

### PCC to issue asylum guidelines

This month the Press Complaints Commission will issue guidance to newspaper editors to try and improve the accuracy of reports about refugee and asylum issues.

Their welcome intervention follows a long period of pressure and consultations with refugee sector organisations including the Refugee Council and the UNHCR.

Earlier this summer PressWise Director Mike Jempson suggested to the PCC Chair and the PressBoF Code Committee that such guidance should clarify the correct meaning of terms such as 'refugee', 'asylum-seeker', and 'illegal immigrant'.

He also recommended the addition of the term 'legal status' to the list of categories covered by Clause 13 which outlaws discrimination. This would have made it easier for an individual refugee or asylum-seeker to make a complaint even if they had not specifically named in a problematic story.

It seems unlikely that this change will be incorporated yet. A comprehensive revision of the industry Code is planned for next year, so there is still time to let the newspaper industry Code of Practice Committee know what changes you would like them to make.

Meanwhile let us see what difference the new guidelines make to tabloid coverage of the issue.

The existing Code can be found on <http://www.pcc.org.uk/cop/cop.asp>

The industry Code Committee can be contacted via the chair, Leslie Hinton, c/o PressBoF, Olympic House, 142 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3BU Tel: 0141 221 3957, Fax: 0141 248 2362

### Police puzzled by Sun report on baked swans

RAM Communications Officer Nick Medic has supplied the PCC with a letter from the Metropolitan Police which appears to contradict the Sun's defence of its notorious 'SWAN BAKE' story.

Detective Chief Inspector Tristram Hicks says no-one has been arrested or

charged with offences against swans, so police cannot confirm that East Europeans or asylum-seekers may have been involved. He goes on 'When we spoke to the journalist Mike Sullivan, he agreed that this was a mistake on *The Sun's* part.'

Nick is one of a group of exiled journalists who complained to the PCC about the Sun's inflammatory 4 July front page story.

Largely based on hearsay, it alleged that asylum-seekers had been arrested for catching and eating swans, citing a police report, which turns out to be a one page note recording unproved allegations made by members of the public and alerting officers to the legal protection afforded to swans.

*The Sun* is standing by its story. The PCC has yet to adjudicate.

Meanwhile the UNHCR journal *Refugees* uses the story to illustrate its latest editorial.

### Community Care draws on RAM Bulletin graph

The 2 Oct edition of *Community Care* magazine has picked up on the graph produced in the last RAM Bulletin to show that the main causes of asylum immigration are not economic - as the anti-immigration lobby claims - but political.

Using Home Office figures the RAM graph, devised by Nick Medic, matches the numbers of UK asylum applications from former Yugoslavia since 1989 to major political developments during the period.

[www.ramproject.org.uk/bulletins/archive/4Sep2003.rtf](http://www.ramproject.org.uk/bulletins/archive/4Sep2003.rtf), and [www.communitycare.co.uk/](http://www.communitycare.co.uk/)

### Electronic tags for asylum-seekers?

The Government has been talking to Securicor about the feasibility of placing electronic tags on asylum-seekers instead of locking them up, according to the BBC.

RAM Communications Officer Nick Medic was cut off in full flow during an interview with BBC London Radio about the implications for civil liberties.

### EDITORIAL

#### Get Asylum Rules Right!

Proposals to kick asylum-seekers off to islands or to house them outside UK territory undermine Britain's obligation to refugees under Art.14 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights - the right to 'seek and be able to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.'

Amnesty International says it would be difficult and expensive to provide the protection required under international law in such places. The proposals also signify long-term detention for a persecuted people for no crime other than becoming refugees through no fault of their own.

There may be concern about misuse of the asylum system, increasing costs, human trafficking and capitalizing on asylum issues for narrow political agendas by interested parties. But international law does not require threatened individuals to exhaust all options within their own country before seeking asylum.

The UNHCR has defined a refugee as a 'person who owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality'.

But at asylum interviews officials often asks "Why didn't you claim asylum in the first country you passed through?" or "Did you try to move to another area?"

It is essential that asylum-seekers are asked to explain their personal circumstances rather than confuse them into giving incoherent replies which often lead to adverse decisions and costly appeals.

