

# 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 50, March 2005

### Refugee agencies launch asylum guide ahead of poll

To bust the asylum myths during election campaign, refugee agencies have teamed up to publish a pocket guide full of key facts.

Refugee Action together with the Refugee Council, the Scottish Refugee Council, the Welsh Refugee Council and Student Action for Refugees (STAR) have produced *'Tell It Like It Is: The Truth About Asylum'*. They hope it will be carried around by parliamentary candidates, party workers and anyone else taking part in the campaign so that they will have reliable information to counter the widespread asylum myths. <http://www.refugee-action.org.uk/news/pocketbookguide.aspx>

### Amos warn papers against chasing 'cheap headlines'

Barones Amos, Leader of the House of the Lords warned that an over-emphasis on asylum and immigration during the election may 'destabilise' mixed communities and accused some newspapers of chasing 'cheap headlines'.

In a wide-ranging interview with *The Observer* (13 Feb 05), the first black woman Cabinet minister also fired a warning shot about the political wrangle between Labour and the Conservatives. She said it would be 'a great pity' if asylum and immigration issues dominated the election campaign.

"It has the potential to destabilise the communities that have found ways of living and working together," she said.

Accusing the Tories of highlighting the issue out of desperation, she added: "We don't want local campaigns where race is an obvious sub-text and certainly don't want campaigning on immigration and asylum being code for 'no more black people'. That should apply to all parties."

Asked if she felt 'guilty twinges' that the new draconian rules on asylum and immigration would have locked out many of Britain's immigrants, Amos replied: "I recognise that people want to get the best for their family so they

will want to move to countries that will give them the opportunity to do that. We have to find a way of managing it." <http://observer.guardian.co.uk/politics>

### CRE call for more civilised election campaign

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) says the forthcoming General Election should not be an occasion for peddling prejudice and exploiting fear and anxiety but a time for the fullest debate of the issues faced by people of Britain.

In a statement CRE encouraged members of the public to report any racially or religiously motivated criminal acts - or materials they consider incite hatred - to the police and other relevant public agencies.

It said public authorities have duties under the Race Relations Act to promote equality of opportunity and good race relations.

"In our view this requires some public authorities to take action to deal with racist behaviour.

"For instance, where it appears that election debates in local communities may be influenced by exaggerated, false or misleading statements - such as the supposed arrival of overwhelming numbers of asylum-seekers or immigrants - then public authorities should act quickly and effectively to rebut the claims and make the facts clear to the public," said the statement. The CRE also urged public authorities to promote good race relations in the run up to the elections by publicising positive examples of good race relations within their local communities.

"Those who try to exploit disillusionment and ignorance on the part of some members of the public to stir up fear, prejudice and hatred should not be allowed to divide our communities.

"We urge every one in Britain to make this a country that welcomes all who live within its boundaries and says 'no' to racism and bigotry," it said.

[www.cre.gov.uk](http://www.cre.gov.uk)

### EDITORIAL

## Stop telling asylum lies

No law, no emotion, no compassion, no mercy, no protection. 'We have had enough of you migrants... Get out now, you're overwhelming our family doctors.'

This has been a daily attitude of certain tabloids to asylum-seekers in the UK. They arrive almost exhausted, shocked, disoriented, and mostly penniless. They leave behind family, houses, and their loved ones. Many have been tortured, persecuted, raped and victimised. They are on the long way to exile. All they want is a refuge - but will they get it? Instead of a warm welcome they find themselves attacked - for reasons best known to those behind this media onslaught. The right-wing press opt for 'cheap headlines' portraying asylum-seekers as a danger to our communities.

'Now the time has come to ship you out of this country, or you'll perish in detention centres.'

The BBC1 undercover film (Wed 2 Mar 05, see story) is a fair example of how difficult life can be when you are jailed just for claiming asylum. You are regarded as a spectre menacing society.

Launching an official guide for all forces on meeting the policing needs of asylum-seekers and refugees, Robert Ayling, Deputy Chief Constable of Kent said: "where asylum communities have been established there has been ill-informed adverse media coverage, which has contributed to heightened local tensions and resentments of asylum-seekers..."

