

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 43, August 2004

RAM Project grant axed by the Home Office

The Home Office has decided not to continue funding the RAM Project. We were not told until mid-July – days before existing funds ran out – that our bid for support had been unsuccessful.

From September, RAM will concentrate on building local networks, supported by funding from Comic Relief. We also aim to keep the *Bulletin* going.

The Home Office decision puts Communications Officer Forward Maisokwado's job at risk, but MediaWise is determined to find ways of keeping him on. It also means that this is the last edition of the *Bulletin* produced with the excellent help of freelance journalist Rich Cookson. We are seeking funds for Rich to produce *The RAM Report*, which will explain what we have been doing and how others can build from the RAM experience.

Terry Williams and Anna Kelson will have to spend less time on RAM activities, but we are determined to keep the Exiled Journalists Network alive (see story on page 2), and are hoping to develop more partnership schemes to keep up the pressure for improved media coverage. MediaWise's use-of-the-media training will still be available, but local groups may have to help raise funds to cover the costs.

If any readers have suggestions about funding opportunities we can explore, please contact anna@presswise.org.uk

Report links inaccurate reporting and violent attacks

Inaccurate reporting of asylum issues can be linked to racist attacks, a new report has found.

The study, which received little media coverage, looked at press reports and levels of community tension in parts of London. It found clear evidence of negative, unbalanced and inaccurate reporting likely to promote fear and tension.

The report was commissioned by the Mayor of London and carried out by the Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK (ICAR), in partner-

ship with the RAM Project. Between August and September 2003, researchers monitored press reports in a number of national, local and community newspapers. They also asked nine organisations to monitor racist incidents, and held in-depth meetings with Londoners from different backgrounds.

The research says that the Greater London Authority should commission further studies into the links between biased reporting and attacks, and recommends a six-month project to monitor whether papers are adhering to the Press Complaints Commission's guidance on the use of misleading language – something that the *Bulletin* has been reporting on for several months (see below).

To download copies of the ICAR report, 'Media Image Community Impact', visit to www.icar.org.uk

Time to decide on the future of the Network

There will be a meeting for members of the Exiled Journalists Network on 21 Aug to discuss how we can ensure that the EJN becomes a self-contained organisation. Members of the RAM team will also attend to share their experience with us – they strongly believe that the EJN should be developed and run by exiled journalists. We also need to decide what kind of legal entity we become, and what our overall aim and objectives are. *EJN members are welcome to email ideas and suggestions to Forward (ram@presswise.org.uk) for the attention of the EJN Coordinating Group. The meeting will take place from 12pm-3pm at NUJ headquarters in London.*

Sunday Express offers exiled journalist work placement

The Sunday Express is offering a two-week, unpaid work placement for an exiled journalist. The scheme begins in August and comes as a response to the RAM Project's call to the UK media to get exiled journalists into the newsroom. The paper is well-known for its hostile coverage of asylum and refugee issues. The offer will suit a journalist living in

EDITORIAL

Major changes needed in detention centres

The tragic deaths of two people in detention centres this month has raised serious questions about the conditions that asylum seekers are being kept in – and the reasons for locking up people who have committed no crime.

On page 3, we reveal that the Home Office has been repeatedly warned about poor conditions and inhumane treatment at detention centres over the last two years. But it seems that it takes a major disturbance to force officials to act.

To avoid more deaths, people who have been locked up for long periods should either be swiftly removed or released. And in addition to the promised police investigations into the deaths at Harmondsworth and Dungavel, there must be independent investigations into conditions at each centre, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Dungavel is the only place in the UK that routinely holds children for long periods of time (including the nine-year-old daughter of a Mongolian family, see story on page 2). In August 2003, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, Anne Owers, said that the practice should be stopped. But despite her recommendation, and pressure from numerous MPs, Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) and campaigners, the Government still persists in holding children there. Imprisonment causes children trauma that might last for the rest of their lives, and is completely unnecessary. The Home Office must put a stop to it immediately.

GHIAS ALJUNDI
Guest editor
aljundighias@hotmail.com

London or someone with access to accommodation there.

If you wish to be considered, please contact Forward Maisokwadzo on 0117 9415889 or ram@presswise.org.uk

EJN to challenge abuses of PCC guidance

Exiled journalists are to approach the Press Complaints Commission about persistent breaches of the PCC guidance to editors issued last October about use of 'misleading or distorted terminology' in of asylum and refugee stories.

