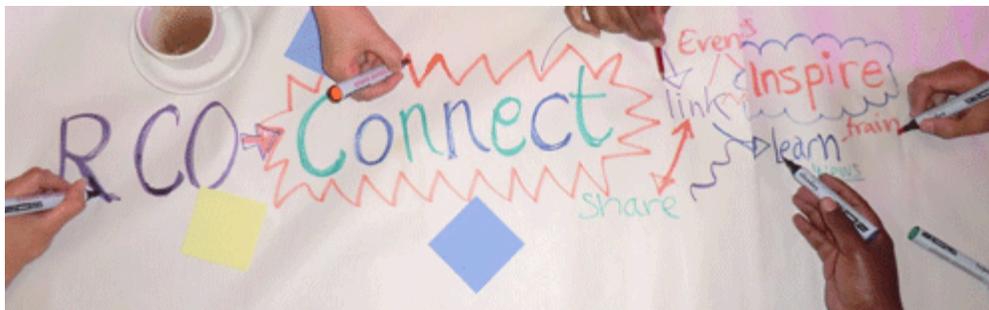


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News for refugee community organisations (RCOs)

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Dear Colleague,

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

New UK government Integration Strategy

Last week, the government announced its much awaited Integration Strategy: [Creating the Conditions for Integration](#). The strategy has been reported in a variety of media which gives a comprehensive overview of some of its key points; [you can read the recent Guardian article](#) which gives a comprehensive overview of some of its key points.

Linked to this, RAMFEL will be holding a special briefing/training session for interested parties to enable all stakeholders to develop some critical thinking about the Strategy, and its implications for communities locally, on Monday 12 March 2012, 10am-12noon at the Cardinal Heenan Centre, 326 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1QP

Free for community and voluntary organisations with a base in Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. £10.00 charge for all others.

For more information email training@ramfel.org.uk or ring 020 8478 4513

Join NCVO for free!

Free legal advice and free VAT and Human Resources helplines are part of the advantages of being a member of NCVO. As well, you receive discounted training, news, and representation direct to government. Membership is free to organisations under £10,000, and £99 for organisations under £100,000.

Contact Andrew.walkey@ncvo-vol.org.uk or call 020 7520 2414 for more information.

Next steps:

Read about all the [benefits](#) in full here and then [find the right membership category](#) for you.

If you would like to join just follow their online application form [online application form](#) which will take you less than 10 minutes to complete.

Call for stories of refugee contributions to the Olympics

The Refugee Week team are looking for refugees who will be contributing to making this year's Olympics in London a success. Their stories will form the backbone of this year's media and promotional campaign for Refugee Week. Please contact Taku on 020 7346 1215 or send an email to info@refugeeweek.org.uk if you have an Olympic story.

Survey to improve tax and benefits advice

The Migrants Resource Centre in conjunction with the Low Income Tax Reform Group is carrying out [a survey](#) for all migrants in the UK in order to improve advice and services regarding tax rights and responsibilities. The survey is available online, is completely anonymous, and covers questions relating to current knowledge of tax and benefits, where further information is needed as well as questions around IT skills. The results will help them to deliver better tax advice and will potentially lead to the development of a phone application aimed at migrants.

Survey closes mid-March 2012.

Charities Act 2011

The Charities Act 2011 comes into effect on 14 March 2012. It is the Act of Parliament which sets out how all charities in England and Wales are registered and regulated. It replaces:

- most of the Charities Acts 1992, 1993 and 2006
- all of the Recreational Charities Act 1958
- It doesn't replace the sections in the Charities Acts about fundraising which haven't taken effect yet, eg charitable collections in public places.

The 2011 Act is intended to make the law easier to understand by replacing four Acts of Parliament with one. It doesn't make any changes to the law.

Your charity doesn't have to do anything differently except refer to the Charities Act 2011 in documents, reports, accounts or statements produced on or after 14 March 2012 (even if they relate to an earlier financial period).

However, your documents will still be valid even if you accidentally refer to earlier Acts. You don't have to go back and change any documents you have already finalised before 14 March 2012. [Click here](#) to find out more.

Training and resources

How can online fundraising help your organisation?

Tuesday 6 March 2012, 10am-3pm

Light Project International, 1st Floor, Orkney House, 195-199 Caledonian Road, London N1 0AF

This free one day training will provide participants with the skills and knowledge required to effectively attract new audiences and donors online.

Aims:

- Maximise the fundraising potential of your website
- Practical advice and tips on attracting and keeping donors
- A short review of your current website and its effectiveness
- Making fundraising online as cost effective as possible
- Integrating online and offline fundraising

There are only a few places remaining. To book your place email Ezechias Ngendahayo at ezechias.ngendahayo@refugeecouncil.org.uk or call 020 7346 1163

Improving your monitoring and evaluation systems (plus free practical toolkit)

Wednesday 14 March 2012, 10am-1pm

Evelyn Oldfield Unit's office, the Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London, N76PA

More and more funders want to see evidence of the effect that organisations are having on their users and communities, now and in the long-term. This workshop will encourage you to go beyond the standard tools of evaluation to improve how you capture what effect your organisation is having. Each of the attendees will be given a copy of the Unit's brand new evaluation toolkit, a practical guide full of useful resources for you to adapt to your group's needs.

