

# 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 48, Jan 2005

## Journalists rally to support stricken colleagues

The NUJ along with other international journalists organisations have already responded “magnificently” to the international appeal launched by the IFJ to assist journalists and media staff caught up in the tsunami disaster but assistance is still needed.

Aidan White, International Federation of Journalists General Secretary says that offers of help and donations have been received from a dozen countries and that 18,000 Euros have already been sent on from the IFJ Emergency Assistance Fund to colleagues in Indonesia where up to 200 journalists and media staff have been reported lost or missing. The Serambi Indonesia, one of Aceh’s leading daily newspapers, lost around 100 staff and its shoreline printing works and offices were washed away. It has restarted publishing.

“Journalists’ unions are, like other groups in civil society, joining the general relief effort, but they are also thinking of the special needs of the media staff,” said White.  
<http://www.ifj.org/default.asp>

## Anti-asylum and immigration an electoral bonanza

Unveiling the first instalment of his party’s manifesto (4 Jan), Tory leader Michael Howard promises tough measures to crack down on the asylum and immigration crisis that has dogged the country. Tony Blair in his New Year message also pledged to set out new proposals that would tackle asylum and immigration.

As the campaigns accelerate for the general election politicians want to use the crisis as an opportunity to win some votes by promising tough measures to control asylum and immigration. What about the destitute asylum-seekers that go to great lengths to avoid persecution in their home country? The majority of these in recent years have been from Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan and now the tsunami disaster.

## Newspapers defy ruling on asylum-seekers

The Press Complaints Commission is to crack down on the use of the term “illegal asylum-seeker” by newspapers after research revealed its continued usage.

The RAM project through this Bulletin published several articles showing an increasing list of language offenders.

Sir Christopher Meyer, the press watchdog’s Chairman, has commissioned its cuttings agency to scan all British newspapers for use of the term after a study by the Liberal Democrats showed that the press has ignored the PCC’s guidance issued more than a year ago.

Despite being told the term was inaccurate and risked generating an “atmosphere of fear and hostility”, newspapers used it on only five fewer occasions than the previous year - 33 times compared with 38. Sir Christopher’s move came after Don Foster, the Lib Dems’ Culture spokesman, said the watchdog needed to “raise its game” on discovering that newspapers were flouting guidance issued on 23 October last year. The worst offenders were the *Daily Express* which used it five times last year, compared with four the year before; the *Daily Mail* and the *Mirror*, both three instances instead of four; and the *Telegraph*, three instead of one. *The Times* and *The Independent* slipped up once in the past year, while the *Guardian* managed to eradicate it altogether.  
[http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,3604,1381157,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1381157,00.html)

## UK handling of Roma ‘racist’

Immigration controls set up by the Government racially discriminated against Roma Gypsies trying to enter Britain, the law lords ruled on 9 Dec 04.

The House of Lords reversed a court of appeals ruling that UK immigration checks at Prague airport amounted to “unjustifiable indirect discrimination” against Czech Roma. They were set up in 2001 with the agreement of the Czech Republic so that the UK could screen all passengers travelling to Britain and prevent those seeking to claim asylum

## EDITORIAL

### Silent night for all asylum-seekers

At Yuletide it’s time for sober reflection for many people. It would remind us about the trials and tribulations of the Lord, which paralleled those of asylum-seekers in today’s Fortress Britain. Indeed, like Christ, asylum-seekers fled for dear life and their conscience. Not just that!

Media reports portend penury for many asylum-seekers during the festive period. According to state media reports from Zimbabwe, it is anticipated that; 10 000 Zimbabweans would be forcibly deported to Mugabe’s tyranny. The H.O announced on 16 Nov that it was lifting a two year suspension of the forced removal of Zimbabweans whose asylum applications have failed.

In Glasgow, the Council would evict failed asylum-seekers, and leave them to roam perilous dark alleys for shelter. Across other UK cities, they would be material for forced labour, courtesy of a Home Office decree that imposes unpaid work on asylum-seekers awaiting repatriation.

This was at a time for magnanimity, both materially and spiritually from friends and families who could afford the penny or the thought. Yet for many asylum-seekers it was a marathon silent night of mental anguish as they await a bleak future in the New Year.