Bulletin readers are encouraged to submit examples from local or national newspapers and magazines. For example, on July 21, a *Daily Express* editorial berated the Government for opening its doors to 'bogus asylum seekers'.

The good news is that not one publication used the equally dubious term 'illegal asylum seeker' in July. Send your examples to Forward Maisokwadzo, ram@presswise.org.uk For copies of the MediaWise/NUJ leaflet for journalists on the correct use of terminology, email anna@presswise.org.uk

Express goes for half a story

'Asylum seekers spreading Aids across Britain,' warns *The Daily Express* (p.8.6 Aug.) quoting a survey published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The survey says: 'Doctors believe that dispersal is disruptive, may compromise HIV care, and may lead to increased transmission,' which *The Express* translates to 'is helping to spread Aids.' - complete with a picture of a wild-eyed African jailed for infecting three women.

While happy to quote MigrationWatch (again), *The Express* chooses not to quote the part of the report that says the 'number of people with HIV who are affected by this policy [dispersal] is unknown'. At least *The Sun* included it.

The *BMJ* paper concludes: 'This study is a reflection of doctors' opinions and is subject to reporting bias.' Pity newspapers don't acknowledge the same.

Newspaper backs Mongolian family facing deportation

Liverpool's *Daily Post* newspaper has launched a campaign against the deportation of a Mongolian family who are seeking asylum in the UK.

Jugder Narantsogt and his family

were due to be deported after the Home Office turned down their application, but the *Post* stepped in and published an open letter to Immigration Minister Des Browne, asking him to reconsider their case. The Home Office granted them permission to stay temporarily after the family's lawyer lodged a fresh evidence.

Former politician Narantsogt fears that evidence he gathered about corruption among former members of the Communist Party could make him a target for assassination if he returns home. See <http://www.icliverpool.co.uk>

Scandal of empty beds while asylum seekers sleep rough

The Director General of the Immigration Service revealed last month that the Government has left empty 18,000 beds for asylum seekers in 4,400 homes - at a cost of £2 million a week.

As last month's *Bulletin* editorial pointed out (but most mainstream newspapers did not) thousands of asylum seekers are being forced to sleep rough by the Government's punitive Section 55 rule. Researchers from IACR estimate some 14,000 asylum seekers a year are made destitute by the law.

New film exposes true scale of asylum evictions

A new film calls for action to stop asylum seekers being evicted in Glasgow. *Welcome*, a 20-minute film by the Camcorder Guerillas Collective, tells the stories of three asylum seekers who faced eviction in the city. It was inspired by the hundreds of asylum seekers in Glasgow who have been evicted. It says that most people are unaware of what it calls 'the human rights crisis on the streets'.

Jabulani Moyo, a teacher and member of the opposition movement in Zimbabwe, who is featured in the film, says the eviction policy, imposed on Glasgow City Council from Westminster, is designed 'to force people into starvation, as if it's a crime that you managed to survive and come and seek sanctuary here'.

Things have got so bad that even Strathclyde Police criticises the policy. Chief Inspector Alex MacDonald points out that forcing asylum seekers to become homeless means that they will inevitably become victims of crime. See <http://www.camcorderguerillas.net>

The Guardian reveals harsh daily life for EU migrants

Eastern Europeans who came to Britain looking for jobs after May 1 are returning home after experiencing unemployment, exploitation and being forced to sleep rough, according to a special report published by *The Guardian*.

Slave-labour wages, exorbitant living costs and organised crime have left them feeling embittered and traumatised, the paper said. Reporters found Poles sleeping rough around Victoria Coach Station, and said that coaches back to Warsaw are filled with migrants heading home. The conditions they have faced are a far cry from those suggested by sections of the press in the run up to May 1.

See http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1255634,00.html

Blunkett attacks tabloids' scare-story figures

Bulletin editors aren't the only people keeping thick files of scare stories about refugees and asylum seekers. Home Secretary, David Blunkett, told reporters that he too has a file of media cuttings in his desk. He was releasing new figures about the true scale of migration into the UK.

Blunkett dismissed as "groundless myths" reports that Britain would be swamped by immigrants from Eastern Europe after May 1. He revealed that 9,000 people had signed the register for work in the UK in the two months from May 1. Some newspapers had predicted that 'millions' would come.

The idea Britain is facing a 'tidal wave' of immigrants was also branded a myth in a report by the influential cross-party Commons International Development Select Committee this month.

