Deregulation of the UK labour market in the 1980s had led to increased potential for employers, many of which were employment agencies/labour providers (or 'gangmasters') to exploit workers. The increase in bonded labour among foreign workers was an additional lever for their exploitation by employers. Public concern about this issue was raised after the death of 23 Chinese cockle pickers in Morecambe Bay, North-West England, in 2004. The Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004 was quickly passed and the GLA began working in 2005.

The GLA positioned itself firmly in support of workers, stating that its aim was to curb exploitation and to protect workers' interests. It was mandated to work only in specific sectors, all of which have a high proportion of migrant workers: forestry, agriculture, shellfish gathering, horticulture and food processing and packaging. It became a criminal offence for labour providers to operate without a GLA license. The GLA carries out inspections on agencies and can remove their licenses if they are in breach of the license conditions. Employers in breach may also risk a fine or imprisonment.

So has the GLA protected workers' rights since it was established? Independent assessments of the GLA by the Universities of Liverpool and Sheffield have pointed to its achievements in regulating labour providers within the 'agri-business' sector – both in terms of positive gangmaster compliance and in improving conditions for workers. The August 2009 Oxfam report 'Turning the Tide' also gives a relatively positive overview of the work of the GLA. It concludes that the GLA's licensing regime has 'substantially raised' the quality of employment practice within this sector.

But the work of the GLA is limited in that it only covers labour providers working in the 'agri-business' sectors. Labour providers in other areas well-known for systematic exploitation of workers can, and do, slip through the enforcement net. Although other regulators do cover them (Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate and other bodies such as the Minimum Wage Inspectorate and the Health and Safety Executive), many labour providers continue to abuse workers' rights - often migrant workers. In particular, the 'Turning the Tide' report recommends that the GLA remit be extended to the hospitality, care and construction sectors as soon as possible. Many campaigners and union representatives would ultimately like to see the GLA remit extended to cover all sectors of employment.

It is likely that we will see debate in Parliament about this issue during the autumn. As outlined in the July MRN news bulletin, Jim Sheridan MP has moved an amendment to the Gangmaster Licensing Act 2004, proposing that the GLA remit extend to cover the construction sector. Further campaigning by other NGOs such as Oxfam could help to

make the case for extending the work of the GLA to also cover the hospitality and care sectors.

(3) Setting the agenda for migrants' rights in Scotland

Scotland's urgent need for migrants is at odds with the restrictive immigration system currently rolling out across the UK. But the work of NGOs and trade unions shows that there is plenty more to be done in Scotland if it is to attract and keep newcomers.

Since Scottish devolution in 1998, powers to make immigration and nationality policies have remained firmly in the hands of the UK government. Although the Concordat between the Scottish Executive and the UK Home Office in 1999 sets the scene for cooperation over many related issues, immigration policy is largely dictated by Westminster.

The differences between the UK and Scottish approaches towards immigration were explored earlier this year in the *'Room For Manoeuvre'* report by Sarah Kyambi. Produced on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, this report looked at the ways in which these differences could be addressed. *'Room for Manoeuvre'* points out that the key emphasis of the UK migration policy is on filling labour market shortages whilst restricting pathways into settlement and citizenship. This is at odds with Scotland's immigration needs, which has a rapidly shrinking population and needs not only to attract migrants but to *keep them* – already a challenge for Scotland.

But in spite of its urgent need for migrants, Scotland's ability to develop its own immigration programmes is still limited. The Scottish 'Fresh Talent' initiative, which encourages foreign students to stay and work in Scotland after finishing their degree, has been widely publicised but it is the only current Scottish-specific work or study programme for foreign nationals. Westminster has also nodded in the direction of tailoring national policies to Scotland through some elements of the points-based system. The shortage occupation list under Tier 2 (Skilled Migrants with a job offer) of the UK's Points Based System for immigration, for example, is different for Scotland than for the rest of the UK. The UK government is also discussing how the proposed points system for citizenship could be tilted in favour of those migrants who agree to settle in Scotland. Whether these measures can really enable Scotland to attract the level of migration it wants is another matter.

