

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 51, April 2005

Express still using 'bogus' language to report asylum

NEWSPAPERS are continuing to flout Press Complaints Commission guidelines on the use of misleading language.

In its 'New asylum fiasco' story (9 Mar) *The Daily Express* used the term when detailing the shambles of Labour's immigration policy. The story also used language calculated to scare. Describing the time taken to remove failed asylum-seekers, the *Express* said 'The average time taken to remove each of the failed refugees pouring into Britain every year in their tens of thousands is now a startling 20 months'.

'Pouring' is an exaggeration. The latest Home Office figures show that applications for asylum in the UK fell by 2% during the last quarter of 2004. The total number of applications was 8,465 (10,020 including dependants), a 22% reduction over the same quarter in 2003. Even *The Sun* (23 Mar) admitted as much in a story headlined "Asylum falls".

PCC guidance to editors issued Oct 2003 set out the correct meaning of 'refugee', 'asylum seeker' and 'illegal immigrant' and advised editors to 'take care to avoid misleading or distorted terminology'.

Newspaper campaign helps block family deportation

THE Grimsby Telegraph has temporarily saved a family from being deported to Pakistan where they claim they face the threat of "almost certain death."

Sibtain Bokhari was a leading human rights lawyer in Pakistan who angered an extreme religious group which he said has placed him on a hit list. He fled the country with his family and has been living in Grimsby for 18 months.

Celebrating its front page campaign to keep the Bokharis in the UK, Michelle Lator, *Grimsby Telegraph* editor said: "We acted as any reasonable body would have done, to secure the freedom of a family who have a positive role to play in the future of our area." <http://www.pressgazette.co.uk>

Media split on asylum centre decision

According to the *Western Daily Press* (Fri 1 April) there was uproar in Portishead when Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott gave an asylum screening centre the go-ahead. Under the headline 'Asylum centre sparks fury' the *WDP* story announced that the centre would open in Portishead Office Park, North Somerset. Another article 'Welcome to the asylum', quoted locals saying the centre should be in Bristol, and blasting the decision to site it in a Tory constituency as a "cynical, political manoeuvre".

But TV coverage told a different story, BBC Points West and HTV's local news (Thurs 31 Mar), could find few locals worried about the opening of the centre in the vicinity of their homes.

<http://www.westpress.co.uk>

How anonymous allegations become facts

SEVERAL papers have run stories about lax immigration controls at UK airports. Apparently people with dodgy documents are let in and asked to report back within two days. Many don't.

A good story, and timely with an election coming the government in trouble on security issues.

So why spoil it by confusing speculation with facts (in breach of Clause 1 of the Code policed by the PCC)?

A Bristol Evening Post front page (30 Mar) quoted an 'insider' who claimed that in one month 29 out of 31 suspect arrivals failed to return for interview. Anyone reading beyond page 1 would discover that the anonymous source only 'believed' this figure to be correct.

But an Editorial stated baldly 'In just one month, from 31 immigrants touching down at the city's airport, 29 absconded after being given temporary permission to stay'.

The figures MAY be accurate, but the newspaper had not demonstrated them to be. Basing an opinion of an unsubstantiated assumption is no way to take forward sensible debate. It does little

EDITORIAL

Are you thinking what we're thinking?

For someone who came to the UK in search of safe harbour, I felt uneasy as I walked beneath recent Tory party election billboards asking "Are you thinking what we're thinking?" I am certainly not, but I have reason enough to worry about such electoral stunts.

In my view calculated attacks by Tory leader, Michael Howard on immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, and on gypsies and travellers are racist. There is nothing wrong with talking about immigration, or running health checks for people coming to the UK for diseases such as TB, HIV/AIDS. But what is worrying is the timing of the announcement - during an election campaign - and the selective approach of the policy as only those from non-EU countries will be checked. What about those thousands British expatriates coming back home, or visitors to these countries and continents?

Fortunately, the decent voices of people like Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Head of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) have expressed grave concerns about using such tactics of fear for political gains (*The Guardian*, 1 April).

