

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 53, June 2005

RAM Report out now

THE long-awaited study of the Refugees, Asylum-seekers and Media (RAM) Project set up by the ethics charity MediaWise is now available.

NUJ President Tim Lezard and Peter Kessler, Senior External Affairs Officer with UNHCR are along speakers at the press launch of the report at NUJ Head Office in London on Mon June 6. It will also get a European press launch in Brussels on June 15.

Mike Jempson, MediaWise Director and manager of the RAM Project says: "We hope the Report will help other minorities who receive a bad press to adopt some of the approaches we have used, to improve media coverage and to give people more confidence in their dealings with the media".

The RAM Report details how this ground-breaking Project set about its task to promote best practice and to assist other organisations to develop successful communication techniques.

The RAM Project began in 1999 in response to growing concern about inaccurate and sensational media coverage of refugee and asylum issues. Freelance journalist Rich Cookson was given access to all RAM Project documentation in compiling the Report, which is designed to help others replicate RAM communication strategies when dealing with complex and controversial issues. It explains:

- * 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.

The RAM Report, funded by the Home Office Refugee Integration Fund, has a cover price of £15 but RAM Bulletin subscribers can order a free copy.

For a copy of the report contact:
di@mediawise.org.uk

Sun sacrifices asylum splash for soccer

LIVERPOOL football team's dramatic win of the European Champions' league not only sent English soccer-loving fans

into jubilation but also forced *The Sun* newspaper to change its asylum lead story (Thurs 27).

Desperate to win back the affections of Liverpoolians, who famously boycotted the paper after its notorious coverage of the Hillborough tragedy, *The Sun* immediately after hearing Liverpool's win in Istanbul shifted its first edition lead story about a 'Parasite' asylum-seeker's £25k benefit on onto page 9. Later editions ran with Liverpool's Istanbul triumph as the 'splash', but not before TV-watchers had seen the original front page on the Wednesday evening.

However, the UNHCR has pointed out to *The Sun* that it was incorrect to call the wrong-doer an asylum-seeker, since the offence she had already been granted leave to remain in the UK. Perhaps sanity will prevail, and *The Sun* newsroom will begin to appreciate that the public is sick and tired of anti-asylum stories.

Government figures show fall in asylum applications

THE number of asylum seekers arriving in Britain fell by 17% in the first quarter of 2005, according to recent figures released by the Home Office.

What is surprising is that the media, particularly the tabloid press, usually quick to run anti-asylum and immigration stories, ignored the news completely, except for the *Daily Mirror* (Wed 18 May). It carried the story but also pointed that the number of those being sent home was also down. Ten days after the HO released its figures, *The Express* carried an inflammatory story saying immigration is spiralling out of control. Under the headline '176,000 migrants from the EU in just one year' (Fri 27 May) lamenting of a number of Eastern Europeans heading for UK.

The *News of the World* (Sun 22 May) took a van-load of illegal immigrants to police and the Home Office in a bid to show how chaotic is the asylum system. But police set them free, angering *NoW* reporters who had wasted time and nearly £10,000 on their 'investigation'.

EDITORIAL

Community service leaves asylum seekers vulnerable to exploitation

Anti-asylum and immigration stories have always been in the news. However, the introduction of section 10 of Immigration and asylum Act 2000 calling failed asylum seekers to do community service to get support has been less attractive to the media.

Although asylum campaigners have raised their concerns saying the exercise is tantamount to 'slave labour', none of these stories have been carried by the media, not even the recent demonstration in Liverpool where the first pilot scheme will be based.

The media are not obliged to carry each and every story but giving balance to the asylum debate will help the public understand fully the issues.

Among the organisations to implement the scheme to help failed asylum seekers is YMCA. Although YMCA have put in place some good guidelines that will protect asylum seekers under their scheme, it will only cater for an unspecified number of young people. What happens to the rest of the people is still a mystery. Will they continue to get support under Section 4 or with other organisations and private businesses will come forward and bid to run their own schemes?

