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## News for refugee community organisations (RCOs)

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Dear Tom

Welcome to *RCO Connect* which provides RCOs with up to date information on funding, training and resources to support the work they do. We want this e-newsletter to be as useful as possible to your organisations, so please email us at [basis@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:basis@refugeecouncil.org.uk) with any comments or content you would like us to include about your work or any learning that you want to share with other readers.

## News

### Afghan asylum-seekers fear return home

Young Afghans comprise the majority of unaccompanied asylum seekers arriving in the UK. The British government, along with other European governments, is said to be considering building a centre in Kabul to send back the many 16-and 17-year-old asylum seekers throughout Europe. With 2011 having the highest rate of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, this risk of deportation is proving increasingly fearful for many young Afghans afraid of the deteriorating security situation in their homeland.

Read Al Jazeera's Nadim Baba [report here](#)

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### Survey on the impact of policy changes and cuts on services for asylum seekers and refugees

Employability Forum is running a survey for all organisations who support asylum seekers and refugees. The aim is to identify what the gaps are in support services for refugees and asylum seekers. The data will be used to shape the recommendations the Refugee Integration Working Group (co-chaired by EF) will submit to Ministers. The individual detail you provide is anonymous and will not be sent to UKBA.

It should take about 20 minutes to complete. To access the survey, please [click here](#). If you have any questions please contact Tom Shakhli via [t.shakhli@employabilityforum.co.uk](mailto:t.shakhli@employabilityforum.co.uk) or 020 7250 8332.

The survey closes on Friday 21 October 2011.

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### **Select Committee report on localism and Government response**

On 9 June 2011, the parliamentary Select Committee on Communities and Local Government published its report on localism, including measures in the Localism Bill. The report states:

- The Government has not produced a compelling vision of what its imagined localist future will look like and the functions and responsibilities of the players within it. Greater clarity and certainty is needed.
- Localism should not be adopted purely as a way to achieve reductions in public sector costs, for it is unclear whether it will be able to deliver this in the short term.
- There is not universal support for the idea that central government should retreat entirely from local affairs, allowing accountability to local people to replace performance monitoring from the centre. In particular, organisations representing vulnerable, marginalised or minority groups argue that these sections of the community need protection that cannot be provided by the current mechanisms of local democratic accountability.

[Click here](#) for link to report

On 23 September, the Government published its formal response to the recommendations and conclusions set out in the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee report on localism.

[Click here](#) for link to Government response

## **Training and resources**

### **A guide to schooling in England for BME and newly arrived migrant parents**

The following documents are available on Action for Social Integration's website. [Click on Documents](#) where you will find:

A Guide to Schooling in England for BME and newly arrived migrant parents

Executive summary: Newly arrived migrant and refugee children in the British Educational system

Research report: Newly arrived migrant and refugee children in the British educational system

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### **Protecting children from domestic violence: children and the law**

26 October 2011, one day course, women only

This one day course will enable you to support survivors of domestic violence by helping you to understand and clarify the complex public and private law that relates to children.

The morning session will investigate the key concept of parental responsibility and then focus on local authority involvement with children in domestic violence cases, explaining care and supervision proceedings, adoption and special guardianship. In the afternoon they will focus on the law on contact and residence, with a focus on the court's approach to domestic violence and child contact. They will then examine the practice and procedure of contact proceedings and clarify the new enforcement procedures brought about by the Children and Adoption Act 2006.

For more info contact the training officer: 020 7251 6575 [training@row.org.uk](mailto:training@row.org.uk)

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### **Free capacity building training for NGOs**

17 November 2011, 10am-4.30pm - Central London

Runnymede is pleased to offer UK NGOs and grassroots organisations working in the equalities sector the opportunity to attend one of two free awareness raising seminars focusing on advocacy, the media and monitoring. These free events, funded by the European Commission, aim to develop the capacity of civil society organisations in dealing with anti-discrimination.

The seminars will be practical in nature and participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and good practice, important in these days of funding cuts and dwindling resources. [Please apply now](#) for your place.

### **Fundraising opportunities**

#### **Silver Dreams Fund - vulnerable older people**

The Silver Dreams Fund is the first of the Big Lottery Fund's dedicated investments in older people in England, and is being delivered in association with the Daily Mail. The Silver Dreams Fund challenge is to propose a great idea for a project that will pioneer ways to help vulnerable older people deal more effectively with life-changing events.