Is it true that '4 out of 10 whites do not want a black or Asian neighbour', (as reported in *The Guardian* 19 Jan 2004)? It is hard to integrate if you know so many don't like you.

**Claude Arthur Mouthy**  
Guest Editor  
[arthurmouthy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:arthurmouthy@yahoo.co.uk)

## NUJ move to help exiled journalists

The National Union of Journalists through its Black Members' Council (BMC) is calling all NUJ members who are asylum-seekers or refugee journalists to a meeting to discuss the needs of this category of membership and how the union can assist.

The meeting will take place at the NUJ headquarters in London on the morning of Sat 12 March, followed by the BMC AGM later on in the afternoon. The move is in direct response to over-whelming support for a Bristol Branch motion at last year's annual conference in Liverpool which called on the NUJ to set up a supportive network within the union. *Further details contact Deputy General Secretary John Fray: John Fr@nuj.org.uk*

## TV film expose abuse of immigrants at detention centre

Asylum-seekers and immigrants were assaulted, racially abused and sexually humiliated by private security guards while awaiting decisions on their future in Britain, an undercover BBC TV documentary has revealed.

*Detention Undercover - the Real Story*, screened on BBC1 (Wed 2 March 05) contained shocking scenes. Guards swapped racist epithets and boasted about being pumped up on adrenalin as they "stand on the teeth", "smack in the faces" and "bust the noses" of inmates while no-one is looking.

In one secretly filmed incident a vulnerable patient who has spent two years sleeping in a car is tipped out of bed by a guard at Oakington reception centre in Cambridgeshire after being woken at 7am by blaring music played over a loudspeaker system.

Trainee escort officer, Jalil Chaudhri, describes how he groped female inmates. "I had one who I just put my hand down her tits one time ... I just started touching her up right. Good laugh."

The programme claims he planned to meet deported prostitutes while on holiday. Staff are shown swapping notes on how best to hit inmates without being caught and discussing how to avoid being filmed by security cameras.

15 employees mentioned in the programme had been withdrawn from frontline duties pending an inquiry.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/real\\_story/4304547.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/real_story/4304547.stm)

## Govt figures show fall in asylum applications

The Home Office recently released the asylum statistics for 2004 which indicate a fall in asylum applications. They show that the asylum system is far from 'chaos', as some politicians and some sections of the media have been lamenting about.

In fact, asylum is more stringently controlled than ever before, leading to fears among asylum and refugee campaigners that those most in need of protection are being prevented from seeking safety in Britain.

The top five countries from which asylum applicants came last year were: Iran, Somalia, China, Zimbabwe and Iraq. All have well-documented records of human rights abuses. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/asylumq204.pdf>

## Clarke: We need more migrants

Home Secretary Charles Clarke has told Labour Party activists: "We want more migration, more people coming to study and work. "We want more people coming to look for refuge. That's not only a moral duty, but something which is part of the essence of this country."

Mr Clarke's approval of higher immigration came as Tory leader Michael Howard announced that under his government people from outside EU travelling to live and work in Britain will have to undergo checks for HIV/Aids and other diseases.

The Home Secretary was replying to activists who had complained about Prime Minister Blair's 'protected borders' pledge.

Clarke told a meeting in Gateshead that the economy of London in particular 'utterly depends' on migration and that he wanted Britain to be a place which offered refuge for those fleeing tyranny. "We will continue to welcome genuine economic migration within a strict points-based system. Migrant workers do key jobs which are not filled by our domestic workers. Overseas students earn hundreds of millions of pounds for our universities." Mr Clarke ac-

cused the Tories of deliberately confusing asylum and immigration and described as a 'saloon bar response' their pledge to keep asylum-seekers on an island until they are processed.

## Kilroy: we pledge a total asylum ban

Robert Kilroy-Silk claimed Britain was being 'stolen' by mass immigration as he launched his new political party Veritas on Wed, 2 Feb.