See <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200304/cmselect/cmintdev/79/7902.htm>

BBC exposes BNP racists

Six men have been arrested after an undercover BBC documentary featured British National Party activists admitting racist violence and harassment. The programme-makers said it was important to reveal the true nature of the party at a time when it was seeking respectability and electoral success.

See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/3896213.stm>

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**Detention centres:
suffering hidden behind walls**

If Home Office officials read their own reports, the disturbance at Harmondsworth will have come as no surprise, says GHIAS ALJUNDI

The apparent suicide of a Ukrainian asylum seeker at Harmondsworth Removal Centre in west London in July would probably have gone unnoticed had it not sparked a large-scale disturbance which forced the Centre's closure and transfer of detainees to other prisons and detention centres throughout the UK.

Four days later, a second detainee from Harmondsworth, a 23-year-old Vietnamese man, who had been moved to the Dungavel Removal Centre in Scotland, was found hanged.

Media coverage of the disturbance was depressing. Under the headline 'The £5m asylum riot', *The Daily Mail* claimed: 'Hundreds of failed asylum seekers who went on the rampage at Britain's biggest detention facility may have the last laugh... because if they are convicted it may prove impossible to kick them out of Britain.' Meanwhile, the *Express* described the centre as a 'hotel' as it described how it took specially-trained prison officers to quell the 'riot'.

But they missed the real story. The Home Office has received repeated warnings about these Centres. Its own official reports have condemned poor conditions for both detainees and staff again and again. Anyone who has read them cannot have been surprised by what happened at Harmondsworth.

A statement from the Institute for Race Relations (which received minimal media coverage) reveals that ten asylum seekers and foreign nationals have killed themselves at UK prisons and immigration detention centres over the last four years. It says that there "appears to be a lack of care in detention centres and prisons" and notes that there "are also growing reports of violent treatment by custody officers at detention centres" – one case currently under investigation may have resulted in a death at Haslar Removal Centre in Hampshire.

The IRR concludes: "The current system of detention is reckless with people's lives. Unless this culture of neglect is tackled, there are likely to be more deaths and more disturbances." This is by no means the first warning of such problems. Over a year ago, a report from Her Majesty's Chief Inspectorate of Prisons – a Home Office body – concluded that Harmondsworth was unsafe for both staff and inmates.

The HMIP report found there was a "lack of management... in relation to the prevention of self-harm in adults", anti-bullying measures were "inappropriate", detainees were mistrustful of staff and complained that officers entered their rooms without knocking and searched their property. Those needing psychiatric treatment were not handled properly. New detainees were kept locked up

for long period in poorly-ventilated vans outside the centre – including, on one occasion, a pregnant woman and her family. Inspectors expressed "major concern" over the quality of legal representation. Crucially, there was no preparation for removal, release or transfer – detainees were being woken up in the middle of the night and told they were being deported.

Last May, at least 20 detainees in Harmondsworth staged a five-day hunger strike in protest against alleged abuses, including the physical mistreatment of those facing deportation.

Fears over poor conditions are not restricted to Harmondsworth. Earlier this month, HMIP said that the Home Office "should seriously examine whether Lindholme [in South Yorkshire] is, or can be, an appropriate place to hold immigration detainees."

In July 2003, HMIP found that at Dungavel in Scotland, "fire risks had not been addressed" and access to decent legal representation was poor.

In March 2002, it warned that detainees at Campsfield House were experiencing high levels of physical victimisation and sexual harassment. There was also insufficient access to good legal representation. "We could not conclude overall that Campsfield was a safe custodial environment," inspectors said.

A month earlier, HMIP said that while Tinsley House near Gatwick was generally safe, it was "one in which it was impossible to deliver appropriate mental health care". Again, access to legal representation was poor.

And let's not forget the fire at Yarl's Wood Removal Centre, in February 2002, which was partially destroyed by fire when detainees rioted. Have any lessons been learnt from that?

I have experienced such institutions myself. Harmondsworth was the first place I stayed when I arrived in Britain. I'd been a political prisoner in Syria for five years and had fled to Moscow when I was released to avoid being rearrested. I lived in Moscow for six months but was harassed by the police and beaten up by Nazis so I fled again, this time to England.

