

## **Bulletin 8 August 2008**

### **SDV News and events**

#### **Support SDV through Easysearch**

Please remember to use easysearch when searching the internet. By doing so you can raise money for SDV.

Go to the link below, choose Scottish Detainee Visitors as the cause you would like to support, and get searching. It's easy to use and seems as effective as Google. AND it is literally money for nothing!

You can also navigate to easysearch from the SDV website where you will find all sorts of other ways to raise funds and details of events.

<http://www.easysearch.org.uk/>

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

#### **Life inside Dungavel**

They are like ghosts, moved without warning or explanation across the country in the dead of night, transported in unmarked vans. A silent cargo, often handcuffed, frozen by fear and unable to make a call or let their family know what is happening to them.

"Ghosting" happens most nights as detainees at removal and detention centres are taken from their families and driven, sometimes more than 500 miles, the Sunday Herald has been told.

Full story at:

[http://www.sundayherald.com/search/display.var.2416210.0.life\\_inside\\_dungavel.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/search/display.var.2416210.0.life_inside_dungavel.php)

#### **Oakington IRC: Violence soars - and weapons finds rocket**

Confiscation of weapons, including knives and metal bars, have soared tenfold at the Oakington detention centre in the last year. A News investigation found inmates at the immigration unit, dubbed "Cambridgeshire's answer to Guantanamo Bay", face an increasingly violent atmosphere. Recorded fights and assaults have doubled in the same period, as have cases of selfharm.

Campaigners have blamed the problems on the internment of foreign criminals awaiting deportation inside the former military barracks, which previously only held asylum seekers.

In 2005, a BBC report alleged staff were racist towards detainees, and earlier this year a Government report said Oakington was the second worst reception centre in the UK, and the least secure.

[http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/cn\\_news\\_home/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=337035](http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/cn_news_home/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=337035)

## **New Report on Race Statistics in Scotland Launched**

With the lack of information on race and racism increasingly recognised, Glasgow Anti Racist Alliance (GARA) has launched its 'State of the Nation – Race and Racism in Scotland 2008' report, a collation of statistics and data relating to Black/Minority Ethnic (BME) people in Scotland. The statistics have been gathered from a number of sources, including Scottish Government publications, academic research, and studies carried out by voluntary organisations. The document highlights many discrepancies, such as a much increased rate of diabetes amongst BME communities but limited ethnic monitoring by the National Health Service and a significantly higher percentage of BME children in care.

The State of the Nation –Race and Racism in Scotland 2008 is available in on the Glasgow Anti Racist Alliance website:

[www.gara.org.uk](http://www.gara.org.uk)

## **Other news and events**

### **Unity Centre Mural Competition**

On the side of the Unity Centre is a window that is boarded up and covered by a shutter that the centre didn't have the key for. Recently the centre was used to film part of an episode of Taggart and STV generously paid for the shutter lock to be fixed so they could open it and add signs to the window.

Unity have decided to have a competition to get a mural painted on the window to cover the signs and make the side of the centre much more attractive and eye-catching for people going past to sign at the Home Office.

They are offering a prize of £25 for the best design!

So if you're artistic and would like to enter we would like a mural design that reflects what the Unity Centre is trying to do as well as highlighting the principles of solidarity, internationalism and mutual aid. Remember the window is on the side of the street that people walk down on their way to the Home Office so we want something attractive and uplifting!

Send your design by email, or the post to the Unity Centre and they'll decide the best design and announce the winner before the end of September!

The mural is for an area measuring 160 cm across and is 145 cm high and you are welcome to come and see where we want the mural to go.

[info@unitycentreglasgow.org](mailto:info@unitycentreglasgow.org). The UNITY Centre, 30 Ibrox Street, Glasgow, G51 1AQ

# Pub Quiz

Organised by:



On **Friday 29th August**

Doors Open at **7:00 pm**

At: **O'Neills, 71 Albion Street**

**RAFFLE  
SILENT AUCTION  
FABULOUS PRIZES**

Teams can be formed on the night  
or prior to the pub quiz

Entry fee: £4 per person, payable on the night

For more information, email:

[cindy\\_courtillier@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cindy_courtillier@yahoo.co.uk)

To learn about the work of the WDM, visit

[www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)