**ILPA Refugee Children’s Project Training courses in Belfast:**

The ILPA Refugee Children’s Project funded by the Diana Memorial Fund is completing its third and final year, this year and has been offering free training in order to train immigration lawyers in the specialist area of dealing with Refugee Children’s cases. We now offer these free training courses in Belfast. The first two courses carry three CPD hours. The third course is aimed at Social Workers who deal with refugee children. Venue details will be given once courses are booked on. To book on courses please go to <http://www.ilpa.org.uk/events-rcp.php>

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| **Date** | **Course Title & Description** | **Location and Time** | **Trainers** |
| Monday 22 October | **Guidance for non-practitioners**  A course aimed at those working with refugee children and other children subject to immigration control, either separated or part of a family, but who are not immigration practitioners.  This course seeks to assist non-legal advisors, support workers and similar to obtain good, independent legal advice for their clients by providing information and guidance on issues such as finding and locating immigration advisers, hints and tips on identifying a good immigration adviser, how immigration advisers and solicitors are regulated, what amounts to immigration advice, basic legal aid provisions and the type of documentation and evidence an immigration adviser needs to be able to properly assist a child or their family, as well as outlining how to support a child client who does not have a legal representative.  This course will provide those working with refugee children in a non-legal capacity the tools they need to support their clients through the legal process. | Belfast  2 – 5.15 pm | Alison Pickup, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers,  Baljeet Sandhu, Solicitor and Co Director, Refugee Children’s Rights Project |
| Tuesday 23 October | **Legal Developments in Refugee Children’s cases**  This seminar will focus on two important areas with which immigration practitioners representing children should familiarise themselves.  First, this seminar will examine developments in law and policy relating to the best interests of the child. The best interests of the child are a mandatory and primary consideration in asylum, immigration and nationality decisions involving children both under s.55 Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 and under Articles 8 and (in detention cases) 5 ECHR. We will focus on developments since the Supreme Court's seminal judgment in *ZH (Tanzania) [2011] UKSC 4, [2011]* 2 WLR 148. We will look at the treatment of the best interests of the child in domestic jurisprudence (such as *AJ (India) [2011]* EWCA Civ 1191 and *SS (Sri Lanka) [2012]* EWCA Civ 945) and also in the ECtHR's case law (in particular *Nunez v Norway*, application 5597/09). We will also review the UKBA's own published guidance concerning the separation of families in criminal deportation and detention cases.  Second, this seminar will consider developments in the law around the status and entitlements of children who are citizens of the European Union. We will focus on developments since the landmark judgment of the Grand Chamber of the CJEU in *Zambrano* (C-34/09). This will include an examination of the Immigration (EEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 which purport to give effect to *Zambrano*. We will also look at the CJEU's judgment in Dereci (C-256/11) refining and arguably restricting the impact of *Zambrano*.  The course will give practical guidance on how arguments around the best interests of the child and EU law can be deployed in challenges to expulsion and detention (where the child is being expelled with the parent or where the expulsion or detention splits the parent from the child). | Belfast  2 - 5.15 pm | Alison Pickup, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers,  Baljeet Sandhu, Solicitor and Co Director, Refugee Children’s Rights Project |
| Wednesday 24 October | **Working with Refugee Children: A course on the asylum process and age assessments for Social Workers**  A course aimed at social workers and others working in Children’s Services departments with refugee children and young people. The morning session aims to equip social workers with the tools to enable them to support children and young people through the asylum process by ensuring that they have a sufficient level of understanding of the legal principles applied in determining asylum claims as well as the procedure which the children will go through. The course will also equip social workers to support children and young people through the key parts of the process, ensure that they obtain good, independent legal advice, and understand basic legal aid provisions. The afternoon session will focus on the age assessment process and provide a practitioner’s perspective on how age assessments should be conducted to give the best possible opportunity to reach a correct assessment of a child’s age and reduce the scope for dispute. This session will provide a thorough overview of recent caselaw arising from challenges to age assessments and aims to ensure social workers are able to apply best practice and produce robust and careful age assessments. | Belfast  10 am – 5 pm | Alison Pickup, Barrister, Doughty Street Chambers,  Baljeet Sandhu, Solicitor and Co Director, Refugee Children’s Rights Project |