

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 49, Feb 2005

Good news for asylum-seekers and refugees?

The headlines are saying it all, now that New Labour has taken up the challenge laid down by Michael Howard and the tabloid press: 'Asylum: You're right to worry' (*Daily Mail*, 7 Feb 05); 'Immigration: Action at last' (*Daily Express*, 7 Feb 05).

The RAM Project will be watching to see whether the acres of newsprint devoted to asylum and immigration issues over the coming months, will clearly distinguish between facts and conjecture. Will they make clear the difference between Britain's legal and moral obligations to those seeking asylum and the objective criteria needed for a fair and non-racist immigration policy? Will humane editors, locally and nationally, tell the stories of the impact of the debate upon those who have sought safety in the UK? Please send us examples of fair (and unfair) print and broadcast coverage, especially in local and regional media.
RAM Project: Tel (0117) 941 5889
Email: ram@mediawise.org.uk

RAM asks PCC to check election reporting

The Press Complaints Commission guidance note to editors on reporting asylum and refugee issues will be included in an Editors' Codebook to be published on 10 Feb. This news comes in response to RAM Communications Officer Forward Maisokwadzo's call to PCC chair, Sir Christopher Meyer to re-issue the guidance note, 'at least as soon as the general election date has been announced'. 'This would help ensure that editors are reminded of their responsibilities about accuracy of reporting in this regard,' wrote Forward following the Conservative Party's full page advert in *The Sunday Telegraph* (23 Jan 05) and Tory leader Michael Howard's media interviews putting asylum and immigration at the heart of the election battle.

"Should any substantive issue arise under the terms of the Code in the coming months, the PCC will-no

doubt-initiate an investigation, as it would with any complaint..." replied the PCC. "Nonetheless, we are grateful for your interest in the matter and the suggestion you have made."

Meanwhile the PCC's decision to ask a cuttings agency to monitor misuse of terms such as 'illegal asylum-seekers' has put Editors on their mettle. One sub-editor on a regional daily paper told the *RAM Bulletin* that he found a note on his desk warning of the PCC's move: 'Let's make sure our paper doesn't feature,' it pleaded.

The Information Centre on Asylum-seekers and Refugees, the RAM Project and the Refugee Council are partnering a monitoring exercise to test the effectiveness of the PCC guidance to editors.
www.icar.org.uk
www.refugeecouncil.org.uk
www.ramproject.org.uk

Editor calls for more balanced asylum stories

The media should focus more on positive stories on asylum and immigration to balance the scare-mongering stories, *The Voice* Group Editor Deidre Forbes told participants at a Runnymede Trust Conference (19 Jan 05).

"The media is the major culprit. I'm alarmed by the negative coverage of asylum-seekers. Balance is what we're seeking," said Forbes, who was among a panel of journalists debating the role of the media in promoting race and equality and community cohesion at the one-day conference.

She delivered her warning as sections of the press and right wing politicians were accused of damaging community relations in the way they report asylum and immigration, and challenged the media to recruit reporters connected to the community.

Chris Elliot, Managing Editor of *The Guardian* echoed her sentiments: "It is high time newsrooms have a true representation that reflects the community we live." He cited *The Sun*'s 'Swan Bake' story, demolished by the RAM Project, as a good example of bad journalism.

EDITORIAL

Life's little ironies

Once again asylum-seekers and refugees are to be the punch bag of electioneering. If Tory leader-Michael Howard's starting salvo against asylum is the benchmark, then asylum-seekers are in for a rough ride again this year.

They would be punched left, right and centre by political demagoguery. Anti-asylum diatribes are ready made material for the right-wing press, as is already evident. In their neighbourhoods, work places and schools, asylum-seekers and their dependants can expect to be objects of racist scorn and indignity.

This is all, thanks to life's little ironies: the son of a Romanian Jewish refugee, who like today's asylum-seekers, fled with his parents to the UK for safety - in his case from Nazi extermination - is today's anti-asylum political maverick. If the quota system that Mr. Howard is proposing was then in place, would the hundreds of thousands of Jewish folk been allowed safe passage to Britain? No, they would have been left to perish under the Nazis.