Asylum campaigners rightly want to know what guidelines are in place to seal all the loop holes that can lead to 'slave labour' and exploitation of failed asylum seekers. The media must break this 'pregnant' silence, rather than ignoring section 10 after carrying a series of anti-asylum stories. Balanced reporting is a public good.

Guest Editor
Miwanda Bagenda
email: mbagenda@yahoo.com

Networks meet for autumn weekend 'retreat'

THE RAM Project is organising a weekend retreat for members of the Exiled Journalists Network to be held in autumn. The event is a follow-up to previous events held at Burwalls, a Bristol University Centre, in 2003.

It will mark the formal launch of the EJM as an independent charity, and its website. Plans include a gathering of RAM Media Network members at the event, which could also see the launch of a report on exiled journalists in Europe. *Watch this space for more information or contact: ram@mediawise.org.uk*

Last call for exiled journos in Europe

AS announced in the last Bulletin, the RAM Project is collecting information about the situation of exiled journalists throughout Europe.

We 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 contacts and information to: ram@mediawise.org.uk

RAM out and about

THE RAM Project and MediaWise are to contribute to a special briefing session for journalists based in Brussels, organised by the Jesuit Refugee Service on Wed. 15 June.

'Aliens in the Media' is being supported by UNHCR, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and MediaWise among others, to help improve media coverage of asylum policy issues throughout Europe, and to encourage cross border collaboration by journalists.

The IFJ is to launch an award for best European media coverage of the issues. (More details in the next Bulletin).

In the UK, MediaWise Director Mike Jempson is among a panel of media experts to speak at a Refugee Week event in Brighton on 26 June, and he is to speak on media coverage of asylum issues at a conference on 'English-speaking Nations and the Mediterranean' organised by the

Maghreb Review at Mansfield College, Oxford in July.

London Mayor rewards good asylum coverage

IN a move to both encourage and recognise good practice in media coverage of asylum issues, Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London has announced the 2005 awards for London's local press.

"Fair media coverage is important as context for the lives of London's asylum seekers and refugees, who are great contributors to London's development and diversity but are also vulnerable to social exclusion and hostility," said Livingstone inviting journalists to enter for the awards, which are supported by the RAM project.

"Balanced and accurate, rather negative, press coverage of asylum is key to good community relations. My vision is that London should be a fair, prosperous and safe city for all, including asylum seekers," he said.

RAM Communications Officer Forward Maisokwadzo is among the judges, along with Lee Japsar, Mayor's Advisor on Equalities and Policing, Shami Chakrabati, Director of Liberty, Maeve Sherlock, Chief Executive of Refugee Council, Halima Ismail of London Refugee Voice, NUJ President Tim Lezard, and a representative of the Metropolitan Police Authority. The results will be announced in July

www.london.gov.uk/mayor/equalities/llpa

Refugees offered homes and jobs in Scotland

SCOTLAND'S first housing association for ethnic minorities has set up a pioneering project in Glasgow to offer homes and jobs to the city's refugees.

The Access Apna Ghar Housing Association has designed the programme to offer a full range of support to young asylum seekers. The group of 18 to 30 year-olds will be given homes across the north west of the city and help to find jobs or places on courses that will lead to employment.

Dave Le Sage, director of the housing association, said: "Initiatives exist to welcome asylum seekers to Scotland to help fill the skills gap, but people often underestimate how difficult it is to find a decent home and a good job in a foreign city.

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/h/news/5039134.html>

Campaigners challenge YMCA project

CAMPAIGNING groups have expressed disappointment over plans by YMCA England to pilot a compulsory community service scheme for failed asylum seekers.

The Home Office scheme, set out in Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum Seekers) Regulations 2005, requires failed asylum seekers to "do community work" in return for food and accommodation.

Richard Solly, campaigns and information officer for the Churches' Commission for Racial Justice, said: "Failed asylum seekers who reach 18 and above are dragged back to detention centres and forced to work for food and accommodation."