Pearl Thevanayagam  
Guest Editor

## Police to replace asylum-seekers on the streets

Tory party plans to introduce a quota system for asylum seekers could save over £1.4 billion, Shadow Home Secretary Oliver Letwin told his party's annual conference in Blackpool.

The money released will be used to finance an extra 40,000 police officers, if the Tories come to power.

## Off-shore solution

The *Daily Mail* (9 Sept) reported a novel plan by the Tories to deal with asylum-seekers. New asylum-seekers would be exiled to less populated islands off the coast of Britain and all applications would be processed within six weeks.

The plan also makes it compulsory that once accepted refugees sign a 'contract of obligation'. Failure to undergo language and job skills training within five years would lead to their refugee status being revoked.

*The Guardian* (10 Sept) investigated possible locations, and found that none of the islanders welcomed the plan.

Human Rights Watch reported that the EC, UNHCR and NGOs are concerned that the UK is seeking to shift responsibility for refugees to other often poorer countries. All this comes in the wake of UK proposals to process asylum claims and shelter refugees in centres outside UK territory.

## Parties blame asylum-seekers

From media coverage of the Labour and Tory Party conferences it would appear that all politicians think asylum-seekers are to blame for the problems they face in the UK.

Home Secretary David Blunkett believes that tight immigration rules will put paid to any gains organisations such as the BNP might be making, and said that the UK will start taking in refugees nominated by the UN. Meanwhile for the other law and order party, Shadow Home Secretary Oliver Letwin talked of a 20,000 per year quota of "genuine refugees, and the offshore processing of all claims, to deter all but genuine claims for protection from persecution."

## Hi-tech scrutiny to cut asylum bills

Home Office minister Beverley Hughes wants ferry companies to use heartbeat

detectors, thermal imaging and gamma scanners to detect asylum-seekers according to the *Daily Express* (7 Oct).

In a front page story headlined '£18,000 for each asylum' – based on estimates in a Home Office report – the paper set the scene for debate at the Tory party conference.

## Express backs Nepalees wish to stay in Britain

The anti-immigration *Daily Express* (7 Oct) is backing the right of two former soldiers from the 2nd Royal Gurkhas to stay in Britain.

The two men lost their jobs when the British Army dispensed with their services after 17 years. Now they are working for a private security company guarding cross-channel ferries against infiltration by asylum-seekers. The men, who handover anyone they catch to the French authorities, will eventually have to return to Nepal as the government will not grant Gurkhas British citizenship.

### WANT TO BE A MEDIA TRAINER?

The RAM Project wants to hear from exiled journalists with experience of formal training. The plan is to provide a refresher course with a view to expanding the network of journalist-trainers who assist with PressWise media and ethics training in the UK and overseas.

Send your details to  
[ram@presswise.org.uk](mailto:ram@presswise.org.uk)

## Glasgow City Council evicts asylum-seekers

Eviction orders on 167 asylum seekers in Glasgow by the City Council has outraged Labour MP George Galloway into branding Britain's asylum policy-makers as lunatics.

Commenting in *The Guardian* (6 Oct) he said the asylum seekers, some with families, have exhausted their appeals and are awaiting deportation. Glasgow houses more than 8,000 asylum seekers in housing estates in under-privileged areas like Sighthill.

Galloway argued that eviction will leave them starving and shivering on the streets, and the government unable

to track them down for deportation. He added chances are they will go underground and work illegally for paltry wages, assume false identity and get caught among criminal networks.

## Starve unless you claim asylum pronto

An appeal court decision by three senior judges on September 23 that a Chinese asylum-seeker was not entitled to welfare benefits since he waited six days after arrival in the UK, has angered human rights activists.

In July this year a high court judge ruled the rights of three asylum seekers including the Chinese have been breached when welfare was denied on the grounds they did not 'claim asylum within a reasonable period on arrival.'

Immigration lawyers say the decision backing the Home Secretary David Blunkett will make welfare claims for asylum seekers more difficult if they fail to apply for refugee status immediately after they land on British soil.

These asylum seekers were forced to sleep rough and beg for food following their denial of welfare benefits.

While admitting that the Chinese asylum seeker was 'living' at Heathrow, the judges said "It is impossible to find his conditions had reached or were verging on the inhuman or degrading", made it clear to the government that it must offer welfare support in cases where asylum seekers are reduced to begging for food or accommodation.