To book please contact: Sarah at sarah@evelynoldfield.co.uk or call 020 7697 4102

Statistics on migration: How can MRCOs make use of them?

Thursday 15 March 2012, 2pm-5pm

Committee Room 2, City Hall, London, SE1 2AA

The Migrants' Rights Network and the Greater London Authority are organising a training session to help migrant and refugee community organisations make better use of statistics about migrants to support their work. Statistical data can be of great use to those working in this field and can bring tangible benefits to support and advocacy organisations. This session is designed to:

1. review the main sources of statistical data and how to access them
2. review their potential (and shortcomings) to convey information on different topics
3. provide information about organisations that analyse and publish these statistics in condensed form
4. discuss ideas on how this data can be used by MRCOs in their work
5. explore ways in which data held by MRCOs can improve understanding of migrant and refugee communities

The session will be led by Baljit Bains, Demography and Policy Analysis Manager at GLA Intelligence Unit.

Places are limited. To book a place email Amna.Mahmoud@london.gov.uk with your name, organisation and telephone number.

Intercultural Psychodynamic Approaches training course

The Refugee Therapy Centre is running a Foundation Course in Intercultural Psychodynamic Approaches specialising in Working with Refugees. This Course offers an opportunity to use your own experiences to help others. They are looking for both refugees and asylum-seekers from diverse backgrounds as well as those who are working with refugees and asylum seekers to share their experiences and learn from each other.

Candidates who successfully complete this one year introductory course may be accepted onto the PGDip in Intercultural Psychodynamic Counselling / MA in Intercultural Psychoanalytic at the Refugee Therapy Centre in collaboration with the University of East London. For further information please [click here](#)

Alternatively call 020 7561 1587 or email training@refugeetherapy.org.uk

Becoming a better employer

If your organisation needs practical information and resources to become a better employer [click here](#) to look at the Human Resources and employment practice resources available.

New advice line for undocumented migrants in London

Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) is delighted to announce the opening of a new advice line for undocumented migrants in London. The advice line launched on Monday 27 February 2012 and will be available for use between 10am and 1pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Fundraising opportunities

Sport Relief Community Cash - Birmingham

Grants of between £500 - £1000 are available to constituted organisations with an income of less than £100,000 in the last financial year.

Priority will be given to projects in the following thematic areas, although any eligible project which aims to relieve disadvantage will be considered:

- Building and improving access to employment
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Promoting Community Cohesion
- Supporting Vulnerable Young People

Examples of activities they may fund: Equipment and materials for youth groups and older people's groups; Community Festivals; Sports tournaments; Lunch Clubs; Running costs for self help groups; Hire of sports facilities; Committee and Volunteer/staff training

Deadline for applications: 4pm 9 March 2012. Groups who are already in receipt of any Comic relief funding cannot apply.

[Click here](#) for more information.

BBC Children In Need - UK

Their grants are open to organisations working with disadvantaged children and young people who are 18 years old and under. Your organisation and project must be based in the UK and you need to be a registered charity or other not-for-profit organisation.

Within their general grants programme, you can apply for:

Small Grants of £10,000 or less per year for up to three years
Main Grants over £10,000 per year for up to three years

There are four general grant deadlines each year: 15 January, 15 April, 15 July, 15 October.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Rayne Fellowships for refugees in the UK

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 its full potential.

[Click here](#) for more information.

E-mail: fellows@praxis.org.uk

Tel: 020 7749 7520

Deadline for applications: 9 March 2012 at 5pm

Local Communities Grants (Comic Relief, through The London Community Foundation)

Funding available: £1000-£10k

The programme aims to empower local people, enabling them to create lasting change in their communities. Projects should be run by 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.

Types of activities that might be funded

- Project providing access to benefits advice
- Community consultation exercises
- Community employment projects
- Running costs; including salaries, core costs and project costs
- Committee and volunteer/staff training
- Community sports activities

For more information [click here](#). Eligibility: Not for profit organisations only. Organisations which hold a grant directly from Comic Relief can not apply for a Local Communities grant. A Local Communities grant must be at least 50% of the total cost of the project.

Email Cat Dix, Programme Manager at applications@londoncf.org.uk or call 020 7582 5117

Deadline for applications: 5pm Friday 9 March 2012

Strategic Legal Fund for Refugee Children and Young People

Launched in October 2011, the SLF tests a new model for supporting legal work, and will run as a pilot until July 2012. The SLF will fund:

Pre litigation research to enable the development of a case
Intervention by third parties, such as NGOs, in court cases to ensure that key strategic points are made to widen the narrower focus on issues specific to the individual case

Applications must be made either by specialist legal advisers working in not for profit organisations, or by legal aid solicitors. They also welcome legal representatives working in partnership with voluntary and community organisations. Forms and more info [here](#)

Next deadline: 12 March 2012

For more information contact Frances Smith at fran.smith@migrationwork.org or call 020 7091 0539.

