

RAM BULLETIN

Refugees, Asylum-seekers and the Media Project

advice
information
research
& training
on media ethics



Promoting best practice in media representation of refugee and asylum issues

No 41, June 2004

BNP manifesto capitalises on asylum scare-stories

The extreme right-wing British National Party has published a poisonous election leaflet entitled 'Asylum is making Britain explode', which capitalises on some of the myths peddled by the media. The leaflet is reported to have been widely distributed across the country – including every household in Scotland. The Scottish Refugee Council has described it as "a stomach-turning document of half-truths and unfounded assertions."

The Commission for Racial Equality and Anti-Fascism campaigners also voiced their concerns that the BNP leaflet constitutes incitement to racial hatred and called for it to be banned.

PCC guidelines on asylum reporting still being ignored

Newspapers are continuing to flout Press Complaints Commission guidelines on the use of misleading language. Last month, *The Independent* and the Press Association used the term 'illegal asylum seeker' which the PCC highlighted as an example of 'misleading or distorted terminology' in its guidance to editors last year. Some 11 publications also used the term 'bogus asylum seeker' including *The Telegraph* (in a leader column), the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Express*, *The Sun* and several regional papers.

RAM and MediaWise have published a leaflet for journalists on the correct use of terminology. For copies email pw@presswise.org.uk

Campaigners plan challenge to inaccurate reporting

Media groups at the recent first ever media networks conference organised by the RAM Project in Birmingham (May 14) drew up an action plan aimed to help them challenge sensational media reporting of asylum seekers and refugees.

The 38 participants who attended the one-day conference said it was a success because it gave them an opportunity to share good and bad experiences. RAM has agreed to produce several new resources for media groups including

guides to: starting a media group, making contacts with local journalists, and running media campaigns. Members of the groups also said they need more help with networking and getting funding.

The conference also underlined the importance of media monitoring not only for identifying bad coverage but also as a barometer to measure groups' successes.

Exiled journalists gain essential freelance skills

Eleven exiled journalists attended a one-day course on how to freelance for the UK media. The course, organized by the RAM project and the National Union of Journalists, was held at the NUJ's head Office in London on May 13. Topics covered included finding freelance work, selling and negotiating with editors, the thorny issue of pricing work, and ensuring you get paid. Course director Chris Wheal, a freelance journalist himself, said the course was designed to give exiled journalists an opportunity to kick-start their careers.

Samson Ake, from Ivory Coast, said the course had opened his eyes to freelancing, but added that more needs to be done to help exiled journalists.

Forward Maisokwadzo, the RAM Project's Communications Officer, said the course was a pilot project to assess training needs for exiled journalists and at the same time assist them to earn a living. "It will enable both RAM and the NUJ to come up with a suitable training package for exiled journalists," he said.

The truth about migration: useful government figures

Migration from Britain to the rest of Europe is at its highest for 10 years, according to new figures from the Government. The *Daily Mirror* reported that some 125,000 people leave for other EU countries a year, with just 89,000 coming in. "More people leave these shores than settle here. The figures, from the Office for National Statistics, disprove the myth that we face being swamped," the paper sensibly concludes.

EDITORIAL

The lies behind the anti-migration campaign

The spate of tabloid stories about an 'invasion' of Roma after the enlargement of the European Union on May 1, prompted us to visit some of the new EU states.

There, we tracked down one of the victims of British media adventurers, and can tell part of his shocking story in this issue of the *Bulletin* (see p3). We also reveal some of the appalling tactics used by unprincipled journalists to shore up their anti-migration campaign.

It's sickening to hear that poverty-stricken Roma – Europe's most discriminated-against minority group – were paid to say they were looking forward to receiving benefits and support for their families in UK. Having journalists stage-manage events so they can produce stories that back up their newspaper's (or TV station's) campaign, with no regard for the truth, reveals just how irresponsible certain journalists and editors are.

