



November/December

# NNRF Newsletter

## Case Resolution Programme Update

The Case Resolution Directorate (CRD) are still working on resolving the asylum claims of families that are receiving asylum support and have been here for several years. The deadline for this has now been moved back to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

As part of the CRD caseload, families have been or will be sent a questionnaire and the Home Office will then consider whether to grant them Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). This is due to happen to 450,000 individuals nationwide (127 families are affected in Nottingham at the moment).

It is unsure what the positive grant rate will be but it is suspected to be quite high, with suggestions of 95% positive.

When a family gets their ILR papers, there

should be a translated document with the papers as well as a National Insurance Number form. The family must ensure the NINO forms are completed ASAP.

The BIA (Border and Immigration Authority) have stated that detention and removal of families will NOT stop while these questionnaires are being sent out and assessed. It is therefore possible that a family could be detained and removed before they receive their questionnaire. If a family are concerned about this, they are being advised to contact their legal representative.

## Ethnic Tamils from Sri Lanka



refused ethnic Tamil asylum seekers to Sri Lanka, pending the hearing of a number of cases

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has asked the UK government to stop any removals of

where EU countries forced return to Sri Lanka of ethnic Tamils and they were persecuted on return.

Rule 39 (whereby an interim measure is served on the EU government by the ECHR preventing that country from removing the named person) has been used for all the

cases so far.

If you know of any Tamil refused asylum seekers then please advise them to approach Refugee Forum or a solicitor to take advantage of this new ruling.

## Borders Bill

The UK Borders Bill gains Royal Assent: the UK's Immigration officers received new powers to protect borders and tackle immigration crime.

The UK Borders Bill can be found at:

[http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/uk\\_borders.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/pabills/200607/uk_borders.htm)

## Change of Status

The Case Resolution Directorate discussed on the front page could have a disastrous effect on councils' homelessness and temporary housing figures.

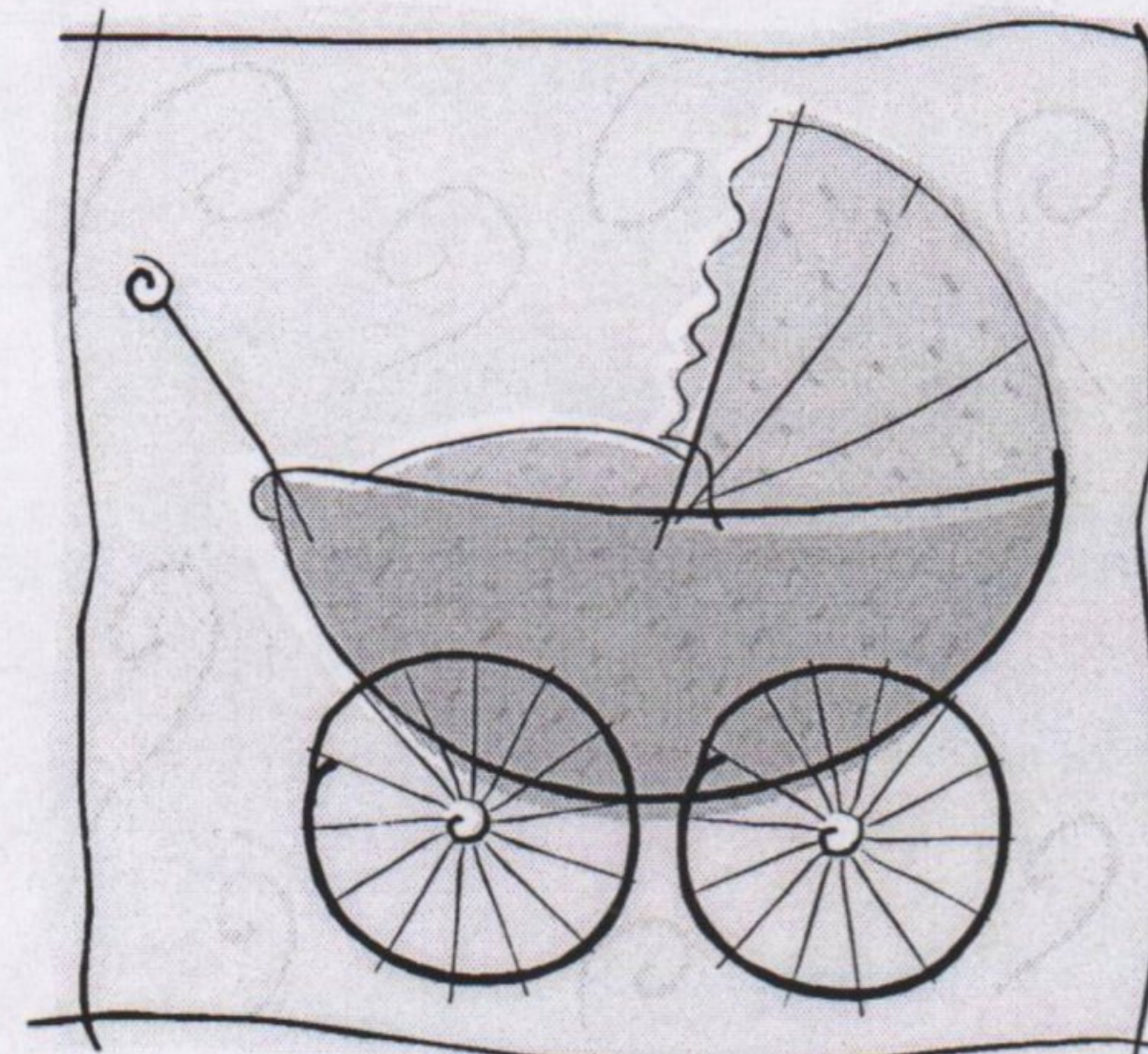
Once families have received a positive decision, they will have 28 days to leave their NASS/Asylum Support accommodation and move into council accommodation. If there is no council accommodation then the council will have to place them into temporary housing (as they will have children under 18).

