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News for refugee community organisations (RCOs)

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Dear Colleague,

Welcome to *RCO Connect* which provides RCOs with up to date information on funding, training and resources to support the work they do. 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

Health Befriending Network for Refugees & Asylum Seekers in London

The Refugee Council has secured a grant from the Department of Health – Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund – to set up a volunteer befriending scheme for refugees and asylum seekers to help them access health services in the UK.

How do I get involved?

Please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator (Health Befriending Network) on 020 346 1258 or 020 7346 6747

The Localism Bill is given Royal Assent

The Localism Bill was introduced to Parliament on 13 December 2010, and was given Royal Assent on 15 November 2011. The Bill includes five key measures: Community rights, Neighbourhood planning, Housing, General power of competence, Empowering cities and other local areas.

You can read more about the bill [here](#).

Join the learning visits to RCOs in London

The Basis Project team is organising learning visits to the offices of RCOs who have developed positive and innovative approaches to current challenges. These visits are an opportunity for RCOs to learn with and from each other and develop stronger relations.

Learn more about developing a membership scheme, challenging the funding cuts, and improving collaboration.

See more about the planned visits and book a place [here](#)

Training and resources

Why London is the best place to start exporting - London

Free Business Workshop

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

9.45am – 11.45 am

To book a place please contact:

Ms Sima Azad (Business Advisor)

0207 7000 477 / Mob: 077 37 896 149

Email: iranian_business@yahoo.com

Venue: Iranian Community Centre, 266-268, Holloway Road, London N7 6NE

Nearest Tube Station: Holloway Road

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.

Deadline for reservations: Monday 5 December 2011

Watch the Basis Project video resources!

Video resources as well as presentations and reports from regional seminars organised by the Basis Project are now available on [our website](#). The resources cover a wide range of themes explored at the events, including income generation, collaboration, social media and challenges to funding cuts.

For example [this film](#) shows how the Roma Support Group successfully challenged cuts to their funding, [a film](#) from the South East shows how RCOs can engage employee volunteers (including practical examples) and [a film and presentation](#) from the South West give ideas on using social media.

Learn how RCOs overcome challenges in our new experience papers

We asked RCOs from across England to tell us about an aspect of their work that was challenging yet also successful. The result is a series of new experience papers looking at collaborative working, governance, and organisational development. To read our experience papers [click here](#).

Fundraising opportunities

Sported. funding for West Midlands based projects

Sported. offer services to groups, clubs, organisations and social enterprises delivering Sports for Development projects. Applicants have to be engaging with young people aged 11-25 and working within disadvantaged communities.

To apply for support and become a member click [here](#).

Further information is available on the sported. website at www.sported.org.uk or by contacting

John Ellery, West Midlands Regional Manager on Tel: 07901 339336 or Email: j.ellery@sported.org.uk.

Sportivate captures the excitement of sport surrounding the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Sportivate is providing innovative opportunities for 'semi-sporty' 14 – 25 year olds in a sport of their choice. The programme funds 6 - 8 weeks of coaching sessions to guide participants into regular participation within their community.

Funding for projects delivered between April - September 2012 is now open.

Deadline for applications: Wednesday 14 December 2011.

Please contact: Ashlie.caddick@birmingham.gov.uk

Events

Platforma – arts + refugee network

29 November 2011 - London

Booking is now open for the first Platforma Festival, taking place in London from 29 November 2011. Bringing together performers, artists and organisations from across the UK, the Festival will be a celebration of the arts by and about refugees and a chance to discuss different aspects of artistic practice. Free places available.

[Click here](#) for full details

Mobilising Young African Women in the UK

Theme: Gender Equality and Rights of African Girls

Saturday, 3 December 2011 2pm-7pm

Venue: The Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London, WC2E 8JT

Some of the speakers include:

Suzanne Harris– Founder of 'Changing the face of Africa'

Sada Mire– Somali Archaeologist

Enquiries/registration and to book a stall at this event please contact: Naomi@forwarduk.org.uk

Tel: 020 8960 4000

ACEVO/NCVO Localism Conference 2011

Friday, 9 December 2011

Hilton Metropole, Birmingham

9:30am-4:30pm

Get the information you need to make localism work for you and your organisation.

Some speakers include:

John Tizard, Director, CPSP@LGiU

Tony Travers, Director, LSE London

Book your place now by clicking [here](#) or calling ACEVO events on 020 7280 4962.

Job vacancies and volunteer opportunities

Mental Health Development Worker- Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers- London

To Salary: £13.50 per hour

Location: Peckham

Hours: 9 hours per week (Wednesdays)

Contract: 2 year fixed term contract (subject to review)

To request an application pack please call 020 7732 0505, email office@sdcas.org.uk or write to The Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers, The Copleston Centre, Copleston Road, SE15 4AN.

Closing date: Monday, 28 November 2011 at 5pm.

Interviews: Monday, 5 December 2011.

Find out more information [here](#).

IT Officer- Refugee Council- London

Post: IT Officer

Team: IT

Location: Brixton

Hours: 35 hours per week

Duration: permanent

Grade/Salary: 5 / from £26,258

Reference: L00356

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 30 November 2011.

Interviews are provisionally set for Wednesday, 14 December 2011.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Applications can be made online [here](#).

Nil Recourse Case Officer- Greenwich Council- London

£28,800 - £30,390

Reference: CHS001Jul11

Closing Date: Wednesday, 30 November 2011 at 4pm

Greenwich Council are looking for a qualified person to support families whilst they await the decision from the Home Office about their right to remain in the UK.

Please send applications to:

Sean Crawford

Social Care Recruitment Officer - Children's Services

London Borough of Greenwich

4th Floor The Woolwich Centre, 35 Wellington Street, SE18 6QH

020 8921 5625

sean.crawford@greenwich.gov.uk

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