

# 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 52, May 2005

### BBC producer censored for blasting media scare stories

A SPEECH condemning sensational media reports, after the recent 'ricin' trial, about an alleged threat of a poison terror attack, was cut from BBC coverage of the British Film and TV awards.

BBC producer Adam Curtis, whose film *The Power of Nightmares* documentary about Cold War paranoia won best factual series award, used his acceptance speech to challenge media coverage of the trial of Algerian Kamel Bourgass. The failed asylum-seeker, serving a life sentence for the murder of policeman Stephen Oake, received 17 years for conspiring to commit a public nuisance by poisons and explosives.

Mr Curtis said media reports of an "al-Qaeda plot to poison Britain" that could have consequences "equal or greater to 9/11" were "massively exaggerated or a complete fantasy".

"This issue has got to be addressed and broadcasting organisations know this," he said. "Reporting of the whole terrorist threat has either become exaggerated, distorted or in some cases a complete fabrication and they are beginning to realise this. They know they have to sort it out. It has touched a nerve and the fact they cut it shows that."

"Any cuts to speeches were purely because of time constraints," said a BBC spokeswoman.

When *The Power of Nightmares* won best documentary series prize at the Broadcasting Press Guild a week earlier, Curtis said: "The extrapolation from the very tiny bit of evidence that was reported in court to the reports we did on the Six O'Clock News and other bulletins was not justified. As someone who had been in the court room and watched the trial collapse, I could not understand how you could take that very limited evidence and extrapolate from that a story of a threat as ghastly as September 11. In the post-Hutton era I think that raises very serious questions."

<http://media.guardian.co.uk/broadcast/story/0,7493,1462589,00.html>

### RAM addresses media conference in Belarus

RAM Communications Officer Forward Maisokwadzo spoke at a UNHCR media conference on issues of covering refugee problem, on April 27-29 in Brest, Belarus. Forward talked about the representation of asylum and refugee issues in the UK media and the groundbreaking work of the RAM Project- an example of good practice to deal with complex issues.

The RAM leaflet on Reporting Refugees was well received, and UNHCR is translating the guidelines into Russian to help local journalists. The conference was attended by journalists from Belarus and Ukraine.

### Merseyside RAM back in business!

RAM's Merseyside Network is back in action – and looking for money to make sure it stays that way!

Exiled Journalists Network member and former Cameroonian TV presenter, Gordon Doh Fondo who lives in Liverpool is Chair of the revived group. The Merseyside Network was first started about four years ago but its membership has declined – although links to the local NUJ branch remain good.

"We have some good contacts with the local media – but journalists need a regular flow of stories and people who are trained and able to speak to them," says Gordon. "We will make sure this is done and that we get the maximum amount of positive stories about refugees and asylum seekers into the media,"

He feels that in the past lack of funds was a real problem for the RAM Network and is busy chasing grants. He explains: "We need money to pay basic expenses and for the delivery of media training so that RAM in Merseyside is capable of standing on its own feet." Terry Williams, RAM's National Co-ordinator, says: "It is good to see Merseyside RAM back in action. The Network has been able to do a good job in the past and I am sure will once again be making its presence felt in the local media."

Contact Gordon: [dohfondo@yahoo.com](mailto:dohfondo@yahoo.com)

### EDITORIAL

### BOTH SIDES OF THE ASYLUM SPECTRUM

It should not be surprising that asylum/immigration is centre-stage in British politics. Every nation has to protect the welfare of its citizens and its national identity. Any responsible Government would wary of an 'invasion' by a 'flood' of immigrants. Its duty to check the identity of new arrivals, and their reasons for coming. The global threat posed by terrorists and other international criminals makes it even more necessary. The case of Algerian-born Kamel Bourgass, the 'ricin specialist' who claimed asylum and killed a policeman, strengthens the argument for controlled immigration.

Yet that should not mean a blanket phobia against all immigrants and asylum-seekers. A political manifesto that panders to racism cannot nurture the multi-racial, hetero-cultural society that is modern Britain.

Under international law Britain is obliged to shelter people fearing persecution and human rights abuses elsewhere; all the more given Britain's history as a former slave-master and colonial power, and present status as Head of the Commonwealth and G8 President.

