

# 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 45, Oct 2004

## Last minute HO reprieve

The RAM Project has won funding from the Home Office National Integration Forum to continue production of this Bulletin, the RAM website and The RAM Report. The NRIF grants will help to make up for the loss of core funding when the HO axed our Challenge Fund grant in July.

The Project had to scale down some of its activities, but local network development continues, and The RAM Report, (a comprehensive study of the methodology behind the project) will assist other organisations working on similar issues where improved media coverage is essential.

## Lincoln University to train exiled journalists

Lincoln University's department of media studies have agreed to run a three day pilot training scheme for exiled journalists in the UK, in conjunction with the RAM Project. Up to 15 members of the RAM's Exiled Journalists Network will take part in this ground-breaking training scheme.

It will take place at Lincoln from 18-20 Jan 05 and will cover both print and broadcast journalism. The University will also provide accommodation and travel costs for participants. The course will enable both the University and the RAM Project to assess training needs to develop and run future training programmes as part of the Project's effort to see that exiled journalists acquire the knowledge and skills needed to enter the mainstream UK media.

The RAM team will help Lincoln's Media dept. select suitable candidates. *EJN members who wish to be considered, contact Forward Maisokwadzo: ram@presswise.org.uk*

## Dumb Foreigners not xenophobic, says ITV

ITV has been accused of encouraging racist attitudes and condoning dangerous and irresponsible behaviour after a prime time show attracted 129 complaints.

Dumb Foreigners, broadcast in

June, drew complaints from viewers who said the programme was xenophobic, distressing and unsuitable for its 6.30pm Saturday night slot.

Viewers complained after the programme apparently showed the Scottish and Irish flags in its end titles, broadcast scenes of people being attacked by bears and showed one man doing a trick holding his breath under water.

ITV denied inciting racism or xenophobia, claiming the programme was intended to be humorous and did not imply that foreigners were stupid.

Ofcom said it was "unusual" to receive such a high number of complaints for a Saturday night prime time show. While the regulator said it accepted ITV was "not trying to belittle foreigners" it said the show "clearly offended many viewers". Ofcom dismissed the complaints about the national flags but criticised ITV for showing some scenes, including a number of clips of people being attacked by bears, stung by bees and other clashes with animals.

## London Freelance NUJ backs exiled journalists

RAM Communications Officer Forward Maisokwadzo was guest speaker at the September meeting of the NUJ London Freelance Branch. Members discussed how the union can and should support journalists who are refugees and asylum seekers. The branch has successfully supported Kosovan journalist Besim Gerguri in his effort to remain in the UK.

## Newspaper in bid to prevent journalist being deported

The *North East Manchester Advertiser* is fighting to stop the deportation of an asylum-seeking journalist from Pakistan.

Forty-year-old Mansoor Hassan has been told that he and his family must return to Pakistan after their bid for asylum appeal was turned down. The Home Office insist that Mansoor's life will not be in danger. The NUJ is to investigate his case to assess whether political pressure can be brought on his behalf.

## EDITORIAL

### 'Echoing the rants of the populist press'

Flanked by ethnic minorities and playing up his own immigrant credentials, Michael Howard promised another instalment of corrosive policy on the nation when he announced if elected PM he would reject UN Refugee Convention of 1951. And the Human Rights Act would be redrawn to keep curbs on asylum. Mr Howard did last month what every recent Tory leader has been doing - playing into the hands of the right wing press in a desperate bid to win some votes.

I'm cynical of Mr Howard's latest rant for two reasons. Firstly the Tory leader is exaggerating the 'problem' of non-white people coming into the UK without putting them into context. He's doing this to get the right wing press on his side and appeal to those who are fooled by such propaganda. Secondly he's making life for all ethnic minorities difficult because this media hype increases racism in general. If the British white population are constantly told that immigrants are putting a stress on Britain, then all non-whites will suffer through increased xenophobia. After all none of us walk around with stamps on our foreheads declaring whether we were born and bred in the UK or are recent immigrant. Naturally some of the press lapped it up. It was also inevitable they would defend Howard's policies by saying immigration and asylum controls keep attracting unfair charges of racism and should be properly dealt with.

