

# IAP NEWS

No 69

The newsletter for the Inter-Agency Partnership October

Welcome to the October Edition of IAP News. This edition features: Case Resolution Programme Update, JCHR IAP Response, National Asylum Stakeholder Update, ESOL Funding Update and an article on the Liberian Truth Commission.

asylum  
support  
programme

## Case Resolution Programme Update

Latest news on the Border and Immigration Agency's (BIA) Case Resolution Programme.

### **Timeframe**

The Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) has extended the timeframe for resolving the asylum claims of families receiving asylum support who have been in the UK for several years. BIA now intends asylum support to stop for all families in this group by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 rather than mid-December 2007. BIA is assessing each claim against immigration criteria in order to decide whether to grant the family leave to remain or not. If not, families that are at the end of the process will remain subject to removal.

### **Documents**

For families who are granted ILR, BIA is including a translated letter alongside decisions, to explain that the enclosed documents are important and that the family has been granted indefinite leave to remain. BIA has been working with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that National Insurance numbers are issued quickly for those with positive decisions. When indefinite leave to remain has been granted, all family members over the age of 16 will be sent a National Insurance application form. It is very important that family members complete and return this form as soon as possible and contact JobCentre Plus immediately if they need to access mainstream benefits.

### **Removal**

BIA has stated that enforcement and removal will not be put on hold while the case resolution process continues. This means that someone could be removed before they had received a questionnaire.

## *Case Resolution Continued:*

If individuals are concerned, they should contact their solicitor. ILPA's latest mailing will be issued next week and provides more information:

<http://www.ilpa.org.uk>

If people are sent a questionnaire, BIA will still ask them to complete and return it within 21 calendar days as previously advised.

**It is very important that people contact their solicitor as soon as possible after receiving a decision from BIA.**

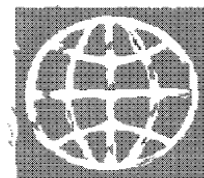
For the IAP's translated information sheet on case resolution please see Refugee Council website:

<http://languages.refugeecouncil.org.uk/english/summary.htm>

## **National Asylum Stakeholder Forum**

The second National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF) was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 07. The group agreed that the forum would be jointly co-chaired by Matthew Coats from BIA and Donna Covey, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council. Two sub-groups are being set up – one on case resolution and one on the asylum process, support and legal issues, which will focus on one topic per meeting. The regional BIA meetings and the central NASF are intended to cross-reference relevant issues.

BIA is working on a new section of their website to ensure that organisations are able to access the NASF minutes online. We will update you once this section is live.



**MIGRANT  
HELPLINE**



### **Refugee Council Paper on 'English for Speakers of Other Languages' [ESOL] and Further Education Funding Changes**

The Refugee Council in September produced an updated paper giving an outline of the changes announced by the Learning and Skills Council [LSC] with reference to ESOL funding for 2007/ 2008. The changes, the Refugee Council reason, will result in further problems with employment and training for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. The paper comments on how communities will also be affected as a result of the changes to ESOL funding and sets out recommendations for the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in education and training after the age of 16.

They also include a "Short Guide for Advisers on Access to Further Education [which] covers the categories of learners eligible for LSC funding and fee remission."

To access this please see the webpage:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/briefings/2007/esolfunding.htm>

### **JCHR Response**

The Joint Committee on Human Rights held an inquiry in 2006 into the treatment of asylum seekers across the UK. To aid this inquiry the Inter-agency Partnership submitted evidence including case studies identifying difficulties that asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers face in the asylum support system. The report can be accessed at:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2007/JCHRevidence.htm>

In July of this year the Home Office responded to the report, stating their position on many of the findings, including advice about entitlement to support, delays and errors in processing support applications: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt200607/jtselect/jtrights/134/134.pdf>

At the end of September the IAP collated and published a policy response to the Home Office's document which assesses the Home office response released in July and highlights areas on which the partner agencies feel further policy change is required. This can be found on our webpage: <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/policy/responses/2007/ReplytoHomeOffice.htm>

### **Article by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights**

#### **Announcing the Launch of the Liberian Truth & Reconciliation Commission Diaspora Project in the UK**

Liberians in the UK have the opportunity to participate in a history-making endeavour as part of the Liberian TRC's Diaspora Project. The Liberian Truth & Reconciliation Commission is the first TRC in the world to systematically engage its diaspora population. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, an international NGO based in the USA, is coordinating the Diaspora component of the Liberian TRC's work.

**You can assist in this effort by visiting:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC5ubot4Cg>, "A Quest for Justice" video about the TRC Diaspora Process

[www.trcofliberia.org](http://www.trcofliberia.org), Official TRC of Liberia Website

<http://liberiatrcomnadvocates.org/> Minnesota Advocates TRC Diaspora Project Website

#### **Who can give a statement?**

Any Liberian may give their statement to the TRC. You do not need to have been in Liberia during the conflict to speak to the TRC – all Liberians were affected. Other West Africans and non-Liberians who were in Liberia between 1979 and 2003 or who have information relative to the TRC's mandate may also give a statement.

#### **How can Liberians connect with statement taker volunteers?**

Liberians who wish to give their statement may call 020 7450 4573 and leave a message with contact details – a statement-taker will call back.

