

RAM BULLETIN

Refugees, Asylum-seekers and the Mass media Project

advice
information
research
& training
on media ethics



Promoting best practice in media representation of refugee and asylum issues

No 23, Dec 2002

Journalists divided over 'immigration crisis'

On the day the UK government published a dossier about the human rights abuses which have driven so many Iraqis to seek safety in exile, the Red Cross agreed to shut down its refuge for asylum seekers at Sangatte in France, with the UK housing 20% of its inhabitants, many of them Iraqis. Deborah Orr slammed this 'grotesque compromise' as 'shameful' and 'hypocritical' in her *Independent* column ('A sick joke: vilify Saddam while closing Sangatte', 3 Dec 02).

'People don't head to Britain because Sangatte exists. On the contrary Sangatte exists because so many people head to Britain.' She reminded readers that Britain is seen as the place to come to is because it is the one European country trumpeting its opposition to Saddam's regime.

Meanwhile news reporters at the *Daily Express* and *Daily Mail* have kept up their onslaught against those seeking a new life in the UK. 'As Blunkett warns of menace from asylum gangs, shock new figures for the capital... ONE IN 20 IS A MIGRANT', run the *Mail* front page (Tues 26 Nov), apparently oblivious that any major metropolis will have a very high proportion of people whose family origins may not be indigenous.

At a stroke the *Mail* alienated millions of potential readers while simultaneously reminding millions more that they have more in common with asylum-seekers than they might have imagined.

Later that week it splashed with 'STOLEN: IDENTITY OF 1,000 DEAD BABIES Shocking revelation in official report on soaring levels of illegal immigration' (Fri 29 Nov), and warned that police were bracing themselves for 'a massive new intake from Sangatte'.

The same day the *Express* led with 'ASYLUM SEEKERS: YOU CAN

STAY Outrage at amnesty for illegal immigrants'. Inside it showed an abandoned police station in Folkestone, Kent predicting it would become a new Sangatte.

The papers give plenty of space to the fears of Middle England, but where are the voices of those with most to fear?

If you would like to tell your story, or write to your local or national paper, the media ethics charity PressWise and its RAM Project can help. Call 0117 941 5889 or email ram@presswise.org.uk

Where is the truth?

In the run up to UN International Day of Solidarity with Migrants (18 Dec), we have had a new Asylum and Immigration Act and vast range of material about migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, illegal migration in the UK media.

Anyone relying on the tabloids is likely to get the impression that migration of any kind is going to affect them far more than the slowdown in the economy, the booming housing market and reform in the public sector services.

Meanwhile Parliamentary committees and broadsheets, like the *Guardian*, *Times*, and even the *Daily Telegraph*, reveal facts about the need for migration to fill labour shortages and the positive impact of migration on the economy.

There is much that is unclear in the debate, and the gaps are plugged with myths. Evidence that is available, is interpreted and distorted through the political prism of a particular commentator.

The victims of myths, half truths and the hype are asylum seekers, naïve voters and the truth. For the sake of everyone, we need a more rational debate about migration.

Perhaps we should all be listening to people of Britain, and their experience of migration.

More about International Migrants' Day on: www.ncadc.org.uk/

Watch your language!

Reviewing media coverage for this edition, I noticed a striking connection between 1930's Germany and the UK today. What stuck in my mind was the process by which the use of language led to violence, then persecution and genocide.

That process - from jokes about Jewish people in the late 1920's to genocide 15 years later - was greatly influenced by the media, particularly the *Sturmer* newspaper run by Julius Streicher who won high office in the Nazi machine by preaching persecution of Jews.

Irresponsible politics led to irresponsible journalism. The language of the media led to violence and harassment. Media campaigns led to criminalization of Jews under the 'Nuremberg laws' which justified persecution that escalated to genocide. Some argue that *Sturmer's* noticeboards with negative items about Jews and photos of Germans buying from Jewish shops were key to popular acceptance of this propaganda.

Ten years ago 'asylum seeker' was understood as a technical legal term. Then it became synonymous with 'refugee' and positive connotations of people seeking safety. Cartoons and the attachment of 'bogus' or 'suspected', then 'illegal immigrants' and now 'smugglers' and 'members of an organised crime chain' have made the term negative.

I think press demonisation has already led to harassment and violence. Asylum-seekers are now legally detained for the 'crime' of claiming asylum. What comes next? That thought makes me think ten times harder about my use of language, and reminds me of the advice I got from my parents in Bosnia - 'Watch your language!'