The former daytime television presenter unleashed a ferocious attack on the UK's immigration and asylum system, and fired a broadside against multi-culturalism. He dismissed it as 'nonsense' and claimed it had left people feeling ashamed to be British.

"Our country is being stolen from us and we never been asked our permission, never been consulted."

Veritas cites quotes from newspaper stories as 'evidence' that politicians have been lying about asylum issues. <http://www.theveritasforum.co.uk/viewtopic.php?t=403>

## RAM under scrutiny

A detailed study of the Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Media (RAM) Project set up by the media ethics charity MediaWise Trust (formerly PressWise), goes to press this month.

The RAM Report will detail how this groundbreaking project set about its task to promote best practice and to assist other organisations to develop successful communication techniques.

The Project was set up in 1999 in response to growing concern about inaccurate and sensational media coverage of refugee and asylum issues.

The Report is designed to help non-governmental organisations replicate RAM communication strategies when dealing with similarly complex and controversial issues.

Freelance journalist Rich Cookson has been given access to all RAM Project documentation in compiling the Report, which will include:

- \* how and why the different elements of the RAM Project were developed,
- \* easy-to-reproduce materials,
- \* facts and figures,
- \* comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the Project.

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**Asylum: 'We need a more humane political debate'**

*'Its a shame to vote for a race card dangled to us as an electorate', HENRY MAKIWA assess public opinion of the people of Huntingdon, a Tory stronghold on what they think about the asylum debate ahead of the General Election.*

PAUL Robson (38) had never in his lifetime met a refugee or asylum-seeker until only a couple of weeks ago.

"I reckon it's because we live in a very small settlement where these things are rare, we are in a very big way a very traditional and uptight community," Robson, a restaurant chef says.

The "rare things" he speaks about are in fact the incidents when asylum-seekers have sought sanctuary in the small farming/market town of Huntingdon in the county of Cambridgeshire. "Nowadays if you look around the high street you will of course see quite a few Asian and African faces and I guess they are coming here not only to work but like this lad I met recently, to find some reprieve from the woes in their countries as well," Robson said.

He continued: "I suppose most local people will take the new developments with mixed feelings though. On the one hand we can appreciate that these are the people who will provide some labour force and ensure the much needed growth of our small town's economy, there is also the question of the effect of an influx of foreign elements on the social dimension. We would be the least amused if our peaceful environment was in a day turned into a den of crime."

Little Huntingdon traces its roots to the year 1068 when William the Conqueror is said to have visited Huntingdon and ordered a castle to be built. Locals here pride themselves in the glories of their people and the successes of their former British leaders, Oliver Cromwell and John Major. Both men are undoubted historic icons immortalised in pictures on key places around the town and are generally revered. It is in this town that Major, British Premier from 1990 to 1997 was adopted as a prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Huntingdon in May 1976 and elected as its member of parliament in May 1979.

The town has been a Tory stronghold since Major and long before that. In fact, Huntingdon has kept its roots firmly in Conservative politics throughout the British history of democracy. Not much however, can be made of the locals' opinion over the burning matter of immigration and asylum regulation that has hogged political debate in

recent weeks with elections approaching fast in May.

During a recent Commons exchange with Tony Blair at prime minister's question time, Tory leader Michael Howard charged that Labour has given up the UK's powers to set its own asylum laws. The matter has naturally stepped on the delicate nerve of the immigrant and refugee section more so with indications that policies on asylum and immigration are likely to be fiercely fought over in the run up to the next General Election.

The Tories would introduce a tough quota system on asylum, a limit on immigration and 24-hour security across UK ports. In addition, they would impose mandatory health checks on immigrants to screen them for infectious diseases like HIV and tuberculosis. Furthermore, people coming to settle permanently in the UK from outside the European Union would have to demonstrate they did not have conditions likely to "impose significant costs or demands on Britain's health system".

Labour has responded by assuring a fall in immigration and asylum levels through "new measures" and ordering the immigrant community to either "make Britain great or ship out" according to a popular daily tabloid. In addition, Blair has taken moves to act on the immigration issue by barring all non-English speaking and unskilled foreigners.