No-one from the new member states can come to the UK to claim benefits; people are only allowed here to work. Ministers have sensibly recognised that Britain needs more migrant workers to fill job vacancies in agriculture, catering, NHS and construction, so benefits are restricted to migrants who have become integrated into the economic system but may be temporarily unemployed. Even then, they have to pass a tough habitual resident test.

The campaigning is now largely over and an unhappy chapter in British journalism's history is closing. Let's hope that all journalists and editors will in future try harder to maintain their integrity.

Forward Maisokwadzo
Guest Editor

Amnesty gives awards for best asylum coverage

Amnesty International Scotland has recognised Scottish journalists and broadcasters who have excelled in reporting the plight of asylum seekers and refugees.

The human rights watchdog awarded the top prize to Lorna Martin for her feature on the Dungavel detention centre in *The Herald*, called 'The asylum-seeking children locked up in the UK for over a year'. The runner-up award went to Lucinda Broadbent and Sonya Rothwell for their programme *Situations Vacant* for BBC Scotland, which examined some of the myths around asylum seekers.

The judging panel of Krishnan Guru-Murthy (*Channel 4 News*), Martin Wainwright (*The Guardian*), Tim Gopsill (NUJ) and Patrick Corrigan (AI) stressed how impressed they were by the high standard of the entries.

Lib Dems attack 'grubby' asylum proposals

The Liberal Democrats attacked both Labour and the Conservatives over their support of the removal of benefits from failed asylum seekers as proposed in the Asylum and Immigration Bill.

Lord Tom McNally, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman in the House of Lords, said: "The removal of child benefits from asylum seekers is unjust, unfair and unethical. It is a grubby policy and one that discredits this Labour Government. By supporting the removal of benefits the Conservatives have shown how populist, expedient and confused their approach is. In the Queen's Speech, Michael Howard declared his outrage at the removal of benefits for the children of asylum seekers. Yet now this Tory change of heart will let through a Government measure which imposes sanctions on children as a means of enforcing asylum policy."

Express shock headline: 'Immigrants are no problem'

There was a surprise headline in the *Express* at the end of April. 'Immigrants are no problem for me,' columnist Carol Sarler announced, saying that she didn't trust what the 'scaremongers' were saying about EU migration. The stories are 'nonsense' she said, adding: 'Personally,

I don't believe a word of it.' On the same day that Sarler's column was published, the *Express*' front page 'revealed' that 'flights [from new EU countries] to UK are booked solid'.

Although it had discovered that 'all cheap tickets on the [Slovakia's] low-cost SkyEurope airline... have sold out for May', a travel agent told them that more expensive tickets were still available. Nevertheless, the paper still headlined the article: 'Sold Out'.

No wonder Sarler doesn't believe what's in her own paper.

Midwives deliver damning verdict on asylum policy

Britain's midwives deserve praise for their little-reported stance against Government plans to make them check the immigration status of their patients. The Department for Work and Pensions has published proposals that would make doctors and healthcare professionals into gatekeepers to free NHS care. But at the annual conference of the Royal College of Midwives in Cardiff (May 19), delegates voted unanimously to resist Government moves to turn them into 'social snoopers'.

Susie Williams, the midwife who put forward the motion, said: "My role as a midwife is to care for women throughout their pregnancy and birth. It's not my job to find out whether or not they are foreign nationals. If they are asylum seekers, they may well have come from situations which I couldn't even imagine, and I'm not going to inform on them." Williams, a community midwife in Swansea, added: "Many midwives feel as I do: we are loath to become social police. I support families, whatever their nationality." The government says the overall bill for 'health tourism' is £200 million a year.

Ban on benefits and housing for asylum-seekers 'illegal'

A law banning some asylum-seekers from housing and other benefits has been ruled illegal and in breach of human rights by the Court of Appeal (May 21). The groundbreaking decision is a major setback to the Home Secretary David Blunkett's attempts to reduce the number of asylum claims. Under Section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act, people must claim asylum

within three days of arriving in the UK to qualify for benefits and housing. Refugee groups say that has left thousands of asylum seekers destitute. The Court of Appeal in London ruled that the law is in breach of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees shelter as a 'basic amenity', and states that no one should be subjected to 'inhuman or degrading treatment'. The case was brought by three asylum seekers who had their applications refused. Although the Home Office vowed to appeal to the House of Lords, commentators say it may now need to carry out a root-and-branch review of its policies and procedures.

