



March 2006, No. 12

EAST OF ENGLAND BLACK & MINORITY ETHNIC NETWORK

Newsletter

Anti-racist organisations campaign for 'race committee' and Black representation on the CEHR

Black organisations including The 1990 Trust, Operation Black Vote (OBV), Black Londoners Forum (BLF) and the National Assembly Against Racism (NAAR) working alongside faith groups, have stepped up their campaigning against government plans for the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) after the Equalities Act went through parliament on 16th February. The Act will create the Commission for Equality and Human Rights (CEHR) which will be established in 2007. In 2009 the Commission for

Racial Equality (CRE) will cease to exist.

According to the campaigners the CEHR lacks guaranteed BME representation, adequate resources and a statutory race committee, all of which are required to make it an effective body for delivering race equality. The 1990 Trust, NAAR and OBV ask all Black and Minority Ethnic organisations to adopt a motion resolving to make race equality a reality and support the campaign to realise an effective delivery of race equality within the CEHR, by protecting

advisory race committees, guaranteed BME representation and ring fenced funding. The motion also states that in order to deliver to BME communities the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) must be retained and reformed. The motion and letter is available from the website of The 1990 Trust, www.blink.org.uk

The campaigners state that they "believe this to be a

(Continued on page 3)

Review of ethnicity in the East of England

The MENTER review of ethnicity in the East of England has now been published.

The review, which uses census data, focuses largely on health and housing but also covers older people, experiences and fear of crime and pattern of employment and economic activity.

The research looks at the health of BME groups in terms of disproportionate rates of mental ill-health, long-term illness and poor health and life expectancy amongst BME groups. It also looks at tenure and

links between housing, racial incidences and other issues such as overcrowding.

The report includes a useful route map that has links to websites and existing reports and data on ethnicity. The route map is a live document. The intention is that the user adds new reports or useful links to the route map as they become known.

Both the research and the route map are available to download from the MENTER website.

MENTER is funded by the Home Office/Active Community Directorate and EEDA

Our offices:

**62-64 Victoria Road
Cambridge**

Tel. 01223 355034

Fax 01223 359047

E-mail:

office@mentor.org.uk

www.mentor.org.uk

Deadline next issue:

10th May 2006

E E D A

East of England Development Agency

Norwich Asylum Seekers & Refugees Forum Action Group

Asylum voice makes its mark

Norwich is a city with a view to action. The action in this case is to properly integrate new immigrants such as asylum seekers and refugees. When Norwich became a dispersal area in 2004, it was fortunate to be able to adopt certain good practices across the Region to help formulate and implement its own action plan. Through proper planning, Norwich was therefore able to enjoy a good relationship with asylum seekers and refugees. To date, Norwich can claim a very positive relationship with its immigrant community.

Norwich city realised that it would need to coordinate its efforts to properly integrate its new arrivals. The Forum was thus conceived as a place where issues relevant to asylum seekers and refugees could be discussed. In June of 2005, NASREF (Norwich Asylum Seekers & Refugee Forum) was founded to spearhead and provide the support needed to integrate newly dispersed asylum seekers and refugees into the city. NASREF is a multi-agency forum like several others around the Region with members from statutory and voluntary organisations. The Norwich Forum membership consists of representatives from Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council, the British Red Cross, ClearSprings management (a NASS accommodation provider in the East of England), and several

other statutory and voluntary organisations working with asylum seekers and refugees. At best the Forum is a think-tank for the way forwards towards the better integration of asylum seekers and refugees.

The diverse membership of the Forum brings together different organisations working in the best interest of the community at large including asylum seekers and refugees. The Norwich Forum members embraced the fact that one of the best ways forward would require an open forum to discuss matters by all concerned. In October 2005, the executive committee of NASREF launched the Asylum Voice project. Asylum Voice is a project with the mandate to fully focus on the smooth integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Norwich. It is created to serve as the action group for putting into practice what needs to be done to get results. All members of NASREF agreed to put into practice and actively promote the Asylum Voice Project to help:

Asylum seekers and refugees to become active members of their community;

Asylum seekers and refugees to have a voice and a choice; and to empower them;

Asylum seekers and refugees to advance their skills in communication, negotiation, networking and decision-making;

Local services addressing asylum seekers' and

refugees' changing needs;

Policy- and decision-makers generating well-informed decisions.