Harmondsworth was dirty, overcrowded and noisy. At that time it was a reception centre, housing new arrivals, rather than a detention centre for people whose applications for asylum have failed. I had been travelling for two days when I arrived. My room was filthy. The bathrooms were dirty. When I was two minutes late for the evening meal on my first night, I was told I couldn't have anything to eat. Fortunately I only had to stay there for two days.

The truth about daily life in detention centres is clear – detainees are treated like criminals. A substantial number of them have been persecuted, tortured and traumatised in their home countries. Locking them up again in the UK can only lead to further distress and suffering. Unless conditions radically change, the death rate will continue to rise...

See: www.irr.org.uk

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2004/july/ak000016.html>

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/justice/prisons/insprisons/inspectionim.html>

Cut-out-and keep COMMUNICATOR

A MediaWise Guide

Setting up a Media Network

Combined action by the numerous refugee and asylum-seeker support organisations in the UK can change the tone of media coverage and create positive news. Individual groups can struggle to get their voices heard, but are much more effective when they work together.

Helping set up such Media Networks is a major part of the work carried out by the RAM Project. Networks are usually set up in cities and large towns where a cluster of local media can be found (such as TV, local radio and free or paid-for newspapers). RAM usually helps bring together refugees and asylum seekers, organisations working on their behalf and concerned individuals as well as journalists, representatives of councils, trade unions and churches.

The objective is to set up a group which builds relationships with the local media and helps the process of improving media coverage. There are many examples of where this work has been very effective.

What can Networks do?

Local media is an important source of information and provides a vital opportunity to balance the damaging coverage of the national tabloids. This means there are two main roles. We need to build relationships with local journalists so that they know Networks provide reliable contacts. We also need to provide media training and support for refugees and asylum seekers so that their missing voices can be heard in the press.

What are the benefits?

Local journalists will usually do their best to provide balanced coverage, but they need your help. They often struggle to find refugees and asylum seekers, and people from organisations working on their behalf, who will speak to them. Networks are encouraged to build relationships with journalists and make sure that the media has access to trained spokespeople – and the facts.

Network members can also monitor the local media and respond to inaccurate or negative stories. While

it's crucial to put out a swift response to inaccurate or negative reports, it's also important to praise good coverage. Some Networks also set up letter-writing groups since letters pages can often be a hostile section of local papers. The objective of Networks is not to get special treatment for refugees and asylum seekers – just to get balance in coverage.

Networks are also encouraged to prepare a media pack containing facts and dispelling myths. They include local contacts from asylum and refugee organisations and send to journalists. It is helpful to send such packs to other community figures such as MPs and councillors. This will help prevent inaccurate statements being repeated in the media and encourage positive comment. The Refugee Council is able to help with this.

How many have been set up by RAM?

We have set up around fifteen Networks in the UK. There is no set format as local groups decide what media work they want to take on. This depends on the skills of individual members and the time available. A Network should always make sure its tasks are achievable given the resources of the group – RAM works with them to do this.

What support can RAM offer?

RAM provides ongoing telephone and email support for groups. We offer free training both to help set up Networks and on all areas of media work. We also provide links into the National Union of Journalists and the 140 members of the RAM co-ordinated Exiled Journalists Network. We can supply a basic guide to potential sources of funds for your Network. RAM also organises an annual conference where representatives from the Networks can exchange information and debate issues of concern.

The National Union of Journalists

Most journalists in the UK belong to the NUJ. Call the NUJ on 020 7278 7916 for contact names and numbers of branches in your local area, or just call the local papers and ask to speak to the 'NUJ MOC or FOC' (NUJ 'shop stewards' are known as 'Mothers or Fathers of Chapel'). Remember – many journalists are equally concerned as you about the hostile coverage of asylum seekers.

Take action

If you are interested in setting up a Media Network, or want to find out more, contact RAM's National Co-ordinator Terry Williams on 0121 588 6341 or email williams.t@blueyonder.co.uk

MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

12: The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Helping the survivors of torture and organised violence

NELA MILIC looks at the work of this unique medical charity

"Torture has been described as the act of killing a person without their dying. It is an attempt to destroy a person's physical and psychological integrity. In order to treat an individual who has been tortured, you must treat the whole person. In order to give back some quality of life it is necessary to work on all levels: practical, physical – including medical, and psychological."

This is the definition of torture favoured by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, an independent charity and the only organisation of its kind in the UK.