The Multi-Agency Forum have been working with housing providers; councils; health and education and refugee organisations to make the transition as smooth as possible.

## Free Maternity Care for Pregnant Women in the UK

Medact have produced a document explaining the NHS charges and regulations to ALL pregnant women from other countries. See their website for the full report. Some interesting points are listed below:

- ◆ **Women who are an "ordinary" resident in the UK are entitled to free maternity care.**
- ◆ "Overseas visitors" may be liable to pay for NHS maternity care.
- ◆ **"Overseas visitors" that have been living lawfully in the UK for over 12 months prior to maternity care are entitled to free maternity care. *This may apply to some asylum seekers***
- ◆ "Overseas visitors" who have been here less than 12 months may be liable to pay (exceptions apply see main document)
- ◆ **People who are liable to pay do not have to pay in advance as maternity care is classed as "immediate necessary treatment." *NB we may have to remind hospitals of this last rule***



## ***FGM in Kenya***



The latest issue of the WAN (Women's Asylum News) talks about a test case with relation to FGM (Female Genital Mutilation). This lady was granted the appeal both on Human Rights and Asylum grounds. They agreed that internal re-location would NOT be an option for the client.

This is a step forward for anyone who has fled their home country due to fear of FGM.

Please see full report in this issue of the WAN.

## Medact Petition

As part of the primary care review, the Government is considering charging refused asylum seekers and undocumented migrants for NHS health care. Medact, a global health charity, is challenging this proposal and currently circulating a petition against the review. They are also encouraging people to

email the Secretary of State for Health.

Copies of the petition will be in the office so please sign it. Also, if you are able to circulate it and would like a copy, please let us know.

### WHAT IS MEDACT?



Medact speaks out for people whose access to healthcare is compromised by war, environmental damage or poverty and tries to raise the standards of healthcare globally. They also include a specific Refugee Health Network (see [www.medact.org](http://www.medact.org) for more information).

## Legal Advice for Women

Just a reminder that the Women's Asylum News run a Legal Advice line for women who are seeking asylum because of political activities or because of gender persecution. The Number is 0207 3549264. They are open Monday 2-4pm and Thursday 10:00-12:30pm.

## *New resources for survivors of rape seeking asylum in the UK*

Black Women's Rape Action Project (BWRAP) and Women Against Rape (WAR) are two London Groups that support female asylum seekers that have been subject to sexual violence.

These groups are aware that women face a significant struggle when trying to establish their claim for asylum on the basis of rape (there is a 99% refusal rate for fast-tracked applications). In response to this, BWRAP and WAR have produced a report of 65 sample cases made by rape survivors.