Asylum Voice meets once a month and four out of the eight active members of the Action Group are refugees holding key positions within the group. Asylum Voice allows the active involvement and direct participation of asylum seekers and refugees where they chair meetings and decide the way forward. The action group then report back to the executive committee of NASREF for guidance and support. Asylum Voice has the following aims and objectives:

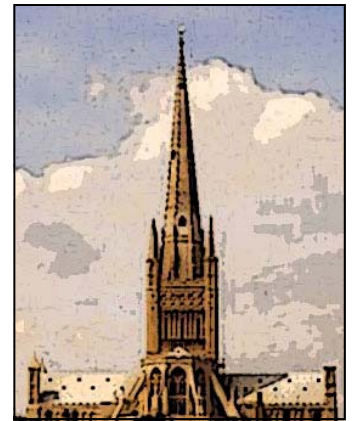
To increase the active involvement of asylum seekers and refugees in the Forum;

To integrate asylum seekers and refugees as knowledgeable, skilful and confident community representatives;

To inform local and regional policy makers on asylum issues;

Since its inception, Asylum Voice has organised two successful events. In December it started with a training programme aimed specifically at supporting the partnership development efforts of the multi-agency organisations of Norwich and Norfolk in their roles in trying to integrate refugee communities.

Then in January 2006, Asylum Voice organised a community event which saw over one hundred and twenty people from



diverse backgrounds, with more than half of the attendees from the asylum seekers' and refugees' communities. The event was a real ice breaker and it was a success as it brought so many people together to enjoy and share.

The success of Asylum Voice in Norwich is attributed to the simplicity of its approach to community cohesion. The Asylum Voice action group is very flexible in its approach to finding a solution. Its structure is very fluid, and the meetings are sometimes conducted in an informal manner where the action group members would join the asylum seekers and refugees at the Red Cross Refugee Resource Centre to engage in open discussions. Each member of the action group is somehow connected with some member of the asylum seekers and refugees community either through their line of work or personally. All of these informal connections help feed back the views and concerns of the concerned community group.

Though something new within the Region, NASREF through Asylum Voice has made its mark in the Region.

Sports Equality Manager starts the game

My name is Aruna Sharma, I have recently been appointed as the new regional Sports Equality Manager covering the East of England. My appointment is to work with the Women's Sport Foundation and MENTER in Cambridge, where I am based. The counties I will be covering include: Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

I will be providing a source of expertise on regional issues relating to women/girls and BME sports, acting as an advisor on policy and strategy issues in order to widen sports participation. I am also looking at setting up some pilot projects with health, media, training and development programmes linking with employment in the sports sector within the East of England.

Within my role, the remit is to investigate and assess participation in sport by young girls and women in addition to BME groups, refugees, asylum seekers, Gypsies, Travellers and migrant workers. Research has been conducted by Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd on behalf of BME Sports Network East, of which Sport England East and MENTER are members, as well as Syzgylesiure and



the Womens Sports Foundation indicating the need of a regional worker to evaluate and monitor what is currently set up for these groups to become proactive and self empowered through sports. (Details of this research can be downloaded from www.wsf.org.uk and www.menter.org.uk).

My current contact details are: Menter, 62-64 Victoria Road, Cambridge, CB4 3DU. Telephone number: 01223 355034. Email address: aruna@menter.org.uk.

I am currently in the process of touching base with sports and community development organisations within all the counties mentioned above. Please contact me if you have details of any sports development initiative which

relates to sports participation by women/young girls and BME communities within your area, which will assist me with county wide sports development.