Let's hope that people will resist these divisive calls and work for the harmony between all communities.

This is a long struggle in which the press can play a vital role.

Jean Baptiste Kayigamba
Guest Editor
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to inspire confidence in journalism, and gives ammunition to those who believe that some papers have ulterior motives.

It's a fact? Check

Channel 4 is providing an online rebuttal service during the election campaign, so everyone - including other journalists - can find out whether politicians' claims stand up to scrutiny.

The RAM Project ran a similar service during the last election, but this time - with far more resources - C4 are really covering the field. There is a section on Asylum and immigrations - and you can sign up for a newsletter alerting you to their latest findings. An excellent new service which has already caught a few politicians out, and forced them to agree not to repeat their 'errors'.

Log on to www.channel4.com/factcheck

Expose the BNP? YEP!

THE *Yorkshire Evening Post* will again be producing material about the fascist British National Party (BNP) before the General Election. *YEP* reporter and NUJ member, Peter Lazenby is drawing up a list of story subjects.

"There will be reports on the true nature of the BNP and its candidates etc," said Lazenby, an anti-racist campaigner. He also said the material will include a feature dispelling common myths about asylum-seekers and refugees. He has appealed to the public to come forward with other suggestions and information. Contact Peter on: sagar@biddlestone-road.fsnet.ctg.uk

Archbishop talks tough on asylum ahead of poll

ROWAN Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has pleaded (Thurs 31 Mar) with party leaders to avoid exploiting public fears over terrorism, asylum, immigration and crime during the General Election campaign.

In an open letter, he voiced concerns about 'fear-driven politics' and called on the parties to focus instead on other issues such as the environment, the international arms trade, the penal system and the alienation of young people.

Questioned about a video of Michael Howard sloganising: "It's not racist to talk about controlling immigration, as some people claim, far from it," the Archbishop said: "I think it's

racist to whip up the kind of anxiety that can so easily be generated on this subject, that always presents, for example, asylum seekers as a menace, an uncontrollable menace."

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/releases/050331.htm>

Restricted access to justice for asylum seekers

THE Law Society is concerned that a new system for deciding asylum and immigration appeals together with new funding arrangements, which come into force on 4 April, will restrict access to justice for asylum seekers with legitimate claims.

There will be restricted rights of appeal to the High Court from the new single tier Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. Funding for appeals will be retrospective and have been likened by the Commons Constitutional Affairs Committee to 'no win, no fee' arrangements. The Law Society believes the funding plans are unfair and may mean that people with good cases will not be able to appeal.

The new system was introduced amidst claims that it would curb abuse and avoid delay. MPs have urged the Government to reconsider the unprecedented legal aid rules for asylum seekers. The Constitutional Affairs Committee report says "asylum-seekers risking death and torture on deportation might not find lawyers to take their case."

Alan Beith, Liberal Democrat MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed said: "No one would argue that frivolous asylum and immigration cases should be funded by the public purse. [But] these proposals swing too far in the other direction." <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk>

Tap refugee talents to cut skills shortages, Govt told

REFUGEES and asylum seekers could cut skills shortages and help boost the UK economy if they were allowed to work. (*The Independent*, 14 Mar).

Government regulations restrict thousands of refugees and asylum-seekers trained as doctors and engineers, and other professionals from working in Britain.

"The skills and experience of up to 5,000 foreign academics seeking refuge in this country could be worth more than £100m to the economy. Yet despite be-

ing qualified for professions where there are desperate shortages, many are forced to live on benefits, or take low-paid manual jobs,' the paper reported. Under rules devised counter criticism that people were benefiting from the process, asylum applicants are barred from working until a decision has been made on their status.

Meanwhile the Trades Union Congress and the Council for Assisting Academic Refugees have launched a handbook to help refugee academics convert their skills after being granted leave to remain.

