

Migration news roundup 24 October 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[Abdi Suleiman, whose family fled Somalia when he was a child, is seeking nomination to stand as a Labour candidate in Sheffield Central](#) for the next general election. (Source: Huffington Post)

[The University of Sheffield has launched a scheme for academics fleeing war or persecution](#) to continue their research here. (Source: University of Sheffield)

[Bradford College is the first college in West Yorkshire to receive the FE College of Sanctuary award.](#) (Source: News Anyway)

International news

The [US is set to accept about 24,000 Venezuelan asylum seekers](#) entering directly by air and having secured a sponsor under a new programme, but under a new agreement with Mexico Venezuelans arriving at the southern US border will be expelled back into Mexico. At the same time, [hundreds of migrants have been sent to New York by republican leaders in other states, leading to a tented camp opening there](#) on Randall's Island. (Source: Al Jazeera)

UK borders and migration policy

In another politically tumultuous week, [Grant Shapps emerged as the latest Home Secretary](#), who may take a more moderate approach to migration issues. (Source: the Guardian)

On the Rwanda policy:

- [Privilege Style has become the latest airline to remove itself from the Rwanda flights scheme](#), following pressure by campaigners (Source: the Guardian)
- [A further £20 million has been paid to the Rwandan government](#) for 'initial set-up costs' despite zero removals to Rwanda so far (Source: Daily Mail)
- [A House of Lords committee is concerned the arrangement with Rwanda is based on a Memorandum of Understanding](#) rather than a legally binding treaty. (Source: UK Parliament)

- [A second judicial review is being considered](#) by the High Court, brought by Asylum Aid, regarding plans to remove asylum seekers within three weeks of arriving here. (Source: Independent)
- An asylum seeker selected for removal is bringing a [legal challenge over the government's pilot electronic tagging scheme](#), claiming he was 'treated like an animal' (Source: Independent)

Following a recommendation by Wendy Williams in the 'Windrush Lessons Learned Review', [the Home Office has launched an Independent Examiner of Complaints service](#) for people who use immigration services. (Source: Home Office)

Specific migrant groups

On asylum:

- Judges have ruled that [asylum seekers who had their phones confiscated can claim compensation](#) if they arrived between April and November 2020. (Source: the Guardian)
 - [Concerns have been expressed about 11 Albanians who were returned to their country](#) just days after arriving in the UK on small boats. [There are also concerning reports of Albanians in asylum hotels being recruited for cannabis farms](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Telegraph)
 - A [private security firm \(MTC\) has been awarded a contract to provide security at the Manston asylum processing site](#) in Kent; MTC was criticised by Ofsted for its operations in a former youth detention centre. (Source: the Guardian)
- There are reports of [hotel staff being made redundant due to the Home Office overseeing operations](#) in the hotel in Buckingham to accommodate people who are seeking asylum. (Source: the Sun)

[An independent inspection into the use of hotels for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children](#) was published, raising concerns that [staff working and living on site had not been DBS checked](#). The report calls for a 'clear cross-government approach' to protect these extremely vulnerable children. On [the related issues of young people going missing from hotels and the risk of trafficking](#), watch this Newsnight report from minute 26:13. (Sources: Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, the Guardian, BBC)

[A Hong Kong protester was attacked at the Chinese consulate in Manchester](#), leading to [calls for tougher actions against perpetrators](#) to reassure the Hong Kong community in the UK. In other news, a new statement of immigration rules provides for the [expansion of the BNO visa to include the younger cohort from 30 November](#). (Sources: the Guardian, British Future, Free Movement)

Government is facing a [legal challenge over the planned approach to late EU settlement scheme applications](#), relating to the requirement to convert from pre-settled to settled status. Meanwhile, new [flaws with digital status are emerging](#), with some individuals being shown other people's information instead of their own. (Sources: the Guardian, Public Technology)

[Anti Slavery Day was on 18 October](#), with the [International Slavery Museum in Liverpool](#) exhibiting a beautiful [quilt](#) created by survivors of modern slavery. [Child victims of trafficking shared their experiences of UK systems in a report](#), identifying what they need to see for positive and meaningful change in their lives. In an update to immigration rules, [from 30 January victims of modern slavery will be eligible for temporary permission to stay](#). (Sources: Anti Slavery Day, National Museums Liverpool, ECPAT, Free Movement)

Cohesion and integration

In this opinion piece, councillors from different political parties call out [‘racist immigration policies’ that gatekeep who is seen as ‘worthy’ of state support in UK society](#) and who is included or excluded from being considered part of ‘the public’. (Source: Edinburgh Evening News)

What’s in a name? Some [Brits living in Turkey are questioning using the term ‘expat’](#) whilst a recent survey suggests [some British people are now identifying more strongly as European, post-Brexit](#). (Source: The Conversation)

Contact us about research

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