But, none of this matters to him and his ilk. He is desperately scavenging for xenophobic votes. Indeed, the timing of his decision, at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, is a telling irony to his sense of history. But history will not forgive him. Neither would it forgive the current government, which is bent on outmatching Howard's anti-asylum rhetoric and its own hideous asylum legislation.

Amadu Khan
Guest Editor
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Calling on the media to “tell it like it is, not represent anyone,” *Independent* columnist, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown said “It will be interesting to see the power of the press when it gets it right on asylum.”
info@runnymedetrust.org
www.runnymedetrust.org

RAM praise for *Post* journo

Journalists on the *Yorkshire Evening Post* have been praised for their coverage of refugees and asylum-seekers.

The Leeds Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and the Media Network have been monitoring the newspaper regularly for the past year. And at a special meeting 22 Jan 05 in Leeds Civic Centre, members agreed that the Evening-Post's coverage had been excellent.

Several journalists were named for the first class content of news and feature pieces. However Leeds RAM was concerned about the negative letters, which still managed to get into the Evening Post unchallenged?

Terry Williams, RAM National Co-ordinator, says: “We are now getting frequent feedback that, where our Networks exist in the UK, the quality of coverage of refugees and asylum issues is good.

“I join the Leeds group in congratulating the *Yorkshire Evening Post* – but share the concerns raised about abuse of letters pages.”

“RAM encourages open and balanced debate about asylum in the UK and recognises the importance of reflecting readers' views. But editors have a special responsibility to make sure that letters appearing in their newspapers do not contain inaccurate or distorted statements.”

Leeds RAM is seeking a meeting with the NUJ branch to effect a close working relationship. Co-ordinator Helen Smith says: “We already get tremendous support from individual members of the NUJ and are looking to build on this.”

Lincoln training for exiled journalists gets green light

The joint RAM / Lincoln University three-day training programme for members of the Exiled Journalists Network will take place between May 10-12 at Lincoln School of Journalism. Both print and broadcasting journalism courses will be run. There is only room for 15 on this pilot programme, so

places are being offered on first-come basis, upon completion of the membership form with a brief media profile.
 Apply via ram@mediawise.org.uk

EJN plans April launch

The end of April is earmarked for the launch of the Exiled Journalists Network as an independent charity, providing advice, support and training to exiled journalists who settle in the UK, and assist them to find outlets for their work and employment in the media.

The Steering Group of EJN members is finalising the constitution and structure, and seeking charitable registration and funding. They have already secured Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (*Independent* columnist), Lindsey Hilsum (International Editor, Channel 4 News), and Tim Lezard (NUJ Vice-President) as Patrons. Meanwhile Bob Dale (BBC Radio Kent), Mike Jempson (Director, MediaWise), Anna Kelson (former RAM Administrator, Arun Kundnani (Institute of Race Relations editor), Nick Medic (former RAM Communications Officer), Kirsteen Tait (former ICAR Director), and Patrick Wright (Deputy Director, Refugees In Effective and Active Partnership), have agreed to be the initial Trustees.
 Contact Forward: ejn@mediawise.org.uk

Sky rebuked by Ofcom

Ofcom, the broadcasting watchdog, has ruled that Sky Sports' commentator Frank McLintock, was 'clearly offensive' when he used the terms '10 little niggers' during a live phone-in. Ofcom said “nigger” was such an offensive word, it must only be used where there is a clear justification (sic). It found Sky Sports in breach of TV guidelines governing human dignity and the treatment of minorities.
<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/32542.html>

Celebrating European Week of Media & Ethnic Minorities

The RAM Project is again recording UK contributions to the European Week of Action in March. Please let RAM know of relevant events coming up around 21 March.
 Contact Forward: ram@mediawise.org.uk or visit www.multicultural.net/edmm

Anti-Gypsyism rife

but ignored in Europe

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) has called for regular monitoring and concerted actions at the European level as first steps towards recognition and elimination of 'anti-Gypsyism' or 'Romaphobia' as a social issue. ERIO is concerned about the rampant racism that exists against Roma in the enlarged Europe, and its trivialisation in the public discourse. MediaWise is working with Roma organisations to improve media coverage.
www.erionet.org

Call to RAM Media Networks

To help the RAM Project provide better services for established media networks and those just starting, we need as much information as possible about your group. Contact RAM project National Co-ordinator and media trainer, Terry Williams for a Guideline Form.
williams.t@blueyonder.co.uk

RIGHT OF REPLY

The Refugee Women's Association (RWA) wishes to clarify matters arising from last month's Mapping the Refugee Sector feature

*Parvin Paidar was one of a group of founder members of the RWA.

