

Bulletin 4 December 2008

SDV News and events

Fundraising pub quiz and raffle: Tuesday 9 December

Make sure you come to the festive pub quiz at Stube on Kilmarnock Road. Full details on the website. Raffle prizes include Celtic tickets!

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id1.html>

Christmas fundraising

Remember easyfundraising whenever you shop online. Also remember easysearch when you search the internet. Both can generate funds for SDV. Find details of how to register for both on the SDV website.

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

Immigration, asylum and detention news

Yet another borders, immigration and citizenship bill announced in the queens speech

This will end the automatic right to stay in Britain after five years residence and replace with a new system of "earned citizenship".

All new migrants are to be required to demonstrate good English ability and a knowledge of life in the UK before becoming citizens. Those who work here legally, pay taxes, get involved in their communities and do not acquire a criminal record will be able to become citizens within six years of arrival.

Those who do not do any voluntary work will only qualify after eight years and those who become unemployed will be asked to leave the country. Those who come to Britain because of family links will also be required to leave if their relationships cease to exist.

The bill will also deny full access to benefits, including social housing, to those yet to complete a new period of probationary citizenship of between one and five years.

It will also contain powers to set up a new levy on all new migrants to finance a new fund to help local services deal with the short-term pressures of rapid population change triggered by migration.

A new move trailed by immigration minister Phil Woolas to restrict the access of failed asylum seekers to repeated high court judicial reviews is likely to stir a strong argument with parliament's powerful legal lobby.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/dec/03/queens-speech-justice>

Britain is criticised for deporting HIV patients

The government is, on World Aids Day, accused of double standards for permitting the deportation of people diagnosed in the UK with HIV to countries where they may not get the drugs they need to stay alive.

The UK has strongly supported the G8 pledge to get treatment to all people who need it in poor countries, and yet it is sending back people who have discovered they have HIV and been put on drugs while in the UK, to places where they have little hope of continuing their medication.

The African HIV Policy Network, which is attempting to change UK policy, has many examples of people who are struggling to get hold of life-saving medication. Its campaign is supported by Neil Gerrard, the Labour MP who chairs the all-party parliamentary group on refugees and previously chaired the group on Aids.

Britain has heavily backed the G8 call for universal access to Aids drugs, as well as prevention and care, in the poorest countries of the world.

"We are doing some really good work and probably leading the field in terms of promoting better care and treatment internationally," said Gerrard. "To have that on the one hand and be sending somebody back knowing if they are not able to get treatment they will die, is a horrible contradiction."

Allegations that people with HIV are seeking asylum in the UK solely to get medical treatment are false, says Gerrard. Figures from the Health Protection Agency last week showed people are arriving at their GP's surgery when their immune systems are compromised and they are at risk of dying.

It is not a long-term issue for the UK, said Gerrard. "If we are successful - and there has been some really solid progress in getting drugs available in sub-Saharan Africa - this is a short-term problem. We should reach a point where removing somebody for immigration reasons doesn't mean you are sending them to somewhere they will probably die."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/01/hiv-aids-uk-patients>

Report of an unannounced follow up inspection of Campsfield House, IRC

This report is available to read on the Information page of the SDV website.

<http://www.sdv.org.uk/id3.html>

Other news and events

Act On Climate Change – Just Solutions Now

- Saturday 6 December
- Assemble: 12.30 at the Amphitheatre, Clyde Street ;
- Rally: 2.00 pm at Glasgow Caledonian University

We, the Scottish Climate Change Campaign, are organising this march as part of the Global Day of Action during the United Nations Climate Talks in Poznan , December 1st to 12th 2008, to call on world leaders to take urgent action on climate change.

For more info, please email:

cindy_courtillier@yahoo.co.uk .

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