Zafir Behlic
Guest Editor

Respond to negative coverage, says Article 19

The London-based freedom of expression organisation Article 19 is encouraging people to respond to negative UK media coverage of refugee and asylum issues

Their call follows a survey amongst refugees and asylum seekers, and monitoring of print and broadcast coverage from Oct to Dec 2002.

Results of these activities will form the basis of a major seminar in spring 2003.

Print monitoring focuses on the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Guardian* and *Sun*. Cardiff School of Journalism will analyse the main news bulletins on the BBC, C4, ITV, GMTV and Sky.

Article 19 wants to hear from

- journalists wishing to participate in discussions and events;
- organisations wishing to organise contribute to the seminar;
- refugees willing to share experiences about making a complaint about media coverage;
- funders wishing to sponsor the seminar.

The A19 project is supported by the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Oxfam, PressWise, the Refugee Women's Association and other refugee community organisations. For further information, input & comments contact: bethan@article19.org or sara@article19.org.

Sign up for women's safety

Refugee women in the UK are living under self-imposed curfew because they fear abuse and violence on the streets and even in the mixed sex hostels in the UK some are expected to share with strangers.

Now their fears have been documented in a new report compiled by Refugee Action *Is It Safe Here? Refugee women's experiences in the UK*.

To coincide with its publication on 3 Dec, Refugee Action have launched a campaign to highlight their fears and win support for measures to protect women from harm.

The 'Standing up for women's safety' campaign includes an on-line pledge which supporters download, sign and send off post-

free. Among those backing it are PressWise Patrons George Alagiah and Polly Toynbee, along with Anna Ford, Germaine Greer, Hari Kunzru, London's Mayor Ken Livingstone, Anita Roddick OBE, John Simpson CBE and Sir Trevor McDonald OBE.

To sign the online pledge contact: www.refugee-action.org
Copies of the report and broadcast quality interviews with refugee women are available from Stephen Rylance on 0161 233 1956, or Amy Bick on 020 7654 7714, or 07810 757 752 (out of hours).

Media initiative in Wales gathering momentum

After only two months from the appointment of the Project Co-ordinator, the Refugee Media Group has already made its mark. The first stories told by refugees themselves have appeared in the local press and several refugees and asylum seekers have received their first media training.

Six refugees joined the group and will help gathering new stories and recruiting new members.

Wales on Sunday agreed to do an article in the run up to Christmas featuring several asylum seekers and comparing their lives this year to years gone by.

Negotiations are underway for *Big Issue* to publish similar stories.

Two refugees will be taking part in the BBC digital storytelling project *Capture Wales*, giving them the chance to make a 3-minute film.

The Refugee Media Group has been monitoring Welsh media for over two years, identifying problematic coverage and advocating factual and accurate information.

Its aim is to establish a group of men and women with direct experience of seeking asylum who can bring their knowledge and experience to influence the media.

The group also wants media coverage to accurately reflect the different experiences of people seeking protection, to counter stereotypes and misinformation.

To join Media Link or support the Refugee Media Group, contact Vanessa Bucolli: bucolliv@cf.ac.uk or on 0292 087 4681.

BBC storytelling can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales

Broadcast your story on a digital TV channel

The Community Channel is looking for personal stories from people who would not otherwise get access to the broadcast media.

Jeremy Smith, the Head of Production, explains: 'We have a schedule of weekly topics, but we want to include at least one 'new directors' programme per week'.

This is a great opportunity for exiled journalists and refugee campaigners to reach mass audiences.

BSkyB donates 12 hours a day of satellite time to the Community Channel which is funded by the Active Community Unit and the Community Fund.

Community Channel producers are likely to be interested in stories about the experience of refugees in the UK or the situation 'back home'. Material produced in media training courses will be considered even though they may not be of 'broadcast quality'. They can be backed up with studio interviews. However, there are certain requirements as regards quality, copyright and Independent Television Commission (ITC) regulations.

For more information, and detailed guidelines contact, Jeremy Smith at jeremys@communitychannel.org.

Documentary films rarely get it right

A new study, based on a survey of 25 recent documentaries about refugees and asylum seekers, claims that British documentary film does no justice to people seeking protection in the UK.

