

Issue 3

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	Latest Migrant Help newsletter can be found here .	Migrant help June 2020
	Migrant Help asylum advice guide Migrant Help has updated its asylum advice guide. The translated editions are now available on the Migrant Help website in 11 languages.	Migrant Help June 2020
	Birmingham Asylum and Immigration Project Please see the leaflet here for this project which is made up of accredited immigration advisers from ASIRT, Central England Law Centre and the Refugee and Migrant Centre. The attached outlines how you can refer people to them, they will then respond to provide an initial view on the next steps and, where capacity allows, may be able to provide legal advice and representation on a number of different immigration matters as outlined in the attached leaflet.	Birmingham Asylum and Immigration Project June 2020
	Refugee Women Connect Report RWC has published a report and policy briefing on the effects of C19 on forced migrant survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Their main recommendations are the need for access to public funds, safe and appropriate reporting mechanisms, mental health services and public services (health, policing) without fear of immigration exposure.	Refugee Women Connect June 2020
	HACK Chats is a brand new and engaging podcast series featuring leaders from the migrant support, legal, health and creative cultural sectors.	Hack Chats June 2020
	New Freedom from Torture report: Beyond Belief In 2019, Freedom from Torture got in touch to find out about the experiences of those representing survivors of torture in the asylum system. Freedom from Torture launched a new report , grounded in the experiences of survivors of torture who have used their	Freedom from Torture June 2020

	services. <i>Beyond Belief: How the Home Office fails survivors of torture at the asylum interview</i> sheds light on a the system.	
	<p>National Audit Office report - Immigration enforcement</p> <p>Immigration Enforcement is the directorate within the Home Office responsible for preventing abuse of the immigration system, dealing with the threats associated with immigration offending and encouraging and enforcing the departure of immigration offenders and foreign national offenders from the UK. Its vision is to reduce the size of the illegal population and the harm it causes.</p> <p>Managing immigration enforcement activity effectively depends on Immigration Enforcement collaborating with other parts of the Home Office’s wider border and immigration system, law enforcement bodies, international partners and other areas of government. In our previous work we have identified some of the long-standing challenges that the Home Office faces in managing enforcement activity, removing foreign national offenders and overseeing the detention estate.</p> <p>This report assesses whether the Home Office is successfully delivering its stated missions and objectives to support its vision of reducing the size of the illegal population and the harm it causes.</p>	<p>NAO 17th June 2020</p>
Children and Young People	<p>Instructions to local authorities about funding for the support and care of former and unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). New instructions can be viewed here. There will also be a targeted 25% uplift in funding for local authorities across the UK who are currently looking after the highest numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children when compared to their child population. They will receive a tariff of £143 per child per night instead of the standard rate of £114 per child per night.</p> <p>From 1 April 2020, all local authorities have increased funding from the Home Office for their former UASC care leavers, and LAs looking after more UASC than 0.07% of their total child population have more funding for UASC. More details are in the announcement from the government (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-funding-uplift-announced-for-councils-caring-for-children-seeking-asylum) and the funding instructions (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-uasc-grant-instructions).</p> <p>The funding still does not represent full costs recovery for LAs as demonstrated by two reports by the East Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership on UASC and care leaver costs respectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UASC costs • Care leaver costs 	<p>Gov 11th June 2020</p>
	<p>The Refugee Council is currently raising awareness of the Miniila app that they have developed with Missing Children Europe to help unaccompanied children and young adults across Europe connect to services that support them. They are keen for not-for-profit services to upload their details to the app and to share information about it with young people. You can contact the Refugee Council about the app via Miniila.Project@refugeecouncil.org.uk and find out more information about it on the website http://miniila.com/</p>	<p>Refugee Council June 2020</p>
Women	<p>Women’s Aid resources</p> <p>Women’s Aid have produced COVID-19 safety and support resources, translated into several different languages, for survivors</p>	<p>Women’s Aid June 2020</p>

	of domestic abuse.	
Health and Wellbeing	<p>PHE have launched an updated Psychological First Aid (PFA) digital training module, aimed at all frontline and essential workers and volunteers.</p> <p>The course aims to increase awareness and confidence to provide psychosocial support to people affected by COVID-19. PFA is a globally recognised training in emergency situations and we have developed this new course as part of our national incident response, and in partnership with NHS England, Health Education England, FutureLearn and E-Learning for Health.</p> <p>The course is free, and no previous qualifications are required. It takes around 90 minutes to complete and is also available in three sessions for the learner to complete at their own pace. By the end of the course, outcomes will include: understanding how emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic can affect us, recognising people who may be at increased risk of distress and understanding how to offer practical and emotional support.</p>	Public Health England 15th June 2020
DWP	To know and understand more about statistics on claims for benefits, unemployment in the West Midlands read a summary from DWP here .	DWP June 2020
Covid and immigration	<p>Migration Exchange report - Covid-19 Impact Assessment Framework</p> <p>This report from Migration Exchange develops a framework for understanding the risks associated with COVID-19 for different cohorts of people within the immigration system; and identifies a number of key policy considerations that are pertinent for policymakers, public services and non-governmental organisations.</p>	Migration Exchange June 2020
No Recourse to Public Funds	<p>Home Office no recourse to public funds policy ruled unlawful</p> <p>The Court granted both a declaration that the policy should not be imposed where an applicant is “<i>not yet destitute but will imminently suffer inhuman or degrading treatment without recourse to public funds</i>” and also a mandatory order requiring the Secretary of State to publish a new policy you can read here.</p>	Gov 3rd June 2020
Homelessness	<p>Homeless Link transition plan ‘Everyone in for good’</p> <p>Homeless Link has published its ‘Everyone in for good’ plan, outlining the urgent national and local action required so that nobody is forced to sleep rough after lockdown.</p>	Homelessness Link June 2020
NRM	<p><u>Changes to Future Correspondence</u></p> <p>NRMEngland@homeoffice.gov.uk - This inbox is being phased out.</p> <p>Please send all future NRM enquires & information by email to nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk ensuring that you quote the NRM reference number in all correspondence and communications.</p> <p>It would be appreciated if you would also put the nature of the email on the subject header, for example ‘NRM reference – case query’ or ‘NRM reference – submission of new information’.</p> <p>The new digital NRM referral form is now available to all First Responders – please use this form for all NRM and Duty to</p>	NRM June 2020

