

Migration news roundup 7 November 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

The [finalists for Bradford's Community Stars' Shared Values in Action Award include Connecting Roma C.I.C](#) who support Bradford's EU Roma community and Richard Taiwo who is an ESOL teacher and coach for Horton Housing United FC Refugee Football Team. (Source: Telegraph and Argus)

This story, presenting [the Princess of Asturias Award for Sport to the Olympic Refugee Foundation \(ORF\) and the Refugee Olympic Team \(ROT\) in Madrid](#), recognises resilience of refugees. (Source: UNHCR)

A [student from Bradford shares about his family's journey of overcoming challenges many migrants face](#) to study law at Oxford. The family who are from Zambia gained refugee status when he was a child. (Source: Telegraph and Argus)

A forthcoming episode of CBeebies show [Hey Duggee will feature new Ukrainian characters](#), intended to make Ukrainian children feel welcome in the UK. (Source: BBC)

International news

In response to the Italian government intention of keeping NGO rescue boats away from their coasts, the [President of the European Parliament urged her counterparts to remember the 2013 migrants shipwreck situation and comply with relevant international and EU laws](#). She called for [more solidarity for migrants as demonstrated by Greek authorities in this short video](#). Meanwhile, with Egyptian migration to Europe on the rise, [the EU signed an €80 million agreement with Egypt to help the country reduce irregular migration and human trafficking](#). Meanwhile, [Tunisia reports it has thwarted six unauthorised immigration attempts across the Mediterranean into Europe](#). (Sources: Info Migrants, Euronews, Reuters, Middle East Monitor)

Beyond Europe, Nigeria's Boro State decided to shut down camps for people displaced by Boko Haram violence and [this report reveals that the decision has affected 200,000 people](#). (Source: Human Rights Watch)

UK borders and migration policy

[Home Secretary Suella Braverman](#) has been criticised for her handling of the challenges at the [Manston migrant processing centre](#) – she denied claims that she prevented hotel use to ease the pressure there. [Her use of the word ‘invasion’ in the House of Commons](#) on Monday, in relation to people seeking asylum, provoked an angry reaction from many, and [criticism from within her own party](#). [Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick distanced himself](#) from this use of language. [Some argue that the government is to blame for the problems in the asylum system](#) – for example by failing to address the backlog of asylum claims awaiting a decision. (Sources: BBC, ITV News, The Times, the Guardian)

[The Home Office faces a judicial review over conditions at Manston](#), which continue to persist, including [cases of MRSA and diphtheria](#) and [people being referred to by the number on their wristband](#). The site’s capacity is 1,600 people but recently breached 4,000 people. [Since the story broke, more people have been moved off site](#), although [some without accommodation to go to](#). [The Prisons Inspector concluded that ‘the Home Office and its contractors need to get a grip’ back in July](#) not only in relation to the Manston accommodation but how detainees are treated there. (Sources: inews, the Guardian, Independent, HM Inspectorate of Prisons)

Not far from Manston, [another Border Force site for migrants was attacked with petrol bombs](#) by a man with links to the Far Right, and [the investigation is being led by counter-terrorism police](#).. (Sources: Hope not Hate, the Guardian)

On wider asylum system, here’s a [useful overview of evidence presented at a recent Home Affairs Select Committee](#) on Channel crossings and other asylum issues, and a [small boats crossing Factsheet](#) covering data from July 2022. As [Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has signalled his intention to reduce migration](#) and [reform the asylum system](#), [this article considers the various policy options to address the issue of people making the dangerous journey across the Channel](#). Meanwhile, [over 100 charities have written an open letter to the Home Secretary](#) calling for her to create safe routes for people claiming asylum, and to deal with the backlog of asylum claims. (Sources: Free Movement, Home Office, Independent, The Times, IMIX)

There’s been more coverage of people from Albania arriving in the UK. [The Albanian government has criticised the UK for not reaching agreement over removals, and for a lack of information sharing](#), but there are reports of [proposals for a bespoke route in order to speed up removals](#). Meanwhile, it’s been reported that [most Albanian nationals granted asylum last year were women survivors of trafficking](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Independent)

On detention, [this briefing provides an overview of recent numbers of people in immigration detention](#). 81% of people detained in 2021 had previously claimed asylum – this increase from 66% in 2020 is thought to reflect the fact more people are now arriving by small boat, many of whom are detained for a short period on arrival.

Elsewhere, [a review of prisons finds that immigration detainees held in prison settings are ‘substantially disadvantaged](#) in terms of legal safeguards and welfare’ in comparison with those held in immigration removal centres. (Sources: Migration Observatory, HM Inspectorate of Prisons)

Specific migrant groups

[Councils are increasingly considering legal steps to prevent local hotels being used to accommodate asylum seekers](#). [A company contracted to provide housing for asylum seekers has recorded rising profits](#). And a [15-year-old boy has been charged with the attempted murder of a child asylum seeker](#) near a hotel used by the Home Office in London. (Sources: Sky, the Guardian)

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children currently housed in the Manston holding centre have allegedly been [pressured by screening officials to declare themselves as over 18, to secure a quicker release from the centre](#). This comes as [unaccompanied children were photographed sleeping on the floor at a Home Office facility in](#)

[Kent](#). (Sources: the Guardian, BBC)

On EU nationals, a [House of Commons research briefing covers the implementation of citizens' rights](#) after Brexit, while this article provides [an update on the NHS and comprehensive sickness insurance](#). (Sources: UK Parliament, Free Movement)

The Home Office published an update [on referrals to the National Referral Mechanism for potential victims of modern slavery up to September 2022](#). (Source: Home Office)

[Hong Kong migrants fear for their safety and are calling on the UK government to take a stronger stance](#) after a pro-democracy protester was beaten in the grounds of a Chinese consulate. Relatedly, [government is considering the closure of Confucius institutes in the UK because they threaten Chinese students' safety](#). While Conservative MP Iain Duncan Smith appealed to the security minister to take actions, the Director of the China Institute at SOAS University of London suggests that the government needs a 'proper Chinese strategy' to address the issue. (Sources: the Guardian, Pie News)

[The UK Higher Education sector released a statement underlining their commitment to promote academic freedom and free speech](#) which aimed at creating an environment in which staff and students could discuss complex and controversial topics with respect, dignity and civility. (Source: Universities UK)

Cohesion and integration

To mark the end of Black History Month, [panellists from a wide range of professions and sectors named one change they would like to see to achieve black equality](#) in Britain. These suggested that changes were necessary in all spheres from politics to arts and included proposals such as teaching black history all year round. (Source: the Guardian)

This article considers [why the new Home Secretary would use inflammatory language](#). It suggests it has to do with Braverman's attempt to rekindle debates about borders and migration – which based on recent surveys seem to be less of a priority for the general public – as a way to deflect from economic problems. (Source: The Conversation)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released their first Census 2021 topic summaries. The [population related summary](#) confirmed trends of an ageing population, while the [migration related summary](#) reported that 57% of population increase since the Census 2011 is due to net migration. Furthermore, the non-UK born population grew from 7.5 million in 2011 to 10 million in 2021. In Yorkshire and Humber, the non-UK born population grew by 34% to 622,300 – with the largest populations in Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield. Use this [interactive map to explore Census data for your local area](#). (Source: ONS)

Contact us about research

If you have any questions about our research, contact us:
research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk
[0113 378 8188](tel:01133788188)

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