Copies available from info@cara.lsbu.ac.uk

CRE and MediaWise attack anti-gypsy coverage

THE Commission for Racial Equality has launched an impassioned defence of the rights of gypsies and travellers as controversy mounts over Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's plans to instruct councils to provide more sites for them.

And MediaWise has contacted travellers groups offering help with complaints to the PCC about tabloid coverage which Director Mike Jempson compared to Nazi-style propaganda.

Mr Prescott's plans have come under sustained fire from Tories and tabloids who accuse him of prioritising the rights of travellers over local residents. Sarah Spencer, CRE deputy chair, hailed the contribution of gypsies and travellers to society. She said "Over the past year a series of such incidents has led to vitriolic press coverage denouncing the gypsies or travellers involved with little understanding of the reason why they can find it impossible to find a legal site.

"The tabloid press may say that they merely reflect public attitudes in their coverage. The evidence suggests that they reinforce and legitimise them." The PCC should review its anti-discrimination Code to cover gypsies and travellers and asylum seekers. "Prejudice and overt discrimination are the daily experience of gypsy and traveller people," she said. <http://news.scotsman.com>

Lincoln training in May

THE joint RAM/Lincoln University training for members of the exiled journalists is scheduled for 10-12 May. Members who have registered will be contacted shortly.

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**Media influence: Are there lessons from Rwanda for the UK media?**

In 2003, three media executives who fanned ethnic hatred were jailed with sentences from 35 years to life by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. JEAN BAPTISTE KAYIGAMBA witnessed the power of the media to influence public opinion during the 1994 genocide.

Eleven years ago, my country was plunged into one of the worst genocides of the last century: the 1994 mass killings of the Tutsi. As an ethnic Tutsi and Rwandan journalist, I want to share my personal experience, and my observation of the UK media since I came here three years ago.

In Rwanda, a million innocent people were killed within 100 days. Much of this carnage was due to the hatred and intolerance preached by extremist politicians and relayed by extremist media. The ethnic violence that engulfed Rwanda in 1994 was but a culmination of repeated pogroms targeting the ethnic minority, orchestrated by the two post-independence Hutu regimes.

As preparations for the genocide got under way, there was an unprecedented hate campaigning by the media. The extremist press labelled Tutsis as alien 'invaders' from Abyssinia. They called them with derogatory names like 'snakes' and 'cockroaches'. In their opinion, Rwanda belonged solely to the Hutu, considered the first settlers. The extremists used a number of local newspapers, especially *Kangura* ('Wake them up') and the infamous *Radio Television des Mille Collines* (RTLM), to achieve their ignominious objective. RTLM was very instrumental in inciting people to massacre the Tutsi. *Kangura* is most regrettably remembered for the publication of the Ten Hutu Commandments - an open call for the Hutu to massacre the Tutsi.

For a long time, Rwanda had not enjoyed a vibrant press, but I was amazed by the unusual growth of the local press in the capital, Kigali. We used to scorn some publications because of their casual way of writing about issues of ethnicity and the invasion of Rwanda by Tutsi rebels from Uganda in October 1990. More laughable were the awkward cartoons, designed to convey hate messages to the illiterate majority in the countryside. But as time went on the extremist press took root, urging the majority Hutu not trust the minority. Some even warned the population that "the enemy is within". The clear intention was to maximise fear among the Hutus. By now every Tutsi was seen as an accomplice of the Tutsi rebels fighting the Hutu regime.

It was discovered that the extremist press flourishing

on the streets of the capital and distributed across the country was directly or indirectly sponsored by people with close ties to the country's leadership. The private radio station *RTLM* was established to boost their hate campaigns. In underdeveloped areas the impact of the mass medium of radio cannot be underestimated. When killings started in April 1994, it was common to see militiamen manning roadblocks with a machete in one hand, and a transistor in the other.