I look forward to being in touch, and please let me know how I can help

Aruna Sharma
Sports Equality Manager
Women's Sports Foundation and MENTER

(Continued from page 1)

defining moment in our history. Our parents' generation campaigned to establish the 1976 Race Relations Act, and the establishment of a statutory Commission. The brutal murder of Stephen Lawrence and many more, before and after him, as well as the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, established the need for the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. These actions hoped to ensure that future generations did not face the gross racism faced by our parents. This was a great legacy. However, the Government proposals will, we believe, have a hugely damaging effect on that legacy. It is our contention that the decision we take now will have an overarching and lasting effect on our communities over the next fifty years."

Prior to the passing of the bill, on 6th February, the Race Crisis Summit took place which was called by BME organisations to formulate a response to the CEHR. It was attended by over sixty BME organisations. At that meeting organisations all but unanimously, with one abstention, agreed that until the Government agreed to facilitate the establishment of a statutory race

committee and the other demands listed below BME organisations would not engage with the CEHR. Furthermore, the decision to abolish the CRE was seen as catastrophic in relation to efforts to reduce racism and improve long-term race relations in the UK. It was therefore agreed that a national campaign would be launched calling for: 1) A statutory Race Committee; 2) Guaranteed BME representation on the full CEHR Commission; 3) Ring-fenced funding for race work; and 4) The retention and reform of the CRE.

Prior to drafting the above mentioned motion, a delegation met up with the Government on the 14th February. The Government's response was that a voluntary race committee could be set up, if agreed by the new CEHR Commissioners. The Government refused to consider the establishment of a statutory race committee facilitated by an amendment to the current CEHR Bill. Those in attendance responded by stating that this was entirely unacceptable.

Contrary to many BME organisations, the CRE has always supported the principle of a single equality body. In a statement on the 16th February the CRE welcomed the



act. "The setting and entrenching of basic human rights has been long overdue and the Equalities Act provides for a statutory body to address human rights, and equality and discrimination issues for sexuality, religion or belief and age in addition to the current coverage of race, gender and disability.

Maxine Ayton, CRE chief operating officer, said: "The Equality Act receiving Royal Assent is an important step towards making inequality a distant memory. But there is a long way to go. That is why we are proposing that the Government should help to set up a new independent body to deal with community relations issues and complement the work of the CEHR." The CRE has published plans for this new body which should lead on community relations, extremism, migration and citizenship issues. For more information please visit www.cre.gov.uk.

New regional partnership intends to improve use of resources in work with the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities

On the 20th of January the East of England Traveller resource Partnership (EETRP) was launched in Peterborough. The Partnership is made up of members from Local Authorities, Health Providers, Police, Voluntary sector organisations and Gypsy, Traveller and Roma community groups. It has been set up to assist in the provision of appropriate needs led and properly resourced services to the Region's Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities. By sharing the challenges, and developing a more imaginative use of existing resources, the partners aim to better respond to both regional and local needs and situations.

Projects are all too often a reaction to demand rather than need and subsequently are performed without effective planning and a properly funded resource base. This disjointed work usually proves costly and wasteful, often leads to frustration and resentment by both the providing agencies and the community. In addition to this, many organisations say that their resources and budget are inadequate for the services that are needed. EETRP is set up to help tackle these issues

Full membership of the Partnership is open to organisations based within the Eastern Region, who

provide services to the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities residing within the Eastern Region or are a community group or organisation, representing one of those communities. Organisations from outside the Eastern Region who provide services to those communities within the Region are able to apply for associate membership.

For further information about the Partnership or membership contact:-

John Day, MENTER, 34 Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough, PE1 2RX.
Tel: 01733 341061
Email: john@menter.org.uk

Travellers' tales

Suffolk County Council Libraries & Sure Start project

Travellers of all ages have made a record of their life and culture in a new website. Jo Hanford, learning centre manager, Lowestoft, has worked with both adults and children to put together the pages. These are about where they are living now, life as a traveller, dream trailers, photo albums and children's artwork, as part of an East of England Museums, Libraries and Archives Council funded project.

