

RAM BULLETIN

Refugees, Asylum-seekers & the Media Project

advice
information
research
& training
on media ethics



Promoting best practice in media representation of refugee & asylum issues

No 39, April 2004

Time for real change as poisoned chalice moves on

There was less triumphalism in the media than might have been expected when Beverley Hughes quit her Home Office Post on April Fool's Day.

Some good journalism, as well as some very dubious copy, had sped her on her way. *The Sun* followed it up with a neat piece on just how easy it is to buy false ID and passports in Poland.

It is now up to journalists to keep a watching brief on whether Blair, Blunkett, and the new minister Des Browne can get to grips with the shambles that is the Home Office, and make sure that asylum-seekers get fair and prompt treatment – with a proper appreciation of the risks that they face both here and 'back home'.

Leeds newsroom has space for an exiled journo

The *Yorkshire Evening Post* is offering a two-week, unpaid work-placement for an exiled journalist. The editor of the Leeds-based paper is Neil Hodgkinson, renowned for his strong editorial stance against the racist British National Party (BNP).

The offer, which will include accommodation for the period, comes after *YEP* senior reporter Pete Lazenby spoke alongside RAM Communications Officer Forward Maisokwadzo and an *Express* journalist, at an Ethics Council meeting on reporting of asylum issues during the recent National Union of Journalists Conference in Liverpool. *Exiled journalists wishing to be considered, please contact Forward Maisokwadzo at ram@presswise.org.uk*

BBC scheme a success – and set to be repeated

The BBC has hailed the week-long work-experience scheme for 13 exiled journalists as a great success – and pledged to repeat it in October.

The groundbreaking scheme with BBC Radio Five Live and BBC World Service, negotiated by the RAM Project, enabled members of the Exiled Journalists Network to shadow

reporters and producers, examine UK radio broadcast techniques, and meet programme editors. Some of those who took part have already been offered shift work at the BBC.

R5Live producer Randip Panesar set up the scheme after reading the RAM Directory of Exiled Journalists. "I was immediately struck by the wealth of potential talent and expertise," she said. "Everyone I spoke to at the BBC agreed it was a resource that shouldn't be wasted."

Now ten more members exiled journalists will get the chance to check out the BBC in October.

See Blessing Ruzengwe's report on p3. To be considered for October placements, contact Forward Maisokwadzo on ram@presswise.org.uk

RAM launches first ever national networks meeting

The first national conference for RAM-backed local media networks takes place on Fri 14 May at the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council.

The aim is for delegates to share practical experiences of working with the media to challenge hostile coverage of asylum issues, and discuss how to get support and training for the networks to be even more effective.

Invited speakers include Birmingham MP Lynne Jones, senior spokespeople from the National Union of Journalists and Refugee Council, and RAM's National Co-ordinator Terry Williams.

Places are free and open to existing network members as well as anyone else interested in joining. Lunch will also be provided.

Book your place with Anna Kelson on anna@presswise.org.uk

Journalists welcome new leaflet on reporting asylum

The Editor of *The Daily Mail* and journalists from *The News of The World* are among those who have welcomed the publication of a new leaflet containing guidelines for reporting on refugees and asylum seekers. Produced by MediaWise RAM

EDITORIAL

A strange disease affects the *Daily Mail's* balance

For the last three months the *Daily Mail* has been running dubious stories about migrants bringing infectious diseases into Britain.

On 16 Mar it claimed: 'Migrants with super-strain of TB may target Britain'. By using the word 'target' in the headline, the *Mail* was suggesting that migrants come to Britain deliberately to infect British citizens - an absurd claim, but one that still gets into a national paper.

While the *Mail* was trying to panic to people with its alarming headline, Paul Sommerfield, chair of charity TB Alert, was telling the BBC: "This is a global problem and Britain is only a small reflection. Rates of multi-drug-resistant-TB are around 1-1.5 per cent of all TB cases in Britain, which translates to around 40-50 cases a year."

Even though the *Mail* quoted Sommerfield, that opinion was absent from the article.

The paper has also run similar stories about HIV/AIDS. On 29 Mar under the headline 'Screening demand over Aids fears', it suggested that all immigrants should have health tests before they leave their countries. But the National Aids Trust, the UK's leading HIV/AIDS policy and campaigning organisation, says the idea is absurd.