*RWA was set up because there was a gap in the provision of education, training and employment services specifically for refugee women. This is at the core of RWA's activities.

*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. Simin Azimi, RWA Director clarifies that “when we find employment for one refugee woman it is still employment for one refugee woman and to us that is extremely important.”

*RWA runs a childcare course and a mentoring project but not a 'child-mentoring' project.

*RWA also provides 'capacity building training' to refugee women's organisations and 'one-to-one support' on a range of issues of relevance to them such as fundraising and finding premises.

*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.

www.refugeewomen.org

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**Howard's way**

The British public has to endure an unpleasant diet of rhetoric from politicians and some sections of the media on asylum and immigration issues. In preparation for a glut during the General Election campaign, FORWARD MAISOKWADZO urges readers to check their figures.

I BELIEVE WE MUST LIMIT IMMIGRATION

That was the headline (in block letters for easy visibility, I guess) on Tory leader Michael Howard's campaign advert on asylum and immigration in *The Sunday Telegraph* (page 8, 23 Jan 05).

It went on "There are literally millions of people in other countries who want to come and live here. Britain cannot take them all. A Conservative Government will set an annual limit on immigration and a quota for asylum seekers." He promised 24-hour security at ports to combat illegal entry.

Naturally, other political players were quick to respond. Labour condemned Howard for "playing the race card." Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy accused the Tories of desperation as they signalled that immigration would be central to their election campaign.

The right wing press lapped up this political rhetoric as we started to witness a fresh tsunami of anti-immigration stories. The News of the World and the Daily Mail carried polls asking questions like: 'Would Howard's ideas fix the immigration crisis?' Guess what! According to the Daily Mail 81% said yes while 19% say no. The figures stood there for almost two weeks without changing. Some of us were not shocked with the results of these partisan polls. We're tired of agenda setting.

What is worrying for many asylum-seekers, refugees and their campaigners is that when politicians and the media collude on these two key issues, chances of an informed and honest debate are limited. Populist messages like these are not healthy at a time when people are debating the importance of community cohesion, integration and equality. It is shocking to hear the claim that 'literally' millions of people want to come here yet there is no shred of polling evidence about how many foreigners do want to live in the UK. The 'literally' actually means 'metaphorically'. Nor do we get figures about Brits migrating to other countries for whatever reason.

But buried near the bottom of Mr Howard's cry was the answer. The problem is that "Britain has reached a turning point. Our communities cannot absorb newcomers at today's pace." There are more people coming than going out and Britain is getting full. In fact, as the rightwing lobby group MigrationWatch constantly reminds us, we're adding a city the size of Birmingham every five years. (Note how the unit of measurement has changed - Mrs Thatcher weighed immigration in 'Granthams', more recently it has

been 'Peterboroughs', now its 'Birmingham'. Failed asylum-seekers who stay on are compared to the size of Brighton. Why not measure them against the refugee camps in Peshawar, or Darfur?)

Yes, it's interesting to note that some 150,000 more people emigrated from Britain. What MigrationWatch doesn't say is that this migration has been cyclical and the country has been losing population for much of the post-war period. Where were the laments for the loss of a city the size of Birmingham every five years? And who are these people anyway? Statistics used by Mr Howard in support of his advert conceal significant subtleties. Take 2003, for example. According to estimates produced by the Office of National Statistics, a record 362,000 people left and 512,000 came in - a difference of 150,000. Of those departing, 191,000 were Brits and 171,000 were foreigners. And of those coming in 106,000 were British returnees and 236,000 were non-British citizens. That means that 85,000 more Brits came in than went out. So more than half of that 'city the size of Birmingham' are returning Britons. The other half is not all knife-wielding Kurds, pimping Albanians and benefit-defrauding West Africans, as the tabloids would have us fear. Of the UK's foreign workers in 2003, 519,000 were from EU states, 127,000 from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, 87,000 from Australia and New Zealand, 72,000 from the USA, and 500,000 from elsewhere, notably the Philippines, Japan and South Africa.