The moral responsibility to be 'thy brother's keeper' is more important even than the enormous contribution immigrants make to the economy. Limbaya Ndinga (35) who arrived from Congo in 2002 and settled in Oldham. His asylum claim was refused and his appeal dismissed. Faced with deportation, he killed himself (*Oldham Advertiser* 21/4/05). Why should someone take their own life at the prospect of returning to their country?

The asylum system has to be improved to identify criminals like Bourgass, while being fair enough to give sanctuary to poor souls like Limbaya Ndinga.

**Sheka Tarawalie**

Guest Editor

[shekitotee@yahoo.com](mailto:shekitotee@yahoo.com)

## Cause and effect?

WHILE editors and academics debate the impact of media coverage on public attitudes, Traveller communities in the UK have little doubt.

MediaWise has had a series of calls from Travellers bemused and frightened by the sudden upturn in hostility following a plethora of anti-Traveller stories and politicians' speeches in the run up to the General Election.

Settled Travellers near Ware in Hertfordshire report that their children have started to be abused at school - one father said he had now withdrawn his children. One woman said that tradesmen have suddenly insisted that their services must be paid for in advance and bookings can only be made through the site warden. And there are complaints that police have become more aggressive of late.

Meanwhile in Aidrie, Scotland a local campsite was set ablaze on the same day the Tories pledged to crack down on illegal travellers' sites if they are elected. No one was on the site at the time, but tens of thousands of pounds of damage was caused. However, police investigating the arson attack were quick to claim that hostile media coverage was not to blame. Inspector Jim Jamieson said: "We are following a definite line of enquiry. I would point out that it has nothing to do with what is appearing in the national media at the moment. This is a local issue."

## Immigrants contribute more than UK-born - says IPPR

MYTHS about immigrants being a drain on UK resources have been busted wide open by new research from the Institute for Public Policy Research (ippr).

'Paying their way: the fiscal contribution of immigrants in the UK' by Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah, Laurence Cooley and Howard Reed shows that immigrants contribute relatively more to the public purse than the UK-born. Total revenue from immigrants grew in real terms from £33.8 billion in 1999-00 to £41.2 billion in 2003-04 - a 22% increase, as newer immigrants fill vacancies in the higher-ends of the economy and pay more taxes. Revenue from the UK-born increased by a mere 6% during the same period.

Based on original analysis using data from the Labour Force Survey and the Office of National Statistics, the report shows that in 2003-04 immigrants:

- contributed £112 to the exchequer for every £100 contributed by the UK-born (up from £105 in 1999-00);

- made up 8.7% of the population but accounted for 10.2% of all income tax collected;

- earn about 15% more in average weekly income than the UK-born.

On average each immigrant generated £7,203 in government revenue, compared to £6,861 per non-immigrant, with each immigrant accounting for £7,277 of government expenditure on average, compared to £7,753 per non-immigrant.

Nick Pearce, ippr director said: "Our research shows that immigrants make an important fiscal contribution to the UK and pay more than their share. They are not a drain on the UK's resources."

Download the report free from [www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports](http://www.ippr.org/publicationsandreports)

## Exiled Journalists in Europe

THE RAM project is collecting information about the situation of exiled journalists throughout Europe, and would like to hear about initiatives by state and non-governmental bodies including media unions, as well as the stories of individual journalists who have sought asylum anywhere in Europe. The results will appear in a special report to encourage the development of support networks for exiled journalists.

Please forward suggestions to [ram@mediawise.org.uk](mailto:ram@mediawise.org.uk)

## Torture Survivors' Manifesto

THE Medical Foundation for The Care of Victims of Torture has launched its own manifesto on behalf of asylum seekers who have suffered torture.

It calls for relaxation of a number of asylum restrictions if there is evidence a claimant has been tortured. Torture victims would not be held in detention, they would have access to legal representation in the initial asylum decision-making process and appeals. A proper assessment of risk would have to be undertaken before the removal of torture survivors to countries where genocide and mass violations of human rights have been perpetrated.

The manifesto also addresses the torture of people held in the War on Terror, and in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It calls for an end to US planes using Britain as a staging post for the transfer

of prisoners to countries where torture is used, and asks all political parties to support a ban on the use of evidence extracted under torture.

To obtain a copy call the Medical Foundation Press Office on 0207 697 7792

## Institute reports on asylum rights abuses

THE Institute of Race Relations has published two reports highlighting abuses of asylum-seekers human rights - *The deportation machine: Europe, asylum & human rights* and *Death trap: the human cost of the war on asylum*.