	<p>Notify (DTN) referrals. The old referral system is being phased out and First Responders are requested to start using the new system as soon as possible. The online form will identify whether someone is a First Responder by verifying their work email address. You will need to complete this verification to progress with the form. After submitting the form (which will be sent to the Single Competent Authority (SCA)) you'll receive an acknowledgment e-mail with an NRM reference and a copy of your referral. If you do encounter any issues with the online form then the old forms will continue to be accepted. As you start using the online form we would welcome your feedback on how we can improve the service for the future. Please email any feedback to: nrm@modernslavery.gov.uk.</p> <p>If you won't have access to the internet when completing the form, then we've created an offline prompt sheet that can later be used to copy your answers into the online form. This prompt sheet can be downloaded from the Interviewing a potential victim offline link on the start page and it contains all the questions you'll find on the online form.</p> <p>Queries If your email relates to a query, we will respond as soon as possible. If the query is not urgent, we will aim to respond within 7 working days. Please note timescales are provisional and whilst best efforts are always made to adhere to these, this is not always possible in every case. We appreciate your patience during this time.</p> <p>Information for First Responders If the Potential Victim requires urgent support, it is the responsibility of the First Responder to contact the relevant support provider, below. Salvation Army 0300 303 8151 (24 hours) mst@salvationarmy.org.uk.cjism.net.</p>	
<p>NRPF</p>	<p>NRPF updates NRPF policy amended following legal challenge (19 June 2020) Grounds on which Home Office must grant recourse to public funds extended. Read here for more.</p> <p>Immigration policy change required to end rough sleeping (19 May 2020) Urgent change needed to achieve positive outcomes for people with no recourse to public funds. Read here for more.</p> <p>Information and guidance Updated! Factsheet for councils: Supporting people with no recourse to public funds during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Updates to the homelessness response, new asylum support rates, free school meals eligibility and extension of eviction protections for renters 	<p>NRPF network 25th June 2020</p>

	<p>NRPF Connect</p> <p>The NRPF Connect database continues to be fully operational, with the Home Office completing status checks within the agreed service response times.</p> <p>Any users who need assistance with access or any other technical issues can contact us or Locta Support: support@locta.co.uk.</p>	
Local Authorities	<p>The MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter) coalition has published new research examining the flexibilities that homelessness, substance misuse, mental health and criminal justice services have put in place to support people during the Covid-19 crisis, and how some of the positive aspects of these changes might be maintained in the future. You can also read a presentation summarising the findings here.</p> <p>The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government requires all local authorities to submit outline transition plans for the next stage of the homelessness Covid-19 response. MEAM wants local areas and the national homelessness taskforce to ensure that these plans take account not just of housing, but the full spectrum of support that people need to live fulfilling lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does your area have a forum in place to learn and reflect on the flexibilities currently in place? - Does your area have the cross-sector leadership needed to maintain some of the positive flexibilities into the future? - Do you have processes in place to involve people with lived experience in your transition planning? 	MEAM June 2020
Windrush	<p>The Home Secretary has said that she will be accepting the Windrush Lessons Learned Review “in full”. The report by senior police inspector Wendy Williams, published in March 2020, contains 30 recommendations calling for root and branch reform at the Home Office.</p> <p>Speaking to the House of Commons on 23 June, Priti Patel said: The review was damning about the conduct of the Home Office and unequivocal about the “institutional ignorance and thoughtlessness towards the... race and the history of the Windrush generation”.</p> <p>...</p> <p>I was clear that when Wendy Williams published her lessons learned review, I would listen and act. I have heard what she has said, and I will be accepting the recommendations that she has made in full.</p> <p>A Home Office press release adds that “the Home Secretary has agreed to respond in full by the end of September and has also committed to provide an update to Parliament before summer recess”. A Windrush cross-government working group has also been announced this week.</p> <p>On redress for victims, Patel told MPs that more than 12,000 people have now been granted documentation and over £1 million worth of compensation offers made. But as of the end of March, only 35 payments with a value of £46,000 had actually gone through.</p>	Free Movement 24th June 2020

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.

e-Bulletin



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