I am not trying to make a direct comparison between the pre-genocide Rwandan media and the UK media. My point is that the media can frighten and influence people. I am frightened reading UK tabloids relaying hate articles against minority groups. The situation is worsened when politicians and the media collude. In Rwanda, the *RTLM* radio and *Kangura* were inciting people to kill the Tutsi. What do people make of headlines like 'Sun War on Gypsy Free-for-all. MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS'? (*The Sun*, 9 Mar 05).

I am not saying that a Rwanda-style genocide might happen here, but we have to think about freedom of speech in this country. Our media must be responsible. The Rwandan press stirred up fear by making people believe the Tutsi represented an imminent threat. Some sections of the UK press resort to similar ways when reporting about ethnic minority groups. It is worrying that, ahead of the May election, there is an upsurge of xenophobia and racism in some papers. Equally worrying is the linkage often made between the rise of international terrorism and Islam. This has triggered Islamophobia, making British Muslims feel 'isolated' in their own country, according to Maxine Frith (*Independent*, 22 Nov 04). One Muslim told her: "Muslim young men have emerged as the new 'folk devils' of popular media imagination, being represented as the embodiment of fundamentalism." This generalization can end up demonising a large number of law-abiding citizens. That is why a delicate balance should always be maintained in reporting refugee and asylum issues.

As Oxford lecturer Lotte Hughes has said: "the influence of the 9/11 is definitely here - people are more and more afraid, and insecure, and when they feel these things, they seek scapegoats. They also look to nostalgia - a rosier, imagined past - for comfort. In this case, a past that was perceived all white, though in fact it wasn't." The media is a double-edged sword. It can contribute to social harmony and build cohesive communities. But some tabloids, like *The Daily Express*, *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, abuse freedom of speech to stir up tension among different communities. Some would say that the rise of bigotry "may be perceived as such because the media like it so" - after all it appears to sell newspapers. It would seem that the lessons of the Holocaust and the Rwanda genocide have yet to be learned.

Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

Exorcise the media's demons

FORWARD MAISOKWADZO challenges the media to be responsible and urges members of the public to respond to negative media coverage by making their voices heard.

The red-top headlines are screaming with fury and phone-ins are loud with angry punters. These could merely be the usual symptoms of another circulation war. But when a newspaper is perilously close to inciting racist behaviour - 'Meet your neighbours... thanks to John Prescott' Sun war on gypsy free-for-all" (The Sun, 9 Mar 05) and 'Illegal gypsy sites soaring in west screamed the Western Daily Press (Wed, 23 Mar 05) - it might also be evidence of a serious failure of Government and media responsibility.

The issue of 'Gypsies' and Travellers has been demanding attention since at least the last election. Now the tabloids are stuffed daily with tales of illegal sites, fly-tipping and aggressive behaviour. Ordinary people who know nothing about the subject have their prejudices against the Travelling community confirmed. And at least 3,500 Travellers with nowhere to go face abuse and even physical attack to add to their burdens. Relations between settled and Travelling communities will take a long time to recover.

The situation is worsened by the fact that the popular press has created enemies out of ordinary people, innocent people. They have taken a miniscule minority and focused on them to such an extent that the reality becomes distorted, leaving the perception that the minority is the majority.

But the enemies lurking in the threatening shadows thrown by tabloid headlines aren't just the terrorists. Its the asylum seeker, gypsies and travellers, the Muslim and the immigrant whom the press perceive as a possible threat.

Sometimes they appear as separate entities:

IS THERE A GYPSY CAMP NEAR YOU?

(Daily Express, 10 Mar 05)

BIGOTRY, CLASS WAR AND A GYPSY CHARTER THAT BETRAYS A HATRED OF MIDDLE ENGLAND

(Daily Mail, 12 Mar 05)

200 YARDS FROM HELL: FAMILY'S ORDEAL

BY ILLEGAL GIPSY CAMP

(The Sun, 15 Mar 05)

1 IN 20 ASYLUM SEEKERS IS HIV

(Daily Star, 8 Mar 05)

Sometimes they merge to double the threat:

ASYLUM-SEEKER WHO HELPED THE HIT-MEN

(Dail Mail, 19 Sept 2001)

CROOKED ASYLUM SEEKER FLOGGING GUNS IN SAFEWAY CAR PARK; WE EXPOSE CROOK HELPING TO FUEL SHOOTINGS SPREE

(The People, 30 Jan 05)

Then there are the word associations that drop into our subconscious to confirm and re-affirm the danger: 'Muslim fanatic'; 'bogus asylum seekers'; 'asylum cheats'; 'Asian traitors'.

