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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](mailto: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 conference video now available on Basis Project website

If you missed the [Basis Project National Conference in January 2012](#), you can now see what happened here. Watch Elizabeth Balgobin, Chair of Voice for change giving her analysis of the current climate including the Big Society and the impact on BME organisations; Micheline Safi Ngogo of Light Project International and Refugee Council trustee and Sirak Berhe of Investing in People and culture sharing their inspirational stories of responding to challenges on the ground.

#### Commissioning opportunity for RCO

The [Basis Project](#) in the South East would like to commission a refugee community organisation (RCO) based in the south east to provide secretariat to the Thames Valley Women's Network. This is to support the consolidation of a growing group. Please see [specification](#) and find there the expected results.

Deadline for completed application : 2pm, 5 April 2012.

For more information contact Beatriz Fernandez on 020 7952 1539 (Thursdays and Fridays only) or email [BeatrizF@Refugee-Action.org.uk](mailto:BeatrizF@Refugee-Action.org.uk)

#### 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](mailto:info@refugeeweek.org.uk) if you have an Olympic story.

## Winners of the migrant and refugee woman of the year award 2012

Last Thursday, more than 250 people gathered at the Royal Festival Hall for the first ever [Migrant and Refugee Woman of the Year Award](#) on International Women's day to honour three outstanding women who are working at the grassroots to support refugees and migrants in some way.

This year's winner was [Nazek Ramadan](#), founder of Migrant Voice, and two honorary awards were also given to Luljeta Nuzi, founder of [Shpresa Programme](#) for the Albanian speaking community, and Clara Osagiede, London [Underground RMT](#) Secretary for Cleaners. The ceremony was hosted by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Natasha Walters, and Zrinka Bralo.

Huge congratulations to all of these women and may they be an inspiration for other women to come forward next year and be acknowledged for their achievements.

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## Read our new series of guest blogs from NCVO

Starting in this issue Fiona Sheil, Public Services Officer at NCVO will be writing a series of blogs which will look at how you can effectively engage with public sector funding. The first blog focuses on [grants and contracts](#) and the difference between them. In the next RCO Connect, Fiona will be looking at the government spending cuts and how they are affecting the voluntary and community sector.

Fiona runs the free [Public Service Delivery Network](#) at NCVO, giving training and support to voluntary organisations working within the public sector. If you would like to find out more you can contact her at: 020 7520 2411

## Training and resources

### Fundraising using Social media

**Tuesday 20 March 2012, 10am-4pm**

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

'Social media' was one of the buzzwords of 2011 and no doubt you have seen and read some great examples of people using social media. But how can your small charity get involved? What can it offer small charities and how can it provide you with a means to engage with donors?

This free social media training course will take you through the absolute basics and provide you with the practical help to create a meaningful social media platform which is relevant for small organisations. The training will also feature a host of excellent and relevant case studies and examples, practical ideas as to how to fundraise through it, as well as tips on how to take your social media presence to the next level.

Places are still available on this training.

To book your place email Ezechias Ngendahayo at [ezechias.ngendahayo@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:ezechias.ngendahayo@refugeecouncil.org.uk) or call 020 7346 1163

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### Basis Project training on financial management for

**28 March 2012, 10am-4pm**

**Maison Pierre Chanel, 16 Leicester Square, London, WC2H 7NH**

This free training is suitable for volunteers, staff, and management committee members. It will look at:

- Financial Controls and Procedures: Effective financial control not only helps prevent error and fraud but also makes a major contribution to the good management of organisations, helping them make best use of their resources. The course will explain what is meant by financial control and, using practical examples, how organisations can design a system of control appropriate to their needs.
- Legal Framework for Financial Management: This workshop will cover: Charity Act 2006, legal structures

(e.g. association, limited company, etc.) discussion of advantages and disadvantages of charitable status; the financial cycle and the SORP (Statement of Registered Practice) 2005.

To find out more about the course and to book a place [click here](#). There are only a few places remaining so book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Email [Liam.cranley@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:Liam.cranley@refugeecouncil.org.uk), or call Liam on 020 7346 1297

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### **Free employment advice and support**

Are you from a refugee background and living in London? Are you looking for a job but don't know where to start?

The Refugee Council can offer you:

- Expert advice and support
- Access to a range of employment workshops
- Help with Job Search, CVs & interviews
- Help understanding the UK working culture
- Work experience opportunities
- Support in finding a job that's right for you

If you would like to find out more or meet one of the Employment Advisors, call them free on 0808 808 2252 or email [rij@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:rij@refugeecouncil.org.uk).

