

If you're having problems viewing this message, please click [here](#).

[Want to unsubscribe or change your details?](#)



News for refugee community organisations (RCOs)

[News](#) [Training and Resources](#) [Fundraising](#) [Events](#) [Jobs](#)

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the first issue of RCO Connect for 2012!

We want this e-newsletter to be as useful as possible to your organisations, so please email us at 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

Councils' duties to charities

As reported in [ThirdSector magazine](#), three of the voluntary sector's main representative bodies (NCVO, Acevo and Navca) are to write to local authority chief executives to remind them of government rules that protect voluntary organisations from badly managed cuts.

They will highlight key passages of the Communities and Local Government department's Best Value Statutory Guidance, which was introduced in September 2011.

The guidance says voluntary organisations should receive at least three months' notice of funding cuts. This means any council that has not yet informed organisations of funding reductions in the financial year beginning in April is potentially in breach of the guidance.

Migrant and refugee woman of the year award

The [Migrant and Refugee Woman of the Year Award](#) aims to recognise and celebrate women who having migrated or fled persecution themselves, find time to provide essential support and inspiring leadership at grassroots level to other new Londoners attempting to start a new life in the city.

The winner will be presented with the award at a high profile ceremony in London in March 2012. Her community or organisation will receive a £1,000 donation to spend on community work as she sees fit and she will also be offered mentoring support.

Deadline for nominations: 6 February 2012

Nominations for UK Honours 2012

UK Honours are given to people from all walks of life and all sections of society who have made a difference to their community. This year the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) would like to generate a significant number of nominations for people who have made a difference at a community level.

For more information [click here](#).

Deadline for nominations: 31 January 2012

Training and resources

Free Charity Law Seminar : Understanding Your Memorandum and Articles of Association

31 January 2012 @ 7 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BS
4.45pm-6pm

Organised by Russell Cooke Solicitors, this is an essential session for all trustees of charitable companies, company secretaries and anyone else involved in the administration of a charitable company. It will provide you with a core understanding of your governing document. They will decode your memorandum and articles of association and explain the significance of key provisions.

Speaker: Sukanya Ransford - Solicitor, Russell-Cooke LLP
Contact events@russell-cooke.co.uk or call the events team on 020 8394 6368 to book a place.

Free two-day course for refugee community organisations - London

1 & 2 February 2012
1 & 2 October 2012

Charities Evaluation Services (CES) is offering a free two-day course for RCOs on: making your services more effective. This course is essential for RCOs because it will help them to:

- Review their service provision
- plan more strategically
- improve their funding applications
- demonstrate effectiveness

Refreshments and meals provided on each day. To reserve a place on one of the training courses, please call CES on 020 7713 5722 or email training@ces-vol.org.uk

Institute of Fundraising training: £20 per session

Various dates from February – March 2012 - London
9:30am-4:30pm

The Institute of Fundraising and the Office for Civil Society are offering a series of face to face training sessions for £20 per session. These fundraising courses are accessible to small charities with a voluntary annual income of £1million or less. The training courses will offer practical insight, tips, techniques and be led by practitioners with extensive experience of working with small charities. [Click here](#) for more information.

Free training for community and voluntary groups on the Localism Bill

6 March 2012

Hyde Housing, Park Street, London Bridge

The Localism Bill has now been approved by. Hyde Housing are organising a free day's training with the NCVO to help groups to think about the opportunities for their organisations. Places are limited so express your interest as soon as you can to Tom Gardiner at Hyde on 020 8297 7576.

New Health Outreach Project

Refugee Council has a new Health Outreach project. They aim to reach asylum seekers and refugees living in the community and assist them to navigate the healthcare system. They are planning to run this service from interested refugee community organisations (RCOs).

The worker will undertake comprehensive assessments of clients' physical and psychological well-being, providing information and referrals as appropriate.

Any RCOs wanting more information or interested in this service should contact Christine Hyde Page at christinehyde.page@refugeecouncil.org.uk.

Basis East of England seminar

On 21 October 2011 The Basis Project in East of England organised The Suffolk Seminar for refugee community organisations (RCOs). The theme of the seminar was 'Trends in funding opportunities and the importance of partnerships for the success of community organisations'.

Hosted at Ipswich Town Hall, this successful event attracted all main Suffolk County's RCOs and other sub-regional community organisations coming from South End-on-Sea, Harlow Town, Norwich and Luton. To learn more [click here](#).

Fundraising opportunities

Tesco Charity Trust (UK)

The Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards Scheme provides one-off donations of between £500 and £4,000 to local projects that support children and their education and welfare, elderly people and adults and children with disabilities.

