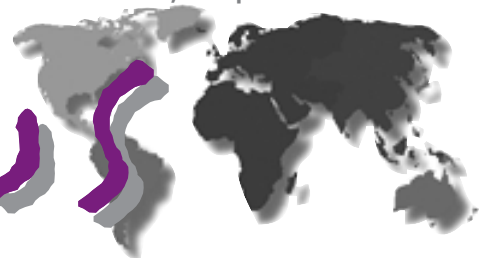


RCONews



Newsletter from the Community Development Team

Don't Believe the Type

The Refugee Council values the major role that refugee community organisations (RCOs) play in bringing communities together and serving the diverse needs of marginalised groups. We are keen to explore ways of working with you and involving community groups in our new campaign, *Don't Believe the Type*.

2005 has seen the Refugee Council return to active public campaigning with the summer launch of *Don't Believe the Type* at the Glastonbury music festival. The aim of the campaign is to challenge media myths, raise the quality of coverage given to asylum issues and build up a base of active campaigners from across the UK to support refugee rights. We strongly believe that our campaigning efforts will be further strengthened by the input of invaluable knowledge and experience from RCOs. The new campaign has been an immediate success reflected in the thousands of new supporters who have signed up to get involved.

Don't Believe the Type has had a strong presence at various UK summer events and festivals attended by the Refugee Council. These included Glastonbury festival, RISE, Celebrating Sanctuary and the Greenbelt. During the autumn we will be taking the campaign to the political party conferences and to student fresher fairs across the country.

Our most recent campaign activities have received a tremendous amount of support:

On 3rd August 2005 the Refugee Council and many of its new supporters joined the United Network of Detained Zimbabweans, the Zimbabwe Association and the Zimbabwe Action Group at a solidarity vigil outside the High Court. Mr Justice Collins ruled in favour of the continued suspension of returns to Zimbabwe pending a tribunal decision in October 2005 on whether Zimbabwe is 'safe' to send people back.

On 26th August 2005 as part of a series of national demonstrations against enforced removals to Iraq, the Refugee Council called on its new supporters again, this time to join in the London protest organised by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees. At the time of writing, the final outcome is uncertain, although enforced removals have yet to start. The campaigners' email-out allows us to keep activists updated about current and future actions.

A website has been created for the campaign, which asks people to sign up and suggests ways that supporters can challenge media misrepresentation and activities they can become involved in both at a local and national level. For more information about the campaign, please visit www.dontbelievethetype.org.uk or contact **Martha Lee** 0207 346 6702.

If you would like to discuss RCO involvement with the Community Development Team, contact **Penny McLean** email penny.mclean@refugeecouncil.org.uk or telephone 020 7346 1052. We welcome any ideas about how we can work with and involve RCOs and their supporters in this and future campaigns.



Don't Believe the Type campaigners join Zimbabwean solidarity vigil at the High Court



Lambeth Community Empowerment Network (LCEN)

Lambeth CEN is a network of voluntary and community organisations set up to ensure that the voluntary sector receives adequate representation within Lambeth. It brings together voluntary, community, tenants' and residents' groups, involving them as equal partners in the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) - Lambeth First. LCEN helps all groups and communities in Lambeth to get their voices heard and to actively involve them in influencing, shaping and delivering the Lambeth Community Strategy and improving local services.

The CEN provides the link between Lambeth First and the voluntary and community sector, ensuring these groups are equally represented in the partnership and involved in planning and delivering services. We are currently looking for a refugee and asylum seeker representative to sit on the CEN Steering Group and on the LSP; this will involve attending meetings and providing feedback to the community.

For further information please contact **LCEN** on **020 7737 9467** or email LambethCEN@lambethvac.org.uk

Looking for volunteers or want to volunteer yourself?

This is the tenth year of Community Service Volunteers Make a Difference Day (CSV MD Day) - 29th October 2005, a huge national volunteering event which encourages people to try out a variety of volunteering activities. From 22nd October to 5th November, 100,000 people will give their time for free and help others.

Last year, on CSV MD Day, several refugee and asylum community groups volunteered at the Royal Free Hospital in London, working as befrienders to patients, newly arrived in the UK.

