

Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership

Migration Briefing

The Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP) works across the spheres of government and between the public, private and third sectors to ensure that Northern Ireland effectively welcomes, supports and integrates new migrants in a way which contributes to economic growth and vibrant, cohesive communities. It provides a regional advisory and consultative function, enabling our partners and other stakeholders to develop an appropriate approach to the management of migration in Northern Ireland. NISMP is hosted by NILGA.

1. NISMP Update

The NISMP website (migrationni.org) is no longer in use and alternative models of providing the same service are currently being explored. In the interim, NISMP information is shared on the NILGA website at [this link](#) and is sent to stakeholders via our mailing lists.

NISMP work during the Covid-19 pandemic has been focused on supporting the delivery of the asylum accommodation and support contracts, and ensuring effective communications and continued service provision for asylum seekers.

In December 2020, NISMP initiated a No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Stakeholder Reference Group. This group brings together representatives from departments, agencies, legal/advice sector and NGOs and works to promote collaboration between organisations and sectors and to develop pathways out of destitution for destitute migrants with NRPF.

2. Coronavirus translated resources

PHA

All PHA information on their website can be translated using the Browsealoud tool. PHA has also produced a guide on how to use Browsealoud which can be found [here](#).

NHS Guidelines

Doctors of the World have translations of NHS guidelines in 51 languages, some of which are also in video format, which can be found [here](#).

Additional Support

The [Migrant Help website](#) collates a number of useful sites on coronavirus support - including wellbeing activities and advice. Website content is available in a number of number of languages which are common among the asylum seeker population. Links to these translations can be found [here](#).

3. EU Exit

Post Brexit Immigration Framework

The UK Government Immigration Rules post EU Exit are published on GOV.UK and can be accessed [here](#).

EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS)

EU, EEA or Swiss Citizens resident in the UK on or before 31st December 2020 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. The Home Office link to apply to EUSS can be found [here](#). The deadline for registration is 30th June 2021.

EUSS and family members: Since 24th August 2020, family members of “relevant” NI citizens can apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. A “relevant” person from Northern Ireland is defined as a person who is British, Irish, both or had settled status at the time of their birth. Further information can be found [here](#).

Where required, the following organisations are able to support EEA nationals with their applications:

Advice NI EUSS advisors are at hand to provide practical, digital and language support. Link to EUSS section on Advice NI website can be found [here](#). Email advice@adviceni.net Tel: 0800 915 4604 Text Service: Text “EUSS” to 66644 to request a phone call about the EU Settlement Scheme.

STEP: Information on advice services can be found [here](#).

Law Centre NI: EUSS information can be found [here](#). Email: immigrationadvice@lawcentreni.org Tel: 028 9024 4401

Children’s Law Centre: EUSS information can be found [here](#).

The **Greater London Authority** provide [free online caseload training resources](#) on the EUSS; designed to upskill people advising on the EUSS and to provide the tools for dealing with complex cases.

Frontier Workers Permit Scheme

EEA citizens who live in the Republic of Ireland, and work in Northern Ireland (excluding Irish citizens), need to apply to the [Frontier Worker Permit Scheme](#).

Law Centre NI has published a [Legal Briefing](#) on the Frontier Workers Permit Scheme aimed at EEA Citizens who live in ROI and work in NI. For free tailored advice on any of the issues raised in the briefing, contact LCNI at 028 9024 4401 on Mon, Wed or Fri 9.30am – 1pm.

Border People also provides useful information for frontier workers on right to work, taxation, access to services etc which can be found [here](#).

4. British National (Overseas) Visa for people from Hong Kong

The BN(O) Visa came into effect on 31st January 2021. Applications can be made via [GOV.UK](#).

Law Centre NI has also published guidance and FAQ about the BNO Visa which can be found [here](#).

5. Asylum and Refugee Issues

Changes to Admissibility of Asylum Claims

The Home Office has published a [statement of changes to the Immigration Rules](#) which aim to prevent people from claiming asylum in the UK, if they have travelled through or have connections with a “safe” third country.

Syrian Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme

The VPRS Scheme is currently suspended due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Changes to Family Reunion regulations post EU Exit

It is no longer possible for new family reunion cases to be referred to the UK under the [Dublin Regulation](#) by any EU Member States, although cases which entered the system before the end of the Transition Period will continue to be processed.

An overview of the current family reunion options can be found [here](#).

6. Census 2021

Census 2021 is happening in March. Letters will arrive in the post from the beginning of March with an access code to complete the census online.

To find out more visit www.census.gov.uk/ or follow on Facebook and Twitter @NICensus2021 .

Census forms can be completed online or on paper; and the census team have a range of help and guidance available including accessibility and language support information on which can be accessed [here](#). Translation support is available for most languages.

There is also a **free language helpline on 0800 587 2021**.

7. Consultations

Mental Health Strategy

The Department of Health has launched a public consultation on The [Mental Health Strategy](#). The closing date for responses is 26th March 2021.

PPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

The Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland are seeking views on their updated policy for prosecuting cases of modern slavery and human trafficking. Consultation documents can be accessed [here](#) and the closing date for responses is 22nd April 2021.

Modern Slavery Transparency in Supply Chains (TISC)

The Department of Justice has launched a consultation on [measures to eradicate modern slavery from the supply chains](#) of public and commercial organisations. The closing date for consultation responses is 12th May 2021.

8. Research and Reports

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)

MAC's recommendations on the Shortage Occupation List, including on a SOL for NI can be found [here](#). In her [response](#), the Home Secretary decided not to immediately act on these recommendations. See also letter from the Minister for Future Borders and Immigration to the MAC on changes that will be made to the shortage occupation list [here](#).

The MAC has also published its [annual report](#).

Law Centre NI

Law Centre NI have published a legal information [briefing](#) which highlights a possible remedy for persons who are subject to NRPF Condition and experiencing financial hardship. Persons who are subject to the No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) condition can, in certain circumstances, request that the Home Office lifts the condition. This provides the person with access to public funds including Universal Credit and thus may alleviate destitution and homelessness.