

Migration news roundup 6 March 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[A new novel tells the story of a woman who was a penpal with a Rwandan girl in the 1990s](#), until their correspondence ended suddenly during the Rwandan genocide. The story also reflects on the current UK migration context and what it means when you feel 'not welcome'. (Source: BBC)

On the centenary of his birth, [find out about Harry Leslie Smith from Barnsley, 'the world's oldest rebel'](#). During his life, he tried to achieve a fairer society, learning lessons from the history he had lived through, including speaking up for refugees. (Source: People's History Museum)

International news

There are currently [more than eight million displaced people in the Horn of Africa](#) (Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia) urgently in need of food assistance, due to drought. (Source: UNHCR)

The [African Union has criticised Tunisia over 'racialised hate speech' against undocumented migrants, following remarks by Tunisia's President](#) that immigration was a plot to change his country's demographic make-up and calling for the expulsion of all undocumented migrants. (Source: Reuters)

UK borders and migration policy

[Afghan has overtaken Albanian as the nationality with the largest number of arrivals via the Channel](#). Despite 'safe and legal routes' specifically for Afghans, only very small numbers of Afghan refugees are currently being resettled. Meanwhile, a [former Home Office civil servant has suggested dealing with increasing numbers of people arriving by small boat](#) by clearing the asylum backlog, improving relations with other countries across Europe and speeding up removals of people who have been refused asylum. (Sources: Independent, Prospect)

[There has been a sharp rise in challenges to British citizenship deprivation orders](#), where the Home Office removes a person's citizenship. Meanwhile there are [growing calls for Shamima Begum to be allowed to return to the UK](#) after she lost her appeal against the Home Office and is currently barred from returning. (Source: the Guardian)

New research highlights [the challenges and the impact of the 10-year settlement route on individuals' lives](#), including issues with finance, loss of immigration status and a lack of legal advice. (Source: Institute for Public Policy Research)

Specific migrant groups

On asylum:

- A government minister stated additional funding [may be offered to local authorities to increase available housing stock to support efforts to move asylum seekers out of hotels](#)
- A report from the International Development Select Committee says a [third of the UK's foreign aid budget has been spent on accommodating asylum seekers and refugees](#)
- [Legal challenges against the Home Office's new streamlined asylum process](#) have started, with a Sudanese asylum seeker arguing it is discriminatory.

(Sources: Telegraph, BBC, the Guardian)

There are further reports of a [growing risk of homelessness affecting Ukrainian refugees](#) and concerns regarding [barriers to accessing housing](#). (Sources: Al Jazeera, Byline Times)

[Funding has been confirmed for a third year of the Hong Kong Welcome programme](#), including the regional Hong Kong hubs and local authority funding for English language provision and destitution support. The announcement also includes [£2.6 million for voluntary organisations - open for applications until the end of March](#). (Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

A [court case is ongoing regarding EU nationals' rights to British nationality](#), related to children born in the UK before October 2000 to EU parents who did not have indefinite leave to remain at the time of their child's birth. (Source: Free Movement)

It has been reported that [566 people within the National Referral Mechanism \(which supports survivors of modern slavery\) went missing between 2020 and 2022](#). Meanwhile, [the government has advertised the role of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner](#), which has been vacant since April 2022. (Sources: the Guardian, Home Office)

On children and young people, [Medway Council lost a High Court challenge against the Home Office](#) regarding their unwillingness to participate in the mandatory National Transfer Scheme. The local authority argued they were unable to accept more unaccompanied asylum-seeking children without negatively impacting on their other work, however the judge deemed that staff shortages and budget issues were 'universal' amongst local authorities. (Source: BBC)

Cohesion and integration

[A recent report called State of HATE finds that far-right movements are becoming increasingly active in communities](#), with rising street protests and an increase in arrests for far-right related terrorism offences. (Source: HOPE not hate)

[Access to the countryside for Black, Asian and ethnically diverse people](#) is explored in this article – including the importance of challenging the perception of the British countryside as 'an exclusive, mainly white, mainly middle-class club'. (Source: the Guardian)

Whilst looking back, an archive of '[Race Today](#)', a magazine that shone a light on the lives of black Britons in the UK in the 1970s and 1980s, has been made available online. (Source: the Guardian)

The intergovernmental Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) released [a new report on introduction measures for newly-arrived migrants](#). The report analyses a broad range of issues faced by migrants on arrival including skills assessments, language training and health and housing projects. (Source: OECD)

Contact us about research

If you have any questions about our research, contact us:

research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk

[0113 378 8188](tel:0113 378 8188)

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