When Howard says that the problem is not ethnicity but numbers, given that asylum-seekers will now make up only about a quarter of the net inflow, does he intend to crack down on all the EU, US, Australian and Filipinos who come here to work?

While the *Telegraph* group, which plans to sack 90 journalists, may have needed the revenue from Howard's advert, judging from an article on p. 23 of the same edition. Pregnant with facts on how 'migration from Eastern Europe positively contributed to the British economy yet ministers won't boast about it in their election campaign', it crushed some of the tabloid myths generated by front-page headlines such as 'Migrants Cover up', and 'Don't say we didn't warn you'. (One of the more conservative *Express* predictions was that 54,000 Eastern Europeans would descend on Britain within a year, taking jobs from British workers and bleeding the country dry.)

The election battle has commenced. Kilroy-Silk's new Veritas party has put immigration and asylum at the top of its manifesto, insisting that multiculturalism is stealing Britons' birthright.

More worrying still is news (Labour to raise stakes in war over immigrants, Observer 6 Feb 05) that Home Secretary Charles Clarke plans to allow only incoming 'desirable' employees like doctors and teachers to settle permanently, if they pass an English test, with others forced to leave when work permits expire. Citing the alleged concerns of her respectable white and Asian constituents (sic) former civil liberties champion Patricia Hewitt, the Trade and Industry Secretary told the paper, anxieties about asylum-seekers are not all based on myths and the influence of the *Daily Mail*. God help us all.

www.statistics.gov.uk

Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

Helping to get your refugee story out

Lucia Dube of the Zimbabwe Community Association was delighted to find a service where professional journalists would improve and distribute her press releases free of charge. Here, DOMINIC O'REILLY tells you what it is and what it can do for you.

Lucia Dube is Project Co-ordinator for the Zimbabwe Community Association. She used the Community Newswire (CN) to publicise the Young Face of Africa children's dance troupe, mostly made up of refugee children.

"It brought many more people to our performances because the journalist gave it so much flavour that the story came alive," says Lucia. "I was so happy with the way it was written and the journalist was honest, interested and showed me respect. I've already used it again and every refugee group should use it, too."

Community Newswire is an initiative from the Media Trust, a registered charity, which approached The Press Association (PA), the national news agency of Britain and Ireland, forming a partnership to deliver this service.

Funded by the Home Office, CN launched on 17 June 04 and has helped more than 1,000 groups since then. The benefits for community and voluntary groups are clear and significant. CN helps them gain the quantity and quality of media coverage that their efforts deserve. Priority is given to groups that feel marginalised and mistreated by the media, so stories from refugees are particularly welcome.

Using the service is simple, quick and, thanks to the Home Office funding, totally free. Groups can cut and paste their press releases into a template at www.communitynewswire.org and can also email photographs. They must register when they use the service for the first time but there is no charge and no limit on the number of releases and photos that they may submit. Going through the website is quick and allows staff to evaluate the service. Groups that don't have internet access can fax their stories.

The release goes to PA's production headquarters in Howden, Yorkshire, where two dedicated and editorially-independent reporters turn it into a story for newspapers and broadcasters, and then send it out on the regional news services in England straight to journalists' computers.

Ben Pindar, CN news editor, emphasises that the editorial team is as supportive as possible. "We don't add any spin or comment and will check any facts. Because we know that many groups are wary of the media, we work hard to win their trust. If anyone is not confident, either about doing a press release or their written English, then they should just send us the facts and a contact number or email and we'll contact them. We'd rather do that than miss stories."

CN has just put out its 5,000th story, four months ahead of schedule and averages 32 stories each working day.