'Only one of these films does proper justice to its subject,' concludes Lucy Nabijou, who looked at the culture of broadcasting institutions and the capacity of TV programmes to give an adequate picture about refugees. The study also examines alternative approaches to documentary films and gives a detailed account of her own experience of making a film about an Afghan refugee. She highlights the potential of alternative approaches to filmmaking, which aim to understand and respect subjects. However, she remains

sceptical about possible change in the way refugees are represented: 'There are presently minimal opportunities for this kind of films to be made and broadcast on the topic of refugees'.

Lucy Nabijou is a documentary filmmaker and English language teacher. Her study 'A Moving Image? Possibilities and Limitations for the Representation of Refugees in British Television Documentary' will soon be available to read and discuss at www.bijou-films.co.uk.

For further information and comments contact lucy@bijou-films.co.uk

HTV gives asylum-seekers a chance to state their case

Local asylum-seekers and the supporters got good coverage during a recent late-night TV debate recorded in Bristol and presided over by former politician Edwina Currie.

But it nearly didn't happen.

The PressWise RAM Project learned that British National Party members and supporters had been invited to take part, took it up with production staff at HTV and warned local refugee support groups. Some threatened to pull out if the BNP were present.

"It concerned me that people who are seeking safety in the UK, were being asked to contribute to a programme in an open studio without knowing that BNP members might be present," said PressWise Director Mike Jempson. "It is one thing to challenge the misinformation, racism, and violence of fascist groups on air, but putting vulnerable people at risk in front of TV cameras without adequate protection or warning is not acceptable - especially if it only being done to create 'hot' TV.' In the event none of the BNP appeared, and assurances were given that security would be tight. Edwina Currie, who has always acknowledged that her family were migrants to the UK, gave a sympathetic platform to local asylum-seekers.

Former RAM Bulletin editor Max Jimmy from Sierra Leone, the Bristol-based Mehmeti family from

Kosovo and Paulette North of Bristol Defend Asylum-seekers campaign were among those who spoke out on the programme.

BNP man sues BBC for libel

Barry Roberts, unsuccessful British National Party candidate for London's Lewisham East at last years general election is suing the BBC for libel after its website linked him to the extreme right-wing group Combat 18.

He claims the BBC branded him a regular of the neo-Nazi group, and implied that he was involved in the direct action group led by murderer Charlie Sargent who, according to Roberts, advocated terrorism and incited racial attacks on black, Asian and Jewish people.

The use of Robert's photograph on the BBC website, accompanied by a swastika, implied he was unpatriotic, disloyal to his country and may have sympathised with the Nazis during the Second World War, claims Roberts.

He said the BBC did not contact him first because its only concern was to indulge in "vulgar sensationalism under the hypocritical guise of public interest journalism".

Roberts says in his writ that the BBC is "indifferent to the truth and has an internal culture of arrogance, self-satisfaction, vanity, sanctimoniousness and conceit" which made it unwilling to admit it was wrong or apologise.

A photograph of Roberts no longer appears on the website for BBC Panorama's 2001 investigation into the BNP, and the BBC are to investigate his claim.

Fascists win election on anti-asylum platform

The British National Party have been elected in the Mill Hill ward of Blackburn Council.

They won the seat on Thurs 21 Nov beating Labour by a mere 16 votes. [BNP 578 (32%), Labour 562 (31%), LibDem 505 (28%), Tory 154 (9%)]

During a campaign which stirred up opposition to asylum seekers, the BNP bussed in activists from nearby Burnley and elsewhere and

are said to have distributed a fake leaflet claiming that Liberal Democrats would spend all the council's money on refugees. Mill Hill is one of the most deprived areas of Blackburn.

The Anti Nazi League (www.anl.org.uk) has been organising local protests.

For more information contact Paul Quigley. Joint Co-ordinator, Unity Campaign Against Racism & Fascism, tel: 07960-553349

Re-launch of the Birmingham Refugee Forum

Birmingham Refugee Forum has re-launched and now holds monthly, themed meetings. The first meeting of the forum concentrated on housing. Future topics will include media & communications and voluntary return issues.

For further information about the Birmingham Refugee Forum, contact Sarah Giles on: 0121 693 9989.

What's in a name?

The PressWise RAM Project began in 1999 with an unwieldy title that explained its focus - the Refugees, Asylum-seekers and the Mass Media Project, quickly shortened to RAM.

Since some now see 'asylum-seekers' as a devalued and negative term, has the time come to simplify the title to Refugees And Media Project while keeping the same acronym (RAM).

