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RCO e-news 14 April 2011

keeping refugee community organisations informed

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Dear reader

Welcome to issue 6 of 2011. Please email the [Development team](#) with any suggestions for content or if you have links within it.

Special announcement

Now is the time to organise events for Refugee Week 20- 26 June

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK, and the role they play in their communities. The theme for this year is 60 Years of Contribution, marking the 60th anniversary of the Refugee Act 1951. To help you publicise your event [here](#).
Download a free toolkit [here](#).

News

New support levels for asylum seekers on Section 95 for 2011-12 from 18 April.

The increase in support payments is 3.1% and in line with the increase in payments to those on Income Support. Asylum seekers have to live on less than 70% of Income support. Section 4 rates are currently being decided. The new Section 95 rates will be announced on 18 April.

Rights of Women - legal advice lines changed from 1 April 2011

For information about the advice lines provided by the [Rights of Women](#), and the new opening times, click [here](#).

Sheila McKechnie Foundation Campaigner Awards 2011 – applications now open

The SMK Campaigner Awards 2011 are open for applications. It is free to apply, and all costs relating to participation are met by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation. Find out more about this year's nine award categories, and apply or nominate someone else.

Deadline for applications: 1pm Monday 20 June

The government needs to make sure that every refugee can learn English.



On 29 March, the Refugee Council and the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) hosted a Director of Advocacy at the Refugee Council, said 'This is a year to be proud of what the Convention has achieved in the struggle to integrate'. Read his speech [here](#).

Funding

Empty property programme

Are you frustrated by the lack of housing, but know that there are lots of empty properties?

The Homes & Community Agency (HCA) are inviting bids for the £100m Empty Property Programme, which their owners. At this stage just an expression of interest is needed, and it would be great for RCOs to show the government funding, click [here](#).

Deadline to register expression of interest: Tuesday 3 May 2011

Grants to support groups experiencing social and/or economic disadvantage

The Henry Smith Charity offers a range of grant programmes, and priority is given to work with groups experiencing social and/or economic disadvantage. If your annual income of your organisation is below £150,000 you may be eligible to apply for a Small Grant. For more information click [here](#).

Grants to support older people and survivors of domestic abuse

Charities offering support to address housing issues and homelessness among these vulnerable groups can apply for grants. For criteria and to apply please see [here](#).

Are you thinking about applying for funding to The Big Lottery Fund?

You may find this website helpful: ['Getting Funding and Planning Successful Projects: BIG's Guide to Outcomes'](#) fundamental concepts and principles that you will need to know about' if you are considering applying to the Big Lottery Fund.

Training and resources

Social networking opportunities for migrant community organisations – free workshop 15 April

10.00am - 3.30pm

Just IT training, 7 Sandys Row, London E1 7HW

This workshop on social networking for activism and collaboration on refugee issues is for migrant community organisations and activists.



Participants can learn about opportunities and models of online collaboration for action and information. The projects using these resources.

For more information about the workshop and speakers, and to register, read [here](#).

Financial administration - 5-day course 25 May, 1, 8, 15, 22 June

CASH Training Room, 1 Thorpe Close, Ladroke Grove London W10 5XL

A five-day course on how to write a budget, set up and maintain a simple bookkeeping system, administer pay, produce a finance report for a management committee that analyses expenditure against the budget. To achieve this, participants must attend all 6 modules (5 days of training).

For further information about this and other courses, and to book a place click [here](#).

The Discovery of the Talents

Click on [the Discovery of the Talents](#) to see a video about how this RCO in Birmingham working with the Basildon Cadbury Trust.

There are interviews with Justin Bankwa who set up the Discovery of the Talents, and his colleague Patrick B. Cadbury Trust, explains how she worked with the group and offers advice to other RCOs seeking funding. Dr. outlines his role in helping the Discovery of the Talents.

Community organisations: A guide to effectiveness

New Philanthropy Capital has published a guide "to help community organisations ensure they are as effective as possible". Click here to [register](#) and to download the guide.

Events

Are you a writer with a minority background?

If you belong to a minority group through ethnicity, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, join us on a minority writers' workshop with editors from the Guardian's G2, Sport, Culture, and Comment sections.

For information on how to apply and to see the pitching guidance read [here](#).

Deadline for applications: 5pm on Wednesday 20 April 2011

"Who's still missing? Refugees, migrants and equality" Equality and Diversity Forum conference
10.00am to 2.15pm with lunch



Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, 108 Stamford St, London SE1 9NH

This conference is the culmination of a project to identify the inequalities experienced by refugees and migrants. Measures in the Equality Act 2010 might be used to address them. There will be an opportunity to hear from how we can ensure that the equality framework supports all individuals – including refugees and migrants.

Please contact info@edf.org.uk to ask about travel bursaries for refugee and migrant community organisations.

Deadline for registration: Friday 29 April.

“Do We Look Like Refugees?” - special theatre ticket offer from Platforma, 19 - 29 May
Riverside Studios, London

The new Platforma arts and refugees network has a special offer for tickets to see “Do We Look Like Refugees?” by the Rustaveli Theatre in Georgia and the National Theatre Studio, is created from interviews with refugees from Georgia and Russia. For full details of the play and the special ticket offer go to the [Platforma website](#).

Vacancies

Organisational Development Officer, part time 14 hpw, 7 months fixed contract
Haringey Somali Community & Cultural Association (HSCCA), London
Salary: £8,881.2 per year Grade: NJC scale 6.26

Requirements include experience of organisational development, fundraising and good communication skills. see the Association through the funding challenges it is facing, and with support from the admin and finance new services.

For further information about the requirements of the post, an application pack, contact Yusuf Ahmed Elmi -

Closing date: 12 noon Monday 18 April
Interview date: Thursday 21 April

Organisational Development Officer, full-time for 9 months (Up to February 2012)
Refugee Action, Basis Project, East Midlands (based in Leicester).
Salary: £24,645 p.a. pro rata.

This post is offered as above, with immediate start or as soon as possible after interview.
For more information go to <http://www.refugee-action.org/jobs/> or call Gail Pringle on 0116 2616210.

Closing date: 10am Tuesday 3 May
Interview date: 12 May 2011

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