

HELPING REFUGEES, MIGRANTS, AND OTHER ETHNIC MINORITIES TO INTEGRATE SUCCESSFULLY IN OUR COMMUNITY

"The key to our success..."

Integration Support Services organised its second AGM meeting on the 3rd of July at Rainbow Services offices where many representatives, trustees and volunteers got together and had the opportunity to learn about the achievements of ISS for the last year as well the future challenges to lead the organisation towards better standards and practices.

During the last year ISS has played a major role in supporting migrants, refugees and many ethnic groups in need, to deal with their struggles to cope with a new environment and finding better ways to integrate successfully in the community.

The key to our success has been the outstanding work of many, including staff, trustees and volunteers who have worked hard to support the aims and objectives of ISS.

Nevertheless the partnership work with many organisations locally and regionally has improved the service we offer to our clients and established a strong foundation for future collaboration towards achieving our long term aims and objectives.



opportunity to learn about other organisations and activities in our region.



On the agenda was also the launch of our newsletter which is the first newsletter of its kind in the region dedicated to refugees, migrants and other ethnic minorities. The meeting was followed by refreshments and networking where participants had the

Contents:

- New system and your visa.
- Visitors to the UK, what you need to know.
- Make your qualifications count in the UK.
- Cultural Awareness event.
- Summer activities diary

New system to get a visa to enter UK

From June 08 all highly skilled workers, entrepreneurs and investors wanting to come to the United Kingdom will be able to apply for their United Kingdom Visa under a new Australian style points-based system.

Under the new system, applicants will need to earn points to satisfy the visa service that they can make a positive contribution to the United Kingdom. Points will be awarded for objective criteria such as qualifications, previous earnings, age and United Kingdom experience. Only those with enough points will be able to get a visa.

The system replaces the two staged Highly Skilled Migrant program with a single application that is far easier to use. Applicants are able to calculate how many points they will be awarded, and therefore if they are likely to be issued a visa, before making an application.

Border and Immigration Minister Liam Byrne said: "The introduction of Tier 1 of the Points Based System is good for those wanting to work in Britain and good for the UK economy. We are clear that we will not tolerate any abuse of our systems. That is why we have introduced fingerprint technology to check all visa applicants, a new force to police our borders and new rules that ban anyone using false documents or deception from the UK for up to ten years."

Today's changes introduce the first tier of the points-based system. Other tiers are for students, skilled workers with a job offer and temporary workers such as musicians, actors and sportsmen.

Are you planning to invite your family to visit you in UK?

Please read this

Tough new sanctions will be imposed on people who fail to ensure family members visiting from abroad play by the rules, the Government announced in June 2008.

People will have to become licensed to sponsor family members to visit from abroad under proposed changes to the visa system. Sponsors will have a duty to ensure that their visitors leave before their visa runs out. If sponsors fail in their duties,

they face a ban on bringing anyone else over, and penalties of up to £5,000 or a jail sentence.

The new sponsored family visa is just one of the firm changes being made to the short-term visa system which will sit alongside the Government's new Points Based System introduced earlier this year. Further proposals announced last month are: introducing two new business visas for sportspeople and entertainers; setting the maximum leave for visitors at six months; introducing an appeal system for those coming in under the family route; a new short-term, low-cost group travel visa to promote British tourism; and a visa for people coming to the UK for one-off cultural events such as the Edinburgh Festival. Border and Immigration Minister Liam Byrne said: "The changes I am announcing today will help create a fairer Britain with fair treatment for those who play by the rules, but tough action against those who break the law."

Education, Education, Education,

Don't let your hard work go to waste

Many of us have studied hard in our countries of origin to get an education to a degree or even higher level. We have an increased number of clients who came to us for advice and support to find a job and in fact they have degrees and very high qualifications from home countries. There is a misunderstanding that our education is not recognized here and therefore it is useless to look for jobs in their field. It is important to mention that primary school, secondary school and colleges have almost the same accreditation to that of any country in the world. While for degrees and postgraduate levels may vary depending on the country you have studied and subject you have chosen.

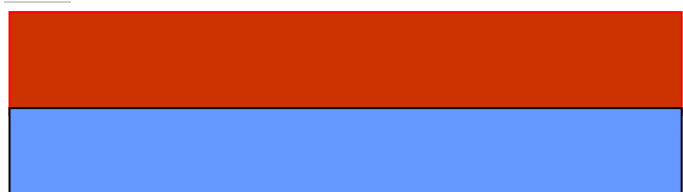
You can have your qualification/degree equivalent from UK NARIC - the National Agency who are responsible for providing information and expert opinion on vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications from over 180 countries worldwide.

Of course you can't go and apply for your dream job straightaway but once you do this you can go for further education or training in any UK university/college and at the same time find a place for experience in your area of work and soon you

will have your 'lost' career and dream job back. It takes some time but is better than starting over from the beginning, or giving up your hard earned qualifications. At ISS we will be able to assist you with this process right from the beginning, please call our office on 01279 639442 for an appointment where you will receive more help and information.

Some of UK NARIC services and their prices are explained on the table below:

Letter of Comparability			
Service	Delivery	Costs	Costs
	Time	(by Post)	(Online)
This service provides a personalized letter of comparability for individuals with overseas awards.	10-15 working days	£40.00 plus VAT (£47.00)	£34.00 plus VAT (£39.95)
Letter of Comparability with Translation Waiver			
Service	Delivery	Costs	Costs
	Time	(by Post)	(Online)
This service is offered to assist applications for a Letter of Comparability by removing the additional time and expense of acquiring a translation. Selected countries only.	10-15 working days	£70.00 plus VAT (£82.25)	£64.00 plus VAT (£75.20)
Career Path Report			
Service	Delivery	Costs	Costs
	Time	(by Post)	(Online)
This service provides individuals with a detailed report on their overseas awards.	15 working days	£88.00 plus VAT (£103.40)	n/a



Cultural Awareness Event



On the 19th of July Festiva Club was the host of one of the biggest cultural events held in Harlow during this year. Broadwalk in the town centre was like at no other time occupied by a multicultural atmosphere with dance, singing, information stalls and other activities.

Integration Support Services was part of this collaborative event with a wide range of information and support for those present at the event. We had many people showing their interests and need for our work and made appropriate arrangements for their enquiries. It is worth mentioning that though we have more than 4 years experience of working as a voluntary organization, still there are many people out there who need our support and had not yet had the opportunity to know about us and our work. This gave us an indication that there is still much to be done working with more partners across the region and particularly around Harlow and Epping to make sure that we are reaching those in need and, working together with our partners, to deal with difficulties and issues.



August Summer Special Activities

Date	Activity	Venue	Time
9 th August	Get Together Picnic	Town Park	meet at Harlow swimming pool at 11 am
16 th August	Activity Fun Day	Sure Start Centre, Staple Tye	11.00 am – 2.00 pm
23 rd August	Day Trip to London Science Museum	Meet at Sure Start Centre, Staple Tye	10 am (back home 5 pm)
30 th August	Cultural Awareness through Dance, Music and Drama	Sure Start Centre, Staple Tye	11 am – 1.30 pm

Drop-in
1.30 pm –
5 pm
Thursdays



**Consultation
and Advice**
(appointment
only)

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We are grateful to our sponsors:



And all those who helped and contributed towards the publication of this issue

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Marlene Brooks (Editor)