"The imposition of HIV/AIDS testing and entry restrictions would lack a minimum level of effectiveness, be in breach of the UK's human rights obligation, and could potentially undermine proven strategies to prevent HIV that currently place," it states in a policy paper. Curiously, this opinion, too (and anything else like it) was absent from the *Mail*.

Guy Mulongoy Momat
Guest Editor
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Project with the UNHCR and the NUJ Ethics Council, it provides practical advice for media professionals. See page 4 for more details.

PCC-watch: papers breach new guidelines on asylum

Two national newspapers regularly breach the Press Complaints Commission's guidelines on asylum seekers and refugees, issued in October 2003. And the RAM Project has written to Tory leader Michael Howard, whose press officer used to be Director of the PCC, pointing out his misuse of terms in speeches.

The PCC's guidance set out the correct meaning of 'refugee', 'asylum seeker' and 'illegal immigrant' and advised editors to 'take care to avoid misleading or distorted terminology.'

But since then the guidelines have been repeatedly flouted, and RAM's Anna Kelson is keeping a record. If you spot any more breaches, email details to anna@presswise.org.uk

NUJ backs asylum action

Refugee and asylum issues were a hot topic at the NUJ's annual conference in Liverpool (25-28 Mar).

The conference agreed to encourage the creation of an exiled journalists network within the union, which will provide opportunities for mentoring, training and support – a proposal put forward by Mike Jempson on behalf of the Bristol Branch, and passed with an overwhelming majority. The network will have support and assistance from the union's Black Members' Council.

"We greatly appreciate the spirit of solidarity extended to exiled journalists by the Union," says Forward Maisokwadzo, RAM Communications Officer who also addressed the conference about conditions faced by colleagues in Zimbabwe.

Exiled journalists get help with freelance skills

The RAM Project has linked up with the NUJ to run a one-day Freelance Training Course for the Network members of the Exiled Journalists' Network in London.

The course, to be held on May 13 at the NUJ offices at Headland House, London, aims to provide network members with an opportunity to learn

how to survive as a freelance journalist in the UK.

Exiled journalist wishing to attend, please contact: Forward Maisokwadzo on ram@presswise.org.uk

Express complaint over 'racist' articles rejected

The Press Complaints Commission has decided it has no jurisdiction to respond to a call from NUJ members at *Daily Express* who want a 'conscience clause to protect those who resist pressure to produce stories they regard as racist. The call was referred to an newspaper industry Committee of Editors who also rejected it. The conscience clause idea has the support of MediaWise, the NUJ and the Commons Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport.

MediaWise Director, Mike Jempson, commented: "This means that journalists ordered to slant and twist stories to suit a dubious editorial policy designed to increase flagging circulation will maintain unprotected from reprisals if they refuse to do so."

Survey exposes media portrayal of minorities

Minorities are still under-represented in the news, and when they are featured it is overwhelmingly in negative contexts – according to the first pan-European survey of media coverage.

RAM co-ordinated the UK contribution to the survey and several radio stations carried interviews with Terry Williams on the day of the results were launched in Brussels.

"Sunrise Radio, a station for Asian communities in London, did a particularly good piece and concentrated on the lack of ethnic voices in the media in general news coverage," said Terry. There was no interest from print and TV, even though they were the study's focus..

See www.multicultural.net

Strengthening the EJM

As part of a strategy to develop and sustain the Exiled Journalists' Network, Forward Maisokwadzo has convened a small group of active members to draft plans for the future.

Their ideas will be shared with network members. The ultimate aim is to turn the EJM into a viable independent body.

Make the most of Refugee Week in the media

A series of media awareness sessions to help people get the best out of this year's Refugee Week are to be delivered by the RAM Project.

RAM co-ordinator Terry Williams has been asked to speak at meetings in London (April 21 or 22), Birmingham (April 29) and Newcastle (May 18).

"A great deal of effort goes into organising events for Refugee Week but media work is often an afterthought," said Williams. "The sessions will concentrate on the need to train and support refugees and asylum seekers to talk to the media - they are the story yet their voices are usually missing from the media."

For more information on the training contact Terry on 07946 343 055 or williams.t@blueyonder.co.uk

Leicester group announces summer media event

Amity Media, a group of refugees and asylum seekers who produce a quarterly magazine in Leicester, are organising a media conference on coverage of refugees and asylum seekers this summer.

The event will be held on June 14 at the start of UK Refugee Week and the RAM Project will provide one of the key speakers for the day.