Sources: *Financial Times* & *Guardian*

## Fined for feeding hungry children

Taking food to her toddler kids in a detention centre has cost a Somalian mother a fine of her £3.50 weekly allowance. The incident took place at Dungavel immigration detention centre in South Lanarkshire.

A *Guardian* report (4 Sept) says that Fatima Muse took Weetabix to her room when her two daughters Nasa (1) one and Nasteho (2), became hungry.

Her lawyer claimed that taking food inside is commonplace and children often cry and shout that the detention centre is nothing but a prison.

The Home Office say eating in rooms at the centre is prohibited for health and safety reasons. Premier Detention Services which provide food to the centre said detainees were allowed to buy food at the centre any time they wished.

The mother could have been treated more humanely by requesting that she brings her children to the centre for food rather than reducing her paltry allowance.

## Slumland crisis upsets

### Express

All the *Daily Express* could make of the most comprehensive study ever produced about the poverty crisis that is forcing a billion people to live in unhealthy, over-crowded slums the world over, was a story headlined 'Asylum siege fear' (4 Oct).

Reporter Tom Morgan got the story by asking Dr Anna Tibaijuka, Director of UN Habitat, whether poor people would make for London if they got the chance.

Other journalists at the launch of the UN/Earthscan Global Report on Human Settlements 2003, shared wry sighs and smiles as he pitched in with his question after looking up a half page section on International Migration in the 300-page report.

## Exiled journalists speak out in Cardiff - twice

**1. Gender, asylum and the media**  
Several members of the RAM Exiled Journalists' Network will be speaking at a conference on 'Gender, asylum and the media' organised by the Refugee Media Group in Wales.

The event takes place on Friday 14th November at the Thistle Hotel in Cardiff.

Full details and booking form available from Vanessa Bucolli. Asylum Co-ordinator, RMGW, c/o Cardiff University Tel 0292 0874681, Email [bucolliv@cf.ac.uk](mailto:bucolliv@cf.ac.uk)

## 2. A Sense of Place

A panel of exiled journalists will speak to the RAM Project film 'On the Receiving End' as part of the Media Day on 25 being organised by PressWise on Tuesday 25 November at a 4-day British Council conference on migration and culture, 'A Sense of Place' to be held in Cardiff, 23-27 November.

The day will start with a panel of leading journalists addressing the question 'Does the media lead or follow public opinion?'

In the afternoon there will be workshops on media projects around Europe dealing with asylum issues, and the day will end with a panel discussing 'Messages for the media'.

For more details visit [www.asenseofplace.org.uk](http://www.asenseofplace.org.uk)

## Honour killing' coverage raises concerns

Kurdish Women Action against Honour Killing (KWAHK) is unhappy about media coverage of the 'honour killing' case involving an Iraqi Kurdish refugee who murdered his daughter.

They are especially concerned about the suggestion that the young woman, a Kurdish Muslim, was murdered because of her relationship with a Lebanese Christian.

KWAHK comments that although, honour killing is culturally specific, it is not particular to all Kurds or Muslims. They are concerned that by simplifying the issue the media run the risk of racist labelling of ethnic communities and stimulating tensions between different religious denominations.

For more information email: [kwahk@hotmail.com](mailto:kwahk@hotmail.com) or visit [www.kurdishmedia.com/kwahk](http://www.kurdishmedia.com/kwahk)

## Deported Zimbabwean tortured back home

Twenty year old Gerald Muketiwa fled Zimbabwe to the UK in 2001 when his home was attacked by 'war veteran' supporters. *Guardian* 22 Sept.

He was tortured and interrogated for many hours since his parents were supporters of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). UK immigration officials did not believe him and deported him to Harare. There his nightmare began again.

Rubber baton blows made him bleed and cough up blood; his feet were immersed in ice bucket. He was taken to a high-security prison, but escaped through an unbarred toilet window. With the help of two men who did not support Mugabe, he pleaded his case at the British High Commission, but was turned away.

On UNHCR advice he tried to reach Pretoria, but failed. Back in Zimbabwe

a UK-based asylum organization got him to Heathrow at the time the Home Office had decided to stop returning Zimbabwean asylum-seekers.