Events

Raising the Rooftops: Regional Refugee Women's Conference

7 March 2012, 9am-4pm

St Mary's Community Centre, Bramall Lane, Sheffield, S2 4QZ February 2012 - London

In the run up to International Women's Day this free one day conference promises to be inspiring, informative, enjoyable and engaging. The conference will discuss topical issues affecting women across the region, with participation from various refugee community and cross sector organisations. Organised by the Northern Refugee Centre in partnership with refugee women and several organisations across the region, this event will discuss issues such as forced marriage, honour based violence, sexual health and the rights of refugee women.

For more information contact Jennie Vine at Jeni.Vine@nrcentre.org.uk or call 0114 2412780

Woman of the Year event - London

8 March 2012

The Migrant & Refugee Woman of the Year Award 2012 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.

Refugee for Refugee Women will be celebrating International Women's Day at this first Migrant and Refugee Woman of the Year award at a reception in the Royal Festival Hall with Juliet Stevenson and Yasmin Alibhai-Brown.

The winner and nominees are all migrant or refugee women who have shown great courage and leadership at the grassroots in London. For more information about this inspiring initiative, please call 020 7250 1239 or email admin@refugeewomen.co.uk

Join Iraqi Women's League Britain to celebrate International Women's Day

Friday 9 March 2012, 6.30pm-10.30pm

The Polish Centre, 238-246 King Street, London W6 ORX (nearest tube, Ravenscourt Park)

£7 for adults, £2 Children (tickets will be sold on the door)

This year's International Women's Day will correspond with the sixtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi women's League (IWL). The ceremony will include, Iraqi singer Mohammed Al Bek and his band from the Netherlands.

Various events will be held and a retrospective look at the history of the IWL. These include, an art exhibition, charity market, fashion show as well as a surprise later in the evening. For more information please call 07867767815

Welcome to the UK - the future of refugee integration? All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees

Thursday 15 March 2012, 5pm

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House, Parliament, SW1A 2LW.

Come and join the debate on new challenges in refugee integration, this will be an open debate with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees

Chair: Julian Huppert, Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Cambridge. If you wish to attend please RSVP to RLI@sas.ac.uk

Supporting you to support equality for all refugees

15 March 2012, 9.30am-4pm

Key House, 106 High Street, Yiewsley, UB7 7BQ

Equalities law as it relates to refugee community organisations (RCOs) with a special focus on RCOs exploring issues in supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex refugees within the communities they serve.

Discussion groups will look at:

Difficulties and sensitivities in addressing equality and LBGTI issues withing RCOs

Funders' expectations and how they can help

Potential work that can be funded by the start up award of £50-£100

To book a place, contact Poornima on 01895 441 530 or email poornima@reap.org.uk

Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

ESOL Project Coordinator - London

Albany, Deptford and New Cross (London Borough of Lewisham)

Salary: £12 per hour, £4032 per year

Working hours: 7 hours per week; Contact time: Saturdays 12-3pm ; One day in the office (4 Hours)

Afhan and Central Asian Association (ACAA) is a small but successful charity working to support recent arrivals and to relieve poverty and isolation among refugees from Afghanistan and Central Asia. Their services include ESOL and citizenship classes, supplementary school and mother tongue training, advice services and social events. The aim of the ESOL Coordinator is to provide level 1 ESOL classes to refugees from Afghanistan, Central Asia and local residents with an efficient learning and networking programme. The programme consists of teaching Non-native English speaking students to become highly proficient in English while giving them accreditation ESOL level 1.

For more information about this post click [here](#), or to arrange a visit, please contact Dr. Nooralhaq Nasimi Director, ACCA, Unit A11 Hatcham Park Mews, New Cross SE14 5QA. Tel: 020 7277 6242, 020 7358 0222. Mob: 07414993450, nooralhaqnasimi@btinternet.com,

Closing date: 12 March 2012

Get people talking with Time to Change

Time to Change is looking for people with experience of mental health problems to talk to the public about mental health.

They're heading down to Riverside walkway at London's South Bank on Saturday 31 March for the Time to Change Village – a pop-up space where people can learn about mental health in a fun and interactive way. The Village has all the things you might expect to find in villages and towns across the world: a health centre, library, café, post office, cinema and a news agent. But there's a twist –each of these areas will provide a unique opportunity to get people talking.

By chatting to volunteers at the Time to Change Village, the public can find out more about what it's really like to live with a mental health problem. This helps to challenge the stereotypes which often lead to discrimination.

Volunteer places are available on a first come first served basis with a deadline to respond by Monday 19 March - find out more about how you can get involved on the [Time to Change website](#)

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basis@refugeecouncil.org.uk