Free phone from UK landlines and all six main UK mobile providers

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### **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.

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### **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**

### **People's Health Trust - UK**

People's Health Trust support projects that tackle the early causes of ill health. For example projects that:

- improve the health and wellbeing of people
- increase physical activity
- improve the look and feel of local communities
- improve transport within communities

The Healthy Communities Programme offers funding for projects that:

- are requesting between £5,000 and £10,000
- last up to 12 months
- are based and operate within one of the local society lotteries
- are run by local charities and community groups with an annual income of less than £75,000 a year

Find out more [here](#)

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## Are you a local community group based in the South East looking for funding between £300-£10,000?

If so the Big Lottery Fund are running a series of webinar training sessions for voluntary and community groups on how to apply to their Awards for All programme. The sessions will be delivered by a South East Regional Development Officer, Pat Cook, and will last about one and a half hours.

They hope that by taking part -

- Frontline voluntary and community groups will have a better understanding of the Big Lottery Fund, and of the current funding environment
- Frontline voluntary and community groups will have an increased understanding of the Awards for All programme and how to strengthen their applications
- Frontline voluntary and community will have increased confidence to apply to Awards for All

The training sessions available are:

Thursday 12 April 2012, 2pm - 3.30pm

Thursday 10 May 2012, 2pm - 3.30pm

Tuesday 12 June 2012, 2pm - 3.30pm

The training sessions will be delivered via web based training known as a webinar. Webinars are interactive seminars run over the internet.

- All attendees will be required to complete a brief evaluation form at the end of the training session
- Information and technical guidance is provided to those attending
- Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

For further information please contact: [gemma.pearce@ccberks.org.uk](mailto:gemma.pearce@ccberks.org.uk)

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## 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 information [here](#)

Next deadline: 16 April 2012

For more information contact Frances Smith at [fran.smith@migrationwork.org](mailto:fran.smith@migrationwork.org) or call 020 7091 0539.

## Events

### Take Part at Tate Modern

**28 March 2012, 6pm - London**

- Are you a refugee/migrant/asylum seeker?
- Do you have a professional or academic qualification in your country?
- Would you like to use your knowledge and expertise and share this with others in an arts project?

Use your professional knowledge and skills in an exciting arts project at Tate Modern – go to the free information session on 28 March, 6pm.

[Click here](#) for full details

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### **Save the date for women seeking asylum! 13 September 2012**

On 13 September 2012 Comic Relief is supporting the [Centre for Study of Emotion and Law](#) (CSEL) to hold Facilitating Justice – an event to discuss and develop practical solutions for women seeking asylum who've experienced sexual violence.

More details to follow – but if you work with women seeking asylum, or have an expertise in supporting women who've experienced sexual violence, they need you there.

They are also working to support refugee women's grassroots advocacy groups to bring their specialist knowledge to the event – if you are interested or can help with this, please contact them.

Contact Clare Cochrane for more information on 020 7920 6489 or email [c.cochrane@csel.org.uk](mailto:c.cochrane@csel.org.uk)

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### **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](mailto:RLI@sas.ac.uk)

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### **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 LGBTI 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](mailto:poornima@reap.org.uk)

## **Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities**

### **Interim Director - ASAP, London**

ASAP are looking for a competent and dynamic person who can step in to act as Interim Director to ensure the smooth running of the organisation while the current Director is on leave, anticipated until 31 December 2012. The successful candidate should be able to start work by June 2012.

[Click here](#) for more details and to apply  
Closing date for applications: 5pm 29 March 2012

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### Do you have a passion for consultation, collaboration and lobbying?

Transitions is looking for an additional director with a passion for stakeholder consultation, collaboration and lobbying to join the existing two directors. They are looking for someone who has some time to guide them in their approach to collaborative networking with organisations and people for mutual benefit, in the field of equalities in the labour market, particularly relating to refugee employment and integration.

They particularly welcome applications from refugees, who are Transition's key stakeholder. It's currently a non-executive and voluntary role, involving evening participation in directors meetings and agreed input before and after meetings. Expenses will be covered. They hope to develop it into an operational and paid director role. For more information [click here](#).

To apply send a covering letter and CV explaining what you could bring to this new role to: Sheila.heard@transitions-london.co.uk

Deadline for applications: 5pm 31 March 2012

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