For further details email Kwaku Ampomah on

kwaku@voluntaryactionleicester.co.uk

Three jobs up for grabs

The Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum is currently advertising for an advocacy and access development co-ordinator, and two bilingual outreach workers who can speak Arabic, Somali, Tigrean, and Amharic. MRCF is a community development and capacity building organisation working with more than 30 migrant and refugee groups in London.

For job descriptions and application forms phone 020 8964 4815 or email info@mrcf.org.uk

Spinning his story

RAM's former Communications Officer Nick Medic – who fearlessly battled newspapers hostile to asylum seekers last year – has just had a glowing article published about the record company he has just set up – in none other than the *Daily Express*!

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT

INSIDE THE BBC: OUR WEEK IN THE WORLD'S LARGEST NEWSROOM

*Thirteen RAM journalists have just spent a week inside the BBC, working alongside some of the best reporters and producers in the UK. Zimbabwean exile **Blessing Ruzengwe** was one of them...*

Exiled journalists – even those with considerable competence and experience – often find it difficult to penetrate the UK's media houses. So the scheme set up by MediaWise and the BBC to provide exiled journalists with work experience was a great opportunity for us.

I was lucky to be among the first 13 journalists from the Exiled Journalists Network who were offered the chance to spend a week observing, and in some cases working in, the BBC's newsrooms. On 15 Mar we started our visit with a tour of the BBC Television Centre and Bush House in London.

The first thing that strikes you when you enter Television Centre is the size of the News24 newsroom. The BBC pride itself that this is the biggest newsroom in the world, beating the likes of commercial news producers CNN and BSkyB. In addition, both of the sections we visited – Five Live and the World Service – have their own newsrooms and pools of reporters.

But if the size of the BBC newsroom is intimidating, the welcome extended to you by BBC journalists dispels any discomfort. Even though newsrooms are by nature extremely busy places, the staff always spared a few minutes to explain things to me.

On my second day I chose BBC News Online because I'm studying internet journalism. The News Online team sources and produces all the news we read on the BBC news website. This operation is both a mirror of the whole BBC and also a pointer to its future. The news team is segmented, with desks for Africa, UK news and world news among others.

Learning about the different desks was interesting, but what really caught my attention were the specialists who are responsible for producing detailed news documentaries about special events. On that day one of the reporters was working on a piece about the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide. She explained the process of gathering the data, from recent pictures to archival material, and at

the end of the day I left convinced this was going to be a fascinating documentary.

My third day was on the Five Live Morning Phone-In programme. I chose this programme because of my interest in current affairs. The programme runs from 9am to midday and this is the place to go if you want to see how a live broadcast is managed. The day's topic for discussion was 'Is there any reason to be unemployed?' It was interesting to listen to the range of views of Five Live listeners – from the logical ones to some bordering on absurdity.

Thursday was our last working day and I chose to be on the Focus On Africa desk. Work started at 11am and the early part of the afternoon was spent getting stringers and correspondents from across Africa to file their copy for the 30-minute broadcast at 3pm. My task for that broadcast was to read letters with another producer. Time was my enemy – all of the producers said it was a dry news day, so they had to work hard to find stories. Although two of them expressed their willingness to teach me some of the production techniques they use, there just wasn't enough time for that in one shift.

Even though our time with the BBC was limited, the whole experience demystified the way the BBC operates. BBC journalism is one of the most highly regarded in the world and many extremely competent network journalists have tried without success to get work with the Beeb. Rejection has left them doubting either their competence or the fairness of the recruitment process. Thankfully, we were able to talk to people at the BBC about both of these concerns.

Someone from the BBC recruitment department explained how to apply for work, on the last day of the work experience. She said that you don't need anything besides competence and confidence, but because working for the BBC is so well-regarded by many journalists, competition among applicants is extremely fierce.

Those harbouring doubts about their competence were also reassured over the week. At least four network journalists were able to source and produce their own stories, and other helped producers with their contacts and specialist knowledge.

"The scheme to host 13 exiled journalists in BBC newsrooms was a unique and, to quote just one editor, a 'humbling' experience," said Randip Panesar, a Producer at BBC Radio Five Live who organised the scheme. "It's amazing to think it all started with the chance opening of an envelope last year when the RAM Directory of exiled journalists fell into my lap – I'm so glad you produced it. I was immediately struck by the wealth of potential talent and expertise and everyone I spoke to at the BBC agreed it was a resource that shouldn't be wasted."

Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

New guidelines for reporting on refugees and asylum seekers

A digest of the new leaflet offering practical assistance for journalists working on asylum stories. It was produced after extensive consultation by the MediaWise RAM Project, supported by the UNHCR and the National Union of Journalists Ethics Council.

TERMINOLOGY

Journalism uses shortcuts to convey information. However, it helps to be precise and consistent when using terms with legal definitions.

Who is an asylum-seeker?

Anyone who has applied for asylum against persecution under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, and is waiting for a decision.

Who is a refugee?

Anyone who has been granted asylum under the UN Convention, to which the UK is a signatory along with 144 other countries. The precise legal definition in Article 1 of the Convention refers to a 'refugee' as a person who: "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

What about those fleeing general conflict?

People who do not qualify for refugee status may be granted humanitarian protection allowing them 'leave to remain' in the UK for a defined or indefinite period, if they cannot safely return to their home country. UNHCR describes these people as 'refugees'.

Can those not granted refugee status or temporary leave to remain be sent back home?

YES – although their country of origin might refuse to accept returnees or return may not be possible. Such individuals will generally not be eligible to receive UK benefits or support, nor are they legally entitled to work. In some cases they will be held in detention.

Who is an 'illegal asylum-seeker'?

NO-ONE – this term is always incorrect. It cannot be illegal to seek asylum since everyone has the fundamental human right to request asylum under international law. The term 'bogus asylum-seeker' is also inaccurate and misleading as it pre-judges the outcome of an asylum application – rather like describing a defendant as entering a 'bogus plea of innocence' during a trial.

Are there 'failed asylum-seekers'?

YES – the term covers individuals who have exhausted all their legal avenues in seeking asylum. That does not necessarily mean their claim is 'bogus'; it means they have failed to meet the UK's current criteria, which change from time to time. Their lives may still be at risk, and they may qualify to remain in the UK on humanitarian grounds.

Are asylum-seekers the same as 'illegal immigrants'?

NO – asylum-seekers have registered with the Home Office and are allowed to remain in the UK while their claim is being considered. The Convention acknowledges that someone fleeing persecution may enter a country by irregular means (and often without any documents) in order to claim asylum. The term 'illegal immigrants' could apply to people who can be shown to have:

- entered the country illegally, without permission from an Immigration Officer, who then continue to reside in the UK without contacting the authorities or making an asylum application; OR
- entered the country legally, with all the necessary documents, but then disregard limits placed on the length of stay set on their visa ('overstayers'); OR
- refused to co-operate with Home Office attempts to remove them for whatever reason.

What do you call someone who tries to enter the UK by unlawful means?

Some of those smuggled into the UK (hidden in lorries, etc) will be seeking asylum, but it is inaccurate to categorise them all as asylum-seekers since some may have no intention to seek asylum. The government refers to these as 'clandestines' although 'irregular migrants' might be a more accurate and less confusing term. People-smugglers are committing a crime but their clientele may not be.

Who are 'economic migrants'?

People who leave their home country to seek work and opportunities unavailable there. The term could be applied to all those who obtain work permits from the government to fill labour shortages in the UK. UNHCR describes a 'migrant' as someone who makes a conscious, voluntary choice to leave their country of origin.

REPORTING THE CAUSE OF ASYLUM SEEKING

Little coverage is given to the human rights abuses and conflicts that force people to flee their homes, yet providing this global context would improve the quality of debate around asylum issues. Historical, cultural and family links with the UK and a desire for safety under the rule of law may be more significant than so-called 'pull factors' like access to benefits.

To order copies of the full leaflet – which also contains guidance on photographing asylum seekers and the use of statistics – contact anna@presswise.org.uk or The National Union Of Journalists (308 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP; telephone 0207 2787916.)

MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

8: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - Fighting for human rights in the UK and across the world

Pearl Thevanayagam looks at what Amnesty does for asylum seekers and refugees

In 1961 two Portuguese students were sent to prison for seven years simply for raising their glasses in a toast to freedom. When British lawyer Peter Benenson read about this, it irked him so much that he decided to launch an organisation to raise international support to protect human rights. Amnesty International now has more than 50 branches in seven countries across the world.