As suggested by Kyambi's report, for the time-being Scotland will have to make itself more attractive to migrants in other ways. To do so it may need to answer some tough questions about the extent to which the needs and interests of migrant communities there can currently be met. Implementation in Scotland of other UK immigration policies, such as immigration enforcement and migrants' access to public services, makes it difficult for Scotland to stand out as more attractive to migrants than elsewhere in the UK. And despite the insistence of the Scottish government that all newcomers are welcome, accounts from migrant communities, backed up by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in Scotland, show that many migrants there face the same integration problems as elsewhere in the UK.

The work of some Scottish trade unions and the voluntary sector is crucial in putting the wider picture about migrants' rights in Scotland in front of regional policy-makers. The Scottish Trades Union Congress and UNISON have been actively involved in lobbying the Scottish government for the development of migrant-specific projects and services, including via involvement in the recent MAC consultation process. Those involved in the Scottish Migrants Network have also been active in raising awareness of how local authorities and service providers in Scotland can better support new arrivals, and in

drawing together community groups and activists around these issues.

Under these circumstances, making the Scottish context better tailored towards migrants will continue to be critical, both for migrant communities and for the Scottish authorities. And whilst the Scottish government may continue to kick this political football back and forth with Westminster, the growth of a concerted lobby for the rights of migrants could be well-placed to shape new strategies aimed at migrants coming to Scotland.

Read the 'Room for Manoeuvre' report at:

<http://edit.equalityhumanrights.com/Documents/Scotland/EHRC%20Migration%20Report%20Room%20for%20manoeuvre.pdf> .

(4) Further restrictions announced for skilled migrants coming to the UK

Skilled migrants hoping to work in the UK from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) will face further restrictions to working in the UK from 2010, following a Government announcement in early September. The government will accept all 16 recommendations from the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) in its August report.

The August MAC report, '*Analysis of the Points Based System: Tier 2 and dependants*', was originally designed to answer three specific questions posed by the government about the PBS:

1. What further changes to Tier 1 of the PBS should there be in 2010/11, given the changing economic circumstances?
2. Is there an economic case for restricting Tier 2 to shortage occupations only?
3. What is the MAC's assessment of the economic contribution made by the dependants of Points Based System (PBS) migrants and their role in the labour market?

This report from the MAC focuses on questions 2 and 3 – a report answering question 1 will be released in October 2009.

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/macreports/macreport0809/mac-august-09

In its assessment, the MAC acknowledges the importance of skilled foreign workers to the UK economy, but advises the government to take a number of measures to tighten up Tier 2 of the PBS in order to prevent undercutting or displacement of 'UK workers'. In his introduction the MAC Chairman, David Metcalf, takes the view that this will be critical to make sure that positive narratives about immigration are not undermined.

These measures will effectively reduce already falling numbers of skilled migrants coming to the UK. Although approximately 50,000 skilled migrants are currently estimated to enter the UK under the new PBS (down from 69,000 in 2008 under the previous work permit scheme) the changes recommended by the MAC would cut them by approximately 5000 (a further 10%).

The government has accepted all 16 of the MAC's recommendations for tightening up Tier 2 – they will be introduced in 2010. Key changes to Tier 2 on the horizon include:

- Both the Resident Labour Market test and the intra-company transfer route will be retained for skilled migrants coming to the UK.
- The length of time for which jobs must be advertised in a local JobCentre Plus before being offered to a non-EEA national ('Resident Labour Market Test') will be increased from two weeks to four weeks for all vacancies
- The minimum salary for jobs under Tier 2 will rise from £17,000 to £20,000
- Masters degree will be awarded 15 points instead of 10 points as currently
- Those entering the UK via the intra-company transfer scheme must have been with

- the company overseas for twelve months minimum, instead of the current six.
- UKBA to consider whether some professional qualifications can be regarded as equivalent to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3, or bachelors or masters degree level;

Despite the problems associated with enforcement measures against employers, the MAC also recommends tightening up enforcement and raising penalties against employers.

(5) Filipino migrants mull legal challenge to UK policies on care workers

Kanlungan, an alliance of Filipino migrant organisations in the United Kingdom, is set to file a legal challenge at the British High Court to obtain a definitive judicial ruling on the eligibility of overseas migrant workers applying for permanent settlement after five years of continuous stay in the UK.

