

Bulletin 6 June 2008

SDV News and events

SDV Music Night – Saturday 12 July: Line-up confirmed

Make sure you put this date in your diary for our next gig. Scott McDonald and David Lawson (blues/folk) will make up the bill. There will be a (very reasonably priced!) licensed bar, make sure you let your friends and family know.

You can download posters and fliers for the vent from the SDV website

www.sdv.org.uk

Easy fundraising

Please remember if you do any online shopping to register with easyfundraising.org.uk. From this site you can navigate to hundreds of retailers including Amazon, John Lewis and Marks and Spencer, and a proportion of what you spend will be donated to SDV. Click on the link below to start shopping and donating

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/scottishdetaineevisitors

Immigration, asylum and detention news

Why this woman's story shames Scotland

Front page Scotsman story about Corellie Bonhomme, currently detained in Dungavel. Includes comment from a range of organisations.

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/-Why-this-woman39s-story.4143684.jp>

Murder plot mastermind deported asylum seekers for Home Office

A man who masterminded a murder plot ran a firm which was employed by the Home Office for more than two years deporting asylum seekers, it has emerged.

Critics accused the Government of not carrying out proper checks on Mark Ayres who - under the name Mark Heaver - was jailed in 1995 for 13 years for arranging the killing of boxing manager Michael Donovan.

Released early from prison, Heaver changed his identity and set up the security group ITA (Overseas Escorts), which was established in 2005 primarily to manage a Home Office contract to "remove and deport failed asylum seekers and illegal immigrants from the UK".

The agreement between the company and the Government was said to be worth around £8 million and 46-year-old Ayres, a former police officer, was the CEO. It is understood he left the company at the end of last year.

Sources said the contract with the Home Office ran from January 2006 until February 2008 and that the UK Border Agency stopped working with the company after it ceased trading.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2065333/Murder-plot-mastermind-deported-asylum-seekers-for-Home-Office.html>

'I will be dead within days of going back to Baghdad'

"It would be like committing suicide. As soon as I step out of the Green Zone I would be walking around Baghdad with the word 'target' across my forehead." This is the fate awaiting Zyad al-Saadon, an Iraqi who has lived in Britain for 35 years. He faces deportation under the government programme for forced removal of failed asylum-seekers and foreign convicts.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/i-will-be-dead-within-days-of-going-back-to-baghdad-838153.html>

Other news and events

Home Owner Focus Group

The Scottish Government is changing the way it helps people who are home owners to look after their properties and make repairs. It believes there should be a wide range of advice and assistance available to owners to do this. The Government are developing proposals on how this can happen and would like to hear what you think about their ideas.

They are particularly keen to hear the views of men and women of all ages who are from Scotland's Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

To help them do this Positive Action in Housing are organising a focus group. This will be an opportunity for you to give your opinion and influence the way this work develops.

Held in Glasgow and in June, the focus group will last for two hours and participants will be given £30 to reimburse them for their time and travel.

Please note, places are limited and we may not be able to offer a place to everyone.
You must be a home owner to take part.

If you are interested in taking part, please e-mail David Reilly for further information on david@paih.org or call David on 0141 353 2220.

A job you might be interested in – SCIAF

Policy Analyst, Fixed Term Contract: 12 months from September '08. Salary: £23,691 to £26,232, Closing date: 10 June 2008

Due to our current Policy Analyst taking a year to pursue postgraduate studies, an exciting opportunity has arisen to play a key role in the development of SCIAF's policy work. High-quality policy analysis is the bedrock of our vital advocacy work and the successful candidate can expect to be involved in lobbying, campaigning and media work targeted at decision-makers at Scottish, UK and International levels.

The successful candidate is likely to have a relevant degree, a sound understanding of international development issues, experience of policy analysis/research, an understanding of the political processes in Scotland and the UK, and excellent written and verbal communications skills.

There may be scope for a candidate who does not fully meet every requirement of the person spec to be successful – in which case a lower salary grade may be appropriate.

Find out more and download application packs at

www.sciaf.org.uk

Another job you might be interested in – SEAD Scottish Education and Action for Development (SEAD) Director

17.5 hours per week (with the potential to increase if funding is available) £26,424 pro rata

Have you got the vision and energy to champion positive change?

Scottish Education and Action for Development (SEAD) is a dynamic organisation which supports community action to tackle social and environmental injustice. We are looking for a creative and enthusiastic person to take up a challenging and rewarding role as Director.

The successful applicant will have strong experience of the issues, the sector and relevant networks, and will be able to show good organisational and management skills. They will also have a proven track record in fund-raising. This post is based in Edinburgh.

Closing date for applications - 5pm on Thursday 12 June. Interviews from Friday 20th June.

Application packs can be downloaded from:

www.sead.org.uk

World Development Movement Events Team

This summer, the World Development Movement Scotland is building up a Volunteer Events Team. The team will co-ordinate campaigning at a variety of different festivals, fairs and conferences. As a team member you will have the opportunity to share your ideas and skills in order to effectively encourage others to campaign for climate and trade justice. It's a great chance to learn about new issues as well as to gain experience of some fun, front-line campaigning.

They would like to invite those interested to a free morning training session on Saturday June 7th at their offices on Graham Street, Edinburgh.

This is your chance to hear about WDM's campaigns and get involved with events over the summer. If you are interested in attending, please contact WDM Scotland, 20 Graham Street, Edinburgh, EH6 5QR, 0131 454 3802