Forward Maisokwadzo  
*Guest Editor*

## RAM film tops the bill in Holland

The RAM video *On the Receiving End* won applause and acclaim at an international conference on diversity in the media in September. It was shown during the closing plenary session after a speech by the Dutch Minister of Culture. 'Tuning into Diversity 2004', organised by Online/More Colour in the Media attracted almost 200 media practitioners and academics from all over Europe. MediaWise Director Mike Jempson spoke in two sessions about the work the RAM Project, and the media monitoring exercise conducted last years as part of a European-wide study of coverage of ethnic minority issues. There are plans to make the study an annual event. <http://www.multicultural.net/>

## Swiss reject reforms

After a scare campaign played out in the media, Swiss voters have rejected reforms that would have made it easier for children and grandchildren of immigrants to gain citizenship in the country.

Prior to polling day leaflets and newspaper advertisements had warned of a massive growth in the Muslim population if the legislation was approved. Opponents had also used posters depicting dark-skinned hands grabbing for Swiss passports.

Representatives of Switzerland's immigrant population said the campaign was "below the belt and that it played on voters' fears of a wave of immigrants," yet there was no shred of evidence to support their statistics.

## Daily Mail's migrant panic

*The Daily Mail* report (27 Sept 04) titled 'How Ministers managed to lose 100,000 migrants' showed apprehension that the 272,000 allowed into UK to work last year are siphoning the benefit system. It also bemoaned the fact that since there were only 50,000 asylum applications in 2003 the government is letting migrants into the UK **legally**.

Britain may be granting migrants from the EU permission to work but the majority of citizens from Asia and Africa do not come here unless they have been granted visas by British High Commissions in their respective countries.

UK missions would not have granted 135,000 visas in Africa, Asia and the

Middle East unless they were satisfied applicants met stringent criteria. A large percentage are relatives of existing UK citizens and have no intention of claiming asylum. The report concedes that only 50,000 asylum applications were made in 2003. Migration and asylum are two separate issues and *The Daily Mail* would do well not to further instil ungrounded fears among its readers.

## It's an Express joke

Viewers were stunned when the political editor of the *Sunday Express*, Julia Hartley-Brewer said her newspaper group have no problems with Britain welcoming asylum-seekers.

Her remarks were made on the BBC Question Time programme (23 Sept 04) responding to a question from the audience about Michael Howard's immigration quotas. When an audience member accused the *Express* of racism and of vilifying asylum seekers, she responded: "Asylum-seekers - welcome every single day. I've no issue with that. My newspaper, my newspaper group has no issue with that."

Few will take her response seriously considering that the *Express* group has consistently and loudly proclaimed its anti-asylum stance.

Hartley-Brewer should know that *The Daily Star* (part of her newspaper group) ran stories falsely accusing asylum-seekers of plotting to kill Tony Blair, and eating donkeys.

*The Express* has also claimed '1.6 million gypsies are ready to flood in', 'Asylum is six times worse than feared', and also continues to use terms like 'bogus' and 'illegal' when referring to asylum-seekers. *Express* journalists even complained twice to the PCC about being forced to toe its unpleasant editorial line. Perhaps things are about to change!

## UKIP uses BBC to attack Tories for plagiarism

Rightist politicians fell out over their tough stance on immigration last month. Former Labour MP Robert Kilroy-Silk, now a UK Independence party MEP, accused Tories of adopting his new party's policies to shore up their vote.

Immediately after Michael Howard signalled his intention to make immigration and asylum a key election issue, Kilroy-Silk told BBC Radio

4's *The World at One* that Howard was plagiarising UKIP policies.

The former daytime TV talk-show host who lost his job for making offensive remarks about Arabs in his *Express* column, said: "I made a policy announcement two weeks ago, saying we would limit immigration to 100,000 and that we would have a points system where people would be selected on the basis of their skills, their aptitude and ability to integrate into British society and make a contribution to it. He is saying virtually the same thing. He is plagiarising it."