What do you think? Contact ram@presswise.org.uk

Visit the
RAM Project website for
information, contacts,
news and views
www.ramproject.org.uk

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JOURNALISM AS A STATE OF MIND

Guest Editor **Zafir Behlic**
introduces himself

Having heard hundreds of horrific stories about persecution and watched a dozen countries being brought to ruin by genocide, nationalist wars and ethnic conflicts, even I am beginning to see them as numbers and cases. Even a refugee can become a victim of 'compassion fatigue'.

There is real danger of media saturation with stories about suffering. However moving, they lose impact after being used over and over again.

The other problem I have about telling my story' is that it always ends up being seen as a 'refugee' story. The label conceals everything else about me. So instead, I want to tell the story about me. Being a refugee is what happened to me. Being journalist is what I am.

I can't explain why I became journalist and where it came from, but, from that day in January 1987, I knew there was only one job in the world I wanted to do. From then on every-thing went smoothly for a while. I switched my university course and, four years later, graduated from Sarajevo University in Bosnia. In the meantime, I got a few freelance jobs for local media and part-time work at a local TV station. Then, in 1992, the war in Bosnia changed everything. The last ten years have been about going back to journalism.

My first thoughts about working as a journalist in Britain were a mixture of unrealistic optimism and unnecessary scepticism. I did dream of a job on the local, or even a national broadsheet.

I believed that somehow I would manage to put my foot in the door of a newspaper and then work my way up to a 'proper journalist', a respected professional. At the same time, I knew that I lacked a key tool

– English language. It might take many years before I could write in English well enough to make a living as a journalist. Equally disheartening was the realisation that I knew very little about Britain's traditions and culture, the way the media worked and the attitudes of British people. That could take a lifetime to learn.

The last 10 years have proved to me that becoming a journalist in the UK is both more *difficult* and more *possible* than I thought when I came here. I know now that my optimism was unrealistic. Journalism in the UK is highly competitive; proficiency in English is even more important than I thought. Nine years on, I am still discovering some basic facts about Britain, which kids learn at school. Little chance of me ever writing for *The Guardian*.

But my scepticism was also unnecessary. One can master English enough to get work. There are forms of journalism, like documentary films, where weaknesses in language can be compensated with picture, sound and the dynamic between the two. Instincts, knowledge of audiences, editing skills and ideas matter more in TV, something I did not have to learn from scratch. Indeed ten years in exile have sharpened my instincts and I have learned to use them better. And having crossed the language barrier, I have developed an automatic feel for different perspectives – a special quality when writing, interviewing or producing. Now I am sure I can make a living here as a journalist.

Very early on, I realised that, if I wanted to do that, I needed to find an area of journalism where my strengths are more important than my weaknesses. I needed to develop a range of skills - writing, typing, word-processing, interviewing, etc. - and make use of every opportunity to learn about 'the system'. Everything I have done in the UK has been less a fight for survival more a training ground for journalism.

In the pub, I learned about people, colloquial English and facts that 'really matter' about the British

culture (like the difference between beer and lager and blend whiskeys and single malts!).

As an interpreter I realised that people's perspectives and the way they communicate are culture-specific.

As a development worker and manager in the refugee sector I travelled around England and learned a great deal about a specific subject – forced migration – so I did an MA in Migration Studies to develop my expertise in this field.

I used every opportunity to get involved in projects to do with journalism: newsletters, campaigns, press management, writing reports etc. to learn the way media works. In spare time I pursued my old love – video editing. The list goes on...

I am still a 'part-time' journalist but I approached all my other work as a journalist. I see the world in terms of the hunger for news, the thrill of revealing an interesting story, the responsibility to explain and simplify the world around me, to question established wisdom.

Deadlines still release adrenalin rather than stress me. For some strange reason I never managed to become something else. Over the years, the only job that has ever given me a buzz has turned into a state of mind.

Zafir Behlic started his journalistic career in the late 1980's as freelancer for local media in his native Bosnia. Since coming to the UK in 1993, he has been interpreter, development worker and manager in the refugee sector, and continued as a freelance for media here and in Bosnia. He is currently a Project Manager with Refugee Action, and producing a training video and CD on running oral history projects, in partnership with the British Library and Panos. Recently he has specialised in multimedia production of training manuals, electronic leaflets, corporate presentations, and promotional video. He can be contacted on zbehla@yahoo.co.uk.

CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP COMMUNICATOR

Another PressWise Guide to assist people wishing to improve media coverage of refugee and asylum issues.