If you would like to join one of the 5,000 events currently being planned, visit www.csv.org.uk/difference. Alternatively, if you or your organisation needs help with a voluntary event or project, register on the CSV website and get others to help you!

For further information contact **Mukta Das** **020 7643 1357** or email mdas@csv.org.uk.

Free human rights advocacy training courses

Education Action International are hosting a series of free human rights advocacy courses for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK as part of a two-year refugee advocacy project. The course will focus on working with the media, lobbying governments and fundraising.

The first course runs from 7th November 2005 to 10th February 2006. The deadline for applications is 7th October 2005. For more information and an application pack visit www.refugee-advocacy-project.org.uk or contact **Sonia** on **020 7426 5814**.



Don't Believe the Type campaign stand at this summer's RISE festival

Refugee Council weekly social evening

Every Tuesday evening, from 5:30-7:30pm, the Refugee Council London office welcomes refugee and asylum seeking unaccompanied minors (i.e. under 18 and living in the UK without a parent or guardian) to come and meet other young people in similar situations. The social evening has proved to be extremely popular and currently there are about 80-85 young people who attend.

The social evening also provides an opportunity for the young people to express themselves through art and to engage in positive activities including board games, snooker, table football and table tennis. There are 10 volunteers who help to run this group, along with a senior advisor from the Refugee Council Children's Panel. Refreshments and travel expenses of £2 are offered to attendees each week.

The Refugee Council recently received a grant of £5,000 from the Jack Petchey Foundation towards its running costs. Stephen Corriette, Grants Manager at the foundation said: "Every young person here has a skill, talent or special contribution to make to our society. In awarding this grant, the Jack Petchey Foundation endorses the valuable work that the Refugee Council is doing to support young people in London."





Sharing Experience

Eagle Eyes NGO

RCO News talks to Heshmat Assadi founder of Eagle Eyes NGO about their 'Peace Football Tournament'

Eagle Eyes NGO (EENGO) was established in 2000 and currently employs 1 part-time staff member and 11 volunteers who provide advice and support to Afghan refugees, asylum seekers and other disadvantaged groups from the Middle East, Africa and the former Soviet Union.

The main focus of EENGO is to facilitate social interaction between young refugees and asylum seekers from diverse ethnic backgrounds and communities. We strive to achieve this by running sporting activities, (including football, volley ball, martial arts and chess), educational groups and cultural events, which are key to combating isolation and boosting self-confidence.

In May 2004, EENGO organised a national football tournament at Wormwood Scrubs in London. Our aim was to engage young refugees and asylum seekers from diverse communities and cultures across London, providing an opportunity to make new friends and learn about other cultures. The tournament was a great success, with many young refugee football players taking part and representing 18 countries, including Korea, China and Iran. Over 1,000 spectators turned out to support their teams, brandishing their country flags and wearing their team colours.

Following last year's success, we are currently organising the Peace Football Tournament, which will take place in London between April and May 2006. This tournament aims to build on last year's efforts by continuing to bring together young refugees from different communities

across London. We would like 24 refugee community football teams to take part. So if you are a refugee living in London and currently playing for a football team, please come and join the Peace Tournament!



The Eagle Eyes NGO Director talks to teams before the national football tournament

I believe EENGO is a success based on the positive feedback we receive from people who have taken part in our activities. Many of our young clients say we have helped to change their lives because they have made new friends, developed links with other communities and feel like they are making a positive contribution to something they enjoy.

EENGO plans to develop more cross-cultural sporting activities and is keen to hear from any London based refugee communities who would like to participate in any of our friendly sports competitions and cultural events.