Mr Howard said if he won the next election the Tory government would pull out of the international convention on refugees, and promised parliament would decide annually how many people would be allowed to settle in the UK, as well as shaking up the work permit system.

## Yellow curtains for asylum seekers

Asylum-seekers in Glasgow have been made easy victims of jobs – because bureaucrats insist on them all having the same yellow flowered curtains!

Marauding thugs just look up at the windows of high-rise blocks in the Barlooch district of Glasgow to see where asylum-seekers live. Some get into the flats and shout abuse through letters boxes, urinate against doors and, in at least one case, set fire to an asylum-seeker family's front door. One resident changed the offending curtains and was told by bureaucrats – Put back the old curtains or you're in trouble!

"The flats are run by NASS and their people are understood to take the view that asylum-seekers should not be able to afford a change of curtains," said one asylum-seeker who refused to be named.

"Clearly NASS has never heard of Community Cohesion. They might as well put a big sign in our windows saying: 'Asylum-seekers live here'. We are being put in danger as a result of this thoughtless action.

"We are not asking for fancy curtains – just the right to save a little of the small amount of money we get to buy some second hand curtains. We can put these up and in some small way protect ourselves from the appalling and dangerous behaviour of racists and tearaways."

Asylum-seekers have raised their concerns with the Scottish Refugee Council.

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**Blair on asylum:  
myth vs. reality**

*ARUN KUNDNANI examines the double-speak behind an article in The Times (16 Sept 04) in which Prime Minister Tony Blair set out his plans for a massive increase in deportations of asylum-seekers.*

The headline: *'Three steps we will take for a fairer asylum system'*. Fairer to whom? Fairness, it appears, refers here, not to asylum-seekers themselves, for whom the system may be making life-and-death decisions, but to the 'general public' whose confidence in the system has been eroded by constant tabloid anti-asylum stories.

The opening sentence: *'Out on the doorstep, asylum remains a major concern.'* The government claims it has to crack down on asylum-seekers because of public opinion. But it has been getting tough on asylum-seekers for seven years in response to 'public concern' - with no sign of that 'concern' diminishing. Isn't the government responsible for sustaining that 'concern' with seven years of 'get tough' rhetoric?

The next paragraph: *'Forty years ago the number of claims was small and the overwhelming majority were genuine. Now, the dramatic increase of asylum-seekers to all EU countries includes large numbers of economic migrants who take advantage of easier travel.'* It is not 'easier travel' that causes more people to flee but the worsening humanitarian situation in many parts of the world. At the same time, the refusal rate has soared in response to 'public concern' about the numbers coming. Having branded these people as 'economic migrants', Blair ignores all other considerations and goes on to discuss the ways in which asylum-seekers can be tackled essentially as a criminal problem rather than a matter of human rights.

*'As a result of new laws and other action, claims have fallen 70% since their peak in 2002 - a reduction twice that achieved in the rest of Europe. Claims are now at the level of 1997 and we must get them down further.'* How was this reduction achieved? In part, the number of asylum-seekers at any time reflects the human rights situations in the countries they come. Thus the recent fall in claims in the UK reflects a general reduction across the Western world. But the 'new laws and other action' - such as withdrawing practically all support from asylum-seekers who do not submit their claim as soon as they arrive - have also reduced claims. For many asylum-seekers, it is simply not worth their while to make a claim now, whatever the individual merits of their case.

And behind the never-ending drive to reduce the number

of claims lies the prejudice that almost all claims are unfounded. The result - thousands of people in genuine need thrown into destitution and untold hardship.

*'Building on our success in reducing applications, we now want a step change in the number of failed applicants who leave this country. By the end of the next year, we want the monthly rate of removals to exceed the number of unfounded applications so that we start making increasing inroads into the backlog.'* What will this mean in practice? Each month around 3,000 asylum-seekers are rejected and 1,100 deported. If the number of claims continues at its present rate, the target announced last month implies there will be over 3,000 deportations a month by the end of 2005 - an almost three-fold increase. Of course, it is possible that the number of asylum claims will increase again - in which case the target would imply an even higher increase in deportations.