Of course there are fanatics, traitors, cheats and people smugglers among us but, contrary to the messages put out by some tabloids, all Muslims are not fanatics and all fanatics are not Muslim; all traitors are not Asian and all Asians are not traitors, etc.

Interestingly, the day after The Sun's shock declaration of an anti-gypsy invasion, its letters page was full of anti-gypsy sentiment fearing a growing threat from asylum seekers and gypsies and travellers. Was the absence of letters challenging The Sun's warning of a 'Gypsy invasion' a result of the letters' editor exercising his discretion?

The fact that Gypsies and Travellers were looking for a place to live with their families appeared to be lost on the readers. But then, the human context - the wars, conflicts, human rights abuses and other disasters that forced most asylum-seekers to flee - have rarely been given space by the popular press.

The public can help to counter prejudice stoked by press hysteria by telling a different side of the story, as well as registering their concerns about irresponsible journalism which fuels hatred:

- Write a letter to the editor or to the bylined journalists;
- make calls to phone-in programmes;
- complaint to the PCC or Ofcom;
- demand some humanity from candidates in the coming election.

MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

Save The Children UK

QOBO MAYISA looks how one of UK's leading charities is helping refugee children.

According to a government report published in March 2005, up to a third of the children in the UK have experienced or live in some form of poverty and deprivation. Even though Britain is the fourth largest economy in the world, thousands of children are excluded from education and consequently, from employment. Some of these children are deprived of basic human rights, protection, shelter or even a settled family. This is the context of Save The Children's work in the UK (SCUK).

'Save the Children has within England, programmes addressing education, poverty and asylum issues affecting children,' says Rona Blackwood, Assistant Director of the programme dealing with refugees in the UK. According to recent SCUK figures, 3.5 million children in the UK are poor, despite the government's target of eradicating poverty by 2020. More than 100,000 of these children are homeless.

SCUK has several schemes working with refugee children. In Newcastle, London and Manchester, they run a national self-advocacy programme called Bright Futures where young people get together to discuss their needs and concerns. One problem raised by the children is that they are not being given access to educational facilities. In Birmingham, SCUK runs a scheme called befriending unaccompanied minors (BUMP), benefiting more than 80 young people. Most of its funding comes from the Government grants, the European Union and United Nations. But some is raised through donations, or sales from charity shops across the country.

The Diana Princess of Wales Memorial Fund also assists its

advocacy work for refugee children.

SCUK has criticised the government for its 'selective' implementation of policy on the rights of children. Earlier this year, Alan Johnson MP, Secretary of State for Works & Pensions, told a SCUK conference: 'tackling child poverty should be at the heart of any government strategy as it is central to the well-being of society'.

Despite this reaffirmation, the government discriminates against refugee children in the application of child protection and support policies, a shortcoming STC has challenged. 'We are disappointed that the Children's Act doesn't cover refugee

Save the Children

Staff??

Budget:

Income for 2003-04: £132m
Expenditure: £133m world wide

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www.savethechildren.org.uk

children,' said Rona. 'We are concerned that immigration acts have supremacy over children's rights.'

SCUK is currently lobbying the government about the returning children asylum seekers to their country of origin. The pilot scheme focused on Albanian children. Rona regrets that the children had to go through a traumatising ordeal before being arbitrarily returned to Albania.

STC estimates there are more than 6,000 separated refugee children in the UK. About 2,000 children are detained in immigration centres, some apart from their parents.

The detention of children contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. International law and policy place the needs of children above the requirements of immigration control due to their vulnerability.