The UK Border Agency has been refusing applications for indefinite leave to remain by senior care workers on the basis that there is a gap in their employment and stay in the UK. Benny Clutario, chair of Kanlungan, pointed out that the UK Border Agency should not be refusing these applications because the gaps were a direct result of retrospective changes in immigration rules between 2006 and 2008, and not because of any violation of immigration laws by migrant workers.

Kanlungan has as member organisations Bahay Kubo Housing Association, Lingap, Philippine Theatre UK, Kadamay UK and Migrante UK. It is seeking a judicial review on behalf of thousands of overseas senior care workers who have gaps in their visas. A judicial review is a type of court proceeding in the UK judicial system in which a judge reviews the lawfulness of a decision or action made by a public body.

In 2006, the UK government changed the requirement for applying for permanent settlement from four years to five years and applied this retrospectively to all migrants. Thousands of senior care workers were caught by this change and had to re-apply for an extension of their work permit and visa for at least another year.

In 2007, the UK government imposed new requirements for renewals of work permits and visas for senior care workers, requiring them to have skills and qualifications at National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 which is roughly equivalent to a university degree and a minimum salary of £7.02 per hour. As a result, over 3,500 work permits of senior care workers were not renewed.

The new rules were challenged by Kanlungan and other migrant organisations and trade unions in Britain. So in 2008, the UK Border Agency issued transitional measures. The following concessions were granted:

- Those senior care workers who had their work permits approved prior to 31 December 2003, and who remained with the same employer for their existing work permit, would be granted an exceptional extension for a maximum of 12 months, provided the permit holder had not left the United Kingdom. The skills criteria and the required salary of £7.02 would be waived.
- Those who had arrived in the UK after 31 December 2003 (and who had not left the UK), would only have the skills criteria waived. Work permit renewals with the same employer or with a new employer would still require that the employer pay them £7.02 per hour.
- In March 2008, the government gave further concessions for those who had lost their jobs, their work permits and their leave to remain due to the rule changes. They issued guidelines allowing them to apply for a new work permit, with employers paying £7.02 per hour, as long as the application was made within six

months of the date they lost their right to remain in the UK.

Many senior care workers, with gaps in their visas within their five years of stay in the UK, have tried to apply for indefinite leave to remain. However, they have been refused by the Home Office and were told that they should fill the gaps in their visas and re-apply when these gaps have been completed. Then again, there are some who until now have not managed to get new employers willing to pay them £7.02 an hour and who are therefore, now here as undocumented migrants.

Clutario said: "*When migrants lose their visas, this does not automatically result in all these workers leaving the country. It almost certainly translates into a significant number of workers staying in the UK as undocumented migrants. Sadly, they become undocumented not by choice but because of misguided policies and mismanaged immigration.*"

Kanlungan called on senior care workers who have experienced gaps in their visas due to changes in immigration rules to come forward and provide evidence. "The more senior carers involved in this legal action, the better the chance for success," Clutario stressed.

With thanks to Jamima Fagta, Kanlungan for submitting this item

(6) Reports and Research

- ❖ **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
This report highlights key points of the discussion of a wide range of actors who attended a workshop within the "Clandestino" project, an interdisciplinary project funded by DG Research of the European Commission. Nearly 150 representatives of NGOs and trade unions, researchers, local authorities, policy makers, journalists, and other professionals came together at the workshop to discuss policies and responses to irregular migration in the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Germany and Austria.
- ❖ **Out of sight, out of mind: experiences of immigration detention in the UK, Bail for Immigration Detainees (BiD), July 2009**
<http://www.biduk.org/library/BID%20%20Out%20of%20sight,%20out%20of%20mind'.pdf>
BiD, which works with people who are held in detention, has collected together a powerful collection of testimonies, following other excellent reports over the past year or so about aspects of immigration detention by the London Detainee Support Group and Medical Justice. This report brings together personal stories of detainees and shows us how extensively the experience of immigration detention affects people's lives. People talk here about the deterioration of their physical and mental health, the damage to children exposed to these conditions, and their despair at being held 'in a cage', many indefinitely, without recourse to adequate legal aid advice or healthcare. It may be convenient for bureaucrats and politicians to maintain such conditions in the name of a tough immigration system. But ultimately it is untenable because the human costs are simply too high.
For more on the BiD report, read the MRN blog posting at:
<http://migrantsrights.org.uk/blog/index.php/2009/09/04/a-bid-for-freedom/>
- ❖ **Shall We Stay Or Shall We Go? Re-migration trends among Britain's Immigrants, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), 2009**
<http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=%2Fecomm%2Ffiles%2Fshall%5>