Blair then describes the measures needed to meet this target: *'we will be taking firm action to clamp down on those who deliberately conceal their identity... So from next week it will be an offence, punishable by up to two years in prison, to arrive in the UK without documents or to refuse to co-operate with redocumentation by your embassy during the removal process.'* But using false documents is almost the only way asylum-seekers have of entering Britain - with visa restrictions on many countries from which they come there is no chance of obtaining a visa. That is why the Geneva Convention explicitly rejects penalising asylum-seekers for using false documents. Forcing asylum-seekers to co-operate with the embassy of the government they have fled is highly dangerous. It notifies foreign governments of exactly who has claimed asylum here and could lead to retaliation against relatives left behind.

Another measure: *'over the next seven months we will be bringing on stream almost 1,000 extra immigration detention spaces to take the total to 2,750, triple the 1997 figure. The first 326 of those places were opened yesterday at the new removals centre at Colnbrook.'* The new detention centre at Colnbrook is modelled on a category B prison with each cell designed to hold two detainees sharing a toilet without a proper door. To detain people who have been convicted of no offence in prison-like conditions only leads to suicide, protest and rebellion, as we have seen with previous expansions of the detention-estates at Campsfield, Yarl's Wood and Harmondsworth.

*'An asylum system, if it is to retain the full confidence of the public, must be seen as fair and balanced...'* By now it is obvious that the words 'fair and balanced' are not being used in fair and balanced way. The system is so biased against asylum-seekers that people in genuine danger have been deported.

*Arun Kundnani is Editor of the Institute of Race Relations news*

## Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

### USE-OF-THE-MEDIA FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN

## Working with local journalists

It is usually very much easier to work with the more accountable local media than the national media. However it is important to remember that local journalists face tremendous pressure in their work as the demand for copy expands while newsrooms employ fewer people.

You can help them get good stories easily, and by building good relationships of trust and reliability help to get balanced coverage of refugees and asylum-seekers into the local media.

You are a source of information. You are the experts that journalists need to talk to in order to produce a story. And you live locally and can give that local perspective to the story.

So how do refugees, asylum-seekers and people working on their behalf make the most of opportunities to influence the local media agenda?

**Map the media:** Identify the (free and paid for) newspapers, radio and television stations that cover your area and make sure that you have the contact details for News Desks. This information is available in the Guardian Media Guide, in your local libraries – or just by reading, listening and watching local media!

**Learn the deadlines:** There is little point in contacting a journalist with a possible story just on deadline – or, even worse, just after deadline! Find out when it is best to contact a journalist. Usually the closer to deadline the less the coverage – unless it is about a current news story and you have information that will ‘move the story on’.

**Monitor the media:** Check the local media to find out the sort of stories journalists cover and how they are presented. This will help you to understand how best to present ideas for stories to your media contact.

**Identify supportive journalists:** You will soon find out, just by watching out for the names of journalists who are likely to cover your stories in a balanced way. Give them a call, congratulate them on good stories they have recently covered, tell them about stories you can help them with – and make sure you get your details into their contact book.

**Arrange a meeting:** There is nothing better than a face-to-face meeting to build a relationship with a journalist. It might be a quick chat but its help you both to get each other’s measure, and you are more likely to be remembered next time you get in touch. However, remember even in the friendliest of meetings that a journalist is **ALWAYS** looking for a story. Make it clear at the start of a meeting whether you are supplying a story or just providing some background on local asylum issues.

**Be prepared for media calls:** Once a journalist knows you, and what you have to offer, the calls will follow. Be prepared for them. If you’re asked for a story, and you haven’t got one to hand, say you’ll get back in touch soon. You should always have one or two story ideas ‘filed’ away; check who is willing to talk, and then make the call.

**Be proactive:** Don’t just wait for calls. Think of the stories which may interest local journalists. Give them a call and suggest a news story or feature. Remember journalists will usually ask you to suggest a photograph to go with the story. How would you best portray the story on TV or radio? Be prepared!