Refugees help solve Scottish tourism skills shortage

Refugees were recently brought together with tourism bosses in Glasgow to fill 550 job vacancies. Glasgow Chamber of Commerce told firms and business leaders that they could solve the recruitment crisis in tourism, the city's largest industry, by tapping into the talents of skilled refugees eager to find work. It is estimated that there are 3,000 unemployed refugees in Glasgow.

Chamber of Commerce chief executive Lesley Sawers told representatives of 40 tourism firms: "It is paramount that we highlight to the city's hoteliers and restaurateurs the untapped potential within the refugee community and begin to address some of the recruitment difficulties that are restricting Glasgow's business growth."

Judges warned to mind their language in court

Judges have been given new guidance on the type of language they should use in court to avoid causing offence. Lord Chief Justice Lord Woolf unveiled a guidebook dealing with the treatment of race, religion, disability, gender and sexuality. "While we must treat people equally, of course we are all different and that is part of the rub," Lord Woolf said.

The guidance warns that care should be taken with the term 'asylum seeker' because it is associated with people who do not have a genuine claim to be refugees and is almost pejorative. Referring to people from ethnic minorities, as 'ethnics' should 'certainly be avoided' because it is patronising.

JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**EXPOSED: HOW BRITISH JOURNALISTS FABRICATED MIGRATION SCARE STORIES**

RICH COOKSON reveals the underhand tactics unscrupulous journalists used in the campaign against mass migration from the new Europe

Sergey's face said it all. Until a couple of minutes ago he was excitedly showing-off the picture of him and his baby son in a British national newspaper. But then the translator read him the headline. His smile turned to puzzlement, and then to anger as he listened to the rest of the story. "It is not true," he complained. "I have no plans to go to Britain."

Sergey is just one of many Roma from Slovakia who became pawns in the anti-immigration hysteria whipped up by several national newspapers ahead of the enlargement of the European Union on May 1. I was working as a freelance journalist in several of the new EU states in late April and early May, and tracked down Sergey after becoming suspicious about the paper's story on him.

The newspaper claimed that he was one of more than a million 'gypsies' that would 'flood' into Britain after May 1. It stated that he and his family were living in squalid conditions and would flee to Britain for a life of luxury at taxpayers' expense when border restrictions were lifted.

But the story was untrue. Sergey doesn't live in squalor. The paper claimed he was 'jobless' but I had to wait several hours to meet him because he was out working. He says he didn't make many of the comments attributed to him; and he was still firmly in Slovakia when I tracked him down several days after May 1.

"I have no intention of going to England," he told me. "The journalists asked if we would like to go – we replied that we don't know what life is like there and what the difference between life here and life there would be." The paper even got the name of his village wrong.

Unfortunately, I cannot publish the name of the newspaper or even use Sergey's real name because the paper threatened me with legal action when I approached them about it. But the full story should soon see the light of day.

Hearing Sergey's story was a worrying illustration of the lengths to which some of my colleagues had gone (or been driven) to manipulate public opinion before May 1. And Sergey's experience is by no means unique.

Kristína Magdolenová is Executive Director of the Roma Press Agency, a Slovakian organisation that campaigns

for fair media coverage of Roma. She's an experienced journalist, having worked as a regional editor at the daily *Sme* and chief editor of the daily *Vychodoslovenske Noviny*. During the three months before May 1, she was approached by 60 Western journalists from 17 countries. From the UK, three TV stations and five national newspapers asked her for help. "Many journalists came here and only wanted to visit the very poorest people and villages," she says. "They weren't interested in what was true, only what their editor wanted them to film [or write]."

She says that one UK broadcast journalist "visited a village and said she wanted two Roma to pretend that one of them wanted to leave. The Roma thought it was a joke but they didn't understand what would happen when it was broadcast in the UK.

