



華人資料及諮詢中心 Chinese Information and Advice Centre

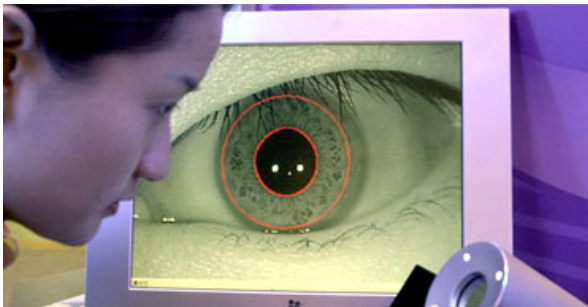
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社會公益 Social Enterprise

Immigration

UK Airport Uses Iris Recognition Immigration System (IRIS)

IRIS makes use of the fact that the pattern of the iris in each person's eye (the coloured part of the eye) is unique. This makes it possible for a person to be identified simply by looking into a special camera at the IRIS barrier located in the immigration arrival hall. It usually takes between five to ten minutes to register for IRIS. A registered traveller entering the UK can cross an IRIS barrier in about 20 seconds. Passport holders of the UK, the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland can register for IRIS. Permanent residents and certain other categories of people are also able to register.



For more information, visit <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/managingborder/technology/iris>.

New Immigration Fees Introduced

Following parliamentary approval, the new immigration fees announced on 12 February 2009 have gone live from 6 April 2009 for all those applying to visit, work or stay in the UK. New fees for students came into force on 31 March 2009.

A table of new fees is available at

<http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/news/feestable060409>.

UK Border Agency Targets Bogus Colleges

Giving evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, the Chief Executive of English UK, Tony Millns, claimed that the new system for licensing education providers contained "a couple of pretty obvious loopholes", and that "colleges will be able to stay open and be on the register for six months before they are checked by the UK Border Agency."

"It is simply not true that colleges can be on the list for six months without being checked. We totally refute any claim that there is a loophole in the new system," a UK Border Agency spokesman said.

"All colleges receive thorough checks before they are issued a license to sponsor foreign students. Before an institution can bring over any student we have to be satisfied they are genuine - this includes approval by an accredited body, and assessment of their premises, courses and teaching staff. By July this year, every single establishment will have been visited by a UK Border Agency assessor."

Under the Points-Based System introduced for students on 31 March 2009, education providers must have a sponsor license before they can offer places to foreign students. For more information on how education providers can apply for a license, visit:-

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/sponsoringmigrants>.



Refugee & Asylum

Refugee Healthcare Professionals Program

If you are a refugee healthcare professional who is living in London and hoping to return to employment in the NHS, this is for you. London Metropolitan University is working in partnership with the NHS and supported by NHS London to offer this exciting programme.

The programme can support you with a range of activities including information and advice, language, professional requalification, career workshops, work placements, job search support, and so on. This programme aims to provide a coordinated approach to support refugee healthcare professionals into employment in the UK.

You are entitled to this programme if you were doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, allied health professionals or healthcare scientists, and were granted Refugee, Indefinite Leave to Remain, Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave to Remain, or if you are spouse of a refugee. Asylum seekers with permission to work are also entitled. For information, please contact CIAC for Mr. Ian Chen.

Failed Asylum Seekers No Free NHS Treatment?

Failed asylum seekers are not to be considered for free NHS hospital treatment, and nor can they be considered exempt from charges by spending one year in the UK, found in a judgement issued on 30 March 09.

The restrictions had already existed in secondary care prior to the judicial review. In primary care, GP practices still have the discretion to accept failed asylum seekers as registered NHS patients. Now the UK government is finally looking to abandon the plan of denying failed asylum seekers free GP care, according to an article published at www.pulsetoday.co.uk on 6 February 2009.

The first sign of the change of government stance came from the new Home Secretary Mr. Alan Johnson. He commented that this approach would simply be inhumane but added, "We haven't come

to a final decision on this within Government. "Campaigners congratulated Mr. Johnson's stance and requested "a clarification for GPs so they could understand they are allowed to register undocumented migrants - and would be reimbursed."

But Dr Helen Groom, a GP in Sunderland, warned many undocumented migrants were already facing difficulties in accessing a GP. Based on NHS anti-fraud measures, patients are asked to present a document to prove their names and addresses when undocumented migrants usually do not have one.

Table of Entitlement to NHS treatment

(correct as of April 09)

Status	Primary Care	Secondary Care
Asylum Seeker	A person who has formally applied for asylum is entitled to NHS treatment without charge as long as their application (including appeals) is under consideration.	Same as the left
Failed Asylum Seeker (including those getting NASS section 4 support)	Medical access is at GP's discretion. Emergency treatment should continue to be provided free of charge.	Not eligible for free hospital treatment. Incomplete treatment should remain free of charge until completion. Any life-threatening emergency treatment should be given without delay though reasonable action will be taken to recover the fee if found chargeable. *Maternity services should always be seen as immediately necessary regardless of the pregnant woman's ability to pay in advance.
Given Refugee Status, Discretionary Leave to Remain or Humanitarian Protection	Access to primary care without charge.	Access to secondary care without charge.
*There is additional help with health costs available to asylum seekers - after an asylum claim, UKBA will issue HC2 certificates; those who are not supported by UKBA and failed asylum seekers can apply for HCI.		

For the complete chart, visit <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/International/AsylumseekersAndrefugees/index.htm>.

Women Support

CIAC New Project Helps Children Turn away from Shadow of Domestic Violence

The Chinese Information and Advice Centre (CIAC) has launched a support project for children and teenagers linked with domestic violence. This project (funded by the City Bridge Trust) is called the "Sunflower Support Programme". It aims to help children who are directly or indirectly affected by domestic violence and offers a free and confidential advisory service. Additionally, CIAC will be offering free workshops and training for Chinese community schools and centres to raise the awareness of domestic violence in the younger generation. Statistics show that domestic violence accounts for almost a quarter (23%) of all violent crime (Kershaw et al., 2000). In many cases of domestic abuse, it is not just the mother who is affected, but also the children.

