

Migration news roundup 12 December 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[Refugees, asylum seekers and other residents from Bradford came together for poetry and performance](#) about what it means to call Bradford ‘home’ - to be published in an anthology. (Source: Telegraph & Argus)

And on a festive note, [the ‘Refutrees’ scheme in Bristol is selling Christmas trees to raise money to support refugees](#). (Source: BBC)

International news

[This bold article suggests five immigration policies for 2023](#) to help European countries reframe the conversation around migration and benefit from it – one is to devolve more power to cities and local leaders. (Source: The New Humanitarian)

[In Australia, many rescued Afghan citizens are despairing](#) - hope to reunite with families still in Kabul is fading, due to long waits for ‘split-family’ visas. (Source: the Guardian)

UK borders and migration policy

[Ministers from several countries met to discuss Channel crossings](#) and agreed to hold annual meetings of this ‘Calais Group’, while the [Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Albanian counterpart Edi Rama discussed plans](#) to tackle illegal migration to the UK. (Sources: Home Office, Prime Minister’s Office)

Several items cover initial reception conditions for new arrivals:

- [A report on short-term holding facilities in Kent in 2021 reveals serious welfare concerns](#) at Tug Haven, Kent Intake Unit and Frontier House (before Manston and Western Jetfoil sites opened in 2022). (Source: Independent Monitoring Boards)
- Some [asylum seekers recently held at Manston, Kent were reportedly turned away from their asylum screening interviews](#) despite having been issued appointments. (Source: the Guardian)
- [Work has not yet begun on asylum reception centres announced last year](#) which should accommodate up to 8,000 new arrivals. (Source: Independent)

[Government has increased capacity in the tribunal system](#), expecting to resolve up to 9,000 more immigration appeal cases by the end of March. (Source: Ministry of Justice)

[This article shares concerns about the impact of the increasingly digitalised approach to UK immigration systems](#), in particular, the requirement to use 'sharecodes' to prove immigration status. (Source: WIRED)

Specific migrant groups

[It has been reported that no Afghan refugees have yet been brought to the UK under the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme](#) (ACRS) launched in January - this story is about pathway 3 of the scheme which enables some individuals with employment and study connections to the UK to be resettled. (Source: the Guardian)

There are a number of news items related to future asylum policy:

- Reports that [the Home Office could fast-track claims from countries like Syria and Afghanistan](#) where claims are likely to be accepted. (Source: Arab News)
- [The immigration minister talked of preventing asylum claims from 'safe' countries like Albania, an idea backed by Labour.](#) (Sources: Sky, BBC)
- There's [new critique of the Home Office Country Policy and Information Note on blood feuds in Albania](#) – used by decision makers on asylum applications. (Sources: Prime Minister's Office, Free Movement)

['Stopping the crossings', a report from the Centre for Policy Studies](#) - for which the Home Secretary wrote a foreword - [was criticised by UNHCR for errors and its proposals](#) including a ban on claiming asylum for those crossing the Channel. (Sources: Centre for Policy Studies, UNHCR)

'Fleeing a burning house' is [a report exploring why torture survivors flee their countries](#) and seek sanctuary in the UK. (Source: Freedom from Torture)

[This policy paper explores learning from the Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#) and how it can aid development of community-led integration schemes for welcoming new arrivals. (Source: University of Oxford)

There are [increasing concerns among councils regarding funding and inappropriate placements of unaccompanied children in care](#) as the figures continue to be at their highest level. [There are discussions around safeguarding Albanian children](#) as almost a fifth are going missing from Kent. (Sources: Community Care, the Guardian)

Two items on EU nationals:

- [A briefing explains the rights of EU nationals after 30 June 2021](#) including the right to work while awaiting a decision on an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) application and raising awareness of the risks in making an application where the applicant would not meet eligibility requirements. (Source: Work Rights Centre)
- [This article outlines problems remaining in the EUSS process](#) including upgrades and 'advice sharks'. (Source: UK in Changing Europe)

This article explores [worries felt by Hongkongers settling in the UK in relation to the Chinese regime](#). (Source: UnHerd)

Stories about the Windrush generation have quietened, but here are a selection:

- [A man caught up in the Windrush scandal recently won his 10-year battle to remain here](#) but now needs to rebuild his life. (Source: the Guardian)
- This year's [Turner Prize for art went to Veronica Ryan](#) who made the UK's first permanent public artwork to honour the Windrush generation. (Source: BBC)

Cohesion and integration

[A report on the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy makes recommendations](#) both short-term to ensure good practices develop, and long-term that address issues affecting much of the Scottish population. (Source: University of Glasgow)

[The Commission on the Integration of Refugees published its first report](#) 'A Broken System? Asylum Reform Initiatives, 1997-2022' examining how far integration has been a priority in asylum legislation and analyses successes and failures in previous efforts to reform the asylum system. (Source: Commission on the Integration of Refugees)

Diana Sutton, [director of The Bell Foundation, writes about the importance of English for Speakers of Other Languages \(ESOL\) in the refugee integration process](#) in light of their evaluation of a refugee integration project in the East of England. (Source: The Bell Foundation)

Contact us about research

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