YMCA England has confirmed it is in negotiations with the Home Office. In a statement, it acknowledged concerns about the scheme, but said there would be safeguards.

www.ymca.org.uk

www.ctbi.org.uk

Exiled journos attend media training at Lincoln University

FIFTEEN members of the Exiled Journalists Network took part in a two day course jointly organised by the RAM Project and Lincoln School of Journalism at Lincoln University 10-11 May.

Participants reported that they enjoyed the two days but pointed out that they could have learnt more if it had lasted longer.

John Tulloch, Head of Lincoln's faculty of Media and Humanities said that a similar programme could be organised in future if funding is secured.

Call to join RAM UK Media Networks Groups

ORGANISATIONS working with asylum seekers and refugees interested in developing strategies on use-of-the media can join some of the regional Media Network Groups developed and supported by the RAM project across the country. Terry Williams, RAM National Coordinator can help to set up groups and offer the necessary training. Media Networks groups are important in helping to improve coverage of asylum issues. contact Terry on:

EXILED JOURNALISTS SPEAK OUT**Asylum agony of BBC journalist**

THOMAS NGUANYI, a prize-winning Cameroonian journalist with the BBC World Service and a founding member of the Cameroon Association of Commonwealth Journalists, was hospitalised in detention at Harwich International Port. On release from the hospital he went into hiding, and sent this message to the RAM Bulletin.

I ran into trouble last year with the Cameroonian military and Government officials, together with the South African journalist Farouk Chotia, covering the disputed Bakassi peninsula between Cameroon and Nigeria, and was accused of espionage. We were arrested and detained by the same military officers who transported us to Bakassi in a military boat.

Following pressure from the British High Commissioner in Cameroon, His Excellency Richard Wildash, who raised the matter with President Paul Biya of Cameroon, and pressure from the Committee to Protect Journalists as well as the Cameroon Association of Commonwealth Journalists, we were released. Although thankfully diplomatic pressure helped to secure my release, I still fear for my life should I be forced to return.

During my interrogation senior military officers branded me a spy, a threat to the regime and a supporter of the Southern Cameroon National Council (SCNC), an Anglo-phone pressure group calling for the two English-speaking provinces to secede. While I was still in detention in Cameroon, security operatives traced my residence in Douala where I was based and interrogated my family members. After my release from detention, I was advised not to sleep in my house since security agents had already located it. I therefore spent a few days in a Hotel with my colleague Farouk Chotia while my travel documents to the UK were being processed.

Thanks to assistance from the BBC World Service, I traveled to the UK on 21 July 2004. While here I learned from my family that security operatives were still questioning and harassing my family to reveal my whereabouts.

I claimed asylum on 20 August following persistent reports of harassment and torture of my younger sister, apparently by security agents.

However, my asylum claim was rejected. I applied for permission to appeal to the Immigration Appeal Tribunal but the application was again summarily rejected on the

grounds that one of the newspapers I submitted was not translated from French into English.

The BBC tried to convince me to return to Cameroon and continue reporting, saying that if I'm re-arrested they will again come to my assistance to bail me out. But I know my country too well and do not want to become a willing guinea pig to test situations with my life.

The regime has adopted repressive measures against journalists and media houses that dare criticize its policies. Recently there were extra judicial killings of nine youths in Douala by a military outfit set up by the Cameroonian authorities and known in French as 'commandant operationel'. Despite huge public outcry nothing was done to shed light on how and why the youths disappeared. This is why I am too scared to return to Cameroon now.

The regime seems to have targeted me because I went to Bakassi with a colleague who was a foreign Journalist and probably because of some previous reports I did for the BBC World Service about deplorable detention conditions and police corruption and harassment in Cameroon.

I received anonymous calls threatening me after some of my previous reports were broadcast by the BBC. I have been working for the World Service for about four years now but I'm concerned that although they managed to whisk me off to the UK for security reasons, they did not give me adequate support for my asylum claim.