The IRR has highlighted the plight of gay men persecuted at home for the sexuality who find little sympathy in exile. Iranian asylum-seeker Hussein Nasser (26) killed himself two weeks after his asylum claim in the UK was refused.

Hussein was homosexual and fled Iran in 2000 after being imprisoned for three months for his sexuality. He feared returning to Iran, where homosexuality is a 'crime' punishable by death. Soon after receiving his refusal letter in June 2004 Hussein was found dead in Eastbourne. The Coroner said the asylum refusal was 'an obvious motive' for his suicide. [www.irr.org.uk/2005/april/ha000011.html](http://www.irr.org.uk/2005/april/ha000011.html) and [www.irr.org.uk/2004/october/ak000007.html](http://www.irr.org.uk/2004/october/ak000007.html)

## RAM Report out soon

AS this Bulletin went to press, the finishing touches were being put to the long awaited RAM Report. RAM Bulletin subscribers and network members should order their free copy now.

Contact [ram@mediawise.org.uk](mailto:ram@mediawise.org.uk)

## Kilroy loses seat

ROBERT Kilroy Silk, VERITAS leader is one of the leading anti-immigration campaigners who lost seats in the just ended election, an indication observers say voters were fed up with their unconvincing tough talk on asylum and immigration. Kilroy finished 4th in Erewash with 2,957 votes - a 5.8% share. Ed Matts, Tories candidate in Dorset South - who doctored a picture to make him and Ann Widdecombe look like they were arguing for controlled immigration rather than against a deportation only came second, despite being Tories's 3rd target seat. In Howard's seat Folkestone & Hythe, Rodney Hylton-Potts who campaigned on 'Britain is full' message managed only 153 votes.

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**THE SHAME AND PAIN  
OF AN ASYLUM-SEEKER**

*Sierra Leonean journalist SHEKA TARAWALIE tells his story*

My strong Christian faith convinces me that the hand of God has saved and guided me to this country, allowing me to survive and tell the story...

It is unbelievable how Sierra Leone, once labelled the 'Athens of West Africa' and 'Mother of British West Africa' has degenerated to barbarism and bestiality. It all started in 1991 when a former army corporal announced on BBC radio that he was starting a rebellion to overthrow an inept and tyrannical government. By 2001, war had unseated five heads of state, consumed thousands of people and left survivors on all sides thoroughly deranged. TV images of both rebels and government forces on the rampage, cutting off civilians' limbs, burning houses, and executing women and children, scarred the conscience of a once homely people.

Quite apart from the fear of war, it was unfortunate to be a journalist since we became targets of annihilation - 'Hated by Government, Hunted by Rebels', as a World Press Review report so aptly put it. By the time the war was declared over, at least 20 journalists had been killed, imprisoned or sentenced to death. On the other hand, it was fortunate that I witnessed that part of our history, and survived to tell the story.

With the war over, why am I seeking asylum in the UK? I am not running away from war, but from bad governance as one of the very few journalists with a university degree in mineral-blessed Sierra Leone. I had always placed love of country above many temptations, resisting corruption, the temptation to look for a better-paid job, or to run away at the height of the war. Even when my daughter and partner (a British citizen) were evacuated by British forces in 1997, I did not abandon my role of disseminating information and advocating for peace.

My initial confrontation with the military who ousted the civilian government, the rebels sought to overthrow, came over an article 'Captain Strasser is Not our Redeemer' which cautioned Sierra Leoneans against heaping praise on the new junta leader. Alas, when democracy came, the new civilian government was little different – an iron fist in velvet gloves!

The majority of Sierra Leoneans thought Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the son of an immigrant from neighbouring Guinea, who won the elections, represented the epitome of democracy. He had lived in the 'first world' for over 20 years and worked for the United Nations. But he had also been Chief Adviser to the outgoing military junta, and had been found guilty of corruption as a Permanent Secretary over 20 years earlier. The elections themselves were fraught with malpractices. The Electoral Commissioner was accused of cheating in favour of Kabbah but immediately given a cabinet position, in contravention of the constitution.