Robson considers the immigration issue as a "crisis" but deplores the way politicians have tackled it. He says, "Though locals here are strongly Tory, it will be a shame if we are to vote for a race card that's being dangled to us as an electorate. It is quiet a degrading affair to be speaking about in this day and age."

To foreigners, views are at a crossroads.

Faisal Ankram, a Ugandan-born political refugee living here has found the recent developments both unfortunate and unsettling. He said: "The sad thing is that both the Tories and Labour - the two biggest parties in the country, seem to be fighting to make the toughest laws on foreigners like myself. Its even worse when it sounds so apparent that both parties are convinced that we are all economic migrants not people who genuinely need some sanctuary from life threatening situations."

"It is also clear that the ordinary British people do not quite understand the issue hence the need for more informative discussions to come up with a more humane political debate," says Ankram who sought refuge in Huntingdon in 2001.



## Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

### Building Networks - the route to media success

*RAM National Coordinator TERRY WILLIAMS, explains the importance of networking if the local groups are to achieve their goals.*

The strength of a successful local Refugee Media Network is the number of organisations represented within its ranks.

Networks set up by RAM around the UK, bring together a wide range of organisations and experience which can be used to change hostile coverage. Everyone active in a Network is likely to be representing a locally-based group which is concerned about media reporting of refugees and asylum-seekers.

How representative is your local Media Network? How many refugee and asylum-seeker groups are part of the Network? How many established groups such as Amnesty, Oxfam and Student Action for Refugees (STAR) have joined?

Some Networks have reported that individuals have contacted them wishing to sign up as a gesture of support for our work. That's good – but never lose sight of the fact that people and organisations joining a Network do so to be active in the fight for fairer media coverage.

Many will have involved the Refugee Council, Refugee Action or similar groups; but how many have been in touch with the local branch of the National Union of Journalists? These are all organisations which should be working shoulder to shoulder in order to help journalists provide balance coverage and challenge bad reporting.

Not sure who to contact? Make sure the key organisations listed below know about or are active in your Network. Add to the list by finding out about other relevant groups through your local library, Council for Voluntary Organisations, or Race Equality Council.

A Network which is truly representative of the local refugees and asylum communities will be given greater credence by the media, and is in a strong position to provide journalists with current information and people willing to be interviewed.

Are there gaps in your Network's membership? Give every organisation and individual the chance to become involved in your work.

#### USEFUL CONTACTS

Amnesty International UK: [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

Asylum Aid: [www.asylumaid.org.uk](http://www.asylumaid.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7377 5123

Barbed Wire Britain Network: [www.barbedwirebritain.org.uk](http://www.barbedwirebritain.org.uk)

Council for Assisting Academic Refugee Academics: [www.academic-refugees.org](http://www.academic-refugees.org)  
Tel: 020 7836 8963

The Employability Forum: [www.employabilityforum.co.uk](http://www.employabilityforum.co.uk)  
Tel: 020 7785 6270

Exile: [www.exile.org.uk](http://www.exile.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7038 2994

Information Centre About Refugees and Asylum-ICAR: [www.icar.org.uk](http://www.icar.org.uk)

Immigration Advisory Service: [www.iasuk.org](http://www.iasuk.org)  
Tel: 020 7357 7511

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants: [www.jcwi.org.uk](http://www.jcwi.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7251 8708

Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture: [www.torturecare.org.uk](http://www.torturecare.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7813 3445

Migrant Helpline: [www.migranthehelpline.org.uk](http://www.migranthehelpline.org.uk)  
Tel: 01304 203 977

National Coalition of Anti-Deportation Campaigns: [www.ncadc.org.uk](http://www.ncadc.org.uk)  
Tel: 0121 554 6947

PRAXIS: [www.praxis.org.uk](http://www.praxis.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7729 7985

Refugee Arrivals Project: [www.refugee-arrivals.org.uk](http://www.refugee-arrivals.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 8607 6888

Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership: [www.reap.org.uk](http://www.reap.org.uk)  
Tel: 01895 441 530

