

Issue 2

We do not focus this e-bulletin on Coronavirus. We have a page on our website that we are using to provide you with the latest information and updates on immigration due to Coronavirus and it can be accessed [here](#). Our website page aims to offer useful information and resources to help migrants, and those supporting them, to stay safe, connected and informed, and to reduce the harmful impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19) on our region and on people's lives. It also includes new multi-lingual resources, national guidance, local services and support, and news and updates on specific migrant issues.

If you have any updates, notifications or items for inclusion for our next bulletin please email wmsmp@birmingham.gov.uk.

Subject	Announcement	Date /Source
Asylum	With the UK having left the EU, it is no longer a party to the EU's Dublin III Regulation. 'Dublin III' determines which EU Member State is responsible for deciding a person's asylum claim and provides a mechanism for people to be transferred between Member States in order for their asylum claim to be processed in the responsible State. However, requests made before 1 January 2021 to transfer asylum claimants between EU Member States and the UK will still be processed and the Home Office has accordingly published guidance on Requests made to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation .	GOV UK January 2021
	The new asylum inadmissibility rules: Following the UK leaving the Dublin Regulation, the UK government has introduced new regulations under which they can rule that an asylum claim is inadmissible . This means the Home Office does not have to consider the claim in the UK if they rule that another country – a "safe third country" – should in fact be responsible for your asylum claim. The Home Office have now published guidelines on how these rules will work.	Right to Remain 3 rd February 2021
	As a result of the UK leaving the Dublin III Regulation, the Government has published a Statement in relation to legal routes from the EU for protection claimants including family reunion of unaccompanied children . According to the Statement there will be a review and public consultation which will consider whether the current Immigration Rules relating to family reunion for refugees are sufficient for both adults and children (including unaccompanied children), and help to identify any issues specific to protection claimants in the EU that need to be addressed. This will include consideration of how the approach to this issue aligns with the Government's wider ambition to overhaul the UK's approach to asylum and illegal migration, the new global immigration system and our future approach to refugee resettlement.	Home Office 8 February 2021

	Changes to the asylum and immigration process due to Covid-19 can be found here . These include changes to Asylum screening interview, big asylum interview, fresh claims Asylum support, Visas, Appeals.	Right to Remain 29 January 2021
Refugee Resettlement	ESOL for refugees: A toolkit for commissioners and practitioners: Migration Yorkshire have provided a new toolkit which offers useful guidance and current effective practice in English language provision to refugees, with nearly 50 case studies from across England. There are lots of helpful insights for local agencies involved in planning, funding, commissioning, or delivering English language support to refugee populations. Migration Yorkshire worked with regional strategic migration partnerships across England to create these resources, funded by the Home Office. The ESOL for refugees toolkit will be available at www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/esoltoolkit by the end of January 2021.	Migration Yorkshre January 2021
	A letter from the Home Secretary on the Hong Kong National (Overseas) route on the 29 th January 2021 can be found here .	Home Affairs Committee 29 January 2021
Citizenship & Immigration	Barriers to Britishness sets out the findings and recommendations of a year-long independent inquiry into citizenship policy chaired by Alberto Costa MP. It urges the UK to take a more positive and welcoming approach to citizenship, with Brexit presenting an opportunity for a major overhaul of citizenship policy. Citizenship ceremonies should become higher-profile, public-facing and celebratory events, held in iconic locations with members of the local community invited to welcome new arrivals.	British Future December 2020
	Updated Home Office Immigration and Nationality Fees: 31 st January 2021.	GOV UK 26 January 2021
Children and Young People including UASC	Children may arrive in the care of local authorities without British citizenship or UK immigration status. They and their social workers may not realise there is an issue and inaction can have disastrous consequences. This briefing looks at the options for regularising the immigration status of a child in care and may be particularly useful for lawyers, social workers and foster carers.	Free Movement 7 January 2021
	Routes to Citizenship: Data gathered by the Children's Commissioner's Office on children's routes to British citizenship, in order to fill the gap in evidence on the outcomes their applications for citizenship. This spreadsheet contains data collected from the UK Home Office on all citizenship applications made by children between 2008 and 2019.	Children's Commisioner 15th January 2021
	Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre are hosting ESOL classes for those UASC (16 and 17 year olds) who are not in any form of education yet, i.e. they have not been able to access college as they missed the September intake. The lessons will be online until we can open up again. They will be 5 days a week, Monday – Friday, 11 am – 1 pm. Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre may put on a few extra fun activities as well in the afternoon. They hope the classes will start	Coventry Refugee & Migrant Centre 11th February 2021

