

Migration news roundup 2 January 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

We have probably all heard of Alan Turing, the Bletchley Park codebreaker during World War II, but what about [Marian Rejewski, the Polish codebreaker key to the beginning of the Enigma story](#)? (Source: The Guardian)

After more than 20 years, [Angelina Jolie is stepping down from her role as UNHCR Special Envoy](#), pledging to continue her support for refugees. (Source: UNHCR)

International news

[In Afghanistan tears flow as women protest to have their right to education reinstated](#) following the [Taliban banning higher education for females](#). (Source: BBC, The Guardian)

[Doctors Without Borders has urged Lithuania and Latvia to restrain their border police from refugee pushbacks](#) at the border with Belarus, after reports of hospitalisation and even amputations, as a result of individuals being left in woods in freezing temperatures. (Source: Info Migrants)

[48 asylum seekers have been relocated to Germany through an EU Solidarity Mechanism scheme](#), established to ease the strain on asylum systems in member states. Meanwhile [Switzerland has temporarily withdrawn its participation from the UN refugee resettlement programme](#), due to the rising number of Ukrainian refugees. (Source: Info Migrants)

UK borders and migration policy

The High Court has ruled [the government's plan to send some new arrivals to Rwanda is lawful](#). However, an appeal against this decision is possible and the 8 individual cases referred to must all be reconsidered. More [detailed analysis of the decision can be found here](#) and [this article considers possible timings for the government's next attempt at a removal flight](#). (Sources: BBC, Free Movement)

On people crossing the Channel in small boats:

- [There's been media coverage of the record number of 45,728 people](#) arriving via this route last year, with a reminder that the main change is in the method of transport rather than overall numbers arriving. (Source: Sky News)
- [An Eritrean woman in northern France is hoping to be reunited with her three young children in the UK](#) – they were separated when attempting the crossing. (Source: The Guardian)
- [Here's a timeline summary of UK-French co-operation](#) in relation to borders and irregular migration. (Source: House of Commons Library)

It has been reported the [government is changing the law to allow new arrivals to be detained in short-term processing centres for 4 days instead of 24 hours](#), and that [disused cruise ships are being considered as asylum accommodation](#). (Sources: Mirror, BBC)

[Birmingham City Council has passed an amendment](#) making it the [first local authority to sign the #AntiRefugeeLaws Pledge](#). The Council has also called on the government to repeal the Nationality and Borders Act. (Sources: Birmingham City Council, Asylum Matters on Twitter)

[The government has accepted the recommendations of a recent inspection report of the immigration system in relation to the agricultural sector](#), including a review of the Seasonal Worker route. (Source: Gov.uk)

Here is a [look back at immigration law and policy in 2022](#). (Source: Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

[The Home Secretary has been found to have acted unlawfully by not raising asylum support rates](#) as advised by officials, due to the cost of living crisis. [The Home Office has been ordered to increase the rate by £5 immediately](#), to £45 per week. (Sources: The Guardian, GM Law)

Former Prime Minister [Theresa May has expressed concern about government plans to tighten up modern slavery legislation](#), in particular the proposal to require more evidence to demonstrate victimhood. Meanwhile [it is thought likely 4 men who died in a fire in Oldham were victims of modern slavery](#) working on a cannabis farm. (Sources: BBC, The Guardian)

[Children born to same-sex couples outside the UK, where one parent is British and the other is an EU spouse, may be ineligible for UK citizenship](#). This has left some children stateless if born in an EU country that doesn't recognise same-sex parents, such as Bulgaria or Greece. (Source: The Guardian)

[The High Court has ruled that the EU Settlement Scheme is in breach of the Withdrawal Agreement](#), as EU nationals with pre-settled status should not need to apply again to upgrade to settled status. The Home Office is appealing the judgment. (Source: Free Movement)

In order to reduce migration to the UK, [the government is reportedly planning to increase both the minimum income requirement for family visas, and the minimum salary for workers in shortage occupation list jobs](#), as well as targeting overseas students (while Prime Minister [Rishi Sunak has spoken of the economic and cultural contribution international students make to the UK](#)). (Sources: The Times, The Pie News)

A [Ukrainian onward travel scheme has been extended for a further 6 months](#), enabling free travel to destinations upon arrival in the UK. (Source: Gov.uk)

[2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush ship](#) – events are being planned and campaigners are calling for national celebrations across the UK. (Source: The Guardian)

Cohesion and integration

Food is often at the very heart of migration stories, bringing people from various backgrounds together. [The inventor of the most popular British curry dish, chicken tikka masala, has died recently. Bringing ‘Danish flavours’ to the table is the aim of a new bakery in Sheffield](#), opened by a Danish-British couple, making various Danish pastries as well as ‘Scandinavian sourdough bread’ using a specialist steam oven. And [Jinnah Kashmiri restaurant in Bradford is now offering a traditional Sunday roast](#). (Sources: The Guardian, The Star, Telegraph & Argus).

Contact us about research

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