

Migration news roundup 20 June 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

For [Refugee Week this week there are many events planned](#) across the Yorkshire and Humber region - you find details about these on the [Migration Yorkshire Twitter page](#) too. For example, [Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary have released their full programme](#) of events. (Sources: Refugee Week, Migration Yorkshire on twitter, Calderdale Valley of Sanctuary)

Abdulghani is one of the [Refugee Week Ambassadors](#) and is from Huddersfield. He's a business owner and tutor who supports vulnerable people in the area. (Source: Refugee Week)

UK borders and migration policy

The government's first attempt to relocate some asylum seekers to Rwanda failed after the flight was suspended following the [European Court of Human Rights pausing removal directions](#) for those remaining on the flight. This came after [legal challenges in the UK courts were unsuccessful](#). The European Court said that the flights should be paused until the outcome of a case scheduled next month that will consider whether the policy is unlawful. The [government intends to continue with its plans](#) to relocate asylum seekers to Rwanda and has since [threatened to leave the European Convention of Human Rights](#) (ECHR). Below are some notable news items related to the Rwanda policy and the ECHR's intervention:

- There was criticism of the government's Rwanda policy from some of the UK 'establishment' with the [Church of England and Prince Charles speaking against it](#).
- [Activists staged protests](#) across the country including a human roadblock outside Colnbrook detention centre.
 - The [unsuccessful flight was estimated to have cost about £500,000](#).
- [Asylum seekers recall their accounts of being placed on the Rwanda flight](#), highlighting the traumatic nature of forced removal.
- [Should the UK decide to leave the ECHR, it would breach the Good Friday Agreement](#) and would cause uncertainty over the future of Northern Ireland.
- The long term future of the Rwanda partnership could be in doubt with an increasing [threat of conflict between Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda](#).

(Sources: Guardian, Free Movement, Home Office, Huffington Post, inews, Independent, Politics Home, Politico)

There continue to be [daily reports of people crossing the Channel in small boats](#). Meanwhile, there is a [call for evidence regarding an inspection into Border Force activities at Humber ports](#). (Sources: BBC, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration)

The Home Office updated its guidance on [visa processing waiting times](#). [Waiting times have been extended](#) for some visas, believed by some to be a result of prioritising Ukraine Scheme applications. (Sources: UK Visas and Immigration, Morgan Lewis)

This article gives some insight into the push and pull factors behind the [rising number of skilled Nigerians migrating to the UK](#), revealing cultural compatibility and quicker visa processing times as key reasons for choosing the UK as a destination. (Source: The Times)

Here are a few items for longer reading and listening:

- This piece introduces [a new book called Political Racism which analyses the role of immigration politics in the EU referendum](#).
- [Free Movement's latest podcast](#) gives an overview of the latest changes to the immigration rules and the UK Borders Act.
- Dreaming of a better world? Here's an [immigration advisory of fictional dystopias](#) you'd never want to move to. (Sources: UK&EU, Free Movement, Gizmodo)

Specific migrant groups

[Plans to open the new refugee reception centre in Linton-on-Ouse are on hold](#) while work is underway to ensure the site meets the relevant safety requirements. (Source: York Press)

A [parliamentary debate on the Ukraine Scheme and child refugees](#) is scheduled for Wednesday 22 June. Also related to the Ukraine Scheme, [new data from a voluntary survey of local authorities](#) gives details of support given to Ukrainians experiencing or at risk of homelessness. In England, 660 Ukrainians were owed a prevention or relief duty, with 30 individuals from seven councils in our region. (Sources: UK Parliament, Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities)

The [UK is said to be one of the top destinations for prominent film makers leaving Hong Kong](#). (Source: Variety)

On EU nationals, the [Independent Monitoring Authority published its first annual report](#) highlighting issues and concerns related to the rights of EU nationals and their families. [New guidance for Zambrano primary carers](#) explaining eligibility under the EU Settlement Scheme has been added following a recent court judgement. (Sources: IMA, Home Office)

Cohesion and integration

The CEO of [Refugee Action connects Grenfell and Rwanda](#), linking both to colonialism and systemic racism. (Source: Independent)

[Simba Mujakachi, a Zimbabwean refugee living in Sheffield, speaks of the devastating impact the hostile environment](#) on his life and the associated barriers to NHS care whilst in the asylum system. (Source: the Guardian)

International news

This [data highlights dangers faced by migrants fleeing conflict and insecurity along the North Africa - Mediterranean route](#). It reveals that around 25,000 people have lost their lives or gone missing trying to cross the Mediterranean. (Source: UNHCR)

More than [100 million people have been forced to flee](#) their homes due to conflict, climate change and persecution, according to this year's [Global Trends report by UNHCR](#). This means one in every 78 people on Earth has been forced to flee their home. [Most refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries](#) within close proximity from where they have fled. Turkey has the highest number of refugees (3.8 million) followed by Colombia (1.8 million). (Sources: EU observer, UNHCR, New Statesman)

This [article highlights migration forecasts for high net worth individuals in 2022](#), with large outflows from Russia, India and China and large inflows to the UAE, Australia, Singapore, Israel and Switzerland. (Source: the Guardian)

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