"In another case a British TV crew said they wanted to film some Roma eating at a table with a British flag, and showing their bags prepared. Other journalists offered to pay for Roma to travel to the UK if they could film them."

She stresses that not all of the UK journalists acted in this way (singling out Tania Branigan from *The Guardian* for praise) but says the way most of them approached the story left her extremely worried. "If readers in the UK always read about Roma as poor, uneducated and unemployed, they won't understand them. If a political party says it doesn't want Roma here, people will think they are referring to poor, unemployed and uneducated people because all the newspapers and TV stations portray them in this way. But that is only part of Roma society."

She's right to be worried. Britain was faced with an almost daily diet of immigration scare stories from early January – the *Daily Mail* and *Daily Express* notched up five hysterical front page splashes between them in just six days. Under relentless media pressure on asylum and immigration policy, the government was forced to tighten restrictions on migrant workers, Immigration Minister Beverley Hughes resigned, and Tony Blair convened an emergency migration summit. Now the British National Party is campaigning hard on asylum and migration for the local and European elections.

If the information fed to us by the media is untrue, we all lose the opportunity to make informed decisions. The diet of negative and misleading articles that we've been subjected to has undoubtedly bolstered prejudice among the public and our elected representatives.

Back in Slovakia, Sergey too, is furious about how he has been treated. "I am so angry with them," he says. "I gave them coffee to drink. I offered them all I had. It is degrading what they have done to me."

Rich Cookson is a freelance journalist. He writes for a variety of national newspapers and magazines, and is sub-editor of the RAM Bulletin.

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM
AS MUGABE'S THUGS
INTIMIDATED THE PRESS**

When FORWARD MAISOKWADZO got a job at the Zimbabwe Independent, it was his big break. But it would also result in his exile.

I started my journalism career at the *Zimbabwe Independent*, a privately-owned weekly newspaper, as a junior reporter in early 1999.

Fresh from college, it was a big break. I was thrilled to be offered the chance to cut my teeth at this highly-rated newspaper, rubbing shoulders with the country's top journalists, among them Basildon Peta (now living in exile as Southern Africa correspondent for the London-based *Independent*), Barnabas Thondlana (now Associate Editor for the *Daily News On Sunday*, sister paper to the closed *Daily News*), Sunsleey Chamunorwa (now Editor-in-Chief of the weekly *Financial Gazette*) and Dumisani Muleya (the *Zimbabwe Independent's* current chief reporter).

However, my excitement was short-lived because President Robert Mugabe embarked on a course of action that curtailed – and sometimes completely denied – Zimbabweans' basic rights. He began to attack the very rights and freedoms that he had guaranteed to protect when he swore an oath to uphold the inviolability of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, and the tenets of international and regional agreements signed by his government. In the end, that meant I would be targetted by some of his thugs simply for doing my job.

At the beginning of 2000, Mugabe embarked on a widely-condemned programme of land reform. It was designed to boost his political capital rather than provide land to those who needed it. I was assigned to cover the land invasions, which became of major interest to the international media (until war broke out in Iraq, when the cameras were immediately shifted).

Besides working for my paper, I also started freelancing for a number of foreign media organisations, such as the South African *Sunday Times*, *Indigo Publications*, London's *Sunday Times* and also *The Voice Of America*.

To intensify his campaign against the press and freedom of expression, President Mugabe drafted into his cabinet Jonathan Moyo as his information tsar. With his appointment, we saw an ever-tightening siege of press freedom that often spilled over into open violence against the independent media.

To show how critical he was against the free press, Moyo thundered in an exclusive interview with CNN's Char-

layne Hunter-Gault: "It is far better to have government without newspapers." In the same interview he said that Thomas Jefferson was wrong when he said it was better to have newspapers without government.

After Moyo made these remarks, we saw the introduction of draconian and ill-advised legislation designed to hand-cap the private media, curtail the powers of the judiciary, and strengthen the state security apparatus to deal with any activity considered damaging to the image of the president and his government.