My duty was to continue to inform the populace about unfolding events, whoever won. I was Features Editor at the Nigerian-owned *Concord Times*, but after writing a scathing article about

the Nigerian junta leader Sanni Abacha for killing celebrated writer Ken Saro Wiwa, I had to resign. I set up *The Torchlight* but it was banned on the first day of publication, 6 Sept 1996. With the help of press freedom organizations, I overturned the ban, but later that year I was jailed without trial for a month for writing about government corruption. Held in solitary confinement in a cold, dark, damp cell, with poor food, I fell terribly ill, and had no access to a doctor. Only unrelenting faith and prayer saved me.

In 1998 my name was put on a death list after I criticised the government for breaking a UN embargo and a peace accord, and engaging in extra-judicial killings. I was in hiding for over a year, coming out only when Britain led efforts to re-broker a peace deal, supervised by a UN peace keeping force. My newspaper was not allowed to operate again. I began training local journalists on ethics and objective reporting at the Centre for Media Education & Technology.

I fell foul of the government again in 2003 for questioning the authenticity of an alleged coup plot. Plain-clothes police came looking for me, and I had to hide again. When I resurfaced three months later the Truth and Reconciliation Commission accredited me to cover its hearings. My reporting won me accolades and I was invited to a conference in the UK for editors from post-war countries.

Before I left Sierra Leone, the UN-sponsored Special Court arrested and indicted former government minister, Sam Hinga Norman, head of a pro-government militia, the kamajors. Court Officials reported that he was using the phone provided to him to incite his former fighters to re-start the war, attack the city, free him, and make him head of state. I wrote a series of articles about him, and how way back in pre independence days he had arrested the Governor-general and overthrown a democratic government. The series finished on the day I left the country.

I arrived in Britain on 14 Feb 2004 to find the conference was cancelled. I contacted Sierra Leoneans to help locate my daughter and partner who had been here for nearly seven years. Meanwhile I challenged inaccuracies in a *Daily Mail* article about a book on the war in Sierra Leone. My article was published on the web. Among the many people who contacted me was the publisher of [www.africanreviewofbooks.com](http://www.africanreviewofbooks.com); he asked me to review the book and later commissioned a piece on 'The International Community, War and Peace in Sierra Leone' which was reproduced back home.

When I called my younger brother about my return journey I discovered the article had caused fury among government officials and supporters. They were threatening to eliminate me for causing damage to the government's image in the eyes of the international community. A friend working at our only airport told me security had been stepped up and former fighters under Hinga Norman were on the lookout for me. I cross-checked the information with friends, and realised the seriousness of the situation. From past experience I could not underestimate these people's bad intentions. Only then did I seek asylum here.

I feel the pain of having been suddenly cut off from my native land, I feel the trauma of persistent persecution for merely exercising my rights as a journalist, and now I feel the shame of being an asylum-seeker in Britain. But what can one do? Thank God I am still alive!

## Cut-out-and-keep COMMUNICATOR

### New Voice for Scotland's New Citizens

By *AMADU KHAN* from Glasgow

Scotland's asylum seeker and refugee journalists would have an opportunity to practice their craft under a new initiative by the Scottish branch of the British Red Cross.

Funded by the Scottish Executive and the European Social Fund, this groundbreaking project will produce a free bi-monthly newspaper, known as *Voice*. The British Red Cross in Glasgow will produce it and regularly provide updated information and advice on services for new asylum seekers across Scotland. Also, it will inform them about key policies, changes in asylum legislation, and hopefully increase awareness among them of the potential impact of these decisions on their lives.

Another target audience of *Voice* newspaper includes both national and local politicians, refugee-supporting agencies and decision-makers across Scotland. And there would be lots of refugee involvement in its production, albeit as volunteers. Refugee and asylum seeker journalist would be encouraged to contribute news items, features and share their experiences of asylum and life in Scotland among themselves and the general public.

The brainwave for this project came after a visit to Denmark by the Glasgow staff of the British Red Cross. They learned from their Danish counterparts that a refugee newspaper was not only crucial to providing vital information to refugees residing in camps in Denmark. It was an avenue for them to practice and keep in tune with their art as well as providing them a voice to participate in the asylum debate in Denmark.

The Glasgow Red Cross publishers hope that a similar goal would be achieved by the publication of the *Voice*. According to the Development Manager of the Glasgow Office of the British Red Cross, Kenny Hamilton, the newspaper will provide a platform for refugee journalists as well as for other Scottish journalists with refugee sympathies to debate asylum issues that impinge on the reintegration and empowerment of refugees in Scotland.