Children are supposed to be excluded from immigration controls, but the UK Government has entered a reservation clause. As a result, children are being detained in immigration centres for up to 268 days, despite the Chief Inspector of Prisons recommendation that the practice be banned.

SCUK has made repeated calls to the government to lift its reservation clause. They want detention of children to be an exceptional measure and then only for very short periods. It wants a statutory limit of seven days.

The fast track processing of asylum applications and increased emphasis on removals inevitably, does affect children too. Conditions in detention centres can be unbearable. A recent BBC2 TV documentary revealed that detainees suffer routine abuse and racism and are often left traumatised. After spending nearly nine months in detention, one 17-year old boy said: "It was the hardest time in my life. It's hell, prison is better than detention. In detention you have no rights..."

Dr Heaven Crawley, author of *No Place for a Child* a study on detention of children, exposed Government callousness. She said children are not detained for immigration integrity as argued by the Government but for administrative convenience.

When Bishop Malone of Liverpool appealed to the government to stop the detention of children asylum seekers in 2003, the then Home Secretary, David Blunkett responded: 'Detention whilst regrettable is an essential party of immigration control.'

SCUK has been lobbying the government to develop alternatives to detention but the response has been slow. 'We are committed to ensuring that the rights of asylum children are upheld,' says Rona Blackwood.

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.

Keep media contacts informed about what is happening and why it's relevant for them.

Mon 4 Apr, 7.30pm

EXILED WRITERS INK - SINTI (GYPSY) HAUNTINGS

Settela by Aad Wagenaar.
Translator Janna Eliot, on the search for Settela.
Florina, Romany poet
Plus Romany music.
Venue: Poetry Cafe, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2
Contact www.exiledwriters.co.uk

Mon 4 to Wed 6 Apr

FORTRESS EUROPE AND ITS 'OTHERS': CULTURAL REPRESENTATION

University of London conference, with poetry recitals and oud player/singer Sahira Hussain.
Venue: Senate House, London University
Contact Rosemary.Lambeth@sas.ac.uk

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

Thurs 7 Apr 2005 4pm

WORLD ROMA DAY 'USTIBEN'

Organised by the Gypsy and Traveller Law Reform Coalition
Venue: Macmillan Room, Porticullis House, House of Commons

Sat 9 Apr 2005 12pm

COMMEMORATION OF ROMA VICTIMS

March & service to commemorate Roma victims of racism.
Venue: St James Church, 197 Piccadilly, London
Contact www.squatter.org.uk/traveller.html

Sun 10 April 1.30pm - 2.30pm VIGIL IN SUPPORT OF ASYLUM SEEKERS

An act of witness by members of St. George's Church about the injustices of the asylum process, with the Bishop of Ripon and Leeds, and Leeds Churches Together in Mission.
Venue: Millennium Square, Leeds
Contact Jonathan 0113 243 8498

Tues 12 Apr 6.45pm

ZIMARTS - PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE

weZimbabwe event. Part of the Africa Remix Festival 2005 on the South Bank.
Venue: Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London, SE1 8XX
Contact: www.wezimbabwe.org

Fri 15 Apr 6.30pm for 7.00pm

SAQI BOOKS/EXILED WRITERS INK BOOK LAUNCH

'My One and Only Love', new novel by Gilad Atzmon; and 'The Lives of Rain', new poetry by Natalie Handal.
Venue: Kufa Gallery, 26 Westbourne Grove, London W2 5RH
RSVP essential to Rebecca O'Connor at saqi@saqibooks.com

Sat 16 Apr 6pm till midnight

BRISTOL ZIMBABWE ASSOCIATION

Launch of the Association and campaign to stop removals of people from Zimbabwe
Venue: CEED Hall, 97 Wilder Street, St Pauls, Bristol BS2 8QU
contact: fordm17@yahoo.com