#### **How are statement-givers protected?**

Liberians may give an anonymous statement if they have any concerns about their names being linked to their story. All volunteers and project staff sign a statement agreeing that they will not release any information to anyone other than the TRC of Liberia and the Diaspora project managers. Statement givers who have immigration questions, mental health concerns, or other follow-up questions are referred to appropriate resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at [Liberia-TRC@mnadvocates.org](mailto:Liberia-TRC@mnadvocates.org) if you have any questions.

## Bulletin Board

### The WASP Project National Conference

Date and venue: Friday 7th December 2007 at Chancellors Conference Centre, Manchester

The WASP research project is a groundbreaking study conducted by South Manchester Law Centre in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University focusing on the experience of Women Asylum Seekers from Pakistan who seek refugee protection in the UK as a result of fleeing domestic violence in Pakistan. This is a trans-national research project covering England and Wales and four regions in Pakistan. The study pays particular attention to the nature and extent of protection in Pakistan, the difficulties associated with the concept of internal flight, difficulties Pakistani women have experienced with their attempts to access justice within the asylum system, problems with access to services in the UK.

#### **Keynote speakers:**

**Hina Jilani**, Human Rights lawyer based in Pakistan and UN Rapporteur; **Pragna Patel**, Chair of Southall Black Sisters; **Melanie Plimmer**, Barrister at Garden Court North specialising in asylum law; **Alison Stanley**, Solicitor and Head of Immigration at Bindman and Partners.

#### **This conference will be of particular interest to:**

Women's service providers, immigration and asylum lawyers and decision makers, practitioners in health, social services and housing who work with asylum seekers, refugees and survivors of domestic violence, refugee community organisations, academics, researchers, students, policy makers and campaigners.

#### **Conference fees:**


**£117.50** inc.vat for voluntary, not-for-profit and charitable organisations;

**£235** inc. vat for private practitioners, statutory and public organisations and individuals.

**\*CPD points pending\***

**\*refreshments and lunch provided\***

To register your interest, contact the project workers: **Nadia Siddiqui** by email: [nadia@smlc.org.uk](mailto:nadia@smlc.org.uk)/by telephone: **0161 2481879** or **Sajida Ismail** by email on [sajida@smlc.org.uk](mailto:sajida@smlc.org.uk)/by telephone: **0161 248 1884**.

Care Services Improvement Partnership 



Manchester Metropolitan University

North West  
Development Centre

### LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING PEOPLE

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

*TENDER FOR A Floating Support Service for Refugees*

Leicester City Council invites expressions of interest from suitably qualified organisations wishing to tender for a housing related floating support service for Refugees.

The contract will be for 3 years.

Annual Contract Value: £177,119

**Interested organisations are invited to apply, in writing, to request a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) from:**

**Paul Clarke, Business and Finance Manager, Supporting People Team, Leicester City Council, Adults and Housing, 1Grey Friars, Leicester, LE1 5PH.**

**The completed PQQ must be returned to the above address by 12 noon on Friday the 2nd of November 2007. Organisations who are successful at this first stage will be invited shortly after, to tender for the contract.**

A notice was dispatched to the Official Journal of the European Union on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2007  
[supporting.people@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:supporting.people@leicester.gov.uk)



Telephone 0116 229 4180 / Fax 0116 225 4754

Contract

## Bulletin Board

### Information for South East Central Induction Centre Stakeholders

With effect from Monday 1st October 2007, Migrant Helpline SECIC team will be working at:

Millbank Induction Centre  
Millbank Road  
Kingsnorth  
Ashford  
TN23 3JD

Migrant Helpline office tel no: 01233 611025  
fax no: 01233 666862  
Hours of work: Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Out of hours on call Manager 07789 770236  
Monday to Friday 17.00 to 23.00  
Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10.00 to 19.00

**There will be no Migrant Helpline SECIC staff in the Rendezvous Building in the Port of Dover.** Referral of any clients and all enquiries relating to SECIC clients should be directed to the Migrant Helpline SECIC team at Millbank.

### One Stop Service - Migrant Helpline has moved

From 1st October the Migrant Helpline One Stop Service team will be moving to:

17a Silchester Mews  
St Leonards on Sea  
East Sussex  
TN38 0JB

To contact the new office please use the numbers below:

Tel: 01424 461225  
Fax: 01424 434879

### Asylum Support Appeals Project Has Moved

The Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP) has recently moved to a new office near East Croydon station.

Their telephone lines and IT system are up and running.

All their email addresses remain the same, as well as their **Advice Line number 0845 603 3884**.

They will be formally writing to their members and funders to let them know their new contact details as well.

### **Section 4 Team Update**

The Section 4 Team at BIA moved to the Case Resolution Direction on the 24<sup>th</sup> September – however all communication should continue through the usual channels.

### **Please send articles that you would like to appear in the November edition of IAP News to:**

Lucy Yallop  
Information & Research Co-ordinator  
Inter-Agency Co-ordination Team  
Refugee Council  
240-250 Ferndale Road  
London SW9 8BB

Tel: 020 7346 1156  
Fax: 020 7737 3306

Email: [lucy.yallop@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:lucy.yallop@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

**Closing date for submissions is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.**