"This is an opportunity for refugees to have a voice and give an informed opinion about their plight and engage with the public in a constructive manner", said Hamilton.

However, Hamilton emphasised that the newspaper would be apolitical as is consistent with the Red Cross policy of neutrality.

Asked that this could stifle an open debate of a politically vexed issue by refugees, who are mostly political animals.

He acknowledged this might be the perception, but said: "We would tread a fine line and try to make sure we do not breach any of the fundamental principles of impartiality and neutrality that characterise the Red Cross".

In order to guarantee this, all contributions would be vetted by the British Red Cross office in London. In addition, the newspaper will carry a disclaimer exonerating the British Red Cross of any responsibility for the personal opinions of contributors. When I visited the Glasgow office of the British Red Cross, where the *Voice* newspaper has its operational base, I had an exclusive insight to the future content of the newspaper.

It hopes to feature interviews of high profile celebrities in the coming months. So expect Glasgow's top of the chart artist Franz Ferdinand and other household name entertainers like Elaine Smith and Ricky Tomlinson in the newspaper's centrespread. High profile media personalities like Kirsty Wark were also in their celeb list of targets.

The format is a sixteen-page tabloid size of high quality newsprint. One of Glasgow's trendy design companies, Graven Images, has been enlisted to design it in a distinct format. The reason? – To move away from using the usual brand associated with the Red Cross, which might put off a big chunk of their targeted readers and the general public. It was one of the shortcomings of the Danish experience that the publishers had learned too well, and want to avert in their quest to make an impact.

Preparations for the launch of the newspaper are well in advance. The first edition would be formally launched during the forthcoming refugee week of 20 – 26 June 2005. It is hoped that the launch would provide a memorable celebration to the week, which is an annual national celebration of the contribution made by refugees in enriching life in Britain. Key politicians from the Scottish Parliament and the Glasgow City Council would grace the occasion.

The paper will produce 10,000 copies per edition. Outlets include drop-in centres, support agencies, Council offices, Housing providers, Refugee Community organisations as well as via post to politicians, councillors, policy makers and individuals.

So if you are an asylum seeker, a refugee or a punter interested in asylum issues and the welfare of refugees, then be on alert. A *Voice* newspaper would be near you soon.

For further details about the newspaper and or for exiled journalists who want to get involved.

Contact Kenny Hamilton [KHamilton@redcross.org.uk](mailto:KHamilton@redcross.org.uk)

The author of this article Amadu Khan is a member of the Exiled Journalist Network from Sierra Leone. Email: [amadu@mail.wh1.org.uk](mailto:amadu@mail.wh1.org.uk)

## MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

### PRAXIS

*CRIMSON TAZVINZWA looks at the work of this organisation working with displaced people.*

Robert Mukaro (not his real name) risked his life when he got involved with Zimbabwe's main opposition party, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). The 38-year-old from the capital Harare fell victim to physical harassment by government agents and police. They beat him, and at one time he was put under house arrest. The last straw for Robert came when the militia broke into his house and tried to abduct him.

"The pain and suffering I went through was appalling to say the least. The persecution makes me feel terrified, and there is that sense of dejection and lack of self-worth.

"When suddenly you cannot trust even your closest friends for fear of being reported to the authorities, then you know it is time to flee," he said with a tremble in his voice.

Robert arrived in the UK on 14 Jan 2002 with no money, no housing nor work prospects, but knowing for sure that he was finally safe, and could start life all over again.

Robert's account is one of many similar stories that PRAXIS deals with on a daily basis.

The London-based charity is run by a Management Committee to which the Director, Vaughan Jones, reports. He has served in that capacity for the last 20 years. The Management Committee comprises of trustees of the Robert Kemble Trust, two representatives of each member community organization and four co-opted members.

PRAXIS has provided hope and a fresh start in life to hundreds of people in Robert's situation. Over the last 21 years it has worked to advance human rights and social justice for hundreds of people displaced by war, conflict and impoverishment.

PRAXIS' work has been made possible by generous donations from as many as 60 donors, including the Home Office, European Refugee Fund, Christian Aid and Comic Relief. PRAXIS' annual budget stands at £1.2 million.

The organisation works to re-engage both individuals and communities by helping them access services and information that meet their needs.