The Media Trust runs a free online matching service, where experienced media professionals who volunteer their skills are paired with charities that need their support. There are also free guides on their website on what sort of stories are suitable for the CN, how to plan a media campaign and how to write a press release.

Pindar explains: "We use about 94 per cent of press releases that are submitted. This includes stories on new initiatives or research, responses to a national issue or government decision, fundraising appeals or successes, and anything quirky or offbeat. It is always best to have a human angle."

CN stories go automatically to PA's subscribers at no extra cost to them. Subscribers include every national newspaper, all regional dailies, most weekly newspapers and 95 per cent of broadcasters. The few news organisations that do not subscribe have free and unlimited access to all stories on PA's Mediapoint website.

"Journalists know, trust and use this service constantly," says Pindar. "A press release normally has to fight for attention, then have facts checked and be rewritten. CN is a one-stop shop to get on the news agenda."

Ray Darcy, news selector at the *Manchester Evening News*, supports Pindar's view. "We use it a lot and it provides a versatile service. It is useful for local shorts and columns and it also kick-starts stories. We often find stories that we had missed and it has definitely boosted our coverage of community stories."

National newspapers, ITV, BBC, Sky News and the regional media are all regular users of CN stories.

David Mills, press officer at Novas, a social business and voluntary organisation working with individuals experiencing social exclusion, has first-hand experience of how useful this service can be. "As a direct result of CN, Novas secured positive coverage in several national and regional papers such as the *Liverpool Echo* on a story which involved training Gypsies and Travellers in photography and computer skills over a six-month period," he says. "I have no doubt that the coverage gained would not have been possible without CN. It has given the opportunity for a much-maligned community to have a voice on a local and national platform."

All the stories are also available free of charge on the CN website, which receives 400 hits a day from charities.

Lucia Dube found it brought other benefits when she showed the story on the CN website to the Zimbabwean children: "It was a huge boost to their self-confidence," she explains. "When they came here they felt shy about their culture and tradition, but seeing a story about them on a website and knowing it had gone out to all those newspapers made them feel accepted and valued."

Contact Dominic O'Reilly: dominico@mediatrust.org

Access the PR template at www.communitynewswire.org

MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

Positive Action in Housing

AMADU KHAN looks at a Scottish organisation helping communities overcome homelessness, racial harassment and poor housing through casework and advocacy.

Asylum-seekers account for a major chunk of the clientele of Positive Action in Housing (PAIH), the only black-led housing provider in Scotland. Little surprise that the organisation champions safe housing provision for asylum-seekers and refugees.

The task is uphill, and has two lines of attack. On one front, it trains the staff of agencies on how best to assist asylum-seekers in accessing their services. On another, it promotes housing options to destitute asylum-seekers, who are often accommodated in Spartan conditions in Glasgow's deprived areas.

The Kadir family of five, who lived in a tiny dilapidated flat in Glasgow, was relocated after PAIH's intervention. "We were crammed in our little flat and PAIH helped us get a bigger one," the father told me.

Improving housing for refugees is not just PAIH's forte. It combats negative media coverage of asylum issues. Through its website and briefing papers, it informs the public about asylum-seeker's housing problems: homelessness, overcrowding and their ghettoisation in Glasgow's deprived estates. As one human rights activist puts it: "PAIH's naming and shaming of poor housing for refugees has helped to both highlight the issue as well as to improve things for the better".

The organisation's website is an inventory of the magnitude of housing uncertainties plaguing asylum-seekers. They account for about 60% of their work. If there is a story in the newspapers on homelessness of

asylum-seekers, particularly women and children, and the attendant ills of their racial harassment, destitution and incarceration in detention centres like Scotland's Dungavel, it is sure to be listed in the PAIH's website.

This in-house publication is a watering hole regularly visited by journalists thirsty for a story. "Once the media pick up our briefings and press releases they follow them through and have front page stories", a PAIH former employee confided in me.

