



**Working with change,
meeting the challenge**

An asylum policy and legislation update

9 March 2006

Regent's College, London

23 March 2006

Aston Villa Football Club, Birmingham



Supported by:



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Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

Working with change, meeting the challenge: An asylum policy and legislation update

Legislation and government policy around asylum has changed frequently in the last few years. Understanding and adapting to these changes is a huge challenge for all those working in the refugee sector. It remains a priority to understand the implications of constant revisions to policy and practice for asylum seekers and refugees in the UK. These conferences aim to highlight the main developments in current policy and legislation, supporting delegates understanding and development of skills for working in this changing and complex environment.

The Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 and the introduction of the five year strategy, including the implementation of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill 2005, are changing the climate for those working across the sector. These new and existing provisions, are likely to effect the most vulnerable and put increased strain on public services. Fast-track processing has implications for the quality of decision making and support arrangements during the asylum process. Destitution and withdrawal of support to families is of major concern for those working throughout the UK. Limiting leave to remain for refugees could directly impact on integration programmes across the country.

Asylum seekers and refugees are some of the most marginalised groups in the UK. Maintaining services and support to this group whilst dealing with the changes in asylum policy and legislation is a great challenge. During the conference delegates will hear from a range of plenary speakers and workshop facilitators and engage in discussions around some of the most significant issues in legislation, policy and practice. These areas include; the New Asylum Model, section 9, destitution, detention and access to legal advice.

Aims and objectives of the conference

- To identify the main challenges of current and proposed government policy and legislation
- To discuss the implications of changes in policy and legislation to service provision
- To relate new asylum policy and legislation to roles of statutory and other agencies
- To determine ways of improving services and integration for asylum seekers and refugees
- To demonstrate practical initiatives to develop more comprehensive and consistent support

Benefits of attending

- Update your knowledge around asylum policy and legislation
- Understand the implications of new asylum policy on service provision across the sector
- Develop ideas to improve services and information provision in the climate of changing policy and legislation
- Network and exchange information with colleagues in the sector

Workshop topics

Delegates will have the opportunity to attend two workshops - please give your choices in order of preference on the form at the rear of this leaflet.

- Destitution of asylum seekers and asylum seeking families and the impact on local services
- Health and mental health issues at the end of the asylum process
- The impact of asylum policy on services for children
- The international context of UK asylum policy
- The impact of the New Asylum Model
- Supporting asylum seekers in accessing legal advice
- Resettlement: New challenges
- Practical tools for challenging detention of asylum seekers

Who should attend?

Local authority social services departments
Local authority asylum seekers teams and asylum consortia
Local authority leaders, chief executives and practitioners
Local education authorities, schools and colleges
Legal professionals and immigration advisers
Equalities officers
Trade unions
Advice services and organisations
Accommodation providers and housing associations
Police
Voluntary support services
Health authorities
Mental health practitioners
NASS, IND and Home Office departments
Community partnerships

For enquiries call **020 7346 6739** or email marketing@refugeecouncil.org.uk



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Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

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London Agenda

Thursday, 9 March 2006

- 9.30 Registration and refreshments
- 10:00 Welcome and introduction by chair
Maeve Sherlock
Chief Executive, The Refugee Council
- 10.15 Setting the scene
Heaven Crawley
Director, AMRE Consulting
- 10.35 The government's five year strategy for asylum and immigration
Tony McNulty MP
Minister of State (Immigration, Citizenship and Nationality), Home Office
- 10.55 A legislative overview
Jawaid Luqmani
Partner, Luqmani Thompson and Partners
- 11.15 Questions
- 11.25 Refreshments
- 11.50 The New Asylum Model
A case practitioner (TBC)
- 12.10 An update on detention
Sarah Cutler
Policy & Research Officer, Bail for Immigration Detainees
- 12.30 An update on decision making and returns
Mark Henderson
Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers
- 12.50 Questions
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.10 **Workshop 1**
- 15.30 Refreshments
- 15.50 **Workshop 2**
- 17.10 Closing remarks
Maeve Sherlock
- 17:30 Expected finish time