	<p>sometime on the week commencing 15th February or 22nd. For more information, please contact Farida Butt: Faridab@covrefugee.org</p>	
	<p>Voices of Refugee Youth is a research project, conducted in partnership between Refugee Support Network, Jigsaw Consult, Dubai Cares and UNHCR Education. It contributes to building the evidence base for post-primary education for refugee youth, specifically through a youth-centred methodological approach. This means that 15 young refugees in both Pakistan and Rwanda are leading the way in developing our shared understanding of refugee education. The Youth Researchers are at the centre of the project. Read all about it, including a blog by Asma Rabi (above) on her experience conducting research in a refugee school in Pakistan, on the new website.</p>	<p>Refugee Support Network 14 January 2021</p>
EU	<p>The Ministry of Justice has published a collection of guidance for people who are involved in UK-EU cross-border family law disputes and explains what you need to do from 1 January 2021.</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice 12 January 2021</p>
	<p>Illegal migration to the European Union lowest level in 7 years: The number of people caught trying to enter the EU illegally dropped last year to its lowest level in seven years, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency reported.</p> <p>An estimated 124,000 illegal crossings were registered by Frontex in 2020, the lowest amount since 2013.</p>	<p>Frontex 8th January 2021</p>
	<p>Right to Remain Toolkit: If you are an EEA/Swiss national, you are in the UK before 11pm on 31 December 2020 (when the Brexit transition period ends), and you wish to stay in the UK, you need to apply to the Settled Status scheme. The EEA consists of the EU member states, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. If you are in the UK before 11pm on 31 December 2020, you can apply to the Settled Status scheme until 30 June 2021. This is known as the “grace period”. If your family members are with you in the UK before 11pm on 31 December 2020, or are outside of the UK but their relationship with you began before 31 December 2020, they can also apply under the Settled Status scheme. If you are a Swiss national, the timeframes are slightly different. Read the information on the Home Office website here.</p>	<p>Right to Remain January 2021</p>
	<p>Rare statistics show rise in number of deportation orders upheld on appeal: Government statistics no longer record how many deportation orders are successfully appealed.</p>	<p>Free Movement 13th January 2021</p>
	<p>Over 5 million applications have been made to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) according to the latest monthly statistics, with 4 months to go before the 30 June 2021 deadline.</p>	<p> 21.02.12 - EUSS 5 million comms.docx</p> <p>GOV UK 11 February 2021</p>