My fears of persecution by Government agents have been buttressed further by the fact that my younger sister was taken away, interrogated and tortured for failing to reveal my whereabouts.

From the on-going hunt for me, it is now clear that our release last year was only meant to separate my colleague and me, to deal with me later. It now appears to me that my release was also just a ploy to divert the media attention that was focused on the incident.

I have problems walking and I'm on medication. When I collapsed while still in detention it was probably due to stress and poor diet.

Cameroon has a history of political detentions. Human rights activities, political leaders and journalists have been targeted during the last few years, according to various Amnesty International reports.

Reporters Without Borders have also voiced concern about increasing levels of press censorship and imprisonment of journalists.

Exiled Journalists cry for more assistance from RSF

IBRAHIM SEAGA SHAW writes from Paris

The Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, has, in addition to its campaign for press freedom world wide, been involved in helping journalists living in exile, especially those in Western European and North American countries, have their political refugee status and settle down in their new environments. Some exiled journalists however think that RSF should do more to help them.

The organisation's News Editor, Jean-François Julliard told *the RAM Bulletin* in an exclusive interview that they have since September 2004 supported the asylum application of 73 exiled journalists in France. Among the people they have supported 23 were from Africa, 17 from the Middle Eastern countries, 17 from Europe, 9 from Asia, 7 from the Americas. 56 of these are men while only 17 are women. This is an indication that they help people from all different countries world over. He added that 33 of these had their asylum cases approved by OFPRA, the semi-autonomous body responsible for processing the applications of asylum seekers in France, while 26 won their appeals at the Commission de Recours. He said eight were granted French territorial asylum while six had to leave France.

"When we receive exiled journalists, we write letters to OFPRA to back their asylum cases, and in most cases we attach photocopies of supportive documents," said Julliard. "For those who are not able to succeed with their first application at OFPRA, we try to provide assistance in the payment of the fees of the lawyers who defend them at the Commission de Recours.

"We also provide financial assistance to help exiled journalists when they have urgent financial needs. This is what we have been doing for exiled journalists in France. Our branches in some European countries and North America are also doing the same for exiled journalists in their countries", he said.

The RSF News Editor noted that their organisation receives no special funding to help exiled journalists, and that they have been simply using funds in their budget to finance these projects.

He said for the past three years they have been working in partnership with the Maison Des Journalistes (MDJ) to help provide temporal lodging and social assistance to exiled journalists. He observed that, despite all their efforts, exiled journalists have been finding it difficult to integrate into the French society particularly in the area of employment after getting their political asylum status, which gives them the right to work.

"This problem becomes even more difficult when they in

sist that they want to work in the media sector in France. Even journalists who get their training in French academic institutions find it very difficult to get jobs in the media, not to talk of exiled journalists with all their qualifications.

"That is why we are encouraging some of them to change their profession, and so far we have helped two journalists, one Cuban and the other Algerian, to be trained and work as electrician and delivery vans' driver, respectively", and as far as I know they are still working, said Julliard.

Julliard said they also help those journalists who still want to continue to work as journalists to find training courses and job placements in the French media, although he admitted that their efforts to help them have permanent employment in this sector has so far met with little success. He was quick to cite the case of this writer when in 1999 he helped him get a two-month job placement as an intern sub-editor on the English Desk of Agence France Press, although he was not successful enough to be offered a job after the internship. Perhaps to make up for this downside, Julliard said:

"We sometimes work with exiled journalists as correspondents and sources of information; for instance regarding the case of Eritrea, we have been closely working with the Eritrean Journalists Association in the USA and Canada to have more information about the situation of journalists in their country."

Julliard expressed concern about problems they are now facing to help more and more journalists who are coming to France to seek political asylum as the French asylum laws are becoming more difficult. He said they are having less problems in helping journalists get their political refugee status in a country like Spain because perhaps, as he puts it, that country is presently looking for more people to work in their growing industrial sector.