[Fwe%5Fstay%2Epdf](#)

Whilst much public discussion has been taking place on levels of immigration, the numbers of migrants leaving the UK in recent years has been steadily increasing. This latest report from the IPPR looks at the rising numbers of non-British citizens emigrating from the UK – which have risen by almost 30% in the year ending September 2008 according to the Office of National Statistics. Is this a sign that the UK is losing high-skilled migrants to other countries with more flexible or welcoming immigration policies? Should the government be making efforts to retain these migrants in the UK? This report urges the government to improve its understanding of the reasons why migrants may be leaving the UK and to feed that into future policy developments.

- ❖ **Vulnerable Migrant Workers: The Responsibility of Business - an overview and comparative analysis of food production, manufacture and retail companies, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility, May 2009**

www.eccr.org.uk/module-Downloads-prep_hand_out-lid-8.html

ECCR's most recent report provides an overview of the vulnerable position of many migrant workers employed in Britain and Ireland and offers a comparative analysis of the extent to which nine food production, manufacture and retail (supermarket) companies address this vulnerability. The report recommendations highlight the need for companies to recognise the potential vulnerability of migrant, temporary and agency workers; mainstream responsibility for labour conditions in their business practice; implement effective codes of conduct for suppliers; increase awareness of rights among all workers; strengthen monitoring and audits.

(7) Upcoming Events and Initiatives

- ❖ **Introducing 'City of Sanctuary' - an open meeting, Speaker: Craig Barnett and the City of Sanctuary National Team, Tuesday 15th September 2009, Afternoon Meeting (2 – 5pm) Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street, Chester CH1 3LF. Evening Meeting (7-8.30pm) – University of Chester, Beswick Lecture Theatre (main campus) CH1 4BJ**

City of Sanctuary is a movement to build a culture of hospitality for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. Find out how towns and cities around the UK are becoming recognized as places of safety and welcome for people in danger. If your town or city doesn't yet have a City of Sanctuary group and you would like to find out how to start one, you will find useful information and resources at this meeting. The meeting is open to all people of good will in Chester, and is also open to those wishing to develop this initiative in the North West and North Wales. For more information, or to get involved in making Chester (or your town or city in the North West or North Wales) a more welcoming city please contact: Rob Sculthorpe (0755 159 6968), Gina Phillips (0151 355 4008, 0755 159 8980), Joseph O'Neill (07967 370358). For further information, contact: global.inclusion@yahoo.co.uk chester@cityofsanctuary.org Or visit the website: www.cityofsanctuary.org or join our Facebook group, Chester, City of Sanctuary

- ❖ **Booklaunch of Vicki Squire 'Exclusionary Politics of Asylum' Palgrave, 2009 and Umut Erel 'Migrant Women Transforming Citizenship. Life-Stories from Britain and Germany' Ashgate 2009. Monday, 21st September 2009, 6pm, The Open University in London (Region 1), Room 2, 1-11 Hawley Crescent, Camden Town London, NW1 8NP**

Programme details as follows: 18:00: Preliminary Remarks, 18:10 - 18:40: Speakers: Engin Isin (Open University), David Owen (University of Southampton), Nira Yuval-Davis (University of East London), Discussion with the audience. 18:40 - 19:30 Reception. If you are interested in attending this book launch, please

RSVP Pearl Whitney, Research Secretary, The Open University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, by 14 September 2009. Tel: 01908 652717. Email: p.a.whitney@open.ac.uk