Their media savvy bagged them 84 stories in newspapers in 2004. One insider told the RAM Bulletin that they recently collaborated with asylum-friendly newspapers

PAIH FACT SHEET

Staff: 11 (paid staff)
Volunteers: 24

Budget: £370, 314

Address
 Positive Action In Housing
 98 West George Street
 Glasgow
 G2 1PJ

Tel: 0141 353 2220
Fax: 0141 353 3882

Email: home@paih.org

Director: Robina Qureshi

like *The Sunday Post*, to highlight the inhumane regime of asylum detention in Scotland's Dungavel Centre. It yielded dividends as the Scottish Parliament ordered a review of this shameless policy.

Challenging negative coverage of asylum issues features greatly in PAIH's media activity. Its weekly bulletin provides a listing of outrageous and negative asylum stories in British newspapers.

Many a time it has petitioned editors as well as the PCC about these indulgences. When *The Sun* published the now notorious 'Swan Bake' story, PAIH was on centre stage in galvanising public protest

in Scotland against this outrage. A colleague journalist confided in me that if you want an uncompromising opinion on asylum issues, the PAIH chief, Robina Qureshi is the person to call. "She is always willing to give interviews to the media in defence of asylum-seekers", he told me.

Activism also complements PAIH's media monitoring. Its strategy is simple: deploy asylum-seekers and refugees in the crusade to challenge and inform the media coverage.

I first met Robina in the early stages setting up the Refugee Media Forum for Scotland. It was an initiative of journalists and refugee agencies, to monitor and combat Scottish media's negative coverage of asylum issues.

Such as other refugee supporting organisations, PAIH's contribution was pivotal in getting the fledgling group up and kicking. Its role was to help journalists contact asylum-seekers for their views. It was PAIH's way of ensuring that the opinions and stories of refugees are directly heard and hopefully to engender objective reporting in the Scottish media.

As part of this strategy, it maintains a pool of asylum-seekers, trained on media interviewing skills. PAIH's Volunteer Co-ordinator, David Reilly told me: "When the media contact us for an asylum-seeker to grant them an interview, we first made an assessment of the motives of that media before we facilitate the interview".

Call it caution, but, PAIH staff say they have a responsibility to protect vulnerable refugees from media subterfuge. "We know too well that the media could abuse the trust of refugees, and have to do everything to guard against it", David said.

The training is done with the collaboration of the NUJ in Scotland, the Scottish Refugee Council and the PAIH. As one former refugee trainee claimed: "The training on how to interact with the media is an empowering process that has helped me to challenge the negative media coverage of us".

That is music to PAIH's ears, and something that they continue to facilitate.

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.

Wed 9 Feb NUJ MANSOOR HASSAN CAMPAIGN

Lobby in front of the Home Office against the removal of Mansoor Hassan and his family to Pakistan.

Transport provided from Manchester

Venue: Home Office, London
Contact NUJ: Manchester 0161 237 5020; Or London 020 7278 7916

Fri 11 Feb 9.45am-6pm DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Organised by ORAMA for youth workers, social practitioners and interested individuals.

Venue: Wood Green Central Library, High Road, London N22
Contact Elina 020 8342 9686

Sat 19 Feb 11.30am-1.30pm DEMO AGAINST DETENTION & DEPORTATIONS

Organised by the Freedom of Movement group against the death of detainees in the Harmondsworth and Colnbrook Removal Centres.

Venue: Colnbrook Bypass, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7
Contact 079 4761 5341, 020 8510 0465 or freemovement@btinternet.com

Wed 23 Feb 11am - 4pm HEALTH SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

Promoting volunteering by asylum-seekers and refugees in mainstream organisations. Speakers include: Sheila Adam (Director of Public Health) and Elizabeth Crafer (Director, Positively Women).

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

Thur 24 Feb 9.30am-4.20pm DEVELOPING SERVICES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Conference providing guidance for local authorities, police and their partners in education, health and legal sectors.

Venue: QE2 Conference Centre, London SW1
Contact Neil Stewart Associates 020 7324 4330

Sat 26 Feb 10.30am YOUNG REFUGEES FACING DEPORTATION CONFERENCE

Aiming to share the knowledge and experience of individuals and organisations. Workshops will explore: The Law; The Media; Campaigning and Wealth fare issues.