James Ngumbu, a Congolese journalist, who has been living in France for about 5 years however think that RSF and other media organisations should go beyond helping journalists get their status, and do more to help them integrate into the media sector of their host country.

"Since my coming to France, I've been able to obtain three diplomas in media studies from French academic institutions but I'm still having problems to get a permanent job in my area of training," said Ngumbu.

"I think it is good that some media houses in France are supporting the Maison des Journalistes to help provide temporal accommodation for exiled journalists, but I think they should complete this help by helping them find jobs in their various media houses," he said.

MAPPING THE REFUGEE SECTOR

Exiled Journalists in France Coping with New Realities

IBRAHIM SEAGA SHAW looks at support offered to exiled journo's living at Maison des Journalists

A place to lay their heads was one of the first realities that journalists coming to France to seek political asylum were forced to grapple with.

When I arrived in France in October 1998, I was at least among the lucky few journalists seeking political asylum who, through recommendations from press freedom watchdog, *Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF)*-Reporters Without Borders, were sheltered at some of the refugee hostels run by France Terre d'Asile, the French government organisation working to help new refugee arrivals. At least I know about three exiled journalists who had to scramble for a place to pass the night, most of the time on make-shift beds, only to wake up first thing in the morning to give way to the razzmatazz of the bubbling Parisian city life. But thank God that is now all in the past, a past that we nonetheless find difficult to forget.

The turning point came about three years ago with the founding of the *Maison des Journalistes (MDJ)*-a kind of hostel-to help provide accommodation, legal and social assistance to exiled journalists seeking political asylum in France.

Speaking in an exclusive interview, the Director and Co-founder of the MDJ, Philippe Spinau said they are working in partnership with the Paris-based RSF, although the two organisations operate independently. He disclosed that half of his centre's funding come from about 15 media houses in France, including *TFI*, *Le Monde*, and *Le Figaro*, while the other half comes from the European Union. He said they acquired the building free of charge from the office of the Mayor of Paris although they spent some money to rehabilitate it.

"In order to make sure that all the people we house are credible journalists we are working in close co-operation with RSF who help verify their identity as journalists in their home countries," said Spinau.

"Those who qualify are immediately allocated rooms, or put on the waiting list if there are no vacant rooms. Since we have only 15 rooms, we allocate rooms for a period of six months during which we help the journalist with his asylum case. So far all the journalists who have passed through us have had their refugee status before leaving the centre. We host about 30 exiled journalists per year."

FACT SHEET

Maison des Journalistes

35 Cauchy Street
15th district of Paris

Founded: 6 May 2002

Has 15 rooms and can
welcome up to 30 journal-
ists a year for stays of a
maximum of 6 months

Quarterly magazine writ-
ten by residents called
'Eye of the Exile'

[www.maisondes-
journalistes.org](http://www.maisondes-journalistes.org)

Spinau said they normally contact some cultural organisations such as that of the Turkish to help their residents establish contacts with their countrymen. Asked as to whether his centre co-operates with JAFE-an association of exiled African journalists in France, Spinau replied in the negative explaining that his centre deals with journalists not only from Africa, but also from Asia and the Middle East. Since its opening in 2003, the centre has accommodated about 65 journalists from some 28 countries of the world.

The MDJ director said they provide a daily income support of 8 euros to their residents, which they give them on a weekly basis, and from which they are expected to buy and prepare

their own meals. He said they in addition provide them with weekly train tickets and telephone cards to facilitate their movement.

"Since all the journalists we have been receiving come from non-francophone countries, we encourage them to participate in short courses to learn the French language which they need to integrate into the French society," said Spinau. He observed that apart from support he gets from time to time from his co-founder and president, Daniele Ohayon of Radio France, and the porter, he is single-handedly running the centre.

"The MJ provides a good environment to newly arrived journalists-asylum seekers who need to calm down their traumatic experience after being forced to flee their countries", said Ahmed Kaci, an Algerian journalist and former resident. Kaci, who worked for some leading Algerian newspapers including *La Tribune*, said that he is happy to have secured his political refugee status before leaving the centre, but now he is facing the most difficult task of integrating into his new environment, particularly that of finding a job in the media. He lamented that the French media terrain is very difficult to penetrate, even when you are qualified, because there are always biases against immigrant journalists.