The report, *Misjudging Rape*, not only documents the rulings in these 65 cases but also provides information about the approaches that were taken, which approaches made successful outcomes more likely and give a practical idea of what can be done by or on behalf of women claiming asylum on the grounds of rape/sexual violence. For example, one finding was that women with an expert report corroborating their account were six times more likely to win their case than those without.

The report has also been summarised into a much briefer sheet called "Rights and Information Sheet for survivors of rape seeking asylum in the UK" which could be of much practical use to people in this position.

If you know of someone that might find the report or information sheet useful, or if you're interested in reading more, copies are available in the office.

## A8 Migrants

The TUC and CAB have put together a handbook called "Living and working in the UK: Your rights" If you know anyone from one of the A8 countries (see box below) the handbook may help explain certain aspects of life in the UK.

<http://www.tuc.org.uk/extras/workingintheuk.pdf>

## English Test

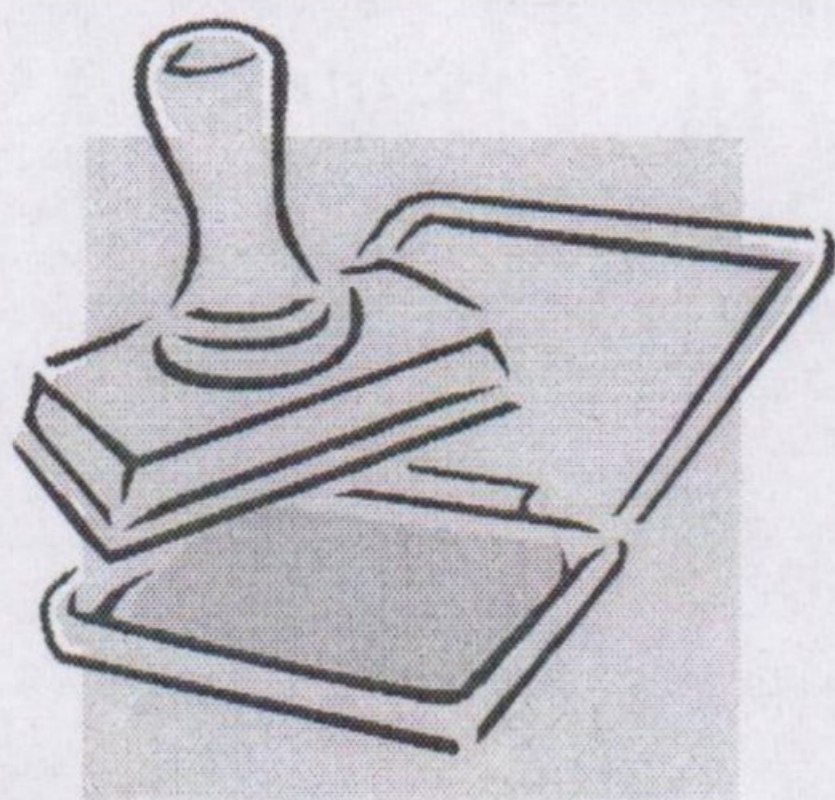
From April 2007 all those people who want to apply for an extension of ELR (Exceptional Leave to remain) to Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) will have to pass a life in the UK/English test. This already applies to those wishing to apply for Citizenship or apply for a visa to enter the UK. In addition to this, from the beginning of 2008 the English Language tests will be on a points based system.

We will forward more information when we have it.

### A8 Countries

Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Hungary  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Poland  
Slovakia  
Slovenia

## Visa for people to enter the UK



It is important to note that we do not have the OISC exemption to assist people with Visa applications. We can make people appointments with solicitors, we can download applications and we can provide information, but we cannot complete them.

Please access the applications at [www.ukvisas.co.uk](http://www.ukvisas.co.uk) and please ask me for an information leaflet which you can go through with clients to explain what is important to remember when they apply for the visa.

### Reports Available

- o Inter-Agency Partnership (IAP) News – October Issue
- o Refugee Agencies – Policy Response to the treatment of asylum seekers, September 2007 (Published by Refugee Council)
- o Refugee Council – Response to the prevention of Illegal Working, July 2007 (Published by Refugee Council)
- o Refugee Council Briefing – Special Immigration Status, October 2007
- o Women's Asylum News – November/December issue
- o Misjudging Rape, Published by Black Women's Rape Action/Women Against Rape (see Page 3)