- ❖ **COMPAS Conference 2009: *New Times? Economic crisis, geo-political transformation and the emergent migration order*, 21st-22nd September 2009, St Hugh's College, St Margaret's Road, Oxford**
www.compas.ox.ac.uk/fileadmin/files/pdfs/Annual_Conferences/COMPAS%20Annual%20Conference%202009%20Programme_01.pdf
The conference will bring together a range of leading academics, analysts, policy makers, practitioners and research students to test theory and concepts against the latest evidence in the migration field. How has the current crisis affected the movement of people worldwide? Will it accentuate trends already emerging or will it precipitate the formation of a new world order? The conference will begin by situating these questions in context, drawing on examples from history, near and far, and the influence these shocks and crises have had on migration patterns. The final day will focus on new and emerging geographies of migration and the corresponding changes in migration governance. Registration for the 2 day conference costs £110 and includes a buffet lunch on both Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd of September.
- ❖ **Colloquium for Agencies Supporting Migrants from EU Accession Countries, Thursday 24th September 2009, Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, SW1P 1QH**
www.rcdow.org.uk/fileupload/event_programmes/A10colloquiumInvitationRSVP226200941356.pdf
Agencies and initiatives involved in supporting A10 Migrants are invited to this Colloquium, together with Parish and Deanery representatives. Names of those attending must be officially registered either by sending back the tear-off slip on the flyer or by email or phone. cathmacgillivray@rcdow.org.uk, 020 7931 6064
- ❖ **Stop the Deportation of SOAS University Cleaners Rally, Justice for Cleaners Wednesday 30th September from 5pm – 7pm, Junior Common Room (ground floor) SOAS University**
- ❖ **Launch event of Kalayaan research project, Care and Immigration: migrant care workers in private households, Monday 12th October, Brunei Suite, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornough Street, Russell Square London WC1H OXG, 6.30pm (drinks and nibbles from 6pm)**
Kalayaan (a charity which supports migrant domestic workers) together with the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University at Oxford, has been conducting a two year research project on migrant domestic workers who are performing vital elder care work in individuals' homes. The research examines the living and working conditions of these carers, observes the negotiation of employment and social relationships between workers and employers and looks at how race and racism impacts on the employment of migrant domestic workers. The report will provide recommendations for the future of care work, which will be particularly pertinent in the context of ongoing personalisation of care.

To mark the publication of this report, a launch event will be held on Monday 12th October. The panel of speakers will be chaired by Polly Toynbee (Guardian columnist and President of the Social Policy Association). Speakers will include: Don Flynn (Migrants Rights Network), Annette Baines (Skills for Care) and Dr Alessio Cangiano (Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) University of Oxford). Please contact mumtaz@kalayaan.org.uk if interested in attending to reserve your place.

❖ **Stand up in solidarity: Migrant and Refugee Climate Change Forum, Monday 19th October, 2-5pm, Amnesty Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**

The Climate Outreach Information Network (COIN) is holding a three hour forum in London on Monday 19th October 2009 in partnership with Migrants' Rights Network, Praxis, Refugee Action and the Refugee Council. The forum will be the first of its kind and will provide a space for refugees and migrants in the UK to come together to talk about climate change. The event will include presentations by expert scientists, Q&A and discussion workshops aimed at exploring the issues.

Listen to what the scientists have to say about the current impacts of climate change in the south and the implications for migration; Talk to other participants about the effects of climate change on your country; Join together to decide what collective action you can take! All welcome. Refreshments provided. Travel expenses reimbursed. BOOK your place: Email or telephone Catrina Pickering on catrina@coinet.org.uk or 01865403334 to book or/and to find out more.

For further info see www.coinet.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.

❖ **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.

❖ **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.

(8) Other Announcements

❖ Vacancies at Praxis:

Praxis is recruiting a number of front-line staff to join an energetic and multi-skilled team at an exciting time of expansion. For more information on any of the vacancies please contact Praxis quoting the job reference number of the vacancy: Tel: 020 7729 7985; recruitment@praxis.org.uk, Recruitment, Praxis, Pott Street, London E2 0EF, www.praxis.org.uk/jobs.

- **Freelance ESOL tutors to join the Praxis Move On team**

Working with refugees and new migrants in East London; delivering ESOL, confidence building, health and employability workshops. The candidate should have relevant and demonstrable experience and be qualified to teach English. Tutors will be employed on a casual basis at a rate of £28 per hour. Closing date for completed applications: Monday 14th September 2009. Interviews will take place on: Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th of September 2009.