Refugee Studies Centre: [www.rsc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01865 270722

Refugee Women's Association: [www.refugeewomen.org](http://www.refugeewomen.org)  
Tel: 020 7923 2412

Save the Children: [www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)  
Tel: 020 7012 6400

**For further advice contact Terry Williams:** [Williams.t@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:Williams.t@blueyonder.co.uk)

## MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

### Refugee Media Group in Wales (RMGW)

#### **SIMBA CHABARIKA looks at the work of one of the first RAM-backed media networks**

The global problem of asylum-seekers and refugees has also reached Wales, and especially Cardiff, Swansea and Newport, as thousands of people fled their home countries to seek sanctuary there. And wherever there are large concentrations, the issue becomes highly politicised.

Politicians, local authorities, local residents and the media, have all been embroiled, and the issue of public attitudes and perception about asylum-seekers and refugees, remains a concern of both society and its media.

The debate has had racial overtones and media reporting has been shown by research to be overwhelmingly negative, with loaded language and no opportunity given for the voices of the victims to be heard. As a result, they have not been particularly welcome.

The 'dispersal process' set in motion by the 1999 Immigration and Asylum Act, meant moving people all over Britain and made asylum a national issue. NASS statistics for the third quarter of 2003 showed that Wales hosted about 2,500 asylum-seekers and their families, but the figure has increased since then.

The Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Cultural Studies (JOMEC), began its work on asylum in Wales in 2000 in collaboration with Oxfam and founded a multi-agency group, the Refugee Media Group in Wales (RMGW). In 2001, RMGW produced a report *'Welcome or Over Reaction? Refugees in the Welsh Media April 2000 – March 2001'*.

This showed that the group was be-

coming effective and already making a significant difference to the way the Welsh media covered asylum issues.

"The work to date has been characterised by partnerships with a range of organisations, all involved in working with asylum-seekers and refugees and in 'representing' them in one way or another," says RMGW chairperson, Professor Terry Threadgold, who is also head of the Cardiff Journalism School.

"The group has been concerned since the beginning with the way public perceptions of asylum/refugee issues are formed and has focussed on media representations of the issues, primarily in South Wales,"

#### **RMGW FACT SHEET**

##### **Staff:**

Members come from a range of organisations and individuals concerned about media misrepresentation of asylum and refugees.

##### **Address**

Cardiff School of Journalism  
Media and Cultural Studies  
Cardiff University  
Bute Building  
King Edward V11 Avenue  
CF10 3NB

**Tel:** 029 2087 4756  
www.cardiff.ac.uk

**Chair:** Prof Terry Threadgold

Its purpose is to look at how the Welsh media report on asylum issues, and to encourage balanced and accurate coverage. It also exists to make sure the voices of asylum-seeking men and women are heard and included in the media.

It is a network of eight agencies and three refugee community organisations: Amnesty International, Displaced People in Action, Welsh Refugee Council, JOMEC, Oxfam, Wales Local authority Consortium, Society of Voluntary Associations, Newport Refugee Support Group, Refugee Academics Council and the Central African Association.

Between 2002 and 2004 its focus extended to working directly with asy-

lum-seekers and refugees. With funding from Comic Relief it established an 'Asylum Media Project in Wales' co-ordinated by Vanessa Bucolli.

This resulted in one of its most significant achievements, the production of a booklet: *'Let's talk to the media'*. It is a practical guide to working with the media for refugee community organisations and refugee practitioners.

Bucolli says its purpose is to share the group's experience over four years to encourage accurate asylum reporting in local and regional media. Working with asylum-seekers, refugees, journalists and broadcasters the RMGW has brought about changes in the nature of coverage in Wales.

"For example, the occurrence of refugees and asylum-seekers being quoted in the news, has increased by 500%," she says.

There is praise for the Welsh Assembly in showing a lead on fair play for refugees and asylum-seekers. Assembly Member Edwina Hart, Minister of Social Justice is noted for her commitment and empathy.

