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News for refugee community organisations (RCOs)

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

Dear Colleague,

This is the last issue of RCO Connect for 2011, the next one will be sent out on 12 January 2012. Until then Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from everyone at the Basis Project.

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

The Brighter Futures Award

The Brighter Futures Award is for a social worker or key worker who shows excellence in helping young refugees and asylum seekers to achieve a brighter future.

[Brighter Futures](#) understands the challenges social workers and key workers face and wants to celebrate the work of exceptional social workers and key workers.

If you think your Social or Key worker has these qualities, you can nominate them for the 'Brighter Futures Award' by applying [online](#)

Closing date for nominations: 24 February 2012

New report about educational conditions of Roma children

The Roma Education Fund has published a new report looking at the conditions of education for Roma children in the UK. The full report can be found [here](#):

Young People Seeking Safety Week 2012

Building on the success of the 2011 Young People Seeking Safety Week, YPSS will be taking place from 30 March to 5 April 2012. Young People Seeking Safety is a network of individuals and organisations who have joined together to promote the rights and safety of unaccompanied young people seeking asylum in the UK.

For more information [click here](#).

Training and resources

Free CSEL Training: Using Evidence to Support Traumatized Women Seeking Asylum

February 2012, London

[Centre for the Study of Emotion and Law](#) (CSEL) trains RCOs, caseworkers, volunteers, counsellors and lawyers to understand how trauma affects memory and makes it difficult to claim asylum, and how to understand psychological evidence use it to help women seeking asylum.

To reserve a place on this training, email c.cochrane@csel.org.uk, or call 020 7920 6489

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

Small Charities Coalition present IBM led project management workshops for £10

The IBM skills workshops are targeted at staff, committee members or volunteers from small to medium sized charities. The content of each of the one day workshops is based on quality resources that have been thoroughly tried and tested with charities.

To find out more [click here](#).

Fundraising opportunities

BBC Children in Need (UK)

[The BBC Children in Need](#) provides grants for up to three years to properly constituted not for profit organisations working with disadvantaged young people aged 18 or under. Within the BBC Children in Need grants programme, organisations can apply for Small Grants of £10,000 or less per year for up to three years and for Main Grants of over £10,000 per year for up to three years.

Funding is available to organisations (including schools) that work with young people who are suffering from illness, distress, abuse or neglect, are disabled, have behavioural or psychological difficulties and / or are living in poverty or situations of deprivation.

Closing date for applications: 15 January 2012

The Dickie Bird Foundation

The Foundation offers grants to disadvantaged children under 18 to participate in the sport of their choice to improve their chances both inside and outside sport.

The Foundation's grants help with the cost of clothing and equipment for children to take part or continue in their chosen sport. It also makes a small contribution towards travel expenses within the UK.

For more information about terms, conditions, and funding deadlines [click here](#).

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

Official launch event for 'Seeking Sanctuary'

12 January 2012, 6pm - 9pm
New Horizon Youth Centre, 68 Chalton St, London, NW11JR

'Seeking Sanctuary' is a character-based board game that explores what it is like living day-to-day through the UK's asylum process. This 'serious' game has been developed for use in education and training, advising, advocacy and awareness-raising work for a range of organisations and communities.

All are invited to attend the launch of 'Seeking Sanctuary'. It is a free event. If you would like to attend please email: jana@getgameeducation.org

The Basis Project National Conference Refugee Community Organisations: Looking to the Future

Tuesday 24 January 2012, 11am – 4:30pm
Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4JQ

Join the debate about the future of RCOs at the Basis National Conference. Hear from inspirational speakers and attend workshops on social enterprise, collaboration, community involvement, working with the media and more. Speakers and workshop leaders include: Donna Covey - Refugee Council Chief Executive, Elizabeth Balgobin – Chair of Voice4Change England, and more.

Book your place [here](#)

This event is free and travel expenses will be covered for RCOs.

A New Big Society and equality conference

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.

Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

Trustee- European Campaign for Human rights in Afghanistan

The Board can decide how people are appointed as Trustees and at the moment we ask the EU, local

organisations, local authorities, local universities and Human Rights organisations to nominate the partner members. For ECHRA board members, appointments are made through a process of application and interview.

Closing date for applications: 15 January 2012

For more information click [here](#)

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