

Migration news roundup 5 June 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

The documentary ‘The Sanctuary Seekers of Bradford’ follows three compassionate individuals who help refugees and people seeking asylum. You can [book a free ticket to the screening](#) in Bradford on 21 June. (Source: Eventbrite)

[Bradford literature festival \(22 June to 2 July\)](#) is offering [free tickets to refugees and people seeking asylum](#). Get sharing and booking! (Source: Bradford Literature Festival)

International news

[The International Rescue Committee accused EU leaders of neglecting Afghan refugees](#), urging member states to upscale their resettlement programmes by creating safe pathways for Afghan refugees. (Source: International Rescue Committee)

[The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR pleaded for more funds to ensure continuous lifesaving interventions in Chad](#) due to the growing number of refugees arriving from Sudan and other countries. (Source: UN News)

UK borders and migration policy

On the Illegal Migration Bill, [the UN’s lead on human rights expressed concerns over the Bill’s impact on the international protection system](#). Meanwhile, this article in Vogue discusses the [Bill’s impact on pregnant women](#). (Sources: Reuters, Vogue)

It was reported that [Home Office staff could strike in protest against the government’s policy approach to small boats through the Bill and its Rwanda plans](#), after a staff union revealed that workers were considering industrial action. Government ministers have condemned the idea of civil service refusing to carry out government instructions. (Source: Independent)

On small boats there are a few important items:

- The [Home Office spent nearly £1.5 million on technology systems to track small boats arrivals](#) in the UK. This has been spent through contracts procured to a specialist IT firm to act as ‘migrant trackers’.
 - This article describes [rescues in the Channel conducted by the UK this year](#).
- As part of measures to deter Albanians crossing the Channel in small boats, the Home Office [is launching a new online campaign](#) targeting this group.

(Sources: Independent, Public Technology, Metro, BBC)

This article suggests [why record net migration figures is welcome news](#) highlighting benefits such as the financial boost to the economy that results from migration through the student and skilled worker routes. (Source: Metro)

The High Court ruled that an unpublished Home Office policy was unlawful after it wrongfully led to [some individuals having their leave curtailed and even detained due to outstanding NHS debt](#). (Source: Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

[UNHCR published its audit of the UK asylum registration and screening system](#) (prior to dispersal and decision making on their asylum claim) including unaccompanied children. It concluded there’s a risk that decisions based on screening information will be flawed. News coverage of the report includes [one item that references case studies](#) such as children as young as 12 being detained. It has been revealed that [government spending on the UK asylum system](#) has increased under the Conservative government and that £2.1 billion was spent during 2021. (Sources: UNHCR, Independent, the Guardian)

New [guidance was published on Home Office plans to exit resettled Afghans from bridging accommodation](#). (Source: Home Office)

On modern slavery, there are a couple of new resources aimed at business:

- [A toolkit for small and medium sized enterprises \(SMEs\) in the food and drink sector](#), originally commissioned by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner.
- [Guidance on preventing modern slavery affecting displaced people](#), aimed at businesses or suppliers located in countries next to a conflict zone as well as places with high numbers of refugees.

(Sources: TRIBE Freedom Foundation, Anti-Slavery International)

On Windrush, read the personal story of [Roland McGuire who came from Grenada in 1958 and settled in Huddersfield](#), including early experiences of racism and buying his first house. (Source: Metro)

Here’s a [video about the struggle of a Year 11 schoolboy who came to the UK from Hong Kong in 2021](#), reflecting on how he manages the challenges of migration. (Source: Green Bean, 14 minutes)

On young people, [Lord Dubs has written a piece calling for the exemption of children from proposals in the Illegal Migration Bill](#), saying that they will be ‘terrified of turning 18’ due to the government’s duty to remove them. (Source: Financial Times)

Cohesion and integration

[The Council of Europe found ‘persistent discrimination’ in the UK against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities](#), including ‘shocking’ amounts of bullying in the education system, prejudiced reporting in the media and threats to legal status and rights as a result of recent legislative changes. (Source: the Guardian)

[Here is a timeline to mark 100 years of fascist and anti-fascist actions in the UK](#), including personal stories of resistance such as Gerald Calliste-Vevian, one of the first black anti-fascist activists in the UK. (Source: HOPE not hate)

Contact us about research

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