

Migration news roundup 4 July 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

A [new UNHCR film project 'Telling the Real Story'](#) spotlights the daily challenges and resilience of Somali and Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia. (Source: BBC)

What does it mean to be free? ['Fear Freedom' by Anne is a short film by a migrant artist from Leeds](#) screened recently during Refugee Week. (Source: Mafwa Theatre, via YouTube, six minutes)

International news

Tragedy struck in the USA when [50 migrants were found dead in the back of a lorry in Texas](#). In echoes of debates closer to home about people crossing the Channel in small boats, [commentators alternately blame smugglers, border policy and a lack of safe routes](#) to claim asylum. (Sources: BBC, the Guardian)

This is difficult to watch at times, but [this ten minute video explores the rise in anti-refugee sentiment in Turkey](#) particularly towards Syrians. (Source: Middle East Eye)

[A report claims Lithuania broke EU and international law in its treatment of refugees](#) who crossed from Belarus.

Similarly, [a Polish court ruled Poland broke EU law by pushing back asylum seekers](#) attempting to cross from Belarus. In contrast, [journalists returned to the Polish border town of Przemyśl that has helped more Ukrainians than anywhere else](#) in the world. (Sources: Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, ITV)

[A new migration museum has opened in Denmark](#), shining a fresh light on stories of forced migration. (Source: France 24)

UK borders and migration policy

The Home Office updated various policies to reflect changes under the Nationality and Borders Act, including [a policy paper covering the new temporary protection status](#) for persons arriving through irregular routes and so could be deemed 'inadmissible'. You can [read an analysis of the policy paper here](#). (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)

[Plans to re-open a former immigration detention centre](#) in Oxfordshire have been met with criticism. The centre is now likely to be used for asylum seekers marked for removal to Rwanda. A [Home Office factsheet on the detention site](#) confirms it will accommodate up to 400 male asylum seekers. (Sources: Oxford Mail, Home Office)

Regarding small boat crossings:

- The [numbers of arrivals continues to be high](#), with the latest year to date figure at over 12,000 people
 - [Life sentences for pilots of small boats have now come into force](#)
 - [Those arriving on small boats are to be electronically tagged](#) under new plans.

(Sources: BBC, Home Office, Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

[Sponsors on the Homes for Ukraine scheme could be asked to extend their pledge](#) to offer accommodation to their guests beyond six months. At the same time, there are concerns that lack of safeguarding checks will lead to [local authorities being unaware of the whereabouts of Ukrainian children and teenagers](#) who have arrived in the UK via the family visa scheme. (Sources: LGC Plus, Mirror)

[The ‘Windrush 75 Network’ held a webinar to discuss why Windrush matters today](#) and the importance of recognising that the Windrush generation and their descendants are ‘part of the fabric of British society’. Relatedly, in response to an article by Lenny Henry [this letter explores the difference between ‘integration’ and ‘assimilation’](#) and why Windrush parents might have urged their children to ‘fit in’ rather than celebrate their identity in the racial context of Britain at the time. (Sources: British Future, the Guardian)

[A government update for those with an EU Settlement Scheme \(EUSS\) status on travelling to and from the UK](#) has been published. (Source: Home Office)

[Panorama provided an insight into the political situation in Hong Kong](#) and the reasons for the British National Overseas (BNO) visa route in a 30 minute documentary, whilst this article explores [how Hongkongers are getting on once here in the UK](#). (Sources: BBC, Ejinsight)

Chancellors have warned [UK universities may prioritise attracting international and postgraduate students whose fees are not capped by the government](#) rather than those paying home fees, due to rising inflation and over a decade of capped tuition fees. [An inspection report of the immigration system as it relates to the Higher Education sector](#) has been published. (Sources: the Guardian, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration)

There are reports of [third party recruitment agents exploiting seasonal fruit pickers](#) by charging thousands in illegal fees. (Source: The Bureau Investigates)

Click here for clarification on [what the difference is between refugee status and humanitarian protection](#). (Source: Free Movement)

Cohesion and integration

The [first round of Census 2021 data and interactive tools was released](#) covering population counts by gender and age at local authority level. The population in Yorkshire and Humber has grown by 4% to 5.5 million since the

last Census in 2011 – with the most pronounced growth in the over 65 age group. (Source: Office for National Statistics)

One for tennis fans! Local community members including [1,500 people from a refugee background were invited to a centenary celebration at Wimbledon](#). (Source: the Guardian)

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