There are four rounds of funding each year. Please [click here](#) to find out more about their criteria and application deadlines.

Land Aid - The Training, Education and Support Fund - UK

This fund targets disadvantaged young people (16-25 year olds), this can include NEETS, homeless or those from a low income background. Projects should engage young people and lead to recognised qualifications. They do not fund: programmes that solely deliver ESOL qualifications. Range of funding: £5,000 - £25,000

Deadline: 5pm, 31 January 2012

Land Aid - Capital Projects Fund - UK

This fund targets: Refurbishment, conversion, extension or new build of facilities for disadvantaged young (16-25 year olds) people. They especially look for projects that have an education or learning element. This can include hostel/foyers, community or youth centres and accommodation.

They do not fund: Salaries and other general revenue costs (except where they are specific to the project) or projects where the work has already taken place. They do not make grants to individuals. Range of funding

£5,000 - £25,000.

If you have any questions regarding these two funds email grants@landaid.org or [click here](#).

Deadline: 5pm, 31 January 2012

Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust (UK)

[The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust](#), which awards grants to charitable organisations in the United Kingdom and overseas, is seeking to fund projects that work with:

- The Homeless
- Addiction
- Asylum and Refugees
- Tackle Sexual and Domestic Abuse
- Support Prisoners and ex-Offenders
- Medical projects.

Grants are usually between £1,000 and £3,000. Exceptionally, grants of up to £10,000 are made, but these are usually for medical research projects.

There are two closing dates for applications in 2012: 1 June and 1 November 2012.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Open Grants scheme supports innovative proposals along three themes: tackling school exclusion and truancy, developing speaking and listening skills and supplementary education.

For further information [click here](#).

Events

Workshop for Healthcare Professionals

20 January 2012, 3pm to 4.30pm
Migrant Resource Centre, 24 Churton Street, London SW1V 2LP

As part of their Improving Life Opportunities Project, Migrant Resource Centre will be holding a workshop on Working in the UK as a Medical Doctor: Refugee Healthcare Professionals Programme.

The session will be facilitated by Fahira Mulamehic from the Refugee Council.
For more information contact Fahira: 020 7346 6773 or Fahira.Mulamehic@refugeecouncil.org.uk

A New Big Society and equality conference

Tuesday 30 January 2012
Human Rights Action Centre, Amnesty International UK
17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Women's Resource Centre (WRC) and Voice4Change England have been commissioned by the Office for Civil Society to provide advice to Government on: the challenges that inequalities present to the Big Society agenda and how to address them; and the opportunities for tackling inequalities that the Big Society agenda offers.

As part of the project, WRC are hosting an event that aims to bring together equalities organisations, to inform them about Big Society programmes and policies, and to give organisations the chance to express their views

about the Big Society and equalities issues.

This event will be a great opportunity for voluntary and community organisations to feed back their views and ideas on the Big Society and to find out more about what it will mean for their organisation's work.

To book a place contact Natalie at natalie@wrc.org.uk or on 020 7324 3030.

Community Matters Consultancy Roadshow - Leeds

If you work with, or are developing work with children, young people and families, Community Matter's free Consultancy Roadshow can offer you a day of free in-house support. Whether you have hit a stumbling-block, need a critical eye cast over your organisational strategies, or have a specific project you would like to develop they can help. Find out more/book by [clicking here](#).

Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

Father's Development Worker - London

Salary: £25,000 - £29,000
Full time and permanent

Working with Men are looking for a highly skilled, motivated and experienced worker to develop and deliver a range of services for fathers and their children across two Children's Centres in Southwark. This is an innovative partnership between Dulwich Wood, The Grove and Working With Men.

For more [information](#) email info@workingwithmen.org or call 0207 237 5353 to request an application pack.

Closing date: 30 January 2012, 5pm

Volunteer opportunities for young refugees and asylum seekers

Are you 16-19 years old, not involved in any education, training or employment? Are you a refugee or an asylum seeker? The Refugee Council needs 5 young people to be part of the V24/24 Project as Volunteers. As a volunteer you will:

- Work alongside other young people
- Create a social action project of your choice
- Go to college one day a week to gain a qualification up to level two
- You will be supported with employment advice and with creating plans for your future
- Gain work experience working at the Refugee Council in a team that interests you

Travel and food will be covered by expenses (up to £40 a week). Project starts 23 January 2012. Applicants will be invited to an open day mid January.

For more details contact: Christina.day@refugeecouncil.org.uk or call 020 73461151

[Unsubscribe](#) [Forward to a friend](#)

basis@refugeecouncil.org.uk