Amnesty International in the UK (AIUK) considers refugees and asylum seekers to be a major cause for concern, and campaigns on their behalf. AIUK's press officer, Steve Ballinger explains that asylum cases are dealt by a policy expert and caseworker. "Although we do not take up individual cases, immigration lawyers seek our advice and knowledge on human rights violations in asylum decisions," he says.

AI campaigns for better refugee rights and works hard to dispel myths about asylum seekers.

"A popular myth among the public and the media is that Britain is a soft touch for asylum seekers," says Steve. "The reality is that it is difficult to get to UK due to the closure of legal migration routes and stringent visa requirements.

"Another perception is that Britain takes more than its fair share of asylum seekers. Far from it – Mori

polls conducted in 2002 show that the UK takes in only three per cent and not 25 per cent as generally assumed. Ironically 75 percent of the world's asylum seekers are absorbed by Africa, Asia and other poorer countries."

He continues: "While AI concedes that some asylum seekers are not genuine, we know there are huge refugee problems in certain countries. Though not accepted by UK, so-called 'economic refugees' do fear suffering, torture and persecution if they are returned to their own countries. That's why we are campaigning for governments to respect their human rights under 1951 Geneva Convention."

AMNESTY FACT SHEET

Number of staff: 60
Number of members: 200,000

Budget (2003):
£15,429,000

UK Head Office
99-119 Rosebery Avenue,
London, EC1R 4RE
Tel: 0207 814 6200
Fax: 0207 833 1510

Website
www.amnesty.org.uk

UK Director
Kate Allen

Head of Press
Steve Ballinger
Email: press@amnesty.org.uk

AIUK is currently campaigning against new legislation going through parliament that will dramatically reduce the legal rights of asylum seekers.

"So far, asylum seekers have been allowed two appeals and a judicial review following a negative initial decision of the Home Office. Under new legislation their rights will be reduced to just one appeal," Steve says. He explains that Home Office caseworkers often make wrong decisions – in

2002 alone, some 14,000 negative initial decisions were overturned on appeal.

"This colossal mistake is totally unacceptable and we are now conducting a study of refusal letters sent to asylum seekers. We find that Home Office decisions are often made on inadequate and inaccurate information provided by its Country Information and Policy Unit." And, Steve points out "The Home Office also summarily refuses clients from 'white list' countries or countries deemed safe to return to such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Jamaica."

AIUK is targeting MPs and central government in its campaign to improve the asylum system. "We have also involved pressure groups such as Refugee Council, Refugee Action and Medical Foundation," Steve goes on. "In response to what we've said, the Home Office Select Committee, comprising both MPs and peers, has recommended more resources to make accurate initial decisions, thus preventing costly appeals." AIUK also campaigns against forced detention and housing asylum seekers outside UK territory.

AIUK also campaigns on behalf of prisoners of conscience detained for peaceful expression of their beliefs. It will not support those who advocate violence and so researches each case carefully to ensure that it does not support 'terrorists' or get drawn into taking sides in political conflicts around the world. Most of AI's campaigning – such as its letter-writing Urgent Action Network – is done by its members rather than the staff.

AI also works with schools and colleges and large number of students participate in their activities. It often links up with trade unions, human rights groups and other non-governmental organizations to campaign for change.

‘PEG’ BOARD

Help to set the media agenda by generating stories rather than having to react to theirs. Keep your ears and eyes open for events that can provide you, and the media with a ‘peg’ on which to hang positive stories about refugees or asylum seekers.

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

Monday 5 April 7.30pm

POETRY CAFE

Exiled Writers Ink! present their monthly poetry evening, the first act from Florida, a play called ‘The Election play’ by Dale Reynolds. The play focuses on the events leading up to the 2000 presidential elections and is followed by a discussion and open floor for exiled writers.

£3 and £1 members
Venue: 22 Betterton Street, London (Nearest tube Covent Garden)
For more info, contact Jennifer@exiledwriters.fsn.et.co.uk, 020 8458 1910 or visit <http://www.exiledwriters.co.uk>

Wednesday 7 April 6.00pm
DOES UK FOREIGN INVESTMENT CREATE REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS?

Jointly organised with Ilisu Dam Campaign and The Corner House, Peace in Kurdistan, a discussion on a report co - produced by the Ilisu Dam Campaign and The Corner House, Peace in Kurdistan. Free entry, book in advance.