- **Project Outreach Workers to join the Praxis Move On team:**

Providing advice and guidance, employment support, motivational workshops and job brokerage services to refugees and new migrants in East London. Two full time posts at 35 hours a week until 31 March 2010 – Post Ref: MO1. One part time post 21 hours a week until 31 March 2010 – Post Ref: MO2

- **Advice and Guidance Workers to join the Praxis Pathways team**

Working with vulnerable migrants advising on housing, immigration, education and employment, debt and welfare benefits including outreach work. One part time post at 21 hours per week until 31 March 2010 – Post Ref: PA1. Candidates should have a relevant qualification in youth work, community work, teaching, advice giving (NVQ or equivalent Level 3 minimum), community arts or social work. Salary for all posts at NJC points 27-30, commencing at £ 25,998 pro rata, including LW. Closing date for completed applications: Monday 14th September 2009. Interviews will take place on: Wednesday 16th Thursday 17th and Friday 18th of September 2009.

❖ ESRC study: Home/Work: The Roles of Education, Literacy and Learning in the Social Networks and Mobility Patterns of Migrant Carers, by Sondra Cuban. www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/homework/index.htm

This study focuses on professional migrant women and their mobility patterns within

the private care industry, and in a new area of settlement - Cumbria. The aim of the study is to understand the roles of education and learning in the women's integration into and transformation of the care sector with attention to gender issues.

Findings

- The education and training cottage industries surrounding the migration industry blocks adaptation and advancement of health care professionals by mandating them to take NVQ courses which are unmarketable. Adaptation opportunities were few and far between and bogus training agencies caused students problems. The mandate for "students" leads to brain waste, exploitation and a loss of human dignity.
- Migrant care workers transform the sector by going the extra mile for clients. Yet media and policy reports say it's because of their culture rather than the importation of their former expertise and professional dispositions, which need to be recognized and compensated.
- The Nurse Midwifery Council, in raising the IELTS score with criteria that is not transparent, discourages care workers from adapting. Whether or not a score of 7 benefits them and the public good should be questioned. Most adapted nurses had no encouragement to apply to the NHS and worked in private nursing homes earning low salaries.
- English language communication problems were overemphasized by employers, when care workers simply had accents, similar to their clients--- both adjusted over time. Regional lingo and British idiomatic expressions were picked up with ease.
- Migrant care workers were expected, and sometimes bullied into overtime, night shifts, and unpopular tasks for low pay and with unpredictable rotas. Unions could help them advocate for better working conditions and pay.

Outcomes

A support model for workplace learning and a deskilling workshop (in October) for health care professionals who are students and care workers. Policy and practice briefs, research seminars, forums, papers, and articles, a risk assessment.

If you are interested in hearing more about this research, please contact Sondra directly at: s.cuban@lancaster.ac.uk.

❖ A Highlands and Islands Perspective

The recent Scottish Government report into migration states 'Meeting these demands [for services] requires reasonably accurate data and information on the migrant population including numbers, age profile, marital status, family size, experiences and long-term intentions'. (H. ROLFE, H. METCALF Scottish Government Social Research 2009 Recent Migration into Scotland: the Evidence Base National Institute of Economic and Social Research)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/261996/0078342.pdf>.

The International Guidance Officer (IGO) post began in September 2008 and is based in Inverness, covering the Highlands of Scotland. Over the past year, the IGO has dealt with many enquiries and aided over 50 migrant workers in their career path whether it be career progression, information about entry to college to gain Scottish qualifications or aiding entrance into professions such as nursing. Each client has been asked to fill in an information sheet, and the data has been collated into a database. This database does not provide answers to the gaps posed in Recent Migration into Scotland: the Evidence Base, nevertheless, the experiences of the IGO have provided a source for strategic input to the local immigration group enabling targeted planning of projects and services.

Clients come from all continents (apart from Antarctica!). About half of the clients are of A8 nationality, with a quarter of all clients being Polish. Most have been living in

the Highlands and Islands for over 2 years some even expressing the desire to live in Scotland permanently. When asked what would influence their decision to stay, two factors dominated: housing and finding a better job. The majority of clients have come to the UK straight after gaining qualifications in their home country and have little or no relevant work experience.