**Amadu Khan**  
Guest Editor  
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from travelling. Statistics subsequently showed that Roma were 400 times more likely to be refused entry than non-Roma.

The Home Office denied discrimination, arguing that differences in the way people were treated were explicable, not by ethnic difference, but by suspicious behaviour and by the large number of Roma who were likely to seek asylum. "How did the immigration officers know to treat them more sceptically? Because they were Roma. That is acting on racial grounds," said Baroness Hale, giving the law lords' judgement. Many had good reason to want to leave the Czech Republic because of persecution, she added.

The immigration checks are, however, no longer in place as the Czech Republic has joined the European Union.

<http://errc.org/>

### Media guidelines on how to report on migrant issues

Migrants being a 'soft' target, with no or little means to defend themselves, are an easy 'victim' for negative myth-telling tabloid press across Europe. Participants at an exchange of views with media representatives on the image of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees in the media, organised in Paris on 6 Dec by the Parliamentary Assembly, raised concern.

The RAM project through the IFJ provided the material for the event.

Formerly represented as being linked to evils such as crime and unemployment, they are now being linked to security issues in the larger context of terrorism. This makes objective reporting more difficult as in this extremely sensitive context any more positive report may backfire by triggering off tabloid counter-reporting.

The lack of guidelines on how to report on migrant issues and/or their effective implementation, combined with increased commercial pressure on print media with falling circulation constitute further obstacles for fair and objective reporting.

Participants concluded that much more could be done in terms of educating the media, setting up effective guidelines, recruitment of journalists from the migrant community and not least by a renewed European-wide debate on how these issues are being dealt with in the Council of Europe member countries.

<http://assembly.coe.int>

### Asylum-seekers join to fight racial abuse

A group of Asian asylum-seekers are meeting at Nabila Ejaz's terrace house in east Manchester, immaculate with its wooden floors and modest furnishings, to share their stories about appalling racial harassment they have suffered.

They have come together as part of the Routes project, which was set up two years ago to offer practical support to asylum-seekers in the city. It is not a problem solely confined to the north-west: across the country, the charity Refugee Action says, asylum-seekers are facing daily attacks by racists.

Its research has shown that 40% of its clients are anxious about racial harassment and one in five has experienced it. One in three said they were too afraid to step outside of their homes after dark. [http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,,1382811,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1382811,00.html)

### Council of Europe signed agreement with travellers

The Council of Europe signed a partnership agreement with a body that represent the continent's Roma and Travellers population (15 Dec).

"This Forum is the result of a personal initiative by President Tarja Halonen of Finland," said Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis. The European Roma and Travellers Forum has the status of an international non-governmental organisation (INGO). The partnership agreement will allow the forum to play a bigger role in decision-making processes inside the 46-nation Council of Europe.

Davis said: "At the Council of Europe we are proud that both Finland and the representatives of Roma and Travellers have entrusted us with the responsibility of bringing the initiative of Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, to fruition. We could not possibly ignore the plea of more than 8 million people, many of whom experience a cycle of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Now we must ensure that both international and national authorities not only hear the voices of Roma and Travellers but also listen to them".

<http://www.coe.int/DefaultEN.asp>

### From a refugee to an MBE for teacher

A teacher who was thrown out of her country 30 years ago has received a top honour from the Queen.

Philomena Mendonca (61), now a teacher in Peterborough, is one of a host of local people to receive gongs on 4 Jan 05 in The Queen's Birthday Honours list. Mrs Mendonca was one of 60,000 Asians ordered to leave Uganda by the tyrannical president, Idi Amin, in 1972. She came to England with her husband and two children before she settled in Peterborough. She has been working as a teacher at Sacred Heart Primary School, in Bretton, since 1974. <http://www.peterboroughnow.co.uk>

### Intelligence debacle exposes the scandal of Belmarsh detainees

The Independent (6 Jan) revealed that the case against the foreign terror suspects imprisoned in Britain without trial for three years was partly founded on flawed and inaccurate intelligence.

According to the Independent, newspaper reports, including ones in the *Guardian* and *La Stampa*, were used by the Home Secretary to support allegations of terrorism against at least two of the detainees.