The work of the Foundation began almost 30 years ago under the auspices of the Medical Group of Amnesty International. Since it was founded as a separate organisation in 1985, more than 38,000 survivors of torture have been referred to it for help. The Foundation provides care and rehabilitation for survivors of torture and other forms of organised violence.

The aims of the organisation are to document evidence of torture, to educate the public and decision-makers about torture and its consequences, and to ensure that Britain honours its international obligations towards survivors of torture, asylum seekers and refugees.

Almost all of the Foundation's clients are refugees or asylum seekers coping with the combined effects of torture and exile. Alongside the physical horrors they have ex-

perienced, exiles can also have to deal with the loss of family, friends, home, job, culture and identity, as well as the fear of being returned to face further persecution.

The foundation tries to provide the services free of charge. It offers medical, psychiatric and psychological consultation, assessment and treatment; rehabilitation through social care, casework and counselling; psychotherapy, physiotherapy, complementary therapies and group and family work; forensic medical reports to document allegations of torture and ill-treatment; and small financial grants to individuals as well as practical assistance with housing and welfare agencies.

MEDICAL FOUNDATION FACT SHEET

Staff:

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Paid | 200 |
| Voluntary | 200 approx |

Annual budget (2003):
£6m

Address:

111 Isledon Road
London, N7 7JW

Telephone: 020 7697 7777

Fax: 020 7697 7799

Email: icar@kcl.ac.uk

Website: www.torturecare.org.uk

Director
Malcom Smart

At the request of solicitors, Medical Foundation doctors may compile evidence of physical and psychological torture against an individual, as part of a torture survivor's asylum application. Doctors, community mental health teams, and refugee community organisations also refer cases. The organisation employs specialists who work with children who have been tortured, whose parents have been tortured or who have witnessed atrocities. It also tries to deal with any practical problems that a client might have, such as obtaining a college place, or filling in the right benefits form.

To help torture survivors, the Medical Foundation publishes objective

research about torture and organised violence, supports the implementation of international human rights laws as well as standards of medical ethics against torture, and educates the general public and decision-makers about the consequences of the international trade in repressive technology and training used to perpetrate torture and organised violence.

In May, for example, it published a research paper challenging a view expressed by the Home Office and certain judges that rape by police officers, soldiers or prison officers should be viewed as a break-down of discipline, rather than a form of state torture. "The distinction is important," the report stated. "The Home Office, by refusing in many cases to accept rape as torture, is able to reject asylum claims from people who have suffered such an ordeal."

About 66 per cent of the organisation's 2003 income came from individual supporters, which number about 50,000. Private charitable trusts contributed 13 per cent, the Community Fund and other grants 6 per cent, companies 1 per cent. A further 5 per cent came from legal aid, and interest earned on reserves.

Torture is a global problem. In 2003, nearly 3,415 people from almost 100 countries were referred to the Medical Foundation. The largest number of new clients came from Turkey, Iran, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Iraq, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Uganda, Somalia and Congo (Brazzaville). About one-third of its clients are women. Overall, the clients tend to be of a relatively young age: between 22 and 41 years, though some clients are survivors of Far East prisoner of war camps during the Second World War. Others are victims of violence in Northern Ireland.

The Medical Foundation operates a purpose-built treatment centre in London, and has an office in Manchester and one planned in Scotland. It also helps train those working abroad with survivors of torture in Guatemala, Mexico, Israel, Somaliland, Gaza and the occupied territories.

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.

Tuesday 10 August 6.00pm - 8.00pm

TRANSLATION WORKSHOPS

Exiled Writers Ink! offer the final translation workshop of this current series with established exiled writers for schools, colleges and other organisations and groups. Topics can include: Human Rights; Identity; Literature of exile; Refugees; Women and Creative writing. Interpreters available and travel costs can be met.

Venue: The Poetry Cafe Upstairs (on the first floor), 22 Betterton Street, London WC2 (Nearest tube, Covent Garden)
For more info, contact 078 0312 5064

September - December 9.45am - 2.15pm

FREE TRAINING FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

Organised by The Refugee Women's Association. This free Accelerated English Course includes: Intensive language skills; IT skills; Skills for work and Pitman Qualification. The course will consist of 4-day weeks.

Transport costs and contributions to childcare will be made; Refugee women only.
Venue: London: Ladbroke Grove, Haringey and Wandsworth
For more info, contact Lucy or Asye 020 7923 2412

September 2004 - May 2005 FREE CHILDCARE COURSE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

Organised by the Refugee Women's Association. A Childcare Course for refugee women looking for work includes: A Certificate in Pre-School Practice (Cache Level 2) and a Work Placement. A good level of English is required and a desire to work with children. Courses are run within school

hours, travel expenses will be paid and contributions to childcare can be made. Refugee women only.