He was granted asylum in May this year, but is not sure whether he wants to stay here. "The UK isn't a friendly place. They don't like foreigners and the way media portrays asylum-seekers doesn't help. After September 11, Britain stopped caring," he told the *Guardian*.

Meanwhile journalists on the banned *Daily News* now in the UK, find themselves on a 'wanted' list and cannot go home.

## Asylum problems elsewhere

On recent training trips in South East Asia and South Africa, PressWise Director Mike Jempson heard about some of the problems faced by immigration authorities in less wealthy economies.

Post-apartheid South Africa has become a magnet for economic migrants from other strife-torn parts of sub-Saharan Africa. One government official said, "When we do apprehend illegal entrants we have to pay to send them home, and some quickly return because our long borders are porous and difficult to patrol."

Meanwhile journalists in Sri Lanka report a thriving trade in trafficking, with people from all over S E Asia paying to be taken to Europe on old fishing vessels. Apparently there are standard extortionate 'fares' and no guarantees of safe arrival, but the authorities seem incapable of taking on the mafia who run the scheme.

## Withholding information not allowed, Blunkett told

The High Court ordered Home Secretary David Blunkett to re-think his policy of not informing failed asylum seekers that they might qualify for housing support.

Under current law, if failed asylum seekers co-operate with the authorities during the process of removal, they are entitled to so called 'hard case' support. Yet, the Home Secretary operated a non-disclosure policy, believing that knowledge of the law might encourage non-eligible applications. In his verdict Mr. Justice Stanley said that 'publicising the law was a fundamental requisite of the rule of law itself'.



**EXILED JOURNALISTS**  
**SPEAK OUT**

**DISILLUSIONED,  
DISTRESSED,  
DISAPPOINTED**

*Guest Editor PEARL THEVANAYAGAM says getting back into journalism in the UK is as difficult as gaining refugee status.*

Having arrived in the UK two years ago with over a decade of print journalism in Sri Lanka under my belt I started off with washed-behind-the-ears enthusiasm to find work in the newspapers.

Browsing through the vacancies in the newspapers and Internet over a period of time the unpalatable truth hit me. I had no experience in the UK nor did I have the magical NCTJ certificate apparently required of practically every journalist. Among other qualifications required knowledge of *Quark Express* was always included.

I managed to enrol on a computer course and obtained an intermediate certificate in computer technology. Luckily I only paid £25 in enrolment fees since the course was part of government-funded adult education scheme for the unemployed. But *Quark Express* kept haunting me.

I had no knowledge of *Quark Express* and the course I was following did not include it. I had to ignore vacancies requiring this desktop publishing package. Surely this knowledge can be acquired with relative ease once you start working in a newspaper? What is a bit of technical knowledge compared to years of experience in news-gathering, reporting and feature writing?

Media jobs were eluding me and I was signing on at the Job Centre twice weekly. This went on for six months until, through a family contact, I joined a firm of immigration solicitors as legal secretary/caseworker.

Mostly I interviewed asylum-seekers and prepared their statements of evidence to the Home Office to plead their cases. I also accompanied them to Home Office interviews and conferences with barristers for appeal clients.

I had to see my clients at least three times before I was able to prepare a satisfactory statement since they were often frightened, ashamed or simply reluctant to come out with the truth.

More often than not they had been ill-advised or duped by friends and acquaintances into making up stories to convince Home Office authorities.

Having somehow extracted their plight and presented the case lucidly I felt most asylum-seekers had solid grounds on which to base their claim. Unfortunately, due to many clients' performance at the Home Office interview where under shrewd questioning such as 'So would you like to remain in the UK for reasons other than provided in the statement?' they answer 'yes' and hey presto their claim is rejected promptly.

Also, interpreters at the Home Office often fail to understand the nuances in language which lost many asylum rights claims.

Although I was keen on helping the asylum-seekers I was made redundant after ten months due to 'down-sizing'. I was jobless once more.

More trips to the job centre where there were simply no vacancies for

a journalist or a legal secretary/caseworker with my limited experience.

Enough was enough. I was disillusioned, distressed and disappointed after I had attended several interviews both in government service and the private sector, not to mention exhausted from the reams of paperwork involved in completing application forms.