Shocking weaknesses in the secret services' evidence cast serious doubt on the Home Secretary's justification for detaining 12 men held under emergency legislation rushed through Parliament in the aftermath of 11 Sept. <http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/legal/story.jsp?story=598178>

### 'National service' for asylum-seekers

Tony Blair is to unveil plans to make failed asylum-seekers do months of 'national service' in a bid to convince voters he has not lost control of the immigration system. Later this month, Blair will set out a raft of new measures designed to prove to voters that he is determined to finally 'get a grip' on the issue.

The *Express* (5 Jan) reported that pride of place will be given to a plan for failed asylum-seekers awaiting to hear the results of appeals to do 35 hours a week community work in return for their board and lodging.

TSUNAMI DISASTER**In death, imperialism lives on**

*For the western media, it is clear that a tourist's tragedy is more important than that of the 'locals' writes JEREMY SEABROOK*

The number of fishing boats from Sumatra, Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu at sea when the Boxing Day tsunami hit will never be known. There is scarcely any population tally of the crowded coasts. Nameless people are consigned to unmarked graves; in mosques and temples, makeshift mortuaries, people pull aside a cloth, a piece of sacking, to see if those they loved lie beneath. As in all natural disasters, the victims are overwhelmingly the poorest.

This time there was something different. The tsunami struck resorts where westerners were on holiday. For the western media, it was clear that their lives have a different order of importance from those that have died in thousands, but have no known biography, and, apparently, no intelligible tongue in which to express their feelings. This is not to diminish the trauma of loss of life, whether of tourist or fisherman. But when we distinguish between "locals" who have died and westerners, "locals" all too easily becomes a euphemism for what were once referred to as natives. Whatever tourism's merits, it risks reinforcing the imperial sensibility.

For this sensibility has already been reawakened by all the human-made, preventable catastrophes. The ruins of Galle and Bandar Aceh called forth images of Falluja, Mosul and Gaza. Imperial powers, it seems, anticipate the destructive capacity of nature. A report on ITN news made this explicit, by referring to the "nature's shock and awe". But while the tsunami death toll rises in anonymous thousands, in Iraq disdainful American authorities don't do body counts.

One of the most poignant sights of the past few days was that of westerners overcome with gratitude that they had been helped by the grace and mercy of those who had lost everything, but still regarded them as guests. When these same people appear in the west, they become the interloper, the unwanted migrant, the asylum-seeker, who should go back to where they belong.

A globalisation that permits the wealthy to pass effortlessly through borders confines the poor to eroded subsistence, overfished waters and an impoverishment that seems to have no end. People rarely say that poor countries are swamped by visitors, even though their money power pre-empts the best produce, the clean water and amenities unknown to the indigenous population.

In death, there should be no hierarchy. But even as Sri Lankans wandered in numb disbelief through the corpses, British TV viewers were being warned that scenes they were about to witness might distress them. Poor people have no consoling elsewhere to which they can be repatriated. The annals of the poor remain short and simple, and can be effaced without inquiry as to how they contrive an existence on these fragile coasts. What are the daily visitations of grief and loss in places where people earn less in a year than the price the privileged pay for a night's stay in a five-star hotel?

Western governments, which can disburse so lavishly in the art of war, offer a few million as if it were exceptional largesse. Fortunately the people are wiser; and the spontaneous outpourings of humanity have been as unstoppable as the waves that broke on south Asia's coasts; donations rapidly exceeded the amount offered by government. Selflessness and sacrifice, people working away at rubble with bare hands, suggest immediate human solidarities.

But these are undermined by the structures of inequality. Promises solemnly made at times of immediate sorrow are overtaken by other urgencies; money donated for the Orissa cyclone, for hurricane Mitch in Central America, the floods in Bangladesh, the Bam earthquake - as for the reconstruction of Afghanistan and Iraq - turns out to be a fraction of what is pledged.

Such events remind us of the sameness of our human destiny, the fragility of our existence. They place in perspective the meaning of security. Life is always at the mercy of nature - whether from such overwhelming events as this, or the natural processes that exempt no one from paying back to earth the life it gave us. Yet we inhabit systems of social and economic injustice that exacerbate the insecurity of the poor, while the west is prepared to lay waste distant towns and cities in the name of a security that, in the end, eludes us all.

