

Migration news roundup 21 November 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[The visit of King Charles III to Yorkshire included an exhibition by the Leeds Jamaica Society](#), a performance by one of the Yorkshire Integration Festival acts, ‘Punjabi Roots’, and a meeting with young leaders including Britain’s first female hijabi boxer and a Rohingya refugee who now owns ‘Sizzling Lounge’ restaurant in Bingley. (Source: Yorkshire Post)

Luca Silvestrini, [director of dance theatre company ‘Protein’](#), reflects on his experiences as a migrant to the UK and how he uses theatre and dance to provide refugees and asylum seekers a voice. (Source: Metro)

International news

[Italy’s new right-wing government is clashing with France and Germany on migration](#) over how to respond to migrants arriving on boats across the Mediterranean. [France made a U-turn on an earlier agreement to take 3,500 migrants from Italy](#) after Rome refused to let a migrant ship disembark on its shores. (Sources: Euractiv, BBC)

UK borders and migration policy

On people crossing the Channel in small boats:

- It’s almost a year since at least 27 people tragically died attempting this journey. [A new documentary revisits the events of the night](#). (Source: the Guardian)
- [A new deal with France will increase the number of French patrol officers](#) from around 250 to 350, one of a range of interventions under the agreement costing the UK £63 million, £8 million more than last year. [The agreement has been widely criticised](#) including [by Conservative MPs](#). (Sources: BBC, the Guardian, Telegraph)
- There are reports that [government is considering legislative changes on human rights and modern slavery](#) to make it easier to remove people who have arrived via this route. (Source: Daily Mail)
 - [The National Crime Agency has said that Albanian crime gangs are staffing cannabis farms with Albanians arriving on small boats](#). It claimed that migrants are coached to say they are trafficking victims, if arrested. (Source: Evening Standard)

Controversy over the Rwanda policy continues:

- It emerged that [Home Office officials were told in April that self-harm rates among asylum seekers had increased](#) following the announcement of the plan. (Source: the Guardian)
- A poll revealed the majority of [voters think safe and legal routes would be more effective than the plan to remove people to Rwanda](#). (Source: Independent)

[Nepali workers recruited via the seasonal worker scheme have been told there is no more work for them](#), despite having been here only two of the planned six months. They're not allowed to work elsewhere and face returning home with large debts. (Source: the Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

Freedom of Information data shows that [over 120,000 people are awaiting an initial decision on their asylum claim](#). Nearly 41,000 of these have been waiting one to three years, and 725 have been waiting more than five years. The article provides an example from a person waiting in Yorkshire. (Source: Refugee Council)

This personal account from the north of England illustrates how [the cost of living crisis is exacerbating the pressure on people in the asylum system](#). (Source: the Guardian)

The use of hotels to accommodate people seeking asylum remains high profile:

- [Immigration Minister Robert Jenrick calls for an end to 'Hotel Britain'](#), claiming that arrangements for housing asylum seekers act as a pull factor. He mentions an 'innovative pilot' in Home Office's Leeds office that doubled the productivity of decision makers on asylum claims. (Source: The Telegraph)
- [More councils are reportedly contemplating legal measures to prevent hotel use](#) in their areas. (Source: Independent)
- [Several Conservative MPs said they will continue to name asylum hotels](#) despite a request not to do so, due to safety concerns. (Source: BBC)

[In a statement the Children's Commissioner prioritises proper safeguards for unaccompanied children arriving in the UK](#). Meanwhile, [concerns are repeatedly being raised around children being wrongly assessed and placed in adult hotels](#) or exposed to other risks, such as a [young person who was found sleeping on a restaurant floor](#). (Sources: Children's Commissioner, the Guardian, Surrey Live)

A two-part documentary ['Hong Kong's fight for freedom'](#) covers the pro-democracy protests and events that led [to the creation of the BNO visa](#). Meanwhile, [the Hong Kong welcome guide has been updated](#) to cover difficulties in obtaining a certificate of no criminal convictions (CNCC) from Hong Kong, as part of UK checks. (Sources: BBC, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

Cohesion and integration

The [death of a two-year child from a Sudanese refugee family in Rochdale due to poor housing](#) highlights cultural assumptions being made by housing professionals and the persistent inadequacies of the social housing system. (Source: the Guardian)

[An increasingly militarised approach to immigration and 'border spectacularisation' over the past 12 years is analysed in this article](#). The author argues harsh policies need public consensus, so by drawing attention to immigration in this way, the public is encouraged to associate 'migration' with 'illegal'. (Source: The

[Meet 'Sisterhood FC', a football club for Muslim women](#) that has found practical ways to combine the players' Islamic identity with their love of playing the sport. (Source: the Guardian)

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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