What's wrong with me? I am in my late forties and I lack UK experience. For goodness sake, how the heck am I to gain experience unless someone employs me?

I am now in a casual job where my morale is low. I go to work simply to earn my living instead of fulfilling my ambition to resume my journalistic career.

Plenty of organizations are willing to employ you as a volunteer and your qualifications are excellent for the purpose. Paid employment? No sirree...

*Pearl Thevanayagam has journalism qualifications from the USA and Sri Lanka, and has worked as a feature writer, news reporter and sub-editor on several English language newspapers in Sri Lanka, where she was a staff reporter on the **Sunday Leader**, News Editor at **Weekend Express** and was Colombo Correspondent for the **Times of India**.*

Email: [pereraandrea82@hotmail.com](mailto:pereraandrea82@hotmail.com)

The RAM Bulletin **Cut-out-and-Keep COMMUNICATOR** will now appear every other month

**MAPPING THE  
REFUGEE SECTOR**

**2: THE REFUGEE  
ARRIVALS PROJECT**

**Support at  
the point of entry**

***Hiondi Nkam IV looks at the  
work of a crucial agency***

Among the non-governmental organisations working with asylum-seekers and refugees in the UK, the Refugees Arrivals Project (RAP) has the specific task of providing support to asylum-seekers as they arrive.

“RAP is the only voluntary organisation working at all four London Airports with refugees,” explains Executive Director Elisabeth Little. It shares the task with Migrant Helpline which operates at seaports. RAP started out as Refugee Action in 1989. Refugee Action set up a community project after identifying a need for an organisation to offer help to refugees when they touched down at Heathrow.

Entirely funded by the Home Office, RAP is governed by a Board of Trustees that reflects the client profile. The organisation is run ‘by refugees for refugees’, with 80-90 percent of staff coming from ethnic minority communities. Many staff are refugees who began as volunteers. The organisation has grown from half a dozen staff before April 2000 to 70 paid staff including 30 interpreters. There are an additional 40 active volunteers.

RAP has two main sections. The biggest, with two-thirds of RAP personnel, handles Case Work. The Resources section is subdivided into 4 departments: communications, finance, human resources and facilities.

With a budget of £13 million, RAP mostly works with referrals from the immigration service but the

organisation can also provide advice to people who need access to services.

Three things can happen when an a person arriving at Heathrow applies for asylum. They can be

- turned back and returned on the next plane;
- sent to Hammonds worth Detention Centre; or
- referred to RAP.

Referrals work in the following way: The immigration service makes a decision to let the person into the country and then refers them.

The main service provided by RAP is accommodation. Those who are referred to RAP are expected to be dispersed.

Before 2000, RAP caseworkers were spending 2.9 days with every asylum-seeker and providing them with necessary facilities. These days’ people may spend months in RAP temporary accommodation. There is a special support team within Casework to deal with difficult cases.

**Refugee Arrivals Project**

**FACT SHEET**

Number of paid staff: 70  
 Number of volunteers: 40  
 Budget (2002): £13 million

**Head Office**

41b Cross Lances Road  
 Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 2AD  
 Tel 020 8607 6888  
 Fax: 020 8607 6851

**Website**

[www.refugee-arrivals.org.uk](http://www.refugee-arrivals.org.uk)

**Communications Co-ordinator:**

Kaltun Hassan

According to project worker Fecadu Abraha, “The support team help with special cases ... people who have been tortured, people who have no solicitor, people with special needs such as disabilities, mental health problems, people who are seriously ill or who are HIV positive”.

RAP also has a specially-trained Young Persons’ Advisor and a Child &

Family Welfare Advisor who can provide instant support at the airport. This is a unique service within the refugee sector.

“Young people - some are as young as five or six - come off a plane after maybe weeks of travelling by lorry and then plane” said Young Person’s Advisor James Davies. “My first role is to comfort and to explain. I speak with them through an interpreter. The trafficking of women and children is a major concern to RAP, and I assess whether they may be victims of this.

“Then I stay with them throughout the airport process and make sure that when there are released they are safe and properly looked after,” he explains. RAP has kept a low profile leaving it to other organisations like the Refugees Council to deal with the media. RAP has no press officer and never issues press releases.