If you have an idea for a project, you should submit an expression of interest by midday 28 October 2011.

Application deadline: 28 October 2011

[Click here](#) for more information

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#### **Community Radio Fund**

The Office of Communications (Ofcom) has announced that the next round for funding applications for the Community Radio Fund will open on the 19 October 2011. The Community Radio Fund has been established to help fund the core costs of running a community radio station. These not-for-profit radio stations have a social purpose, and work to involve their target community in running the service. Under the fund, Community Radio Stations are being invited to apply for funding to support their core running costs.

There is no upper limit of grant that can be applied for. Grants can only be made to community radio licensees ("Licensee") which are broadcasting under a community radio licence (and not an RSL, for example). Grants awarded usually range from £5,000 to £17,000.

Application deadline: 5pm on 16 November 2011.

[Click here](#) for more information

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#### **Community First Programme now open!**

Managed by the Community Development Foundation, Community First is an £80m government-funded programme that will run for four years, until March 2015. It will help communities come together through new and existing community groups, to identify their strengths and local priorities, plan for their future and become more resilient.

There are two parts to Community First:

- £30m will be available as small grants in the most deprived parts of the country.
- Up to £50m will be used to match local and national contributions from other sources to provide a national endowment providing longer term sustainable funding for communities.

[Click here](#) for more information

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### **South West Community Grant Fund to be announced soon**

This fund is for groups working in the south west of England to deliver activities that support those furthest removed from the labour market to move towards employment, education, and volunteering. The fund is specifically targeted at small community groups. Grants up to £12,000 will be available although it is envisaged that most grants will be in the region of £6,000 to £8,000.

[Click here](#) for more information

## **Events**

### **Launch event: Social Return on Investment Report**

21 October, 1-3pm Portcullis House, London

This Women's Resource Centre event will:

- Highlight key findings from WRC's social return on investment research, including quantifying the social value that women's organisations generate for every pound invested.
- Highlight the economic and social impacts of women's organisations across a wide variety of areas
- Feature speeches from leading funders, politicians and policy professionals including the new economics foundation (nef).
- Provide the possibility for politicians and funders to meet with service users and discuss the impact of women's services on their lives.

To reserve a place email: [Natalie@wrc.org.uk](mailto:Natalie@wrc.org.uk)

[Click here](#) for more information

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### **Platforma – arts + refugee network**

29 November 2011 - London

Booking is now open for the first Platforma Festival, taking place in London from 29 November 2011. Bringing together performers, artists and organisations from across the UK, the Festival will be a celebration of the arts by and about refugees and a chance to discuss different aspects of artistic practice. Free places available.

[Click here](#) for full details

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### **Invitation to National Conference for RCOs - save the date!**

National Conference, Basis Project, 29 November 2011  
Macdonald Burlington Hotel, 126 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4JQ

You are invited to join colleagues from around England for the Basis Project's final National Conference. Collaboration, peer support, and "what next" for refugee communities, funders and infrastructure support will be

among a range of themes up for discussion, as well as time to network. Register your interest now - send you name and email to Carole Barker at [carol.barker@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:carol.barker@refugeecouncil.org.uk). Save the date in your diary - 29 November 2011.

## Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

### ILPA - Information Officer - London

Up to £33,000 per annum (pro rata, four days per week) depending on skills and experience

Immigration Legal Practitioner' Association is delighted to have been awarded a further grant by Unbound Philanthropy, who funded our IT and website upgrade, to employ an information officer for two years, four days a week, to organise our considerable body of material, held in the Secretariat and off-site, into a form most useful for practitioners.

Application deadline:12 noon on 24 October 2011.

For more information [click here](#)

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### EOU volunteer development worker - London

£33,310 including ILW 3.5 hours (full time)

Evelyn Oldfield Unit are looking for an experienced person to develop and deliver "The Building the Big Society" – The BME/Migrant Volunteering Engagement Programme. Ideally you will have previously worked and managed volunteers and volunteering programmes and be used to managing sub – regionally based programmes. For more information and to apply [click here](#).

Closing date: 12 October 2011, 5pm

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