"At home I had a permanent job but here I am still trying to find one, and it is sad that I cannot at this time return without putting my life in danger", lamented Kaci.

Sri Lankan journalist Sunil Gamini of the weekly left party paper, *Wame Sattana*, who came to the centre in April, was even less lucky as he had to first put up with one fellow Sri Lankan since his arrival in France to seek political asylum in September 2004. To make matters worse, Sunil, who is in his late thirties, had his application for asylum rejected by OFPRA, the semi-autonomous organisation responsible for the processing of asylum cases in France. He said he has appealed against this decision, and that he hopes that the centre would help him get the 800 euros his lawyer is demanding to defend him before the Commission due to hear his appeal.

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.

Thurs 2 June 7pm
ASYLUM SEEKERS: MYTHS AND REALITIES
 Discussion with Helen Bamber, founder of the MFCVT.
 Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden
 Contact 020 7284 1997

Sat 4 June 12pm - 5pm
NCADC 10th AGM
 Venue: Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, M2 1NL
 Contact John O - 0121 554 6947

Mon 6 June 10am - 1pm
RAM Report Press Launch
 Venue: NUJ Headland House 308-312 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8DP
 Contact: di@mediawise.org.uk tel:0117 941 5889

Thurs 9 June 7.30pm - 9pm
THE SILVER THROAT OF THE MOON: WRITING IN EXILE
 A new anthology edited by Jennifer Langer.
 Venue: Stanhope House, 2-4 Stanhope Place, London W2
 Contact fiveleaf01@surfaid.org

Thurs 9 June 8pm
REFUGEE VOICES: FROM ALIENS TO BRITISH SUBJECTS
 Discussion and film about Jewish refugees who settled in Britain.
 Venue: Jewish Museum, Finchley
 Contact 020 8349 1143

Sat 11 June
ESCAPE TO SAFETY
 Interactive installation where participants walk through eight "stations" depicting the different stages of seeking asylum.
 Venue: Town Hall, Peterborough
 Contact Rev Ian Houghton on 01733 763729 or visit www.glob-allink.org.uk/Esc2Saf/intro.htm

Sat 11 June - 16 July
LEAVE TO REMAIN
 Diana Matar's exhibition of photos and oral histories of politically

displaced people living in Britain.
 Venue: BCA Gallery & Bedford Town Centre, 33 Castle Road, Bedford, MK40 3XD
 Contact 01234 273580

Tues 14 June
DRIVING RACE EQUALITY: WHERE ARE WE? - LEARNING FROM LONDON
 Conference to examine the experience of those tackling race equality in London and beyond.
 Venue: Barbican Centre, London
 Contact Debbie Young on 020 7324 4364, e-mail debbie.young@neilstewartassociates.co.uk

Wed 15 June 9.30am - 4.30pm
ASYLUM MATTERS FOR SCOTLAND
 Event to help people connect more strongly and work more effectively with asylum seekers.
 Venue: Glasgow Caledonian University, Hamish Wood Building, Cowcaddens Road, G4 0BA
 Contact 0141 287 9588

Wed 15 June 7pm
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
 Contact 0870 444 3852

Fri 17 June 7pm
WHY ASYLUM?
 An evening of poetry, workshops on the reality of being a refugee and film screenings.
 Venue: Baptist Church, Parade Street, Cardiff
 Contact 029 2043 2995

Mon 20 June
WORLD REFUGEE DAY & THE START OF REFUGEE WEEK
 Visit www.refugeeweek.org.uk for more info and events

Mon 20 June 9.45am-4.30pm
FROM REFUGEE TO FREEDOM: ARTS, CULTURE & POLITICS FOR YOUNG REFUGEES
 Exploring the role of the arts in the community integration of young refugees and asylum seekers.
 Venue: Watermans, 40 High Street, Brentford TW8 0DS