The website has been well received by national Traveller organisations. Learning Centre staff have been visiting the Kessingland Romany Traveller Site for two years now. They visit the site on a weekly basis to provide

- drop in ICT sessions
- toys, games, books, and story times for the children
- a library service (book requests etc)
- learning incorporated into themed projects
- specialist CD-ROMs and games.

Visits to the site have been a great success and the library staff are fully accepted by the community. These visits have encouraged Travellers of all ages to use the library, a place they had never visited before. Now nine Travellers have joined the library and use it regularly: another family uses it occasionally, and two families have also taken part in various events like Book Crawl and Surf Sundays. The Mobile Library has added the site to its route and now visits every fortnight.



Caly (6), Shane (6), Pete (5) and Chloe (4) with Jo, proudly showing off their artwork they have created for the Travellers website

Jo has also submitted a bid for funding through the East of England Museums, Libraries and Archives Council for a 'Stories on the Move' project to provide interactive story times on the mobile library. The funding would provide story sacks and art and craft materials to create puppets for the children's own stories. These would be created in Powerpoint, with a duplicate collection for Travellers to borrow.

The website address is www.suffolk-travellers.org.uk

Contact:

Jo.Hanford@libher.suffolkcc.gov.uk
for more information.

MENTER lead on regional equalities project

MENTER is leading on the development of a Regional Equalities Forum (REF). This follows from plans for the Commission for Equalities and Human Rights (CEHR) by October 2007. The REF project, which is funded through the Home Office fund Change Up, is exploring what an equalities forum would look like for this region. The development work of the REF project will consult with a cross sector of audiences and stakeholders to start formulating a strategy on equalities and to produce recommended work priorities. As there are no LGB (Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual) and gender regional networks, MENTER is also bringing together representatives from LGB and gender organisations to feed into the REF. This will ensure that the REF is inclusive and fully representative.

It is hoped that a REF would not only co-ordinate work around equalities but also provide consistency on equality issues across the region. Also the REF would influence regional policy development, planning and service delivery, lessen duplication and allow greater efficiency in allocating resources.

If you are interested in being involved in this project and / or are a LGB or gender organisation and would like to be involved in the development of the networks, please contact Joella Hazel Partnership Officer (Race Equality) at MENTER on tel. 01223 355034 or email joella@menter.org.uk

New Migrant Worker's Information Advice & Guidance (IAG) Scheme Launched in Cambridgeshire

A unique European scheme in Cambridgeshire will give Migrant Workers the opportunity to receive specialist advice on employment rights, training, immigration, housing, finance and other matters. The aim is to ensure respect, help overcome barriers to fruitful employment and to fully utilise their skills. The initial service will be based in Huntingdon and will cover Huntingdonshire and Fenland. Translation services will be supplied to ensure good communication. Initial leaflets will be printed in a range of languages.

Workers from across the European Union are able to travel freely between European States to seek work. The scheme will work in partnership with employers, unions and employee representatives to help maximise skills and productivity, which will be of benefit for all.

Partners in the project are Cambridge Independent Advice Centre, (CIAC), Legal Services Commission, (LSC), National Institute for Adult Continuing Education, (NIACE), Citizen's Advice East, Luton Law Centre, MENTER, Shelter and Hatch Brenner. Further information is available from David Brown, Project Advice Worker, Tel: 01480 356944, Mobile: 077 888 26269, e-mail: iag@ciac.org.uk

A rewarding career in the Prison Service

Have you thought about a rewarding career in the Prison Service?

What do you need and what can you offer us in return for what we need and can offer you?

A good pay structure with annual increments, job security, team working, a final salary pension scheme, job satisfaction and unlimited career progression prospects, an environment which encourages respect and a strong BME staff support network – all in a prison near you.