**Know your rights:** Yes, you do have them. First of all, you are never obliged to answer questions! However, it is always an idea to agree the terms of an interview before it takes place. If there are problems about being identified, for instance, explain them straightaway. If you have invited a journalist’s interest always be prepared to deliver, or explain fully why you can’t. Things could backfire if you lead on a journalist and then fail to deliver.

**Don’t be afraid to complain:** If a journalist gets things (badly) wrong, and the editor fails to make amends, you can file a complaint with the Press Complaints Commission or OfCom. MediaWise can help you (0117 941 5889).

**Get some training:** In order to work effectively with the local media, you may find training helpful - especially in how to handle a media interview.

**MediaWise offers a variety of low cost media training sessions. Details are available from Anna Kelson: [anna@presswise.org.uk](mailto:anna@presswise.org.uk)**

## MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

### 14: Refugee Legal Centre

***HALA ALSHABIBI looks at the services provided by this independent not-for-profit organisation that provides legal advice and representation of refugee communities in UK***

The Refugee Legal Centre (RLC) was set up to provide legal advice and representation for those people seeking protection under international and national Human Rights and Asylum law.

The roots of the organization go back to the Refugee Unit of the UK Immigrants Advisory Service, which was founded in 1976 as a legal assistance project for asylum-seekers, funded by the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

In addition to the provision of legal services to individuals, the RLC seeks to promote the interest of refugees collectively. This is done through litigation, testing the legality of aspects of the United Kingdom's asylum policies and procedures, for example, the use of detention, or the fairness of the recently introduced fast-track system for determining asylum claims.

The organisation is publicly funded by the Legal Service Commission. It provides services to those who do not have the means to pay for their own legal representation but such services are only free to those who are eligible.

The RLC is managed by an independent Board of Trustees who have overall responsibility to ensure, with the assistance of the Director and staff, the delivery of quality legal services to those seeking human rights protection.

The Centre represents asylum-seekers in and outside detention centres in their initial application for asylum

both at the Home Office and at ports of entry, and those who are appealing against decisions to refuse their asylum application before the Immigration Appellate Authority and the immigration Appeal Tribunal.

The RLC also assists in other asylum matters including applications for family reunion and extensions of leave to remain, but do not provide advice on housing and accommodation, welfare and social services or on general immigration matters.

It has offices currently in Cambridge (Oakington), Dover, London and Leeds. It is anticipated that the organisation will continue to expand. Casework staff are employed

#### RLC FACT SHEET

##### **Staff:**

About 265 including full-time, part-time and volunteers

##### **Main address**

154-157 Commercial Road  
London E1 2DA

Tel: 0207 780 3200  
Fax: 0207 780 3201

E-mail:  
info@refugee-legal-centre.org.uk

Website:  
www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk

Director: Barry Stoyle

to conduct work at all stages of the asylum determination system from 'pre-decision' work through to the final stages of an appeal.

The London office provides a daily advice service (except Thursdays) on asylum and human rights protection issues. It also provides a 24-hour and weekend emergency advice service. And it represents those who had claimed asylum. This includes assistance in preparing for, and representation at full asylum interviews with the Home Office or Immigration Service, and assistance in complet-

ing applications with detailed written submissions to the Home Office.

For those granted refugee status, the office also provides advice and representation, making the applications for family re-union and extensions of leave. It assists clients it has previously represented with applications for British nationality.

Where appropriate the London office represents applicants seeking to challenge decisions by way of judicial review or in the Court of Appeal

Although the RLC is keen to assist everyone who seeks its help, lack of resources is a limiting factor. The Dover office provides advice and assistance to asylum-seekers in the south east of England, and arranges for caseworkers to visit prisoners or detainees.

The Leeds office also represents asylum-seekers at pre-decision and post-decision stage.