Getting (free) publicity for a campaign

The mere fact that you have decided to run a campaign - or that those engaged in the campaign believe it is important - does not automatically make it **newsworthy**.

People are always running campaigns, but few really capture the popular imagination unless the campaigners are imaginative, persistent, demonstrate they have a genuine cause, and can offer persuasive arguments — or have a lot of money!

The secret of success with campaigns is to keep finding new ways of reminding the public of your message. Think about how commercial manufacturers have perfected the art of constantly re-presenting their products to us — through integrated campaigns using posters, packaging, adverts, slogans, sponsorship, product placement — even colour coding. Imagination and determination are key.

Don't expect the mass media to do it all for you. If you cannot afford to buy advertising space, you have to demonstrate that your 'product' is newsworthy. And anyway getting editorial space is FAR more valuable than buying the equivalent space (in print or on air) for an advert.

What makes a campaign newsworthy?

Often it will not be your 'message' that is newsworthy, but how you go about communicating it. Your techniques do not have to be spectacular, just a little unusual, amusing, or even shocking. Keep it cheap and cheerful.

Don't be boring, be different.

Provide 'photo-opportunities' and make sure the media know when and where you are releasing

lots of balloons, running a fancy-dress mini-marathon, getting the Mayor to do a bunjee jump, or simply having a huge banner autographed and unfurled by a local celebrity.

Formal press conferences are rarely regarded as exciting media events (visual or otherwise) unless something very dramatic is being announced by someone very important.

Is there something genuinely new about the information you are trying to communicate?

Is it based upon a new study or survey containing information that has not been in the public domain before? Is it about a group of people, a country, or an issue that the public have rarely been confronted with?.

Is there something visually exciting about the campaign or its launch?

Especially if you want TV coverage, you must make sure you have something visual to offer — in which case the papers and magazines will want pictures too.

Are there (local/national) celebrities willing to help launch and promote the campaign?

Make sure you choose people whose personality, skills and image will enhance the campaign - a popular sportsman with a history of domestic violence may be a good person to promote counselling services for men but he may not be the best 'advert' for a campaign about women's safety.

Is the campaign taking an unusual form?

Vigils, marches, pickets and market stalls are not new ideas - but if they take place in an unexpected location they can still make news.

If you are asking people who support you to wear something distinctive, make sure from the start you have plenty of people in the public eye willing to wear the campaign emblem - public figures, the local football team, politicians, etc. Media workers will soon get curious.

Don't take unnecessary risks

Behind every good idea is a potential disaster waiting to happen — as the media know very well. Plan carefully, think of every eventuality, and make sure everyone knows exactly what they are supposed to do and say on the day!

Don't put vulnerable people in the firing line. Take NO risks if children are to be involved.

PEG BOARD

Thursday 5 to Sunday 8
December

CITIZENSHIP AND DISCRIMINATION IN EUROPE

An International Conference to explore the paradox of multiculturalism within citizenship.

Venue: Cable & Wireless College, 320 Westwood Heath Road, Coventry CV4 8GP

For more info, and to register, contact Dr. Christophe Bertossi on Christophe.Bertossi@warwi.ac.uk or 024 7652 3970

Saturday 7 December 1.30 - 5.30pm

DIASPORA, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

As part of the Praxis Development Education programme, this conference aims to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Venue: Praxis Main Hall, Pott Street, London E2 0EF. Nearest tube Bethnal Green.

For more info, contact Theodoros Abraham on 020 7749 7610 or theodoros@praxis.org.uk

Sunday 8 December 1.00 - 6.00pm

HOW UK FOREIGN INVESTMENT CREATES ASYLUM SEEKERS

Organised by the Ilisu Dam Campaign the seminar seeks to examine the connections between global economic policies and why people become asylum seekers.

Venue: Kurdish Community Centre, 11 Portland Gardens, N4 (off Green Lanes, near Manor House).

For more info, contact Rochelle Harris on 07876 771 576 or rochelle.harris@ukonline.co.uk, or Estella on 020 7586 5892 or estella24@tiscali.co.uk

Monday 9 December
9.30am - 5.00pm

FUNDRAISING TRAINING DAY

Organised by WayAhead Fundraising, this one-day event features information

on how to write a fundraising proposal, construct a budget, assess information on grant givers, raise corporate and major gift donors and how to research new sources of funding.

£45 including full notes and contacts.