According Justin Bahunga, Community Development Team Coordinator for PAXIS, these are 'people new to the country that are in desperate need of orientation and support to enable them access basic services and liveli-

**PRAXIS FACT SHEET**

Staff  
26 both full and part-time

**Budget**

2003-04 £1,2m

**Address**

Praxis  
Pott Street, London  
E2 0EF Tel: 020 7729 7985  
Fax: 020 7729 0134  
www.praxis.org.uk

Director: R Vaughan Jones

hoods.'

He says that one of the objectives is to empower new communities and make new residents feel welcome during their resettlement process.

"PRAXIS provides a culturally appropriate and fully integrated package of orientation and life skills for new arrivals. These individuals or families are provided with community-based accommodation and support service."

He also points out that PRAXIS works with employers and community members to create employment opportunities for new residents. The organization is actively involved in research and consultancy work that help improve housing and communication

support for migrant communities.

Justin says that over the years the organisation has helped create a welcoming atmosphere for people traumatized by the experience of forced displacement and torture.

"We have managed to offer a range of projects which promote change in the lives of individuals and communities. This has been achieved through advice and campaigning for social justice and human rights," he says.

Apart from the Hosting Scheme for unaccompanied minors, PRAXIS also provides pre-adaptation courses for overseas-professionals, an initiative that creates pathways to employment.

Despite its achievements, PRAXIS constantly tries to adjust to new challenges, for example, the current unbalanced debate on immigration.

"The present political debate on asylum seekers and refugees is very unhelpful and counter-productive to PRAXIS' integration efforts. Research has shown that negative and inflammatory language used by some politicians and parts of the media causes a rise in violence against asylum seekers and refugees," observes Justin.

Just like many refugee campaigners, he also believes that a concerted effort in lobbying for a positive government policy on immigration is one way of counteracting negative campaigns against refugees and asylum seekers. He says there is always hope for a better future and that he believes in the goodness of man, human solidarity and the resilience of refugees and asylum seekers.

"I am encouraged by the solidarity I see in the movement for social justice and human rights, that is, the response to the needs of those fleeing persecution in their own countries.

"I was a refugee once and what makes a refugee survive is hope," he says.

He has concluded that while there are a small number of people out there against refugees and asylum seekers, many are committed to help.

# 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.**

May - August

## CLOSING THE DOOR? IMMIGRANTS TO BRITAIN 1905-2005

To mark the centenary of the Aliens Act, this exhibition explores how immigration has affected British life over the last century.  
Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden Town  
Contact 020 7284 1997

Mon 9 May 7.30pm

## NARRATIVES OF AFRICA

Senait Gebremichaels reading Reesom Haile's poetry in Tigrinea & English; Eritrean music; Valerie Mason-John on her debut novel; reading from Khadija George.  
Venue: Poetry Café, 22 Betterton Street, London WC2  
Contact www.exiledwriters.co.uk

Thurs 12 May

## INTRODUCTION TO ASYLUM SUPPORT

Refugee Council training course for people looking for a basic understanding of asylum support.  
Venue: TBC Leeds  
Contact Anna Lodge on 020 7346 6739 or email marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Thurs 12 May 6pm

## SCREENING STRANGERS IN FORTRESS EUROPE

Yosefa Loshitzky looks at the portrayal of ethno-diasporas in European cinema, and at the mythical and historical roots that have nurtured this representation.  
Venue: Mail Lecture Theatre, Docklands Campus, University of East London  
Contact D.M.Ball@uel.ac.uk, tel 020 8223 2770

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  
Contact 0186 548 3559, fmsc2005@brookes.ac.uk or visit www.brookes.ac.uk

Sat 14 May 12 noon

## FREEDOM MARCH

A 'freedom march' against the planned destruction of the UK's largest Traveller settlement at Cray's Hill, Essex.  
Venue: Dale Farm, Cray's Hill  
Contact ustiben.5@ntlworld.com or 01206 523 528

Sun 15 May 10.15am

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS

Walking tour, by Denis Davis, tracing the steps of 19th century Jewish immigrants from their arrival at the docks to their settlement in London's East End.  
Venue: Aldgate East Tube Station  
Contact 020 7284 1997