Contact info@watermans.org.uk or 020 8232 1010

Mon 20 June 10am - 4.30pm
A PLACE TO CALL HOME
 Conference promoting greater understanding between refugees, asylum seekers and the host community in South Wales.
 Venue: Glamorgan Business Centre, University of Glamorgan, Pontypridd, South Wales
 Contact 01443 654 246

Tues 21 June 12pm - 2pm
ASYLUM - A CHALLENGE FOR OUR TIME
 Discussion on the work being done in Pendle on support and integration initiatives for refugees.
 Venue: People's Centre, 50 Colne Road, Brierfield, Lancs, BB9 5NN
 Contact 01254 300479

Tues 21 June 6.30pm - 9pm
A WORLD APART? REFUGEES, THE MEDIA & THE SEARCH FOR A BALANCED VIEW
 A reception, panel discussion and audience debate.
 Venue: University College London, Gower Street
 Contact 020 7692 2741

Tues 21 June 7.30pm
A SCOTTISH WELCOME?
 Immigrants describe their potential contribution to a multicultural Scotland and their actual reception - and a policy adviser on integration responds.
 Venue: Helsinki Citizens Assembly, St George's West, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh
 Contact 0141 248 9799

Weds 22 June 12pm-12am
BRISTOL'S SILENT REFUGEES - GIVING VOICE TO OUR ZIMBABWEAN COMMUNITY
 12 hours of Zimbabwean food, music and talks. Running alongside is the 'Celebrating Sanctuary' art exhibition.
 Venue: The Pierian Centre, 27 Portland Square, St Pauls, Bristol
 Contact June Burrough on 0117 9244512

Weds 22 June 2pm - 6pm
REFUGEES IN SCOTLAND - HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES
 Discussing recent UK legislation & the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland.
 Venue: Methodist Central Hall, West Tollcross, Edinburgh
 Contact 01412 489 799 or visit www.thewelcoming.edin.org

Weds 22 June 7.30pm
THE ASYLUM MONOLOGUES
 With theatre group IkaZe plus

speakers, poets & storytellers.
 Venue: Edinburgh Refugee Centre, St George's West, Shadwick Place, Edinburgh
 Contact Patrick Evans on 0141 2489 799

Thurs 23 June 7pm
THE MEDIA AND IMMIGRATION
 Discussion on the media and public attitudes to immigration, refugees and asylum seekers.
 Venue: Jewish Museum, Camden
 Contact 020 7284 1997

Fri 24 June
IMPACT OF ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS ON REFUGEE COMMUNITIES
 NMP Anti-Racist Trust workshop for refugee and community groups
 Venue: St John's Church, The Broadway, Stratford, London, E15
 Contact 020 8555 8151

Fri 24 June 6pm
MEDIA, POLITICS & ASYLUM - WHOSE AGENDA?
 Discussion with Dr. Paul Statham (University of Leeds) and Luljeta Nuzi & Flutra Shega (Shpresa refugee support organisation).
 Venue: Derwent College, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD
 Contact Simon Parker on 01904 671172

Sat 25 June 2005 1pm - 6pm
NO ONE IS ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
 Event to discuss NOII slogans.
 Venue: Cross St Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester (City Centre)
 Contact info@noii.org.uk or see www.noii.org.uk

Sun 26 June 12pm - 6pm
THE ONE EVENT
 Refugee arts projects showcase with focus on visual arts, music, performance and literature.
 Venue: Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, Brighton
 Contact 01273 292572

Tues 5 July
DUNGAVEL REMOVAL CENTRE DEMONSTRATION
 Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees demo to demand the closure of Dungavel and other detention centres.
 Venue: Dungavel removal centre, Strathaven, ML10 6RF
 Contact glascamref@hotmail.com

Deadline for the July Bulletin is Mon 27 June.
Please send stories, news items or ideas to Forward on ram@mediawise.org.uk