The office has two teams of caseworkers who represent clients at their appeal hearings. They prepare and present appeals in front of the Special Adjudicator at the Immigration Appellate Authority

The RLC has an External Information Service. Subscribers receive a CD ROM that contains a great deal of the country-of-origin and legal information contained in the centre's library, including a comprehensive collection of human rights reports, a wide range of press and other reports, expert opinions, relevant cases and research reports. The legal information on the CD ROM includes RLC legal bulletins and cases from January 2001 and the Centre's Statements of Principle of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

The RLC recently won a ground breaking pre-emptive order in relation to an upcoming appeal court challenge to the new fast track procedures for asylum-seekers. The Court of Appeal is due to hear the RLC's appeal of a ruling by Mr Justice Collins last March in which he rejected it's claim that Home Secretary was operating an "unlawful and unfair" system for asylum-seekers held at Harmondsworth detention centre in west London, near Heathrow Airport.

## 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.**

**Thur 14 Oct 2pm - 5pm  
EUROPE - IT'S RELEVANCE TO FIGHTING RACISM**

Seminar discussing how UK anti-racist organisations work with European movements against racism, speakers include: Alana Lentin (Oxford University) and Tauhid Pasha (Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants) among others.

Venue: St Dunstan's House, 201-211 Borough High Street, London SE1  
Contact [sarah@runnymedetrust.org](mailto:sarah@runnymedetrust.org)

**Thur 14 - Sun 17 Oct  
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM 2004**

Public event where social movements, and anti-racist groups from around Europe and the world discuss issues of global justice.

Entry fee(3 days): £30 waged; £20 students  
Cheap accommodation available from £5 - £24  
Venue: Alexandra Palace, Alexandra Palace way, Wood Green, London N22  
Contact 020 8809 5347 or [ukesoffice@gn.apc.org](mailto:ukesoffice@gn.apc.org) or visit <http://www.fse-esf.org/>

**Thur 14 Oct  
WORKING WITH SURVIVORS OF TORTURE**

Training day for all front line professionals to highlight and develop the skills, run by the Medical Foundation in Scotland.  
Venue: Glasgow tbc  
Contact [mstickings@torturecare.org.uk](mailto:mstickings@torturecare.org.uk) or visit [www.torturecare.org.uk](http://www.torturecare.org.uk)

**Thur 14 - Tue 26 Oct  
FOOTBALL AGAINST RACISM ACTION WEEK**

Aims to tackle racism in football around Europe through local clubs, co-ordinated by Football

Against Racism in Europe (FARE).  
Contact 0043 1 7133594 93, [fare@vidc.org](mailto:fare@vidc.org) or visit [www.FAREnet.org](http://www.FAREnet.org)

**Fri 15 Oct 1pm-3pm  
REFUGEE WOMEN'S PUBLIC SEMINAR AND DISCUSSION**  
Bringing together employed and unemployed refugee women from across Europe to discuss the impact on women of European asylum and immigration policies.  
Venue: European Social Forum, Alexander Palace, Alexander Park, London N22  
Contact 020 7833 8440 or visit [www.fse-esf.org](http://www.fse-esf.org)

**Sun 17 Oct 8pm  
MIGRANT VOICES: ASYLUM SEEKERS BEHIND THE HEADLINES**  
Banner Theatre present a live music, drama and video show challenging media myths about asylum seekers.  
Entry fee: £10.90; £7.60 conc.  
Venue: The mac, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12  
Contact 0121 440 3838 or visit [www.macarts.co.uk](http://www.macarts.co.uk)

**Tue 19 Oct 5pm-7pm  
WOMEN IN UK DETENTION: PUBLIC MEETING**  
Discussing the findings of a study on women asylum-seekers experiences in detention in the UK by Asylum Aid, chaired by Baroness Shirley Williams.  
Venue: Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House, London  
Contact Debora or Sophia 020 7377 5123 or [info@biduk.org](mailto:info@biduk.org)

**Thur 21 Oct 930am - 430pm  
BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS SCOTLAND AND EUROPE**  
National conference to raise awareness and debate the implications of new EU Employment and Race Directives for Diversity against Discrimination. Speakers will attend from the EU, UK and Scottish Governments.  
Venue: Glasgow tbc  
Contact 0141 221 0030 or [Heather.Green@scvo.org.uk](mailto:Heather.Green@scvo.org.uk)