Wed 18 May 7pm

## THE CLOSING OF THE DOOR

Dr Anne Kershen, Director of Centre for Study of Migration at Queen Mary University of London, examines the 1905 Aliens Act and subsequent immigration controls.  
Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden Town  
Contact 020 7284 1997

Wed 18 May 7pm

## HAUNTINGS: TRAUMA, NOSTALGIA OR NEITHER?

Poetry, storytelling and singing, with Vida Kashizadeh and Abol Froushan (Iran), Fadhil Assultani (Iraq), Moisés Castillo Florian (Peru) with poet Richard McKane & S. Touko Meguen (Cameroon).  
Venue: Stanhope House, 2-4 Stanhope Place, London W2  
Contact www.exiledwriters.co.uk

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

Conference themes include detention; policing; migration and asylum; and post cold war politics.  
Venue: Libeskind Building, London Metropolitan University, Holloway Road, London  
Contact Ian Waller on 0207 133 5095 or i.waller@londonmet.ac.uk

Thurs 26 May 7pm

## THE REFUGEE EXPERIENCE

Prof. Tony Kushner (Southampton University) and Fazil Kawani, (Refugee Council) will compare the immigrant experience in 1905

and 2005.

Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden Town  
Contact 020 7284 1997

Thurs 26 May

## BOGUS WOMAN

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

Thurs 2 June 7pm

## ASYLUM SEEKERS: MYTHS AND REALITIES

Discussion with Helen Bamber OBE, Belsen relief worker and founder of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.  
Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden Town  
Contact 020 7284 1997

Sat 4 June 12pm to 5pm

## NCADC 10th AGM

Venue: Cross Street Chapel, Cross St., Manchester, M2 1NL  
Contact John O on 0121 554 6947, email ncadc@ncadc.org.uk

Thurs 9 June 8pm

## REFUGEE VOICES: FROM ALIENS TO BRITISH SUBJECTS

Dr Anthony Grenville considers the barriers to immigration that confronted the Jewish refugees from Nazism. Dr Bea Lewkowicz introduces her film Refugee Voices: Moments and Memories based on interviews with Jewish refugees who settled in Britain. Sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees.  
Venue: Jewish Museum, Finchley  
Contact 020 8349 1143

Sat 11 June

## ESCAPE TO SAFETY

Interactive, multi-media installation where participants walk through eight "stations" depicting the different stages of seeking asylum.  
Venue: Town Hall, Peterborough  
Contact Rev Ian Houghton 01733 763729 or 07720 758892, website: www.globallink.org.uk/Esc2Saf/intro.htm

Tues 14 June 2005

## DRIVING RACE EQUALITY: WHERE ARE WE? - LEARNING FROM LONDON

Conference to examine the experience of those committed to tackling race equality in London and beyond.  
Venue: Barbican Centre, London EC2

Contact Debbie Young on 020 7324 4364, e-mail debbie.young@neilstewartassociates.co.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

Wed 15 June 7 pm

## GAGGED SPEECH: WHEN FREE EXPRESSION LEADS TO EXILE

Part of PEN's 'Free expression is no offence' campaign.  
Venue: Stanhope House, 2-4 Stanhope Place, London W2  
Contact www.exiledwriters.co.uk

Thurs 16 June 6.30pm

## WRITERS AND IMMIGRATION

Authors Hugo Hamilton, Andrea Levy & Rachel Lichtenstein reflect on how their immigrant heritage has influenced their work.  
Venue: Museum of London, EC2Y 5HN  
Contact 0870 444 3852

20 June

## WORLD REFUGEE DAY AND THE START OF REFUGEE WEEK

Thurs 23 June 7pm

## THE MEDIA AND IMMIGRATION

Discussion on the media and public attitudes to immigration, refugees and asylum seekers. Panel members include: Michael Skapinker (FT), Dr Christopher McDowell, (Director, ICAR) and Nick Cohen (The Observer).  
Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden Town  
Contact 020 7284 1997

Sat 25 June 2005 1pm - 6pm

## NO ONE IS ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Discuss about NOII slogans 'No One is Illegal!'; 'Solidarity Not Sympathy!'; 'For a World Without Borders!'; 'Defend the Outlaws!'  
Venue: Cross St Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester (City Centre)  
Contact info@noii.org.uk or see www.noii.org.uk

Deadline for the June RAM

Bulletin is Tues 31 May. Please send stories, news items or ideas to Forward on ram@mediawise.org.uk