Venue: 18 Northumberland Avenue, London
For more info, contact susanna.darch@rcsint.org or 020 7766 9202

Wednesday 7 April 6.30pm – 9.00pm

‘GHOSTS OF RWANDA’
Organised by The Frontline Club Forum, a screening of ‘Ghosts of Rwanda’

introduced by Greg Barker (Director). ‘Ghosts of Rwanda’ gives an overview of the Rwanda genocide and the lack of international intervention and attention, with interviews from Kofi Annan (UN Secretary of State) and Madeleine Albright (Former US Secretary of State).

Book in advance.
Venue: The Frontline Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London
For more info, contact elsa.weill@thefrontlineclub.com or 020 7479 8950

Thursday 8 April 5.00pm - 7.00pm

DEMONSTRATION

Organised by The National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns, the last of the three demonstrations against the governments policy of forced returns for failed Iraqi asylum seekers back to Iraq.

Venue: Home Office, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London (Nearest tube station: St James' Park)
For more info, contact Fahmi.Aziz@07944992154, Dashty.Jamal@07734704742 or visit www.ncadc.org.uk

Wednesday 14 April 6.00pm

SOUTH AFRICA: TENS YEARS AND BEYOND

Jointly organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Royal African Society, a conference to celebrate South Africa's 10th anniversary of freedom. Delivering a speech will be HE Lindiwe Mabuza (High Commissioner for South Africa).

Free entry; Book in advance.
Venue: Royal Commonwealth Society, 18 Northumberland Ave, London
For more info, contact susanna.darch@rcsint.org or 020 7766 9202

Wednesday 21 or

Thursday 22 April tbc

INFORMATION SHARING AND MEDIA TRAINING MEETINGS

Organised by The Refugee Council as part of the refugee week celebrations, the first of three meetings aimed at enabling refugee

organisations to network, share information and receive free media training.
Venue: London, tbc.
For more info, contact joanna.marks@refugeecouncil.org.uk, 020 7820 3055

Friday 23 April 10.00am - 17.30pm

TRAINING DAY

Organised by the Immigration Advisory Service, a one - day event focusing on the latest developments in the area of asylum and immigration law. Experts will speak on related issues, speakers will include: Prof Stephen Castles (Director), Mark Symes (Solicitor) and Keith Best (Chief Executive) - followed by afternoon workshops.

Venue: Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston University, Birmingham
For more info, contact tina.rawal@iasuk.org or 020 7967 6000

Thursday 29 April

INFORMATION SHARING AND MEDIA TRAINING MEETINGS

Organised by The Refugee Council as part of the refugee week celebrations. The second of three meetings aimed at enabling refugee organisations to network, share information and receive free media training.
Venue: Birmingham, tbc.
For more info, contact joanna.marks@refugeecouncil.org.uk, 020 7820 3055 or visit www.refugeeweek.org.uk

Friday 14 May 11am - 5.30pm

MEDIA NETWORKS CONFERENCE

The first national conference for Networks set up or supported by RAM which aims to share practical experiences of working with the media to change the hostile UK media coverage of refugees and asylum-seekers.

Guest speakers include Birmingham MP Lynne Jones, and NUJ and Refugee Council representatives. Places are free and open to people interested in joining as well as existing network members, lunch will be provided.

Venue: Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR
For more info or to book your place, contact anna@presswise.org.uk

Saturday 15 - Sunday 16 May

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Organised by the Refugee Study Centre, the first in a series of workshops commencing with a discussion, aiming to help participants tackle the area of the law of refugee status.

Fee: £130, including course materials, refreshments and light lunch; excluding accommodation.
Venue: Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford
For more info, contact rscmst@qeh.ox.ac.uk or 018 6527 0722

Tuesday 18 May

INFORMATION SHARING AND MEDIA TRAINING MEETINGS

Organised by The Refugee Council as part of the refugee week celebrations, the final meeting in the series aimed at enabling refugee organisations to network, share information and receive free media training.

Venue: Newcastle, tbc.
For more info, contact joanna.marks@refugeecouncil.org.uk, 020 7820 3055 or visit www.refugeeweek.org.uk

Saturday 22 - Sunday 23 May

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

The second event organised by the Refugee Study Centre, to actively engage participants to critically examine contemporary debates in human rights; using the Palestinian refugees in the Middle East as the case study.

Fee: £120, including course materials, refreshments and light lunch; excluding accommodation.
Venue: Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford
For more info, contact rscmst@qeh.ox.ac.uk or 018 6527 0722