Venue: Grimmond Building, University of Kent Canterbury, Kent CT2
Contact 01227 266 858, 077 8996 1744 or kadams314@hotmail.com

Wed 2 Mar 9.30am-4pm CANTERBURY ASYLUM TRAINING DAY 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: St Mary Bredin, 59 Nunery Fields, Canterbury, Kent CT1
Contact 0113 268 6222, volunteering@tandem-uk.com or visit www.tandem-uk.com

Thur 3 Mar 9.30am - 4pm BRIGHTON ASYLUM TRAINING DAY 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: BRIGHTON, North Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1
Contact 0113 268 6222, volunteering@tandem-uk.com or visit www.tandem-uk.com

Fri 4 Mar 10am-4.15pm SUPPORTING INTEGRATION CONFERENCE

Organised by The National Mentoring Network, for organisations interested in and already involved with developing a mentoring support system for refugees and new immigrants to the UK.

Venue: TUC Congress Centre,

London WC1
Contact 0161 787 8600 or conference@mandbf.org.uk

Wed 9 Mar 9.30am - 4pm SOUTHAMPTON ASYLUM TRAINING DAY 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: The Dolphin, 35 High Street, Southampton, Hampshire SO14
Contact 0113 268 6222, volunteering@tandem-uk.com or visit www.tandem-uk.com

Wed 23 Mar 9.30am-4.45pm CHALLENGES, CHANGES, CHOICES

Conference aiming to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting women seeking asylum and women refugees.

Speakers include: Baroness Helena Kennedy QC; Harriet Harman MP, QC and Maeve Sherlock (Director).
Venue: Regent's College, Regent's Park, Inner Circle, London NW1
Contact 020 7820 3049

Apr - Dec 2005 FREE ENGLISH COURSE FOR ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN

Combines language skills with basic IT - leading to a Cambridge ESOL qualification.

Venue: London tbc
Contact Refugee Women's Association on 020 7923 2412

Apr - Dec 2005 FREE ACCELERATED ENGLISH COURSE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN

Providing intensive language skills and basic IT skills - leading to a Cambridge ESOL qualification.

Venue: London tbc
Contact Refugee Women's Association on 020 7923 2412

Sat 2 Apr EUROPEAN DAY OF ACTION FOR MIGRANT RIGHTS

Thousands of events across Europe, informing and protesting on the issue of migrant rights.

Tue 5 Apr 9am-4.20pm COMMUNITY COHESION CONFERENCE

Examining the implications of the Refugee Integration Strategy, new Local Area Agreements and measures to tackle discrimination

across Europe. Speakers include: Lord Herman Ouseley (Managing Director, LGA) and Jon Bright (Head, Office of the Deputy PM) among others.

Venue: Savoy Place (IEE), London WC2
Contact 020 7324 4330 or visit www.neilstewartassociates.com

May FREE JOBSEARCH COURSE FOR REFUGEE WOMEN DOCTORS

Offering help from NHS professionals with CV writing and practising interview techniques.

Venue: London tbc
Contact Refugee Women's Association on 020 7923 2412

Fri 13 - Sat 14 May SEEKING REFUGEE, SEEKING RIGHTS, SEEKING A FUTURE

Annual Forced Migration Student Conference aiming to bring together students to discuss issues related to their work, aiming to create a forum on forced migration and asylum.

Venue: Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane Campus, Oxford OX3
Contact 0186 548 3559, fmsc2005@brookes.ac.uk or visit www.brookes.ac.uk

June FREE JOBSEARCH SKILLS FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Providing mentoring from NHS professionals in register with the Midwifery Council, produce a CV and practise interview skills.

Venue: London tbc
Contact Refugee Women Association on 020 7923 2412

July FREE JOBSEARCH COURSE FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Offering advice and support to Radiographers, Physiotherapist, Anaesthesiologists and others in writing CVs and interview techniques.

Venue: London tbc
Contact Refugee Women's Association on 020 7923 2412

USEFUL WEBSITES

PAIH
www.paih.org

Deadline for the March RAM Bulletin is Tue 1 Mar

Please send stories, news items or ideas to Forward Maisokwadzo on ram@mediawise.org.uk