

## **Bulletin 15 May 2009**

### **SDV News and events**

#### **New SDV Coordinator**

The new SDV coordinator will be Nicola McLelland who some of you will know as a former visitor with SDV. Nicola works part time as the interpreting coordinator at the Scottish Refugee Council, a role she will be continuing with when she takes up employment with SDV on 2 June 2009. Kate will do a short handover with Nicola and then will be gone for good! Good luck to Nicola in her new role.

#### **Easyfundraising and Easysearch for SDV**

Please remember both these very easy ways to raise funds for SDV. Details on the website:

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id15.html>

### **Immigration, asylum and detention news**

#### **Mum and son dawn-raided in Sighthill yesterday morning**

In a shocking move the Home Office Enforcement Team at Brand Street have carried out an unexpected dawn raid on a young mother from the Ivory Coast who had been living in Sighthill.

The dawn raid, the first to be carried out in Glasgow for almost a year, was carried out only days after the Home Office announced the start of a pilot project designed to prevent the need to detain asylum seeking families at all. (See item below)

Fatou Felicite Gaye, a 38 year old single mum who has lived in Scotland since 2005, was woken up by immigration officials early this morning. She was detained with her four year old son, Arouna, who was born in Scotland, and the pair are now in Dungavel facing forced removal from the country on Monday 18 May.

Arouna will be the 21st child detained in Dungavel since the beginning of the year that Unity has found out about. It is not the first time the four year old or his mother have been treated in this way. Fatou, who receives counselling from the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture due to the trauma she experienced in her country of origin, was previously dawn raided in June last year and managed to successfully stop Home Office attempts to forcibly remove her then.

#### **Voluntary return plan for Scotland's asylum seekers**

A scheme to encourage failed asylum seekers to leave Scotland voluntarily, rather than through enforced detention, began this week

After years of negative publicity about its policy of dawn raids , the UK Border Agency, working with the Scottish government and Glasgow City Council, devised the Family Returns scheme, which it described as "the most humane way" to persuade unsuccessful immigrants to return home.

The £125,000 pilot scheme, which will run in Glasgow, is the result of changes brought in after a public outcry over a series of dawn raids and detentions.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6276360.ece>

## **Self harm in immigration detention, first quarter 2009**

### **Number of incidents of Self-Harm requiring medical treatment**

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>
Campsfield House	1	1	1
Colnbrook	4	2	10
Dover	5	1	3
Dungavel	0	0	0
Harmondsworth	1	0	0
Haslar	1	0	0
Lindholme	0	0	0
Oakington	0	0	0
Tinsley House	1	0	1
Yarl's Wood	4	4	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>16</i>

*Subtotal 41*

### **Number of individuals on Assessment Care in Detention and Teamwork**

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>
Campsfield House	6	10	14
Colnbrook	27	53	59
Dover	6	8	7
Dungavel	14	8	6
Harmondsworth	20	15	12
Haslar	5	3	3
Lindholme	2	1	0
Oakington	6	6	8
Tinsley House	5	6	8
Yarl's Wood	14	23	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>131</i>

*Subtotal 369*

## **Independent Monitoring Board Annual Reports for IRCs**

A number of IRC Independent Monitoring Boards have published their annual reports and they are available to read online:

Dover:

[http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/Dover\\_2008.pdf](http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/Dover_2008.pdf)

Campsfield House:

[http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/Campsfield\\_House\\_IRC\\_2008.pdf](http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/Campsfield_House_IRC_2008.pdf)

Colnbrook:

[http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/Colnbrook\\_2008.pdf](http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/Colnbrook_2008.pdf)

Harmondsworth:

[http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/HaRmondsworth\\_2008\\_1\\_.doc.pdf](http://www.imb.gov.uk/annual-reports/08-annual-reports/HaRmondsworth_2008_1_.doc.pdf)

## **Other news and events**

### **A European election hustings event with a difference, Wednesday 27th May, 6:30-9pm, Hillhead Library**

No long, boring speeches!  
No tedious arguments!  
No David Dimbleby!

Just a chance to have an informal discussion with MEP candidates for Scotland, over a cup of tea and a piece of cake (from a European member state!) This event is organised by the Trade Justice Movement in Glasgow and there will be a focus on trade justice and international development, but it is an open event - come along and ask your MEP candidates questions on any subject.

For more info please contact [wdmglasgow@gmail.com](mailto:wdmglasgow@gmail.com)

Or call Steve Rolfe on 07913-724854.