Since the new media laws – euphemistically called the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, which bars foreign correspondents from working in Zimbabwe and requires all Zimbabwean journalists to renew their licenses to practice – came into effect, there have been an increasing number of attacks on independent journalists like myself, with many being arrested and detained for printing allegedly anti-government comment.

Since the beginning of 2002, some 40 journalists have been charged and four foreign correspondents have been expelled from the country. Journalists working in the private media now operate with the spectre of a court case constantly hanging over them.

The incident that marked me down as an opposition trouble-maker in the eyes of Zanu PF activists was in March 2000. A colleague from the *Sunday Times* and I were reporting on a group of so called 'war veterans' who were occupying commercial farmland near Harare's international airport, 25km south east of the capital. Young Zanu PF thugs carrying knives and batons separated the two of us while the police stood idly by. They held my colleague by the road while I was frogmarched away to their base in a nearby bungalow. My wallet, notebook, camera and press card were taken.

After my colleague made protests to the local police headquarters and talked to the Zanu PF youth leaders at length, they managed to get me back – but only four hours after I'd been taken. It was a nasty experience.

I relocated to the UK in 2002 and I'm very grateful to the support I got from the NUJ and the Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa, which sponsored my full-time MA International Journalism studies at City University from September 2002.

The lack of media freedom in Zimbabwe today reminds me of the way the South African Broadcasting Corporation operated in South Africa during the very darkest days of apartheid.

Forward Maisokwadzo was a reporter for the Zimbabwe Independent and a freelance journalist for several international media organisations, including the London-based Sunday Times. He is now RAM's Communications Officer.

MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

10: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

The government body responsible for providing support

Ali Manaz examines the remit of this support body – and its most controversial rule

As one of the signatories to the 1951 Geneva Convention, the United Kingdom has agreed to provide asylum seekers with accommodation and financial support.

The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) is the government body responsible for doing this. It is part of the Home Office (HO), and aims to look after asylum seekers who qualify for support until a final decision is made about their claim.

It provides both emergency and long-term accommodation, and financial support which used to be provided as vouchers but is now paid in cash.

Before April 2000, when new support provisions in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 came into effect, asylum seekers were supported by the Benefits Agency or their local council. But since then NASS has been responsible for the provision of support to almost all asylum seekers.

Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, can apply for accommodation and financial support, accommodation, or financial support only from NASS. Accommodation is usually provided in dispersal areas outside London and the South East.

NASS is run from Croydon, London, but also has offices in the following towns and cities: Manchester, Leeds, Newcastle, Birmingham, Leicester, Cambridge, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Dover and Belfast. All of the offices carry out investigations to ensure that only those people who are eligible for support receive it; offer outreach

support; and manage contracts with both the private and public sectors to provide accommodation.

One of the most controversial aspects of asylum policy is Section 55 of the Nationality, Immigration & Asylum Act 2002, which has a major impact on the way NASS operates.

Section 55 came into force on Jan 8 2003 and prevents NASS from providing an asylum seeker with support – including emergency accommodation – if officials do not believe that he or she made their claim for asylum ‘as soon as reasonably practicable’ on arrival in the UK.

The Home Secretary announced in December 2003 that only those asy-

tion on Human Rights, unaccompanied children (who are supported by local councils under the Children Act 1989), and asylum seekers with special needs (who are supported by councils under the National Assistance Act 1948), the rule has proved to be extremely controversial – particularly because there is no right of appeal against the government’s decision to refuse support.

The rule has faced serious criticism from charities and campaign groups, and is currently being challenged in the courts. Critics argue that many asylum seekers simply do not know about the rule when they arrive in the UK, particularly if they do not know anyone here and speak no English.

There have also been repeated claims in the media that Section 55 has forced many asylum seekers to sleep rough.

Fazil Kawani from the Refugee Council describes Section 55 as “a mess”. He says: “It actually makes implementation of the 1951 Geneva Convention difficult. The issue is very complicated and is now in court [see news pages for the latest development]. We don’t yet know what the outcome and impact will be. It is complicated, but currently applicants are still suffering a deficit of support.”