"While responsibility for asylum and immigration is not devolved to the Welsh Assembly, we have a key role to play in providing for refugees and asylum-seekers in terms of housing, health, education and social services," says Hart. "Wales is a tolerant and compassionate society. We have a moral duty to care for those who seek sanctuary and live up to our tradition as a welcoming nation." She adds that the Welsh media has in the main avoided the hysterical and inaccurate coverage to be found among its counterparts elsewhere in the UK.

The next major phase of the RMGW project expects to involve working with communities in South Wales "to try and understand the issues which produce fear and anxiety about asylum in communities," says Threadgold.

The RMGW seems to have made inroads and continues with its work in helping overcome intolerance, hostility and prejudice towards asylum-seekers and refugees who make an enormous economic and cultural contribution to UK society.

# 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 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 Nun-nery Fields, Canterbury, Kent CT1  
Contact 0113 268 6222,  
volunteering@tandem-uk.com or visit 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: Brighthelm, North Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1  
Contact 0113 268 6222,  
volunteering@tandem-uk.com or visit www.tandem-uk.com

**Thur 3 Mar 12pm  
PRESS CONFERENCE:  
ASYLUM UNDERCOVER - THE  
REAL STORY?**

Hosted by the programme-makers, campaigners and former immigration detainees.  
Venue: Home Office, Peel Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P  
Contact 077 8651 7379 or ncard-north-west@ncadc.org.uk

**Fri 4 Mar 10am-415pm  
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.  
Venue: TUC Congress Centre, London WC1  
Contact 0161 787 8600 or conference@mandbf.org.uk

**Mon 7 Mar 7.30pm  
"CITIZENSHIP OF SAND:  
WINDOW OF ILLUSION"**

Exiled Writers Ink! present it's monthly evening of poetry with Ghais Aljundi (Exiled Journalist), Bashir Sakhawarz, (Writer), Wafaa Abdul Razzaq, (Poet) and Meguen Touko (Guitarist and singer)  
Venue: Poetry Cafe, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2  
Contact 020 8458 1910 or jennifer@exiledwriters.fsnet.co.uk

**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 or visit www.tandem-uk.com

**Fri 11 Mar 1pm-2pm  
GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS:  
BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN  
MINORITY**

Free lunchtime lecture from Sarah Spencer Chair, Commission for Racial Equality.  
Venue: Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R  
Contact 020 7848 1924 or jmorgans@bihr.org

**Sat 12 Mar 1pm-6pm  
DEVELOPMENT LINKS  
BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS  
AND MIGRANTS**

Conference aiming to discuss government proposals and links between unions, activists and new arrivals in the West Midlands.  
Venue: United Services Club, Gough Street, Birmingham B1  
Contact: 07973 945873asimport@hotmail.com

**Wed 23 Mar 930am-445pm  
CHALLENGES, CHANGES,  
CHOICES**

Conference aiming to increase awareness and understanding of issues affecting women seeking asylum and women refugees.  
Venue: Regent's College, Regent's Park, Inner Circle, London NW1  
Contact 020 7820 3049

**Wed 23 Mar 630pm  
'SUPPORTING PEOPLE'  
POLICY, IMMIGRATION AND  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE**  
Public meeting organised by Asian Women Unite on the

government's 'Supporting People' policy, immigration and access to justice.

Venue: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1  
Contact 020 8572 1895 or asianwomenunite@hotmail.com

**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.

**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

**Tue 5 Apr 9am-420pm  
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

**Thur 26 May 10am  
RACE, GENDER AND CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE PROCESS**  
One-day conference examining the criminal justice system. Speakers include: Baroness Helena Kennedy (QC), Robyn Williams (Police Inspector) among others.  
Venue: St. Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1  
Contact Ruth 020 8204 9587 or ruthchigwada@aol.com

**June  
FREE JOBSEARCH SKILLS  
FOR NURSES AND MIDWIVES**  
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 and Anaesthesiologists.  
Venue: London tbc  
Contact Refugee Women's Association on 020 7923 2412

### Useful Websites

Commission for Racial Equality  
www.cre.gov.uk

Deadline for the April RAM Bulletin is Tue 29 Mar

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