**Fri 22 Oct 530pm  
LAUNCH PARTY: LET'S TALK TO THE MEDIA**  
The new practical guide for refugee community organisations and practitioners on working with the media.  
Venue: Temple of Peace, King Edward VII Ave, Cathays Park, Cardiff  
Contact Vanessa Bucolli 07909

878 108 or 029 2087 4681

**Sat 23 Oct - Sun 24 Oct  
REFUGEE STUDY CENTRE WEEKEND WORKSHOP**  
Mixture of discussions and lectures on cross-cultural psychology contributes to post-conflict reconstruction, chaired by Dr. Michael Wessells (Prof of Psychology) and Dr. Maryanne Loughry (Tutor).  
Venue: Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford  
Contact [rscmst@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rscmst@qeh.ox.ac.uk) or 018 6527 0722

**Wed 27 Oct 9am - 410pm  
SUPPORTING REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER CHILDREN**  
Conference exploring improvements to services and consider the impact of the Asylum and Immigration Act. Speakers include: Terry Williams (National Co-ordinator, The RAM Project) among others.  
Venue: Immarsat Conference Centre, London, EC1  
Contact 020 7324 4330 or visit [www.neilstewartassociates.com/se163](http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/se163)

**Fri 29 Oct 7pm  
AND THE CITY SPOKE**  
Exiled Writers Ink! present this media production written and performed by exiles that live in Europe.  
Entry fee: £6 members, £10 non-members  
Venue: The Hampstead Theatre, Eton Avenue, Swiss Cottage, London NW3  
Contact [Jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk) or Box Office: 020 7722 9301

**Sat 30 Oct 4pm to 6pm  
SEMINAR: IDENTITIES AND CULTURES IN EUROPE**  
Examining the lives and experiences of refugees living in European cities.  
Venue: The Hampstead Theatre, Eton Avenue, Swiss Cottage, London NW3  
Contact [Jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:Jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk) or Box Office: 020 7722 9301

**Tue 2 Nov 930am - 4pm  
BIRMINGHAM ASYLUM TRAINING DAYS FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS**  
Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.  
Fees: £45/day community groups/small charities; £70/day other organisations  
Venue: Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street,

Birmingham B3  
Contact 0113 268 6222, [volunteering@tandem-uk.com](mailto:volunteering@tandem-uk.com) or visit [www.tandem-uk.com](http://www.tandem-uk.com)

**Mon 8 Nov  
REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDRENS CONFERENCE**  
Organised by National Union of Teachers (NUT) and Show Racism the Red Card to explore the issues faced by refugee and asylum seeking children.  
Venue: Pride Park Football Ground, Derby  
Contact 020 7380 4770 or [t.gill@nut.org.uk](mailto:t.gill@nut.org.uk)

**Tue 9 Nov 930am - 4pm  
PETERBOROUGH ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS**  
Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.  
Venue: Great Northern Hotel, Station Approach, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1  
Contact 0113 268 6222, [volunteering@tandem-uk.com](mailto:volunteering@tandem-uk.com) or visit [www.tandem-uk.com](http://www.tandem-uk.com)

**Sat 13 to Sun 14 Nov  
NATIONAL FREELANCE ACTIVISTS' CONFERENCE**  
Organised by The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) to discuss improvements to the freelance sector.  
Venue: Mechanics Institute in Manchester (UMIST), PO Box 88, Manchester M60  
Contact 0141 248 6648 or [freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk](mailto:freelanceoffice@nuj.org.uk)

**Wed 17 Nov 930am - 4pm  
NOTTINGHAM ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS**  
Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.  
Venue: Nottingham Forest Football Club, The City Ground, Nottingham NG2  
Contact 0113 268 6222, [volunteering@tandem-uk.com](mailto:volunteering@tandem-uk.com) or visit [www.tandem-uk.com](http://www.tandem-uk.com)

### USEFUL WEBSITES

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

Online/More Colour in the Media project  
[www.multicultural.net/](http://www.multicultural.net/)

Refugee Legal Centre  
[www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk](http://www.refugee-legal-centre.org.uk)