One year after the rule came into force, (Jan 8 2003), Chief Executive of the Refugee Council Maeve Sherlock said that the number of asylum seekers facing destitution and homelessness had increased as a direct result of Section 55. “This is placing an intolerable and unsustainable burden on refugee communities who cannot and should not be expected to pick up the pieces of what is an inhumane piece of legislation,” she said in a press statement.

NASS also gives funding to several charities to help provide support for asylum seekers. These include Migrant Helpline, Refugee Action and the Refugee Council. It also runs the Nation Asylum Support Forum which allows it to consult with interested groups. Bodies on NASF include: the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Immigration Law Practitioners Association, the North Of England Refugee Service, and the homelessness charity Shelter.

NASS FACT SHEET

Number of UK staff:
Roughly 1,000

Number of clients:
76,245 (end of March)

Address:
1st Floor, Quest House,
11 Cross Road,
Croydon CR9 6EL
T: 0208 633 0503
F: 0208 633 0896

Helpline:
T: 0845 602 1739

Website:
www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/default.asp?PagelD=89

Immigration minister:
Des Browne

lum seekers who could give a credible explanation of how they arrived in the UK within the last three days would be considered to have made their claim as soon as reasonably practicable. That means those who try to claim after that time will almost certainly not receive support.

While Section 55 does not apply to families with children under 18, people who can show that they would otherwise suffer treatment contrary to Article 3 of The European Conven-

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's relevant for them.

Monday 7 June 6.00pm
REEL PEACE: SIX SHORT FILMS FROM SRI LANKA
 The Royal Commonwealth Society is hosting the UK premiere of Reel Peace: Six short films from Sri Lanka. These short films aim to produce an honest and balanced account of the troubles in Sri Lanka that can contribute to the wider understanding of social and cultural reconciliation.
 Tickets: £20 (Including buffet and wine).
 Venue: 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N
 For more info, contact susanna.darch@rcsint.org or 020 7766 9202

Monday 7 June 7.30pm
POETRY CAFE
 Exiled Writers Ink! Present their monthly poetry evening, with Moris Farhi (Author) speaking about his latest book 'Young Turk', followed by an open floor discussion with Richard Mckane (Poet/Translator). In the second part of the evening, Mori Farhi's book will be examined in the New Translation Workshop.
 £1 members, £3 non-members.
 Venue: 22 Betterton Street, London WC2 (Nearest tube Covent Garden)
 For more info, contact jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk, 020 8458 1910 or visit <http://www.exiledwriters.co.uk>

Monday 7 June 8.00pm - 2.00am
REFUGEE AWARENESS NIGHT
 Supported by Student Action For Refugees, Refugee Action and Clear, a night of Hip-Hop, Funky Old School, Live African Drums, Brazilian Drum and Bass and BreakBeat. This night is a celebration of diverse music's and diverse peoples.
 Free entry.

Venue: Soul Cellar, 78 West Marlands Road, Southampton SO14
 For more info, contact guerra_ennassant@hotmail.com or 023 8071 0648

Wednesday 9 June 9.00am - 4.15pm
CONFERENCE
 Jointly organised by Neil Stewart Associates and The Gypsy Council, a conference aiming to highlight the risks of social and educational exclusion for gypsy children and to explore how schools, communities and voluntary organisations are working towards equality of opportunity for all children. Speakers will include: Dr Thomas Action (Prof), Ms Chris Derrington (Lecturer) and John Davey (Manager).
 Registration required.
 Venue: Inmarsat Conference Centre, 99 City Road, London
 For more info, contact Debbie.young@neilstewartassociates.co.uk or visit www.neilstewartassociates.co.uk