Assertions of our common humanity occur only at times of great loss. To retrieve and hold on to it at all other times - that would be something of worth to salvage from these scenes of desolation.

• *Jeremy Seabrook is the author of Consuming Cultures: Globalisation and Local Life.*

This piece was published as a comment by the *Guardian*.

## Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

### No Retreat, No Surrender!- A Luta Continua

*This piece is aimed at exiled journalists who are keen to continue their activism. It also provides some tips that the media can harness in tapping the resources among their exiled colleagues.*

As journalists in exile we still want to raise awareness of the issues that are plaguing our home countries. However, in most cases this could be difficult. First, getting employment in the Fourth Estate, which is a key avenue for this purpose is an uphill task. Secondly, and this emanates from the first reason, we become resigned to the futility of being unable to practice journalism and give up.

This is even worse as we suffer the moral guilt of not doing anything towards exposing the ills in our home countries. As I know too well, this is an emotional roller coaster to be in. So let me share with you how to continue the struggle and survive this moral conundrum. On the other side, the British media as well as refugee media network groups can benefit from this.

- **Sounding the Terrain:** Most journalists have had dealings with UK-based organisations with interest in their areas of specialism whilst in their own countries. If you already know their contact details, then give them a phone or email. If this is not applicable, visit your local library to find out information about organisations that work in your area of interest. The library stocks information about many of them and the staff are helpful! More so, its free. This was how I came in touch with Amnesty International, Scottish Refugee Council, STAR, and others.

- **Establishing A Platform:** When you contact them say who you are, why you think you can do business with them and state that you are willing to work with them in any capacity including as a volunteer. The latter should be emphasised, as people would not like to use your services for free except if you consent to this. As I discovered, colleagues are embarrassed that they could not put you on a wage, particularly as an asylum-seeker and for your good work. Many organisations are looking for a story from the horse's mouth. You might fit the bill! And this now becomes the new platform for your cause.

- **Political Clout:** Have a politician up your sleeve. And there are a few at your disposal. These include

parliamentarians in the devolved governments such as MSPs (for Scotland), the European parliament's MEPs and the UK government's MPs. Again visit your local library for their contact details or the CAB office. Remember to first contact your representative, and their local surgeries are a good bet. Politicians are territorial animals and mostly take up cases of their constituents. However, you can still contact others provided you match politicians with their areas of interest or briefs. For example, I once contacted and got a positive response from Jack Straw as Foreign Secretary even though he was not my MP. They ask questions or make contributions in parliament and the right places in your area of concern in your country that would carry a lot of clout.

- **Facts! Facts!:** This is very critical to gaining the trust and confidence of both the politicians and the organisations you do business with. In fact, the success of your relationship and how you use them greatly hinges on how truthful and objective the information you give them. So always do not over exaggerate on your briefings to them. The worse thing to happen is for a politician or officials to say things that are inaccurate and to look foolish due to your briefing. Once they rely on you, they keep coming for more briefing. And you have your day as long as it takes.

Well for the media, you now know it; exiled colleagues want to be heard. How can you tap this innate desire for our work?

- **Receptive Platform:** Know and have an empathy towards the fact that exiled journalists want to find a platform to raise concern about issues plaguing their country and conscience. Even though they are penniless, the opportunity to practice and inform the debate, particularly relating to their interests is more important to exile journos. They are there for the taking and if you're a penny-pinching editor, we are at your disposal. It's horses for courses. Media gets insightful and first-hand experience material. The journo gets a platform to continue their struggles.

- **Clear Terms of Reference:** However, be clear in stating to the journo which areas your readers would be keen on. As asylum-seekers, we carry a lot of emotional baggage, and have a lot to say. So clear guidelines on specific areas to focus on would help reduce misunderstandings. I use to send a piece, only for an editor to mutilate it on the grounds that it's for his reader's sake and for their sanity! Well, what about mine. You could have told me earlier and save me the emotional outpouring - you geezer.