Wed 20 Apr 7pm

EXILED WRITERS INK - HOW VAST IS THE PRISON: WOMEN WRITING FOR LIBERATION

Readings, discussion and refreshments, with Natalyia Handal (Palestinian); Nazand Begikhani (Kurdish); Ziba Karbassi (Iranian); and Sahira Hussain (oud player).
Venue: Stanhope Centre, 2-4 Stanhope Place, London W2
Contact www.exiledwriters.co.uk

Sat 23 Apr

VOICES FROM AFRICA... VOICES OF RESISTANCE

A conference on Africa and African-issues.
Venue: Glasgow Caledonian University
Contact glascamref@hotmail.com

Thurs 28 Apr 1.15-2.30pm

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS

Public meeting run by Bail for Immigration Detainees and Asylum Aid.
Venue: Room D302, Clement House, LSE
Contact Centre for the Study of Human Rights on 020 7955 6428

Sat 23 Apr 9.30am - 5pm

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL MIGRATION - DO WE NEED A NEW APPROACH?

Medact conference about the tension between the freedom of health workers to migrate and the right to health of the world's poorest people.
Venue: 120 Belsize Lane, London, NW3 5BA
Contact Moyra.Rushby@medact.org

Weds 27 Apr 9am - 5.30pm

REFUGEE MENTAL WELLBEING AWARENESS

Refugee Council training session to demystify mental health issues for refugees and asylum seekers.
Venue: TBC Leeds
Contact: Anna.Lodge@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Apr - Dec 2005

FREE ENGLISH COURSES FOR ASYLUM-SEEKING WOMEN

Language skills and basic IT, leading to Cambridge ESOL qualification.
Venue: London tbc
Contact Refugee.Women's.Association@refugeewomen.org.uk

Tues 3 May 9.45am - 2.15pm

ACCELERATED ENGLISH & JOB SEARCH SKILLS FOR REFUGEE WOMEN NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Help from NHS professionals with CV writing and practising interview techniques.
Venue: Yvonne Carr Community Centre, 2 Thessaly Road, London, SW8 4EB
Contact Refugee.Women's.Association@refugeewomen.org.uk

11 - 12 May and 23 - 24 June

RESEARCHING MIGRANT POPULATIONS: TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR POSTGRADUATES

ICAR/COMPAS workshops in Oxford (May) & London (June).
Venues: TBC
Contact Esme.Peach@kcl.ac.uk

Fri 13 - Sat 14 May

SEEKING REFUGE, SEEKING RIGHTS, SEEKING A FUTURE

Annual Forced Migration Student Conference to discuss issues related and create a forum on forced migration and asylum.
Venue: Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane Campus, Oxford
Contact 0186 548 3559, fmsc2005@brookes.ac.uk or visit www.brookes.ac.uk

Sat 21 May 2005 9.30am - 6pm SUSPECT COMMUNITIES - THE REAL 'WAR ON TERROR' IN EUROPE

Themes include terrorist lists and proscription; detention; policing; intelligence agencies; and migration and asylum.
Venue: Libeskind Building, London Metropolitan University, Holloway Road, London
Contact Ian.Waller@londonmet.ac.uk

Thur 26 May 10am

RACE, GENDER AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

Speakers include: Baroness Helena Kennedy (QC).
Venue: St. Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1
Contact Ruth.020.8204.9587@ruthchigwada@aol.com

Thurs 26 May

BOGUS WOMAN

Kay Ahead's play, winner of the Fringe First Award at the Edinburgh Festival, followed by discussion about asylum issues.
Venue: Leicester Haymarket Theatre, The Point, Eastleigh
Contact Liz.Walton@eastleigh.gov.uk

Tues 14 June

LABOUR MIGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

Institute of Employment Rights event, part of a research project to protect migrant workers against exploitation.
Venue: NATFHE Centre, Britannia St, WC1.
Contact office@ier.org.uk, www.ier.org.uk or 020 7498 6919

Deadline for the May RAM Bulletin is Tues 26 Apr.

Please send stories, news items or ideas to Forwardonram@mediawise.org.uk