



Dear Community Group Representative

Welcome to the **June 2011** edition of the Regional Refugee Forum North East's e-bulletin to RCOs. Please forward this to your RCO members to share the news and opportunities with them.

In this E-Bulletin:

- A. News from the RRF (including training, jobs and volunteering opportunities at RRF)
- B. News from RCOs
- C. Government Policy updates
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- H. Other news

Don't forget to check out the RRF's website. You can find it at www.refugeevoices.org.uk

Got something you want to share with RRF members? Send an email to joem.kamanga@refugeevoices.org.uk with details of your news, event or activity to be included in the next e-bulletin.

Do you have suggestions for improving our e-bulletins? Please let us know!

A: News from the RRF

New Trustees for the RRF

At the [2011 Annual General Meeting](#), held on 29th March at Teesside University, the RRF membership elected a new committee (Trustees) to serve the RRF for the next 12 months. The 7 new committee members and members of the 2010 committee met together on 14th May for a hand over and induction day, and elected the RRF's new Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Secretary for 2011-12. They are:.

Chair : Elizabeth Sunduzwayo

Vice Chair: Maria Chikara

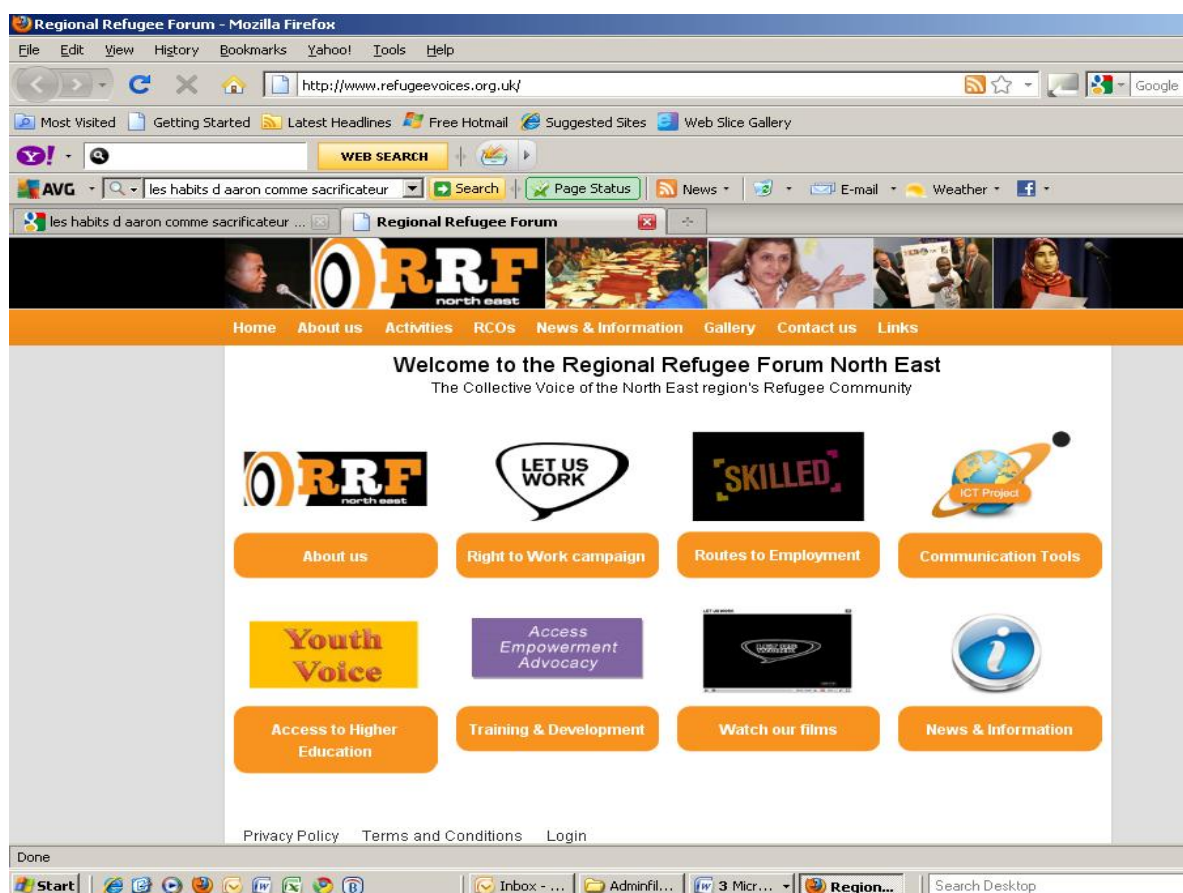
Treasurer: Panganai Svatwa

Secretary: Ibtihal Al Basry

Other Committee members: Gaby Kitoko, Bin Araia, Mamadou Alpha Balde

The Committee is always keen to hear from the membership – your feedback, views and recommendations. You are welcome to contact them on executive.committee@refugeevoices.org.uk