Venue: Regent's College, Regents Park
Inner Circle
London
NW1 4NS

Birmingham Agenda

Thursday, 23 March 2006

- 9.30 Registration and refreshments
- 10.00 Welcome and introduction by Chair
Chris Randall
Chair, Immigration Law Practitioners' Association
- 10.15 Setting the scene
Heaven Crawley
Director, AMRE Consulting
- 10.35 The government's five year strategy for asylum and immigration
Keynote speaker (TBC)
- 10.55 An overview of new policy and legislation
Nancy Kelley
Head of International & UK Policy, The Refugee Council
- 11.15 Questions
- 11.25 Refreshments
- 11.50 The New Asylum Model
A case practitioner (TBC)
- 12.10 An update on detention
Sarah Cutler
Policy & Research Officer, Bail for Immigration Detainees
- 12.30 An update on decision making and returns
Ravi Low-Beer
Solicitor, Refugee Legal Centre
- 12.50 The impact of national policies and practice at a regional level
David Barnes
Regional Director, The West Midlands Strategic Partnership for Asylum and Refugee Support
- 13.05 Questions
- 13.15 Lunch
- 14.10 **Workshop 1**
- 15.30 Refreshments
- 15.50 **Workshop 2**
- 17.10 Closing remarks
Chris Randall
- 17:30 Expected finish time

Venue: Aston Villa Football Club
Villa Park
Birmingham
B6 6HE

Promotional opportunities

To find out more about how you can promote your organisation or services and strengthen your relationship with the sector at this event, contact 020 7346 6739. Exhibition space and delegate pack inserts are available.

How to book

Complete and return the booking form overleaf enclosing payment or indicating if you would like us to invoice you. Confirmation and joining instructions will be sent at least two weeks before the conference. If you have not heard from us within seven days of the conference, call the Events and Training Officer on **020 7346 6739**.

Terms and conditions

Fees include buffet lunch and refreshments but do not include travel costs or parking. Please note your place is not secured until payment is received. If you decide to cancel your booking up to and including 15 days before the conference date you will receive a full refund minus an administration charge of £50. All cancellations must be in writing. Fourteen days or less before the conference, the full amount is payable for any cancellation, but we encourage you to send a substitute.

We reserve the right at anytime, and without prior notice to change the venue and/or the programme if necessary. If, for reasons out of our control, we have to cancel an event we will provide as much notice as possible and will provide a full refund of conference fees to all delegates. Please note this does not include the reimbursement of train fares or any other expenses you incur or expect to incur by attending the conference.

Conference booking form: March 2006

Please return booking form by post or fax to:

**Training and Events Officer, Information and Marketing
Refugee Council, 240-250 Ferndale Road, London SW9 8BB**

**Tel: 020 7346 6739
Fax: 020 7346 6730**

Please photocopy this form if you would like to book more than one delegate place.

I would like to book a place on the conference:

- London Conference : Thursday, 9 March 2006 - Regent's College
 Birmingham Conference : Thursday, 23 March 2006 - Aston Villa Football Club

At the following rate:

- Full rate £299.00 (central government/business)
 Reduced rate £249.00 (public/educational body/local government)
 Supported rate £100.00 (voluntary organisation)
- no VAT is payable on Refugee Council conferences

Workshop selection

Please prioritise your first four choices of workshops by numbering next to the relevant title 1 - 4 (1 being your first choice)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Destitution of asylum seekers and asylum seeking families | <input type="checkbox"/> The impact of the New Asylum Model |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health issues at the end of the asylum process | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting asylum seekers in accessing legal advice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The impact of asylum policy on services for children | <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement: New challenges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The international context of UK asylum policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical tools for challenging detention of asylum seekers |

You will attend two workshops. We will endeavour to allocate you to your first and second choice of workshops. However, due to practical limitations this may not always be possible.

Delegate name and contact details

Name:	Job Title:
Organisation:	Department:
Address:	
Postcode:	E-Mail:
Telephone:	Fax:

Please tick here if you do not want your contact details to appear on the delegate list

Special dietary or access requirements?

(NB: A vegetarian buffet lunch will be served)

Payment

I enclose a cheque made payable to Refugee Council for:

£ _____

Official Order Number: (if applicable)

Please invoice: (invoice address if different from above)

Terms and conditions

Please read the terms and conditions on page 3.

Your details will be held on a computer database so that we can send you information about new conferences. We may also send you details of other Refugee Council publications and events. If you do not wish us to hold your details for this purpose, please tick here We may also disclose your name and address to third parties that wish to send you information about products or services that may be of interest to you. If you would rather your details were not used in this way, please tick here

Registered Address: The Refugee Council, 240 - 250 Ferndale Road, London, SW9 8BB

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