IGO clients were asked what barriers they felt existed to learning English. The results were surprising, however, with only 5 respondents stating there were barriers – these being, “not enough free time” and “difficulties in finding a suitable class”. It is thought this result may be because many of the IGO clients are already ESOL learners and are extremely motivated to learn English, many expressing a wish to learn it more quickly. Discussions with clients reveal cultural differences between workplaces in their home country and in Scotland. They recognise they are lacking “soft- skills” in a Scottish workforce setting - these are less definable than technical skills but are essential for career progression. Clients are very willing to participate in volunteering activities as a means of increasing their skills and confidence.

For further information regarding the database, or the work of the IGO, Please contact Renata Grove 01463 273261 renata.grove@inverness.uhi.ac.uk. Article contributed by Kathryn Thomas, International Guidance Officer, Inverness

❖ **“Global Care Chains: Assessing the Situation and Policy Challenges”, UN-INSTRAW virtual discussion, 7-18th September 2009.**

Global Care Chains result from the care crisis and the crisis of social reproduction. The former occurs in countries of migration destination when the demand for care labour exceeds the supply. The latter occurs in countries of origin when households are unable to secure social reproduction and seek new survival strategies, such as migration, to which more and more women are turning. This shifting of reproductive labour from one person to another creates ‘global care chains’ along gender, socio-economic and ethnic lines. A discussion on the formation of global care chains provides an excellent position from which to examine the relationship between migration, gender and development. We will be looking at the how care work and migration intersect, the new transnational dimensions of the sexual division of labour, and policy challenges. The discussion will be based on two of UN-INSTRAW’s working papers from the series “Global perspectives on the social organization of care in the care crisis” which will be distributed later this week. We ask that you read the papers before the beginning of the discussion.

No registration is required to participate. To contribute you must simply sign into the community website (www.un-instraw.org/grvc) between September 7 and 18, 2009 and post your comments in the forum. More information about using the forum can be found here.

❖ **Rayne Fellowship for Refugees**

Do you have a Big Idea that could change lives or transform your community? Perhaps you know somebody who could benefit from the generous support and resources of a Rayne Fellowship? Each year, Praxis will select five Fellows from across the UK to benefit from this fantastic, new opportunity. Fellows will be refugees with a realistic proposal that demonstrates a commitment to building bridges between refugee communities and wider society. It is open to people of all ages, though those aged 18 to 25 are particularly encouraged to apply. The idea could involve sport, culture, social enterprise, health promotion, community advice or even support development within a home community. Each fellow will be able to draw upon a resource fund of up to £15,000 to be spent on personal development, further training or education, resources, expert advice, one-to-one mentoring or networking opportunities. If you, a friend or somebody in your organisation could benefit, please visit our webpage www.praxis.org.uk/fellows for details on how to apply. You can also email fellows@praxis.org.uk for more

information. Remember, the deadline for 2009 applications is 14th October at 5pm. This project is funded by The Rayne Foundation and The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. It will be delivered by Praxis Community Projects, a charity with over 25 years experience working within refugee and migrant communities.

❖ **Vacancy for Manager, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum**

Salary: £30,000 - £32,000 pa (depending on qualifications & experience); Hours: 37 per week; Term: 3 years

Nottingham & Notts Refugee Forum is a vibrant local charity, formed in 2000, working with and for asylum seekers and refugees. We operate a busy Centre, which provides advice, advocacy, practical support, social, cultural and educational activities. The Forum currently employs 5 full-time & 9 part-time staff and is assisted by more than 60 volunteers – including many refugees and asylum seekers. It is run by a voluntary Management Committee. The manager will take a leading role in building on our many achievements and ensuring we can respond to future challenges. The Manager's duties will include: Managing the premises and developing and coordinating its activities; Line-managing several members of staff; Overseeing & reporting on the Forum's grant and contracted projects; Developing & maintaining communications with a network of relevant agencies; Representing the Forum and the interests of asylum seekers & refugees in the wider community; Contributing to the writing of funding bids

For an application pack call Imran on 0115 8532381 or email: info@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk. Closing date for applications: 12pm on Friday 2nd October 2009