Now try these tips out, and both sides would be very happy in the interest of **a Luta Continua!**

*Amadu Khan is a member of the exiled journalist network from Sierra Leone. Email: amadu@mail.wh1.org.uk*

## MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

### 17. The Refugee Women's Association (RWA)

**PEARL THEVANAYAGAM looks at the work of this unique organisation, which provide advice, guidance and counselling in confidence to refugee women.**

Realising there was a gap of service provision in the spheres of education, training and employment for refugee women, a group of people initiated Refugee Women's Association to become an independent organisation. This is at the core of RWA's activities. Parvin Paider, a director of the World University Service was one of the founder members of the RWA.

RWA's current director of eight years, Simin Azimi, has been engaged in refugee work for 25 years and she understands refugee issues. She said that since the launch of RWA its services have expanded to include advice on education, welfare benefits, housing, ESOL training, specialist job search training for doctors, nurses and a mentoring project involving employed refugee women mentoring unemployed refugee women. The organisation also runs a childcare course and a mentoring project.

RWA also provides Capacity Building training to refugee women's organisations on issues of relevance to them such as fundraising, and in terms of giving "one-to-one support" on various issues such as finding premises. These may be small organisations, but they can get a head-start. A bi-monthly newsletter is published reporting refugee women's news.

While admitting that there is a need for reaching more refugee women Ms Azimi points out that they provide "For example, two years ago the government announced that asylum-seekers whose applications are pending would not be entitled to benefits enjoyed by the British public. It announced that asylum-seekers had

no right to employment or accessing any education which is funded by the European Union or the government. Which meant that even the basic rights of a human being such as education was denied to children of asylum-seekers," she said.

Although a small organisation, RWA is also involved in lobbying and influencing policy makers on issues such as asylum-seekers' entitlement to education and training.

"Further, compared to the eighties, policies have become more stringent towards refugees because policy-makers make frequent changes which severely affect

**RWA FACT SHEET**

**Staff**

Full-time	6
Part-time	3
Volunteers	3

**Annual Budget**  
Approx £300,000

**Address**  
Refugee Women's Association  
Print House, 18 Ashwin Street  
London E8 3DL

**Tel:** 0207 923 2412  
**Fax:** 0207 923 3929

**Email:** [rwa@refugeewomen.org.uk](mailto:rwa@refugeewomen.org.uk)

**Director:** Simin Azimi

them particularly in the fields of employment and education. Clients come to RWA through word of mouth. Although not many refugees know about the organisation it is well-known in the sphere of education," according to Ms Azimi.

"Of course we need to raise our profile among refugees so we can reach out to a wider section of refugee women. For a small organisation like ours we do have publicity personnel. We ourselves visit clients who need our services," she said.

Most of RWA's vocational trainings are held at community organisations, providing income and resources for them and premises for RWA, and encouraging partnership work.

Refugee women from different social and cultural background use RWA's services.

The organisation has 12 staff, six full-time, three part-time and three volunteers. RWA also offer English Language Courses. "The skill for life is the English language. We conduct courses in accelerated English for refugee women," she said.

The organisation is funded through European Fund, Community Fund, Government grants and independent trusts. Apart from receiving funds from Europe, RWA have worked with other European organisations to deliver integration training, develop models of good practice, exchange information and good practices, develop/carry out research on gender guidelines, exchange staff, and have participated in a number of transnational conferences.

The annual budget is around £300,000 although fundraising is the hardest part according to Ms Azimi. "We have to raise funds every year and we are constantly sending out applications to Europe, independent trusts and the government," she said.