The Prison Service values the differences in people and recognises the benefits of embracing varying perspectives and experiences.

We are seeking Prison Officers from many different races, cultures and backgrounds and this is reflective of the prisoners we hold who have

been committed to prison by the Courts to serve a custodial sentence in a safe, decent and healthy environment.

If you are a good communicator with inter-personal skills, this is the career path for you.

As a Prison Officer you will establish positive working relations with prisoners helping them with simple basic skills that are taken for granted. You will have to diffuse confrontations, maintain security and control, yet remain focused on prisoners' needs.

It can be a difficult balance to maintain but it is rewarding when you witness prisoners, with your help, succeed in changing their lives for the better.

There are 12 prisons in the Eastern Area of the Prison Service. Visit our

Companies who value diversity can advertise free on MENTER's website
www.menter.org.uk/html/employers.html

website to see how close they are to you.

We are currently under-represented by minority ethnic groups and open to recruit such groups.

Take the next step and change your life for the better – join us!

HM PRISON SERVICE – EASTERN AREA
Call the recruitment hotline ' 01603 264113
 Visit our website
www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk

BME Businesses: Get involved

Queens Park, Bedford Business Networking

The Queens Park Business Networking Club, which is mainly aimed at BME businesses, held its inaugural meeting on 13th December 2005 at the community centre. The meeting was attended by over 30 people. Local BME businessmen and others, such as the chair of Queens Park Mosque, Asif Nadim, were excited about the potential of the network and have taken it upon themselves to spread the word.

Most importantly business was done at the meeting. A human resource consultant was offered work, a Shefford business specialising in the care of dark skins was offered shelf space by the local Chemist and several found a source of help with the English language.

The next event will be held on 14th March when speaker Iain Berry of Emergency Planning will give a presentation entitled 'Survival is Not Compulsory'. This event is hosted by Bedfordshire and Luton Resilience Forum

For more information please visit www.businessclubs.biz/queenspark.asp or contact Pam Woods on pam@businessclubs.biz

MENTER is exploring a Regional BME business network. Please contact the office if you are interested. Below is information about existing local networks, as well as a message from Envirowise who are keen to reach BME retailers

Minority Business Sector (Peterborough)

The Minority Business Sector is run by the Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce. It was launched in March 2005 and is sponsored by Business Link. The sector aims to work with BME businesses in the Cambridgeshire area and provide a forum to deal with business issues, lobby on behalf of members and organise events specific to the sector. It will become a conduit of information for all BME businesses and will offer help and support to ensure they succeed in the mainstream.

The Steering Committee, chaired by Ravi Pathak of PowerWeb, meets regularly to discuss and take forward issues relevant to BME Businesses in the Cambridgeshire area and plan events.

The next event is entitled Finance for Business and takes place on 23rd March 2006. This seminar will highlight alternative ways in which you can raise finance for your business. Presentations will be given by Thinc Destini - a raising finance generalist and Alun Williams, Islamic Bank. Pep Serrano of Business Link for Cambridgeshire will give an insight into what grants and assistance is on offer through Business Link.

For information on how to join please visit www.cambridgeshirechamber.co.uk or contact Alistair Turner or Helen Bosett on 01733 393333.

Independent retailers urged to stop letting profits go to waste

Small independent retailers could be missing a trick when it comes to looking at ways to save money – that's the message from Envirowise, which works with companies to help them reduce waste and make more efficient use of resources.

By simply implementing a series of low-cost or no-cost environmental measures, any independent retailer can start saving money almost immediately – and Envirowise's experience has shown that by doing this businesses can often reduce waste costs by up to 1 per cent of turnover. In order for retailers to start

saving money, Envirowise recommends they implement the following straightforward measures:-

- Check your water system for leaks, which can be expensive and cause damage to your building. Take meter readings regularly and carefully – if you are paying for water that you cannot account for you may have a leak.
- Choose minimally packaged products or ask your suppliers to supply products in less packaging. Ask your suppliers to take excess packaging away with them when they deliver.
- Replace tungsten bulbs with energy-efficient light bulbs. They typically make immediate savings of 50% and last up to ten times longer.