As a humanitarian organisation, RAP does not follow the media systematically. However if there is an issue that needs support, RAP will sign up with other organisations.

Says Elisabeth Little: “We have learned who to trust in the media over the last year. We will collaborate with the BBC, *The Guardian*, Channel 5. “At the moment we are doing a programme with the BBC following a family through dispersal. We also helped in the making of ‘Welcome to Britain’ on BBC radio.

Communications Co-ordinator Kaltun Hassan, who joined the organisation after working in a bank and the voluntary sector for 7 years, comments “A typical request from the media is: ‘we want a refugee who conforms to certain criteria by such and such a time tomorrow’.”

Kaltun will then ring a hotel and try to get someone. His aim is always to put a human face to every asylum story.

At the moment the organisation is working on a new strategic plan to develop fund-raising through a consultant. RAP’s task is heavy. And there is always a lot to do.

## 'PEG' BOARD

**Keep your ears and eyes open for events which can provide you, and the media with a 'peg' on which to hang positive stories about refugees or asylum seekers.**

**Help to set the media agenda by generating stories rather than having to react to theirs.**

**Keep your media contacts informed about what is happening and why it is relevant for them.**

### September to December FREE TRAINING FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

Organised by the Refugee Women's Association, various courses are available this autumn for refugee women living in the UK. Courses include Accelerated English, Childcare (leading to a vocational qualification), Business Start-up, Job Search, Mentoring and Capacity Building for women's groups.

All courses are free, run within school hours, travel costs and contributions towards childcare paid.

Venues: Around London  
For more info, contact 020 7923 2412 or [rwa@refugeewomen.org.uk](mailto:rwa@refugeewomen.org.uk)

### Monday 13 October EMPOWERING ASYLUM SEEKERS

Organised by ASSET UK, a partnership of organisations, led by the Refugee Council set up to help combat discrimination in the labour market. It will have a regional perspective and will identify regional strategies, services and projects which relate to asylum seekers. Speakers will be invited from national, regional and local organisations.

Attendance is free.

Venue: Blackburne House, Liverpool  
For more info, contact [katherine.friedmann@niace.org.uk](mailto:katherine.friedmann@niace.org.uk) on 0116 2044291 or [katharine.friedmann@niace.org.uk](mailto:katharine.friedmann@niace.org.uk)

Thursday 16 October 1.00 - 4.15pm

### REFUGEE HOUSING AND INTEGRATION

The Housing Associations' Charitable Trust (HACT) presents an afternoon of networking, celebration of achievement and reflecting on housing need and provision for refugees in the West Midlands.

Includes networking lunch, presentation of certificates, discussions and reflections from refugee community group representatives.

Venue: The Irish Club, 14-20 High Street, Birmingham, B12 0LN

For more info, contact [Vicky Evans on 020 7247 2212 or email to vicky.evans@hact.org.uk](mailto:vicky.evans@hact.org.uk)

Saturday 18 October 6.00 - 10.00pm

### RICKY REEL MEMORIAL VIGIL AND LECTURE

Organised jointly by the Justice for Ricky Reel Campaign and the Royal Borough of Kingston, this year's annual lecture will be addressed by Dr Richard Stone (Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, Jewish Council for Racial Equality and the Runnymede Trust).

Food and drink will be served after the lecture.

Venues: Candlelit vigil at The Rick Reel Memorial Plaque, Kingston Shopping Centre, followed by the lecture at 7pm in The Guildhall, Kingston.

For more info, contact [Sandeep Garcha on 020 8843 2333 or admin@monitoring-group.co.uk](mailto:Sandeep.Garcha@monitoring-group.co.uk)

Thursday 23 October 6.15pm - 10.00pm

### SPEAK!

A fundraising event for the Refugee Council, 'Speak!' features readings and question and answer sessions with Harold Pinter, Monica Ali, Hari Kunzru and Beverley Naidoo.

Tickets £18 advance, £15 concs, £20 on the door.

Venue: Actor's Church, Covent Garden, London.

For more info, call 020 7820 3028

### Thursday 30 October RIGHT TO REFUGEE CONFERENCE

Organised by Community Care magazine, this conference aims to examine issues highlighted in their recent campaign 'Right to Refuge' and to bring together those working with asylum seekers and refugees to share good practice.