Explore the new Regional Refugee Forum NE Website!
Launched on 25th March 2011
www.refugeevoices.org.uk



Our new website now allows you to

- Watch our [films](#)
- [Take part](#) in the Right to Work Campaign
- Find out about and link to [employment support agencies](#), business start up support, apprenticeships and training, job opportunities, volunteering, colleges and universities, adult & vocational learning courses in your area
- Contribute to our Skilled project by [telling us about your experience](#) of trying to find work that matches your skills, qualifications and work or business experience
- Find out about the work of RCOs in our region from their [websites and webpages](#)
- Update yourself on new government [policy](#)
- Get the latest [news from the UKBA](#)
- Find out where to get [support for your RCO's](#) development
- Support [Youth Voice's campaign](#) for access to university places

If you have any feedback, or suggestions & recommendations for further improving or developing the RRF website then please do let me know!

Skilled Project news

1. **Our 2nd 'Big Conversation' was held on 19th May at the Stockton ARC.** The workshop brought together some of our members and key agencies involved in delivering services and developing policy around employment and enterprise. [See our website](#) for photos and the topics discussed. See Elvis Katoto's [UCOMEDIA](#) website for film of the workshop, and to hear about the work of some of our members and agencies participating: [Panganai Svtwa](#), leader of Skilled project; [Norbert Konga](#) of IT ID Ltd, [Hilary Brockway](#) from JET, [Barbara Turner](#) from Avanta and [Simon Underwood](#), Lead Officer for the North East Strategic Migration Partnership and Lead Officer for International Relations at Newcastle City Council.
2. **Our Skilled Exhibition will be on public display at the Newcastle City Library 17th – 22nd June** as part of Refugee Week, to raise awareness of barriers to employment and enterprise facing refugees
3. **The 3 E's Event: Employability, Employment and Entrepreneurship on Monday 20th June (6pm – 9.30pm) at the Banqueting Hall Newcastle Civic Centre.** All RCOs are invited to this event organized by the North East Strategic Migration Partnership (NESMP) to mark Refugee Week. You will be able to network with agencies that provide training, careers and employment support and enterprise support. Please contact Nadeem Ahmad, NESMP Regional Partnerships Manager if you would like to attend, so that they know the numbers for the buffet that will be provided. nadeem.ahmad@newcastle.gov.uk. Skilled Project leader, Panganai Svtwa, will make a presentation of Skilled Project's key findings and recommendations at this event organized by the North to mark Refugee Week. The event sees the launch of NESMP's focus on the Economic Inclusion of Migrants in the NE region, which the RRF lobbied for via its membership of the Regional Strategic Board of NESMP.

B. News from RCOs

Call to RCOs in Tees Valley: Contribute your experience to DASUK's dialogue with Cleveland Police force

The RCO DASUK has begun meetings with the Cleveland Police to improve police response to contact from the asylum and refugee community who have experienced harassment and abuse in their neighbourhood. DASUK would like to collect evidence from all RCOs in Tees Valley, so that the dialogue with the local police can help all communities. They can also let you know how they have established an on-going dialogue with the local police to deal with this. Please see contacts on the DASUK flyer below, or you can contact T&D Worker Andrew on andrew.jackson@refugeevoices.org.uk or call 07918 765 663 or 01642 232 446

DASUK

Denied Asylum Seekers UK

"SPEAK
OUT OR
SUFFER IN
SILENCE"

Our Mission - The Integration of Asylum Seekers & Refugees into Communities

**HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY RACIST
ABUSE TOWARDS YOU?**

Have you reported it to the Police?