Wednesday 9 - Tuesday 22 June
THE CRIMSON HARVEST EXHIBITION
 Organised by Bridging Arts, an exhibition of paintings by the Bosnian refugee artist Pero Mandic to coincide with Refugee Week. The exhibition focuses on the reality of the Balkans war and how war affects lives.
 Opening times: 9.00am - 630pm (Mon-Sat), 1.00pm - 430pm (Sundays), a private lunch is available on 8 June.
 Venue: St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
 For more info, contact info@bridging-arts.com, Susan Roberts on 020 8749 9010 or Julia Fairrie on 078 5595 1394

Thursday 10 June 10.30am - 2.30pm
INFORMATION DAY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
 Organised by The Refugee Women's Association, an employment advice and information day for refugee and asylum seeking women who have permission to work. If you've got qualifications in one of the following medical professions: Nursing, Midwife, Radiographer, Anaesthesiology, Physiotherapy

or Health Care, representatives from prestigious health organisations will be there to help you back into work.
 Childcare and transport will be paid.
 Venue: RWA, Print House, 18 Ashwin Street, London E8
 For more info, contact Anne or Lucy on 020 7923 2412

Sunday 13 June 2.00pm - 7.00pm
UK LAUNCH OF REFUGEE WEEK
 Supported by Refugee Week and The Arts Council London, the Celebrating Sanctuary Festival launches Refugee Week with an afternoon of music, performance dance, visual arts and family activities.
 Free entry
 Venue: Gabriel's Wharf and Bernie Spain Gardens, South Bank, London SE1
 For more info, contact 020 7401 2255 or visit www.coinstreetfestival.org

Monday 14 - Saturday 20 June
REFUGEE WEEK
 Sponsored by The Refugee Council, The England Arts Council, Refugee Action and Amnesty International; Refugee Week aims to celebrate the massive contribution of refugees to the UK and to educate people about the reasons why people seek sanctuary, through art, cultural and educational events.
 For info on how to stage an event or for details of events, visit www.refugeeweek.org.uk or call: 020 7820 3055

Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 June 12.30pm - 9.00pm
MUSIC FESTIVAL WEEKEND
 Organised by The Cultural Co-operation Charity, the first of two music festivals focusing on the complex issue of culture and migration, whilst highlighting that Diaspora's are highly talented and creative people. A wide variety of musicians from countries all over the world such as South Africa, The West Indies, India and Poland, will be performing.
 Free entry.
 Venue: Regent's Park, London NW1
 For more info, contact 020 7456 0404 or visit www.culturalco-operation.org

Tuesday 29 June 10.00AM

- 5.30PM
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 The Immigration Advisory Service will be holding it's annual conference in London. Speakers will include: Des Browne MP (Immigration Minister), Christian Mahr (Legal Officer), Rick Scannell (Chairman) and Keith Best (Chief Executive). There will also be a number of workshops discussing a wide variety of asylum and immigration issues.
 Venue: City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V (Nearest tube Angel, Northern Line)
 For more info, contact Tina Rawal on 020 7967 6000 or visit www.iasuk.org

Tuesday 29 - Wednesday 30 June
UK NATIONAL INTEGRATION CONFERENCE
 Organised by Calder Conferences Ltd, the third national integration conference hosted by the Home Office. The conference aims to highlight immigration, employment and education policies that have been effective in promoting integration, whilst pinpointing the ineffective ones, and creating new development programmes in relation to refugees and immigrants. Mike Jempson, PressWise Director is among the speakers.
 Venue: Hilton Docklands Hotel, Nelson Dock, London
 For more info, contact nationalintegration@caldercon.co.uk or 0113 258 8020

Wednesday 30 June 9.00am - 4.30pm
SUPPORTING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS LOCALLY
 Organised by The Neil Stewart Associates organisation, a one-day national conference focusing on the issue of the lack of co-ordinated support services for refugees and asylum seekers. Speakers will include: Maeve Sherlock (Chief Exec.), Ian Macdonald QC (President), Sir Sandy Bruce Lockhart (Councillor) and Chris Drinkwater (Public Health Officer).
 Venue: Victoria Park Plaza, London SW1
 For more info, contact info@neilstewartassociates.co.uk or 020 7234 4330