To get an idea of the potential money savings, retailers can start by taking advantage of Envirowise's free online

savings calculator at www.maximiseprofit.org.uk. Simply input a few basic details and the calculator reveals the kinds of savings that can be made.

Retailers can also visit the main Envirowise website at www.envirowise.gov.uk, which contains a range of practical advice on improving resource efficiency, including downloadable guides, useful case studies and benchmarking tools. The 'Easy Money' publication is particularly valuable and gives details of straightforward, affordable ways to reduce waste. It can be downloaded from www.envirowise.gov.uk/GG365.

Finally, tailored and confidential advice on any aspect of improving resource efficiency and boosting profits can be obtained by calling Envirowise free on 0800 585 794.

Members' Spotlight: ZEMA

ZEMA has come a long way, and this is not just in terms of physical distance. Zara Abbas, chair of ZEMA, which stands for Zeshan Minority Ethnic Arts, recalls how it all started seven years ago in London. "We moved to London from Nelson, Lancashire, as my husband is a singer/musician and he wanted to pursue singing as a career." The Abbas family soon discovered that there weren't actually that many opportunities and the competition was also greater. There seemed to be particular barriers for singers who perform in languages other than English. When they were voicing their frustration with a group of fellow artists and the chair of the Redbridge Racial Equality Council, the idea for ZEMA was born. Zara: "The chair said, why don't you start an organisation that promotes BME artists. I said that I didn't have any time, so he invited me to come along to their meetings and the chair of Redbridge REC slowly talked me into it."

ZEMA was launched in 2000 with an arts event in Illford where many artists performed in front of an audience which included Arts Council officials, the Mayoress and Asian television channels, who also covered the event. From then on, ZEMA further established itself. In addition to setting up a database of BME artists, it also promoted and organised three



ZEMA celebrates Eid in 2003

melas in London. At the melas they promoted artists like FK1, who happened to attend the same music school in Pakistan as Zara's husband.

ZEMA soon expanded its activities into other areas. By employing the artists on the database it embarked on a health project, teaching singing and music, like playing the tabla, to people with mental health problems. It gave a course to BME prisoners on card making. Most importantly ZEMA have established three NOCN (National Open College Network) courses. The subjects are Asian bridal make up, Henna and Asian dressmaking. Zara: "These courses are all aimed at tackling social exclusion, empowerment as well as employability." Although ZEMA hasn't lost its focus on the professional artists, counteracting social exclusion has become more and more a priority.

A few years ago Zara Abbas and her family decided that they wanted more space and less pollution, so they moved from London to Huntingdon. Zara: "In London we took ZEMA to the level where it was recognised by funders. The organisation was named after Zeshan, the honorary name for the Prophet's son in law and also my son's name, as we wanted the organisation to be a winner. When we moved, we had to start all over again. Initially I thought that as there wasn't such a large BME community in our new home town, there may be no need."

Zara soon found out that the need was also high in rural Cambridgeshire and true to its name, ZEMA soon became successful with its courses. Zara's daughter happened to mention to one of the teachers at St Ivo, a secondary school in St Ives, that her mother taught Asian dressmaking. The Community

Education Team contacted Zara and quickly arranged for her to start a course. The course proved to be very successful for young Asian, particularly Pakistani, girls. When Zara suggested an outing as part of the course, this was met with scepticism by the school, as these girls had never been allowed on any school outing before by their parents. Zara nevertheless pushed ahead, although she did worry about what the community would think. Fortunately her worries proved to



Zara Abbas (centre) takes a sewing class to an Asian Fashion Show

be unfounded. Zara says: "The girls had a wonderful day. We visited an Asian Mela. It was the first time that they were on a train and the tube. A week later I got a phone call, asking me when the next outing was."