[www.refugeewomen.org](http://www.refugeewomen.org)

## 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.*

Mon 10 Jan 730pm

### STRANGERS ON OTHER SHORES

*Exiled Writers Ink! night of poetry presented by Richard McKane (Poet and Translator) with Critina Viti (Poet), Stephen Watts (Poet and Translator) and Alev Adil (Poet) - followed by an open mic session.*

Venue: Poetry Cafe, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2  
Contact

[jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk) or 020 8458 1910

Tue 11 Jan 930am – 4pm

### BELFAST ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.*

Venue: Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), 61 Duncaim Grdens, Belfast BT15

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

Wed 12 Jan

### SUPPORT AND BENEFITS FOR ASYLUM-SEEKERS: LONDON TRAINING

*Briefing advisors and service providers on the impact of support schemes.*

Venue: 3rd Floor, Bentima House, 168-172 Old Street, London EC1V

Contact 020 7490 6720 or visit [www.shelter.org.uk/training](http://www.shelter.org.uk/training)

Wed 19 Jan 9am-430pm

### RENEWING CIVIL SOCIETY IN MULTI-ETHNIC BRITAIN CONFERENCE

*Bringing together policymakers and practitioners from various policy areas to focus on equality, cohesion and active citizenship. Speakers include The Rt. Hon David Blunkett MP-among others. Post-conference drinks reception.*

Venue: The Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1B

Contact 020 8542 7622 or visit [www.runnymedetrust.org](http://www.runnymedetrust.org)

Wed 26 Jan 11am – 4pm

### EDUCATION SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Promoting volunteering by asylum-seekers and refugees in mainstream organisations.*

Venue: National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1

Contact 0113 268 6222 or visit [www.tandem-uk.com](http://www.tandem-uk.com)

Wed 26 Jan

### REFUGEE COUNCIL AGM

*Update on projects and work over the past year with guest speaker, John Denham MP.*

Venue: Ismaili Centre, 1 Cromwall Gardens, London SW7

Contact 020 7346 6700 or [info@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

Mon 31 Jan

### MANCHESTER REFUGEE AND ASYLUM HOUSING RIGHTS TRAINING

*Focused on explaining entitlement rights to advisers, policy makers and housing providers.*

Venue: 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2

Contact 020 7490 6720 or visit [www.shelter.org.uk/training](http://www.shelter.org.uk/training)

Tue 1 Feb

### MANCHESTER IMMIGRATION STATUS AND HOUSING RIGHTS

*Examining the latest changes in the relationship between*

*immigration status and housing rights.*

Venue: 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2

Contact 020 7490 6720 or visit [www.shelter.org.uk/training](http://www.shelter.org.uk/training)

Wed 2 Feb 930am – 4pm

### GLASGOW ASYLUM TRAINING DAYS FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.*

Venue: Renfield St Stephen's Church Centre, 260 Bath Street, Glasgow G2

For more info, contact 0113 268 6222, [volunteering@tandem-uk.com](mailto:volunteering@tandem-uk.com) or visit [www.tandem-uk.com](http://www.tandem-uk.com)

Thur 3 Feb 930am – 4pm

### NEWCASTLE ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.*

Venue: Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1

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

Wed 23 Feb 11am - 4pm

### HEALTH SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Promoting volunteering by asylum-seekers and refugees in mainstream organisations.*

Venue: National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Regent's Wharf, 8 All Saints Street, London N1

Contact 0113 268 6222 or visit [www.tandem-uk.com](http://www.tandem-uk.com)

Wed 2 Mar 930am – 4pm

### CANTERBURY ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.*

Venue: St Mary Bredin, 59 Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, Kent CT1

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

Thur 3 Mar 930am – 4pm

### BRIGHTON ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.*

Venue: Bighthelm, North Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1

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

Wed 9 Mar 930am – 4pm

### SOUTHAMPTON ASYLUM TRAINING DAY FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

*Aimed at sharing and encouraging good practise in relation to volunteering and asylum.*

Venue: The Dolphin, 35 High Street, Southampton, Hampshire SO14

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

Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

### SEEKING REFUGE, SEEKING RIGHTS, SEEKING A FUTURE

*Annual Forced Migration Student Conference aiming to bring together students to discuss issues related to their work.*

Venue: Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane Campus, Oxford OX3

Contact 0186 548 3559, [fmsc2005@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:fmsc2005@brookes.ac.uk) or visit [www.brookes.ac.uk](http://www.brookes.ac.uk)

### Useful Website

European Roma Rights Centre

[www.errc.org](http://www.errc.org)

The Deadline for the February RAM Bulletin is Fri 4 Feb

Please send stories, news items or ideas to Forward Maisokwadzo on [ram@presswise.org.uk](mailto:ram@presswise.org.uk)