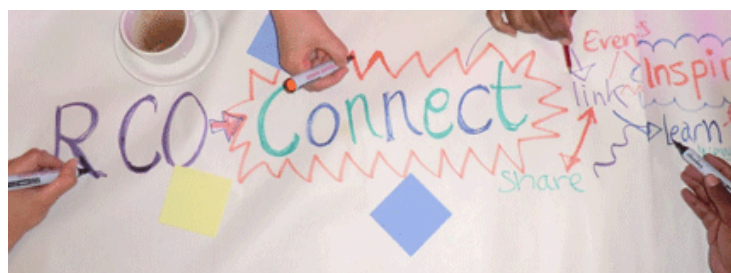


Tom Green

From: Penny McLean [rconews@noreply.refugeecouncil.org.uk]
Sent: 09 December 2011 10:56
To: Tom Green
Subject: RCO Connect - funding news and information for RCOs

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**News for refugee community organisations (RCOs)**

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

Dear Colleague,

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

The Basis National Conference for RCOs: join for great speakers and workshops!

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 inspiration attend workshops on social enterprise, collaboration, community involvement, working with the m Speakers and workshop leaders include: Donna Covey - Refugee Council Chief Executive, Elizat Chair of Voice4Change England, and more.

Book your place [here](#)

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

News**Bringing Empty Homes back into use**

The Coalition Government has published its Housing Strategy, of which an important part is its strategy tackling empty properties. The strategy, as part of the Government's wider approach to housing, outlines a number of tools, approaches and potential resources for tackling empty properties, including £100 million within the 2011-15 Affordable Homes Programme (AHP).

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has opened up bidding for their part of the Empty Homes Programme which registered housing associations are eligible to receive.

To read more click [here](#)

Legality of plans to deport asylum-seeking Afghan children questioned

The government is considering renewed plans to start repatriating 16- and 17-year-old Afghan children whose asylum applications have been refused.

The Home Office is working with a project called the European Return Platform for Unaccompanied Minors (ERPUM), which "aims to find new methods for the return of unaccompanied minors who need to return home after receiving a final rejection of their asylum application."

Read more [here](#)

Videos showcase TARA's achievements

Two new videos showcase the amazing work of Tameside African Refugee Association. The first gives an overview from founder Jules Mambo about what motivated him to set up the organisation, and a wealth of experience and tips for other RCOs. The second gives a more detailed look at their homework club project and the impact it is having on young people.

Watch the videos [here](#)

Training and resources

An extraordinary journey by a young Afghan boy

Michael Morpurgo's story, *Shadow*, tells how Aman, a young boy, flees from the horror of war in Afghanistan and travels to England, in search of a new home.

Find out more [here](#)

Free "Developing a Fundraising Strategy" seminar - Birmingham

Tuesday, 13 December from 6pm – 8.30pm
Ladywood Arts and Leisure Centre, Monument Road, Birmingham, B16 8TR

This is a free session for refugee community organisations to be delivered by Tippa Naphtali of the Chamberlain Forum who has many years of experience working in the Voluntary and Community Sector.

This session will help your organisation:

1. Produce a written fundraising document.
2. Help you understand the various income generating and fundraising options available to your organisation.
3. Help you identify the best approach for your organisation.

Any one interested in attending please contact david.hirst@refugeecouncil.org.uk

Places are limited to a maximum of two people per organisation.

Get Started with Media

The Prince's Trust will be running a one week programme in January for young people who are passionate about Media and not currently in employment, education or training. This course is only available to 16 – 25 year olds who live in one of the Greater London Boroughs.

Dates:

Taster Days – 10 and 12 January 2012

Main Programme – 16 to 20 January 2012

Contact Mo Fatah on 020 7543 1457 or text 'MEDIA' to 07983 244 040

Fundraising opportunities

Comic Relief Local Communities Programme

The programme aims to empower local people, enabling them to create lasting change in their communities. Projects should be run by local people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with and priority will be given to small, locally based groups and organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community.

Closing date: 9 December 2011 by 5pm

[Guidelines](#)

[Application](#)

Communities Living Sustainably Funding

Your community could be one of 10 to receive up to £1million to work across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors to build a sustainable and resilient community that can develop inspirational ideas and share their learning with other communities across England. The Big Lottery Fund are particularly keen to see vulnerable people benefiting by making greener choices.

Please visit the [website](#) contact the Big Lottery Fund Advice Line on 0845 410 2030.

Closing date: Tuesday, 31 January 2012

Applications for 2012 Rayne Fellowships for refugees are now open

The Rayne Fellowships is a programme that supports individual refugees to develop a 'Big Idea' – an initiative that will positively impact their community. It is a fantastic opportunity for refugees aged 18 or over living in the UK with a Big Idea that, with the right help and support could grow and reach it's full potential.

Please visit the [website](#) for more information.

E-mail: fellows@praxis.org.uk

Tel: 020 7749 7520

Deadline for applications: 9 March 2012 at 5pm

Events

Black Women on the Agenda: Connecting Black and Minority Ethnic women to policy makers

Tuesday, 17 January 2012, 10am-4pm
Britannia Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester, M1 3LA

Oxfam is bringing together Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women's groups, third sector agencies and policy makers to discuss issues that have a major impact on BME women's lives and make key recommendations for action.

Please book by Friday, 9 December 2011

Katie Lau at routestosolidarity@oxfam.org.uk or on 0161 860 2811

Spaces are limited. This is a free event.

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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 Approach to Mental Health: Improving Outcomes for All

22 March 2012, 8:30am - 4pm

Manchester Conference Centre, Weston Building, Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3BB

Our expert speakers will explore the government's vision and discuss how the mental health strategy can be implemented to best ensure outcomes are successful. Delegates will have the chance to challenge, discuss and debate the key issues and gain relevant insight applicable to their professional roles.

Early bird rates available until 13 December 2011

Book [Online](#)

Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

Practice Manager- Islington Law Centre

The post holder will work very closely with the Centre Director as part of the senior management team, and will support a professional and experienced staff group.

Full time – 35 hours per week or part time over 28 hours a week.

Pay: £42,260 pa (or pro rata).

Application packs are available from katiec@islingtonlaw.org.uk or Recruitment, Islington Law Centre, 161 Hornsey Road, London, N7 6DU.

Closing date for applications: 10am on Tuesday, 13 December 2011

Office Manager/Director- The Iraqi Welfare Association

The Iraqi Welfare Association (IWA) is going through major changes and we are searching to recruit an outstanding person to manage/direct the business and resources of the organisation.

The job can be offered on a full-time or part-time basis. Salary is negotiable and will range from 25,000 to 30,000 (full-time) based on knowledge and experience.

To apply, please forward your CV with covering letter to mail@iraqiwelfare.org or 2nd Floor, 220 Edgware Road, London W2 1DH.

Closing Date: 14 December 2011

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 practise 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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basis@refugeecouncil.org.uk