Speakers include Jonathan Duke-Evans (Immigration and Nationality Directorate), Maeve Sherlock (Refugee Council), Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (social commentator) and others.

Tickets from £100 - £195

Venue: ORT House Conference Centre, Camden, London

For more info, contact [Pavilion Customer Services on 0870 161 3505 or e-mail info@pavpub.co.uk](mailto:info@pavpub.co.uk)

Thursday 30 October to  
Saturday 1 November

### BLACK BOOKS EXPO

A cultural fair and festival including book signings and readings, films and exhibitions.

Venue: Assembly Rooms, Hackney Town Hall, London E8

For more info, contact [Buzz Johnson on 020 8986 4143 or 07949 750 811](mailto:Buzz.Johnson@02089864143)

Wednesday 5 November 7.00 - 9.00pm

### LOST IN TRANSITION: LIFE IN A NEW LANGUAGE

Organised by the Ruth Hayman Trust and chaired by Sue MacGregor, with readings by Ruth Rosen, the seminar draws on the experiences of three very different bi-lingual authors, to share and reflect on the issues facing those who want to express their thoughts in a new language and use that language creatively.

Tickets £15  
Followed by refreshments and book signing.

Venue: Friends Meeting House, 173 - 177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ  
For more info, visit [www.ruthhaymantrust.com](http://www.ruthhaymantrust.com)

### Sunday 9 November 7.30pm KRISTALLNACHT MEMORIAL

Jewish Socialist Worker's annual Kristallnacht programme this year takes the theme 'Scapegoats'. Nick Medic, RAM Project Communications Officer, will speak on how immigrants can be beneficial to their host country's economy.

Venue: Byng Place, London W1

For more info, contact [Ruth Appleton on 020 7482 2903 or appletonruth@msn.com](mailto:Ruth.Appleton@msn.com)

### Friday 14 November GENDER, ASYLUM AND THE MEDIA CONFERENCE

Organised by the Refugee Media Group in Wales (RMGW), a conference which aims to share learning and

best practice; convince others of the advantages of working from a gender perspective; and to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees are integral to every stage of the conference from planning to delivery and evaluation.

Keynote speaker Dr Heaven Crawley, Director of Migration and Equalities Programme, IPPR

Venue: Thistle Hotel, Cardiff

For more info, contact [Vanessa Bucolli at RMGW on BucolliV@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Vanessa.Bucolli@RMGW.ac.uk)

Saturday 22 November  
**MEETING OF MINDS**  
One-day conference looking at comparing the experiences of migrants across ethnic groups and to connect academia with artists and community to explore themes of discrimination, health and misrepresentation. Organised by Women on Ireland Research Network.

Speakers include Dr David Miller, Dr Mary Tilki, Choman Hardi, Prof Terry Threadgold and many others. Also poetry, music and oral histories.

Venue: Camden Irish Centre, 50 - 52 Camden Square NW1, London

For more info, contact [Louise Ryan on L.Ryan@rfc.ucl.ac.uk or visit http://researchservices1.qub.ac.uk/woireland/](mailto:Louise.Ryan@rfc.ucl.ac.uk)

Monday 24 to Thursday 27  
November

### A SENSE OF PLACE

Organised by the British Council, a four day international event to investigate, question and shed light on 'displacement' and 'integration' in Europe, through the intellectual focus of the role of arts, culture and media. PressWise and the RAM Project are co-ordinating day two on media - confirmed speakers so far are Gary Younge (journalist), Daniel Meadows (BBC) and Terry Threadgold (University of Cardiff).

For more info, contact [info@asenseofplace.org.uk](mailto:info@asenseofplace.org.uk) or 01280 821 292 or visit [www.asenseofplace.org.uk](http://www.asenseofplace.org.uk)

### USEFUL WEBSITES

**Community Care**  
[www.communitycare.co.uk/](http://www.communitycare.co.uk/)

**Kurdish Media**  
[www.kurdishmedia.com/kwahk](http://www.kurdishmedia.com/kwahk)

**PCC Code of Practice**  
[www.pcc.org.uk/cop/cop.asp](http://www.pcc.org.uk/cop/cop.asp)