DASUK, a local refugee community organisation, with support from the Regional Refugee Forum North East, are working to help build bridges with the community and Police in your area

If you have any experiences you would like to share or want to know how to make sure any racism against you is dealt with properly, please attend one of the following meetings:

Thurs 16th June (1-3pm) @ Stockton Parish Church

Fri 17th June (12.30-2.30pm) @ Newport

Neighbourhood Centre, Middlesbrough

For more details contact : Richard 07780810034 / Kudzai
07733321108 / Martin 07403896327 / dasuk.org@gmail.com /

www.dasukinternational.blogspot.com / www.refugeevoices.org.uk

ACANE 10th Anniversary event Wednesday 22nd June : Newcastle Civic Centre

RCO ACANE has organized an all day event in the Council Chamber of Newcastle Civic Centre on the theme '*Learning from the past 10 years to inform the future*'. Guest speakers, ACANE trustees and staff, and partner agencies will address how learning gained from 10 years of RCO work can be applied and how links can be developed to create an international vision for the area's future.

For more information, a full programme for the day and a booking form please contact acane2003@hotmail.com or telephone ACANE on 0191 265 8110

C: Government Policy Updates

Message from UKBA: change to rules on making further submissions at North Shields Reporting Centre

From Tuesday 31 May, asylum seekers whose cases fall under what was previously known as the New Asylum Model, will only be able to make further submissions at the North Shields Reporting Centre *by appointment* only. Appointments can be arranged by telephoning 0191 376 2901. This phone line will open for the first time on Thursday 26 May (and each subsequent Thursday) between 10:00 and 12:00, and will arrange appointments for the following week.

Appointments will be offered on a no-choice basis, and applicants will be sent a letter confirming their appointment, which they should bring with them when attending the Reporting Centre. We will not pay travel expenses for individuals attending North Shields to make further submissions. Applicants cannot make a further submission if they do not have an appointment. The phone line is for appointments only – any other queries will not be answered.

This information is available on the UK Border Agency website at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/outcomes/unsuccesfulapplications/further-submissions/ne-yorks-humber-fs/> where they were first announced on 24 February 2011.

Source: [UKBA](#)

D: Jobs advertised by other agencies

See VONNE's website for details of jobs in the voluntary sector www.vonne.org.uk/jobs

E: Funding information for community groups

The Dulverton Trust Fund

[Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland](#) is administering grants in the North East for the [Dulverton Trust Fund](#).

Grants of £500 to £5,000 are available to community and voluntary groups with an annual income under £200,000 for activities in the following 4 areas: Youth Opportunities, Support for disadvantaged people and communities, Conservation, Preservation

F: Training offered by other agencies

New to the United Kingdom

A presentation designed to help those new to living in the UK have a better understanding of our tax system. This presentation can be delivered to groups in their own premises.

Target audience

New to the UK

Duration

1 hour 30 minutes

Event Aims

The aims of this presentation are to explain

- what HMRC does and the role it plays in dealing with an individuals tax affairs
- the role of an employee working for an employer
- what happens when you are self-employed
- what Child Benefit is and how it can be claimed
- what Tax Credits are and how they can be claimed

For further information please contact: Trish Lilley | Business Education and Support Team Business Customer Unit | Business Taxes | HMRC | 100 Russell Street | Middlesbrough | TS1 2YY | 01642 755091 Email patricia.lilley@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

Or contact your Training & Development Project Worker, Victoria, Sam or Andrew if you would like more information or support to contact the HMRC



Next Step employment support Workshops in Newcastle, June

- CV & Job Search Wednesday 1st June 14.00- 15.00
- Job Search & Interview Techniques Wednesday 1st June 15.30-16.30
- Career and Skills Check Monday 6th June 09.30 – 11.00
- Write a CV Monday 13th June 14.30 – 16.00
- Jobsearch Monday 20th June 14.30 – 16.00

- Interview Techniques Monday 27th June 14.30 – 16.00

See attached document for more information on the venue for each workshop, and content of the training sessions

If you would like to attend, please either call Emma Watson on: 07826 540 254 or send her an email ewatson@cfbt.com (stating which workshop you'd like to attend) and they can book you on the Workshop.