Venue: GCVS, 11 Queens Crescent, Glasgow G4 9AS
For more info, contact Simon Berry at [WayAheadFundraising on 0141 564 1958](mailto:WayAheadFundraising@01415641958) or wayaheadscot@aol.com

Tuesday 10 December INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The Anniversary of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. The following events are scheduled in commemoration. The full Declaration can be downloaded from <http://www.ncadc.org.uk/letters/more/resource.html>

9.00am - 4.30pm

MIGRANT WORKERS: WHO BENEFITS?

United Nations Association debate the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers.

Admission £35, £15 conc.
Venue: Church House, Westminster, London
For more info, contact Francesca Lane on 020 7930 2931 or awillis@una-uk.org

11.30am

UN MEETING ON MIGRATION

Lobby of the UN Association meeting on Migration.

Venue: Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster.
For more info, contact ustiben.2@ntlworld.com

12 noon - 2.00pm

'NO SAFE PLACE FOR ROMA'

Demonstration organised by Trans-European Roma Federation.

Venue: Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT
For more info, contact ustiben.2@ntlworld.com

3.00pm

STOP ETHNIC CLEANSING

Public meeting chaired by Bob Russell, Liberal Democrat MP.

Venue: Committee Room 21, House of Commons.
For more info, contact ustiben.2@ntlworld.com

5.00 - 6.00pm

YARL'S WOOD FIRE DEMO

Campaign for justice in the Yarl's Wood Trial have organised this demo to call for the charges against the detainees to be dropped and the Home Office and Group4 to be prosecuted for unlawful imprisonment and endangering lives.

Venue: Trial of the Yarl's Wood detainees, outside Crown Prosecution Service HQ, 50 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7EX.
For more info, contact ginn_emma@hotmail.com or 07786 517 379

7.30pm

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Public meeting called by Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers.

Speakers include Louise Christian (civil rights lawyer), John McDonnell MP, Ladislav Balaz (Europe-Roma) and Emma Ginn (Campaign for justice in the Yarl's Wood Trial).

Venue: Room 3c, University of London, Malet Street.
For more info, contact Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers on info@defend-asylum.org

Wednesday 11th December
10.00am - 2.00pm

MAKE ME FEEL SAFE!

Organised by the Glasgow Black Voluntary Sector Network (GBVSN), a seminar on black and ethnic minority community safety.

Free lunch, crèche, transport, entry and information stalls!
Venue: Woodside Halls, Glenfarg Street, Glasgow
For more info or to book a place, contact Joan Shaw (Community Safety Partnership) on 0141 287 9909 or joan.shaw@drs.glasgow.gov.v.uk

Sunday 15 December
7.00pm

SANGATTE SOLIDARITY

Organised by Kent Committee to Defend Asylum Seekers, and supported by Tony Benn, Paul Foot and Jeremy Corbyn who are opposed to the New Labour

Government's draconian treatment of refugees. The Friends Meeting House, 6 The Friars, Canterbury. Next to Marlow Theatre.

For more info, contact Tom on 07890 939 253, Bunny 07950 610 257 or e-mail kentcdas@hotmail.com

Thursday 23 to Friday 24
January

TRAINING IN MEDIA SKILLS

The Refugee Media Group in Wales in partnership with RAM Project is organising 2 training events in media skills. The training is aimed at spokespeople, workers and volunteers from the refugee sector and refugee community organisations. £30, limited to 2 people per organisation.

Venue: Swansea on 23 Jan, Cardiff on 24 Jan.

For more info, or to reserve a place, contact Vanessa Bucolli (Asylum Media Co-ordinator at Refugee Media Group) on 02920 874 681 or bucolliv@cf.ac.uk

Tuesday 28 January 9.30 - 4.00pm

RCO CONFERENCE

Representatives from 7 Refugee Community Organisations, with support from Refugee Action, Refugee Council and the Midlands Refugee Council are organising a regional conference in Birmingham. If you have examples of good practice and know of training available for RCO's please contact the organisers.

Venue: The Irish Centre, 14 High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 4NX
For more info, contact Sarah Giles on 0121 693 9989.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Anti-Nazi League
www.anl.org.uk

NCADC
www.ncadc.org.uk

BBC Storytelling
www.bbc.co.uk/wales/capturewales

Bijou Films
www.bijou-films.co.uk

Refugee Access
www.refugeeaccess.info/

Refugee Action
www.refugee-action.org