For more information, contact **Heshmat Assadi** on 020 8453 0538 or visit www.eagleeyesngo.org

Funding news

Refugee Community Development Fund

The Refugee Community Development Fund makes grants available to organisations that work in the UK with refugees and refugee communities, including those that provide services to asylum seekers. Applications are particularly welcome from smaller grassroots organisations, emerging groups and those for whom refugees are a new target group. Projects must be for the benefit of those with full refugee status (under the 1951 Refugee Convention), or those who have been given protection on humanitarian grounds or discretionary leave in the UK. For more information see www.governmentfunding.org.uk/VCSLaunch.aspx?SCHEME_ID=63

Closing date for applications: **10th October 2005.**

Futurebuilders

Futurebuilders aims to reduce the grant dependency of the voluntary and community sector. It aims to achieve this by offering an investment loan to voluntary and community organisations involved in or planning to become involved in public service delivery. The loan funding forms the most substantial part of every full Futurebuilders investment. For applications that look interesting but need further work before proceeding to full investment, Futurebuilders might decide to offer a development grant to cover revenue, or capital costs or capacity building.

For more details of the investment menu see section 2.4 of the investment plan by visiting www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk/ftp/web-documents/investmentplan05.pdf

Closing date for applications: **30th September 2005.**



Free training for refugees

The Enterprise & Employment for Refugees Project supports refugees across London in setting up a business or social enterprise, or in getting training and support to find a job in the construction industry. It is a partnership between Community Action Network, the Refugee Council, oneLondon, Employment Forum UK and the School for Social Entrepreneurs. Training courses are provided free of charge.

The business training includes: workshops and one-to-one advice sessions covering areas such as company registration, business planning, legal issues, accessing finance, marketing and Business ESOL.

The construction industry course includes: multi-skills training, first aid and health & safety and ESOL and provides participants with work experience placements and assistance with the job search process. For further information contact **Scott Jones** on 020 7785 6226 or email scott.jones@can-online.org.uk

Making your services more effective

Charities Evaluation Services (CES), funded by The Body Shop foundation is offering a free two-day training course on making your services more effective for refugee community organisations in London. It will take place on 17th and 18th October at CES in London. Refreshments and a hot meal will be provided on each day.

The course will cover:

- monitoring and evaluation
- setting aims and objectives
- demonstrating and improving your effectiveness

Places are limited with a maximum of two places from each RCO. For further information, contact: **Talitha Bassett** on 020 7713 5722 or email training@ces-vol.org.uk.

New publication

Save the Children have published the second edition of their Young refugees rights and entitlements guide. It is a well-researched compendium of information and advice for people working with young refugees and asylum seekers. Electronic copies can be downloaded at www.savethechildren.org.uk/scuk_cache/scuk/cache/cmsattach/3173_rightsandentitlements.pdf or hard copies can be requested free of charge from **Chris Macarthur** 020 8741 4054 x 112 or email c.macarthur@savethechildren.org.uk.

New courses at London Metropolitan University

Assessment of Prior Experiential Learning Programme (APEL)

A four-month programme that aims to fast track refugee professionals into employment and higher education, focusing on cultural re-orientation and personal development. Course dates: 5th September to 14th December; 20th February to 15th June 2005. For more information visit [www.londonmet.ac.uk/ragu/\\$cpd.cfm](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/ragu/$cpd.cfm) or call 020 7133 2110.

Routes into employment in school for refugees

A six-month programme for refugees with permission to work who are interested in working with refugee children and families in schools. Course dates: 23rd January to 13th July 2005. For more information visit [www.londonmet.ac.uk/ragu/\\$coeducators-in-schools-programme.cfm](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/ragu/$coeducators-in-schools-programme.cfm) or call 020 7133 2110.

UK police online hate crime reporting facility

True Vision www.report-it.org.uk is a police-funded web site designed to provide information about hate crime. 23 different police forces have joined together to provide self-reporting and information packs together with an online facility that allows people to report hate crime directly to the police. For more information, visit the above website.

Meet the team! Alicia Zavala – Team Manager

I am delighted to be back at the Refugee Council. It is a privilege to manage the Community Development Team (CDT) and its work in supporting refugee community organisations.

CDT was set up in 1989 during which time I was the manager. Since then, many talented and creative staff in the Refugee Council and colleagues from refugee communities have contributed significantly to the development of RCOs. This is my third time back at CDT and Refugee Council; I left in 1991, returned in 1996 and have just come back after almost two years away. I look forward to us learning and working together.