Instead of a premature dissolution, the house move has led to an expansion into East Anglia. In addition to Zara, there are six board members, four of whom live in London, one in Bedford and another one in Luton. They are from various minority ethnic backgrounds. Zara is now busy organising other courses and possibly melas. Zara and her colleagues are contemplating writing a bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund which will provide an office and staffing, allowing ZEMA to further develop its activities.

For further information, please contact Zara Abbas on zararcc@hotmail.com or 01480 457758.

Multi-Agency Asylum Forums in the East of England

Sharing good practice and celebrating achievements

21st March 2006, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire

This event is:

- The first event in the region that specifically focuses on the contribution of the Multi-Agency Asylum and Refugee Forums
- For the Forums and about the Forums
- A great opportunity for exchanging ideas, sharing good practice and developing valuable networks.

Aim of the conference:

The aim of the event is to promote the work and to celebrate achievements of the Multi-Agency Asylum and Refugee Forums in the East of England.

Objectives:

- Strengthen the working relationship between Local Strategic Partnerships and Multi-Agency Forums
- Increase involvement of Refugee Community Organisations in the Forums
- Recognise success and achievements of the Forums
- Share great ideas and learn about good practice around the country

Who should attend?

- Members of the Multi-Agency Forums and Partnerships
- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Local Authorities
- Voluntary Sector Organisations
- Regional and Local Public Sector Agencies
- Any other organisation involved with asylum seekers and refugees

There is no delegate fee for this event. Travel costs will be reimbursed to unfunded and refugee community organisations. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

To reserve your place or for more information please contact Pa Musa Jobarteh, MENTER, 7 Rigby's Court, St. Giles Street, Norwich, NR2 1NT. Tel: 01603 617076, e-mail: pamusa@menter.org.uk

This event is organised by MENTER, EERA CARI (East of England Regional Assembly Consortium for Asylum and Refugee Integration), Eastern Region Chairs' Forum, Refugee Council, NASS and VSRN-EE (Voluntary Sector Refugee Network—East of England)

**Publish your events
on MENTER's website**

**E-mail your events to
office@menter.org.uk and we will
publish them on the events pages of
our website (time and staffing
permitting)**

Luton Carnival Monday 29th May

Luton Carnival will be happening soon. Britain's biggest one-day carnival comes to town on Spring Bank Holiday Monday 29 May 2006. Everything will be kicking off at Wardown Park, where the procession will start from. There will be entertainment from local artists and mainstream artists and sound systems and bands.

Luton International Carnival is organised by Luton Borough Council's Arts Development Unit. Luton International Carnival is sponsored by Bedfordshire Newspapers and by 97.6 Chiltern FM. For more information, contact Carnival Team Tel: 01582 878100 Email: carnival@luton.gov.uk

Panel members sought for Inspire East

Inspire East, the Regional Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Communities for the East of England is planning to establish a Design Review and Enabling Service and wishes to invite applications for panel members to deliver these services.

Applications are welcomed from both consultants and those in other employment from across the private, public and voluntary and community sectors. The panels are planned to be in place to allow the delivery of services to commence by the beginning of April 2006. The deadline for responses will be 10am on 13.03.06. For more information please visit www.eeda.org.uk or at www.inspire-east.org.uk Alternatively please email Richard Jones at Amelio Consulting: richard.jones@amelioconsult.com

The National Bullying Survey 2006

The charity Bullying Online is carrying out The National Bullying Survey 2006 which includes sections for parents, pupils, teachers and older people who were bullied at school in the past.

The charity is keen to have the views of people of every race, colour, creed and culture in this six month-long project which was launched in the Daily Mirror and on GMTV on January 9 and featured on Sky News today.

We know that racism is a real issue in some communities and one of the questions we ask in the survey is whether people have suffered this problem.

The National Bullying Survey 2006 is at www.thenationalsurvey.co.uk or you can reach it through the banner on the home page of the Bullying Online website. It's completely anonymous and should take about 10 minutes to complete.