

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers - PCC issues new guidance note**

The Press Complaints Commission is today publishing a Guidance Note on the coverage in the media of issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers. This note follows on from a growing body of complaints, and of PCC rulings and resolutions, on this subject. It reminds editors:

- that breaches of Clause 1 of the Code can occur following misunderstandings about terminology;
- that inaccurate or distorted reporting might generate an atmosphere of hostility not borne out by facts;
- of accepted definitions of key terms such as 'asylum seekers', 'refugees' and 'illegal immigrants';

To read the full text of the note, [click here](#)

The Refugee Council - one of the groups with whom the PCC has worked in putting this note together - has welcomed the publication of the guidance. Maeve Sherlock, its Chief Executive said:

*"We are delighted the PCC has taken such an active interest in the asylum debate and has recognised the role it can play in improving media coverage of a much misunderstood issue, by tackling inaccurate reporting."*

PCC Chairman, Sir Christopher Meyer said:

*"The publication of this guidance reflects the PCC's determination to protect vulnerable groups in society, and in particular those who are from time to time caught up in the spotlight of media attention. It also underlines the Commission's resolve to act proactively on issues of current concern, especially where there are important public policy issues at stake."*

The PCC recently issued guidance the issue of the judiciary and harassment. Other issues have included the portrayal of persons with mental illness, Court reporting, the coverage of international sporting events and financial journalism. These can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

**ENDS**

If you require any further information please contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248.