Registration Day: Friday 2 July 10.30am

Venue: Hackney Community Centre College, Falkirk Street, London N1

For more info, contact Lucy or Asye on 020 7923 2412

Wednesday 1 September to
Wednesday 13 October

REFUGEE HOUSING TRAINING

Organised by the Housing Association's Charitable Trust (HACT), a free 7 day training course for refugee community housing advisers and volunteers in Merseyside.

Deadline for applications is 30 July.

For more info, contact Vicky Evans on 020 7247 7800 or vicky.evans@hact.org.uk

Friday 10 September

PAIH ANNUAL MEETING

Positive Action in Housing (PAIH) is holding its 9th annual meeting in Glasgow. This meeting will be an opportunity to meet refugee communities, organisations, housing providers, local authorities and Scottish Executives; speakers tbc.

Venue: Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow G2
For more info, contact Clare or Kam on 0141 353 2220 or clare@paih.org

Friday 10 - Sunday 12 September
MIGRATION IN EUROPE

'frassanito-network' is made up of a group of organisations who consider migration as a social movement and that migrant's struggles have a crucial role in the development of the whole global movement. This meeting is open to all groups working on migration to discuss how to develop and strengthen an Europe-wide movement, in the context of ongoing border transformation and will be followed up by an event at the European Social Forum in October.

Venue: London tbc
For more info, contact frassainfo@kein.org

Tuesday 14 September 9.30am - 4.45pm

LONDON ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

Organised by The Refugee Council and supported by The Local Government Association, the first of two conferences aiming to examine the impact of

the Asylum and Immigration Bill of 2003 on asylum seekers and refugees. Speakers will include: Jasmine Ali (Chair), Heaven Crawley (Director) and Maeve Sherlock (Chief Executive) and seminars on a variety of topics will follow.

Booking required.

Venue: Regent's College, Regents Park Inner Circle, London NW1

For more info, contact 020 7820 3049 or marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Friday 17 September 9.30am - 4.45pm

SHEFFIELD ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE

Organised by The Refugee Council and supported by The Local Government Association, the second of the two conferences aiming to examine the impact of the Asylum and Immigration Bill of 2003 on asylum seekers and refugees. Speakers will include: Liz Westmorland (Chair), John Ransford (Director) and John Donkersley (Solicitor) and seminars on various topics will follow.

Booking required.

Venue: Culter's Hall, Church Street, Sheffield S11

For more info, contact 020 7820 3049 or marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Thursday 14 - Sunday 17 October
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM 2004

The third European Social Forum (ESF) will be a unique opportunity for social movements, trade unions, NGO's, refugees, anti-racist movements, networks of the excluded and community campaigns from around Europe and the world to come together and discuss how to achieve global social justice for all and debate ways of making 'another world possible'.

Entry fee(3 days): £30 waged; £20 students
Cheap accommodation available from £5 - £24

Venue: London tbc.

For more info, contact 020 8809 5347 or ukesoffice@gn.apc.org or visit <http://www.fse-esf.org/>

Saturday 23 October - Sunday 24 October

WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

Organised by the Refugee Study Centre, this two-day workshop is the final one in the series. Through a mixture of discussion and lectures, this workshop will examine how cross-cultural

psychology contributes to post-conflict reconstruction. Discussions chaired by Dr. Michael Wessells (Prof. of Psychology) and Dr. Maryanne Loughry (Tutor).
Fee: £125, 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

USEFUL WEBSITES

Journalists should always check their sources - and so should you. When quoting facts and figures always indicate your source.

Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)
www.ippr.org.uk

BBC News
<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

Camcorder Guerillas Collective
<http://www.camcorderguerillas.net>

The Guardian
<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

Independent Race and Refugee News Network
<http://www.irr.org.uk>

Information Centre about Asylum and Refugees in the UK
<http://www.icar.org.uk>

Liverpool Daily Post
<http://www.icliverpool.co.uk>

Home Office
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>

UK Parliament Website
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk>

The deadline for the September RAM Bulletin is 20 August. Please send stories, news items or ideas to Forward Maisokwadzo on ram@presswise.org.uk