

Migration news roundup 30 October 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[Enjoy beautiful pictures and discover the inspiring story of a Ghanaian photographer ‘Lucky Jim’](#) who documented Ghanaian everyday life over many decades as the country freed itself from colonial rule. (Source: the Guardian)

[An art project between the University of Oxford \(COMPAS\) and ‘Cities and Memory’ is creating a sound map of migration stories](#) with recordings of everyday sounds. (Source: The Art Newspaper)

[Families in Bradford have been enjoying days out in Ilkley](#) as part of a local community initiative to ‘extend the hand of friendship to those fleeing war and persecution’. In Preston, Adnan, a young Afghan cricketer, has [won a Fostering Excellence Award](#). (Sources: Ilkley Gazette, Lancashire Post)

International news

The Italian prime minister acknowledges the efforts to stop unauthorised crossings as [the number of migrants reaching Lampedusa falls](#) for the first time this year. [Germany approves the immigration bill extending detention time and allowing swift removal of people’s who’s asylum claim was unsuccessful](#) as [Germans’ opinions on migration remain divided](#). (Sources: Info Migrants, AP News)

Outside Europe, [Pakistan calls unregistered migrants, including Afghans, to voluntarily leave before November](#) or face forceful removal. (Source: Reuters)

UK borders and migration policy

[Following recent calls for a refugee scheme for Palestinian people](#), Financial Secretary to the Treasury said this would not be the ‘right response’ at this point. This is while [the government is consulting local authorities on their capacity to support resettled refugees](#) in light of plans for an annual cap on people arriving via ‘safe and legal routes’. (Sources: Independent, Home Office)

The government published an [equality impact assessment related to the planned further increase in the Immigration Health Surcharge](#), with this [new briefing on UK immigration fees](#) explaining the context.

Elsewhere, there are [reports that some Home Office staff have voiced criticism of the Illegal Migration Bill](#) expressing concerns about the practicalities of implementing the legislation. (Sources: Home Office, House of Commons Library, inews)

[A new report on destitution in the UK](#) recommends local authorities should be resourced to ensure people with no recourse to public funds can access emergency help when needed. Relatedly, this briefing covers the subject of [free childcare and the no recourse to public funds condition](#). (Sources: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Praxis)

Specific migrant groups

The government announced the [closure of up to 50 asylum hotels by January 2024](#) as the Home Office works its way through cutting down the asylum backlog. The [Local Government Association \(LGA\) issued a statement](#) in response to the news highlighting the impact on local authorities and expressing concern that [local authorities will ultimately end up paying to keep people who are seeking asylum in the same hotels](#) due the demand for housing being exacerbated by the increase in asylum decision-making. [This article fact-checks recent claims by Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick](#) related to the backlog, while the Public Accounts Committee has [raised concerns about the Home Office's plans about the whole Asylum Transformation Programme](#) stating that the approach doesn't seem to have been 'thought through'. Meanwhile, [a charity has instigated legal action against the Home Office](#) in relation to delays in asylum decision-making. (Sources: Home Office, LGA, Telegraph, BBC, UK Parliament, Asylum Aid via Twitter)

Also on asylum, the [Home Office paid over £15 million to purchase a disused prison site that was sold for £6m last year](#). The Home Office is said to be considering the site for immigration detention for people who are seeking asylum and facing removal to Rwanda. (Source: Times)

On resettlement, due to the pressure from Pakistan and several legal challenges, [the government has changed its position to enable the resettlement of hundreds of Afghans stranded in Pakistan](#) despite not yet having accommodation in place for the prospective arrivals. (Source: Independent)

On children and young people, [the government's plan to use MRI scans to assess the age of children who are seeking asylum has been criticised by the Scottish Government](#) as being 'incompatible with the progressive, inclusive values of people in Scotland'. Meanwhile in Northern Ireland, [young people seeking asylum share their struggle to access post-16 education](#) and are asking for more educational support. (Sources: The Herald, BBC)

Modern slavery stories this week:

- [There are disturbing reports of exploitative conditions experienced by people working on UK farms](#) as part of the Seasonal Worker scheme. (Source: Independent)
 - According to a new report analysing data from the Modern Slavery Helpline [cases of exploitation in the care sector are on the rise](#). (Source: Unseen)
 - This [podcast shines a light on the experiences of domestic workers in the UK](#) while this [article highlights their vulnerability to exploitation](#). (Sources: the Guardian, BBC)

[International students from across Africa felt intimidated by the UK border force's new approach](#) in which knowledge of the university course content seems to be an entry requirement. (Sources: Pie News)

Cohesion and integration

[A landfill site in Northern Ireland was transformed into a colourful community flower garden by a group of Syrian men](#) wanting to give something back to their local community, which has helped them with studying English and settling into the community. (Source: BBC)

Approximately [4,000 Hongkongers who have moved to Sutton feel integrated and have contributed significantly to the local economy](#). (Source: Telegraph)

A Faith Museum, [the first of its kind in Britain, has recently opened](#) with around 300 objects and hopes to challenge assumptions about religion, suggesting that faith is about people, connectivity and community. (Source: The Conversation)

A recent survey showed that [the majority of British adults have little knowledge of Black British History](#). The Nigerian-born children's author Atinuke has called for the government to include more integration of Black British history in the education system. (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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