A large majority witness abuse: 75% of mothers reported that their children had directly witnessed domestic violence (Action For Children -formerly NCH-, 1994).

The children can be at risk: In 25% of cases of domestic violence, the male perpetrator has also been violent towards the children in the home (Action For Children, 1994).

Links to child abuse: It is estimated that between 30% and 60% of children whose mothers are subject to domestic violence are also being abused (Edleson, 2001).

Children can be affected in many different ways by living with domestic violence. What children see or hear when their mothers are being abused can include not only physical violence but also emotional abuse and put-downs, threats and intimidation. Children are likely to be affected by the fear, disruption and stress in their lives. They may develop physical, emotional, learning or behavioural problems and their academic achievement may also be affected.

If the child has someone to turn to for support and can seek help from a professional, they are often able to come through their ordeal relatively unscathed. Although services for child victims of domestic abuse can be invaluable, there is a gap in the provision for ethnic minorities, such as the British Chinese. Chinese children in Britain may live in a small social community; stigma and shame may make them reluctant to seek help or they may find that the professional does not understand their cultural background.

Therefore, CIAC is launching the *Sunflower Support Programme* in order to provide support for Chinese children who are affected by domestic abuse and help them find their inner sunshine. CIAC have recently secured a grant from the City Bridge Trust in order to provide this service. The project also aims to assist parents, teachers and all other people who have concerns with young people they know. CIAC's advisory service is free and confidential; services include emotional consultation, shelter allocation, psychiatrist referrals and benefit advice. Appointments are available for people who require personal consultation.

Over the past eight years, CIAC also has provided specialist help for domestic violence victims in the Chinese community through its Women's Support project. CIAC raises awareness of domestic violence and women's issues throughout the years by providing workshops and actively participating in forums and conferences.

CIAC's Domestic Violence helpline is 08453 131 868. Lines are open between 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Please contact our Sunflower Project Support Adviser Ms. Yan Zeng.

Alternatively, please visit our website at www.ciac.co.uk for further enquiries.



CIAC cordially invites you to a night of festive celebrations at the Chinese Golden Harvest Restaurant. Come and join our Mid-Autumn Charity Fundraising dinner and enjoy traditional moon cake on 23 September 2009. Visit www.ciac.co.uk for details.

Call Chui Yee on 08453 131 868 or email to chuiyee@ciac.co.uk for more information on this fantastic opportunity for family members and friends to get together!

CIAC's NEWS



Volunteering at CIAC

"It has been an exciting and enjoyable volunteer placement ever since – so enjoyable, in fact, that I am determined to continue working at CIAC as a volunteer," said Till Lembke, a student of Chinese and Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Till joined CIAC as a volunteer in April 2009 and is now in China for his summer vacation.

Till's choice of working for CIAC stems from his interests in immigration and compassion for the socially disadvantaged in the Chinese community. "To be able to do something means a great deal to me and CIAC has allowed me to fulfil my motivation."

Giving his dedication and skills, Till was involved with day-to-day office administration and outreach work, such as helping a Chinese woman with her benefit application at a local Jobcentre Plus, representing CIAC in public meetings to promote its charitable work and fundraising, just to name a few.

"I feel like I have learned a lot and continue to do so. I would recommend volunteering at CIAC to anyone, with or without a China affinity. The work been done is important and helps hundreds of people who would otherwise be left helpless."

To:

Working In Partnership Tackling Racism – a good example

There are over 1,000 Chinese students studying at University of Southampton which inject over £20 million to the local economy each year. Despite the huge economic contribution to the city, Chinese students in Southampton are living in fear of attacks fuelled by racial hatred.

Many Chinese students suffer racial harassment by local youth but they do not report the incidents to any organisations. Through focus group interviews at University of Southampton, the Monitoring Group Min Quan found that language barriers, lack of knowledge of racial incidents, fear of loosing face and lack of confidence in the police were the major reasons of Chinese students underreporting.

Hence, in order to protect Chinese students and provide a quick response to the victims, Min Quan has built up a partnership network with the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA), Chinese Association of Southampton (CAS), University of Southampton, Southampton City Council, and the Hampshire Police.

CSSA-SOTON Chairman, Roger Wang said that although the University did provide safety talks and information leaflets on personal security to all the students on their arrival, many Chinese students did not attend it because they felt it was difficult to understand the professional legal terms.

"Students appreciate it much more that Min Quan can provide bilingual information leaflets and give presentations in their mother tongue."

Furthermore, Min Quan has worked closely with the Police Safe Neighbourhood team that covers the University of Southampton Highfield campus and helped frontline officers understand concerns of the Chinese students better. As a result, according to Min Quan's assessment survey, the number of Chinese student reporting incidents of harassment or attack has dropped.

Min Quan Southampton Development Officer, Qi Lin, said "Partnership work will bring all the resources together and provide a more effective service to the victims. I know this network cannot solve all the problems but I believe every little step and every little achievement will make a difference."

This article is provided by Min Quan. The complete article is available at www.ciac.co.uk. For more information on the Monitoring Group, visit <http://www.racetoday.org>.

Rayne Fellowships for Refugees

If you have a big idea which can transform your community or change lives, a fund of up to £15,000 to spend on personal development, expert resource and advice is now open for application, available to refugees of all ages. Deadline for submission is 14 Oct 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.islingtonrefugeeforum.org/2009/07/rayne-fellowships-for-refugees>.

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If undelivered, please kindly return to our Centre office. Thank you.