Health and Wellbeing	<p>Everyone in England is entitled to register with a GP. Many people who experience health inequalities can face barriers when trying to register. Practices should not turn people away because they do not have proof of ID, address or immigration status. People can also register if they do not know or do not have an NHS number. Being registered with a GP has many benefits, the most important one at the moment is that GPs can identify those people who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 and ensure that they are invited to get a vaccination. For information on how to register, please visit: www.nhs.uk/register.</p>	NHS January 2021
	<p>NHS Entitlements - Migrant Health Guide: Many migrants will come from countries with very different health care systems to the UK. This guide can help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain to new patients how the NHS operates. • explore with them how this compares to the healthcare system that they've been used to. 	GOV UK January 2021
Rough sleeping and evictions	<p>As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many people were temporarily protected from homelessness due to two key policy measures: a suspension of evictions from asylum accommodation by the Home Office; and 'Everyone In' policy directive from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and equivalent measures from devolved governments. Should these emergency measures end, people with NRPF and those who have received a negative decision on their asylum claim would be at acute risk of homelessness. Asylum Matters have produced some template resources with NACCOM that you can use to write to your constituency MP, or Local Authority to join the call to halt evictions and protect everyone from homelessness and COVID-19, regardless of their immigration status.</p>	Asylum Matters 19 January 2021
Family Reunion	<p>The Families First project is run by the British Red Cross (BRC) in partnership with the Central England Law Centre (CELC). The project aims to provide a holistic approach to the Family Reunion (FR) process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CELC supports with applying for the FR visa • BRC offers pre-arrival and post-arrival support to the families including Family Reunion Travel Assistance <p>The project is currently running until the end of June 2021, and therefore, they are able to accept new referrals to the project. Please find below the eligibility criteria for the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor has to be a refugee or have humanitarian protection in the UK • Applicants have to be either spouse and/ or children below the age of 18 (within the rules applications). However, there are some exceptions such as mixed families that could include someone outside the rules that could be accepted on the project. It's best to speak to the Project Co-ordinator on a case-by-case basis. • Resides in Birmingham <p>For further details, contact the Project Co-ordinator on EgleMackeliunaite@redcross.org.uk.</p>	British Red Cross 2 February 2021

<p>The Windrush Compensation Scheme</p>	<p>The Home Secretary made an announcement in the House on the 14 December on the improvements to the Windrush Compensation Scheme. Details of this can be found in the factsheet here.</p> <p>A £500,000 Windrush Community Fund is also now open for applications. The Community Fund will support community and grassroots organisations to run outreach and promotional activity to raise awareness of the Windrush Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme. More details, including the application form and guidance for applicants can be found here.</p> <p>The Home Office currently funds Citizens Advice to provide expert and independent advice to those who request support applying for compensation. On the 14 December, they announced that We Are Digital will provide this service from the first quarter of 2021. We Are Digital work with various partners including Citizens Advice. Their network of community-based centres also includes libraries, town halls, church groups, mosques, training providers and other community groups.</p>	<p>Home Office January 2021</p>
<p>Vacancies</p>	<p>Senior Commissioning Officer – Refugees & Migration Team - Birmingham City Council Job Senior Commissioning Officer - Refugees & Migration Team - Birmingham City Council (talent.com)</p> <p>The post will be part of the Refugee & Migration Team which is responsible for implementing the Council’s City of Sanctuary policy statement aims and commitments, which these projects make a significant contribution to. The post-holder will also be expected to work with colleagues in the team to share learning, join up resources and inform future commissioning and funding strategies concerning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asylum dispersal ● Refugee Resettlement ● EU Settlement ● Wider integration and cohesion projects <p>Ref: BCC001834. Interviews for this post will take place virtually via video conferencing. Shortlisted candidates will be provided with further information. For any informal enquires please contact Bethany Finch on 07548123286 or bethany.finch@birmingham.gov.uk.</p> <p>Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre (CRMC) are currently recruiting a Facilities Support Officer. The post holder will be able to deliver minor works in the maintenance and repair of buildings. Having meticulous approach to work, attention to detail and excellent organisational skills. The post holder will be able to develop effective working relationships with colleagues and landlords. They will be resourceful and flexible with an excellent understanding of and commitment to Equal Opportunities and its relevance to different sectors of the community. The post will be based at Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, Norton House, Bird Street, Coventry, CV1 5FX. For more information and an application pack, please see attached or contact</p>	<p>February 2021</p>

	HR on HR@covrefugee.org .	
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The West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership works with national, regional and local partners to ensure that the region can deal with, and benefit from, migration. We are hosted by Birmingham City Council.

We would like to thank you for all contributions to this bulletin. Information in this bulletin and any references or links to external sources or agencies do not necessarily reflect the views of West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership nor receive its endorsement. WMSMP is not responsible for the accuracy of this information which is intended as a general guide only. If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please email WMSMP@birmingham.gov.uk.