

Migration news roundup 3 July 2023

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

- [Stories that inspired us this week](#)
 - [International news](#)
- [UK borders and migration policy](#)
 - [Specific migrant groups](#)
 - [Cohesion and integration](#)

Stories that inspired us this week

Several Sanctuary Awards were announced including:

- [The Mafwa Theatre in Leeds gained status as a Theatre of Sanctuary](#). (Source: BBC)
- [Three schools and a college from Bradford](#) to recognise good practice and provision in supporting refugees and people seeking asylum, and ensuring a culture of welcome, safety, and inclusion. (Source: Telegraph and Argus)
- [The City of Westminster council, London voted to become a Council of Sanctuary](#). (Source: City of Westminster)

A group of [ESOL students from Bradford College performed in front of playwright David Edgar](#) as part of Refugee Week. (Source: Telegraph and Argus)

In the King's birthday honours, [Mohammed Fahim of the Afghan Welfare Centre in Walsall was awarded an MBE](#). Also recognised was Dr Desmond Jaddoo, a community activist and bishop who is chair of the Windrush National Organisation. (Source: BBC)

International news

[Germany reopened the Federal Reception Program for Afghans](#) which had been on hold due to irregularities reported a few months ago. The programme will prioritise Afghans waiting in Iran and Pakistan before turning to those still living in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, at the EU summit in Brussels, [Poland and Hungary have been resisting the agreement to share responsibility for migrants entering Europe without authorisation](#). Finally, [the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner urged Italy to do more to support sea rescues](#). (Sources: InfoMigrants, AP World News)

UK borders and migration policy

According to a Court of Appeal judgement, [the government's plan to remove people seeking asylum to Rwanda is unlawful](#). The judges ruled that Rwanda is not a safe country, but the Prime Minister says the government will take the case to the Supreme Court. Additionally, [the Women and Equalities Committee has said the government](#)

[should rule out sending children to Rwanda](#). (Sources: BBC, UK Parliament)

On the Illegal Migration Bill:

- [There have been defeats for the government in the House of Lords](#), which has voted in favour of several amendments. (Source: Sky News)
- The [government's economic impact assessment](#) found that the [cost of sending an individual to Rwanda](#) would be £169,000. (Sources: Home Office, the Guardian)
- [The UK's rights watchdog is 'seriously concerned'](#) about the Bill's impact. (Source: Equalities and Human Rights Commission)

There are reports that [people with a right to reside in the UK are still trapped in the Sudanese conflict zone](#). (Source: the Guardian)

[There are reports of an increase in detention centre staff suspended](#) amid accusations of violence towards detainees. Meanwhile [detainees at Harmondsworth immigration removal centre have continued to protest](#) about conditions there. (Sources: Mirror, the Guardian)

[A new report highlights the health and social care sector's reliance on overseas workers](#). While recognising economic benefits, it also identifies potential concerns around future recruitment and exploitation risks. (Source: Migration Observatory)

Here's an insight into the [experiences of an immigration solicitor](#). (Source: The Law Society)

Specific migrant groups

On asylum:

- There's a [briefing on asylum hotels and contingency accommodation](#) from Greater Manchester Immigration and Asylum Unit (GMIAU). (Source: GMIAU)
- It's been calculated that the [Home Office needs to process an asylum claim every four minutes](#) to meet their target for clearing the asylum backlog. (Source: the Guardian)
- A new report says allowing [asylum seekers the right to work would increase tax revenues by £1.3 billion](#). (Sources: National Institute of Economic and Social Research)

It's reported that [two-thirds of refugee family reunion application rejections were overturned on appeal](#) between 2019 and 2022. (Source: the Guardian)

[Read about Alla's journey to gain a job in investment](#) with the support of [Smart Works](#) Leeds, a charity that helps women into employment, now working with Ukrainian refugees. (Source: Yorkshire Evening Post)

[Organisations helping Hongkongers coming to live and work in the UK have been awarded £2.6 million by the government](#). The funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has been allocated across 47 civil society organisations. Meanwhile, [many Hongkongers living in the UK continue to fear Beijing's influence](#). (Sources: DLUHC, Japan Times)

The [University of Sheffield is continuing its commitment to supporting people fleeing war and persecution with 10 refugee scholarships](#) open for applications. (Source: the Star)

22 June marked the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush. [This article gives a broad picture of the Windrush generation](#) including statistics detailing who they are, when they arrived, where they settled, and reasons for coming to Britain. The anniversary provided an opportunity to reflect on [the Windrush generation's contributions not only to British society and culture, but to their home countries](#), and for those caught up in 'hostile environment' policies to share personal accounts including [ways of finding a sense of belonging](#) and the [impact of the Windrush generation on shaping British identity](#). Finally, look out for a [new commemorative 50p marking the 75th anniversary](#) of the ship's arrival! (Sources: the Guardian, The Conversation, BBC)

On modern slavery, there's [an article providing an overview of survivor involvement in non-governmental organisations](#) and a review of [the impact of psychosocial interventions](#) on survivor mental health and wellbeing. (Sources: Open Democracy, The Lancet)

A [hotel in Brighton is reopening to house unaccompanied children](#), despite previously closing following high numbers of young people going missing. This decision sparked [local protests, with the local authority launching legal action against the Home Office](#). Here is a [report on the challenges faced by unaccompanied children due to the delays in asylum decisions](#). (Source: the Guardian, the Independent, GMIAU)

Cohesion and integration

On [LBC radio presenter James O'Brien discussed the far right narrative on migration](#). At [Glastonbury Festival](#), [Scottish band Young Fathers led the crowd in a chant in support of refugees](#). (Sources: LBC, Metro)

A [rare painting from the 17th century depicting two unknown women - one black and one white - as equals in society, has been prevented from leaving the UK](#) in recognition of its 'outstanding significance'. (Source: the Guardian)

Learn more about how [music therapy can help refugees overcome trauma and increase a sense of belonging in their new homes](#). (Source: The Conversation)

Contact us about research

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