Or contact your Training & Development Project Worker, Victoria, if you would like more information or support to contact Next Step. victoria.scott@refugeevoices.org.uk 0191 423 6255



Parliamentary Outreach/ European Parliament Outreach event, Durham 24th June 2011 Get Involved

A free workshop on the work of the UK and European Parliaments, and how you can engage with them

Friday 24th June, Durham Town Hall, Market Place, Durham, 1pm to 5pm

The workshop will cover:

- The role of the UK and European Parliaments
- Legislation
- Committees
- Questions and debates
- Accessing useful information

To book a free place, please call 0191 383 3448 or e-mail europa.direct@durham.gov.uk

North East Third Sector Capacity Support Programmes

There are [11 projects running](#) in the North East designed to provide sustainability and engagement training and support to voluntary and community groups.

G: Events/Activities organised by other agencies

The Angelou Centre's Women's Café has opened its doors:

Every Monday 12.30 – 2.30 & Wednesdays 10 – 12

At the former Roshni Centre, 10 Dilston Rd, Fenham (Just next to The Angelou Centre)

It is a chance for women to get together and support one another, get advice from Angelou Centre staff, learn about volunteering and employment opportunities and campaigns.

It is also a good chance for organisations to inform women about any events, opportunities, training or to consult with women. It may also be something that you refer women to if they are isolated or need some social/down time.

The Café is women only, we do not have a formal crèche as yet but we have a break out room for mothers and children to play in.

Phone Rosie on 0191 226 0394

or visit the website www.angelou-centre.org.uk



Mongrel UK Present: 

The Journey Home
Wednesday 8 June 2011
7.30pm, Northern Stage, Newcastle

Why do we leave one country for an unknown other?
What do we carry with us on our journey?
What makes home?

Inspired by Shaun Tan's 'The Arrival', *The Journey Home* tells a poignant story of migration through music, song and physical theatre.

Beautiful, humorous and at times surreal... will you join us on The Journey Home?

Your FREE tickets are available by calling the Northern Stage Ticket Office: 0191 230 5151

Are you aged 14 – 19yrs?
Do you have things to say,
questions to ask, creative ideas?
Do you want to meet and work with international
young people, musicians and theatre makers?
Do you want to perform work that matters?

*You don't need to have been part of a
group like this before; you just need a passion to get
involved in an amazing project.*

Get in touch to find out how you can get involved, or
come and meet us at Northern Stage on the 8 June!
sylvia.hesketh@thesagegateshead.org | 0191 443 5165

Mongrel UK is an international ensemble of young people based at The Sage Gateshead and supported by partnerships with the North of England Refugee Service and Seven Stories. Mongrel UK is part of CoMusica, one of twenty-one Youth Music Action Zones in England and Wales, providing music-making activities with and for young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

Created in October 2010 as part of the Juice Festival for Children and Young People, The Journey Home is now on tour with support from the BBC Performing Arts Fund.
www.bbc.co.uk/performingartsfund

View it online <http://bit.ly/TheJourneyHome>

H: Other news

Community IT Academy (CITA) is relaunching their membership scheme with a special offer: New customers get three months free

CITA has successfully delivered IT servicing and support to organisations across the North East for the past eight years. CITA has over 200 happy customers and is keen to offer their support to new customers.

Membership of CITA gives you a package of benefits including telephone support, loan PCs and a £10 discount on their hourly rates.

As a new customer you can:

- get three months free when you sign up for a membership package
 - or, get one PC free for three months when you sign up for a maintenance agreement.
- Hurry, the offer ends on 30 June.

Quote CMR11 to get a discount. Please mention the organisation that referred you and they will get a discount too.

Phone CITA now on: 0191 256 5015

Or visit CITA's website: <http://communityitacademy.org/>

JET Office is moving to a new address at 34 Grainger Park Road, Newcastle. NE4 8RY (The old New Deal premises)

JET (Jobs, Education & Training) will therefore be closed until Monday 6th June. You can still contact **them** by email and **their** old office landline 0191 226 3620 will remain on, so can continue to pick up answer phone messages etc.

They are keeping a small office space in the Park Centre for the short term, so will still be able to make appointments to see clients in this venue too.

Phone JET on 0191 226 3620

If you are organizing any arts based activity during Refugee Week, you can advertise your events on the [PLATFORMA](#) website. Platforma is an online network for Refugee Arts and Artists and those working with them on arts projects. It aims to support, develop and mainstream refugee related arts. Platforma is developed in partnership between Refugee Week UK and Oval House Theatre, and is supported by The Baring Foundation and Arts Council England. Contact hello@platforma.org.uk.

If you do not wish to receive these emails please reply to this email with 'remove me' as the subject.

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Registered Charity No. 1109815

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