

Migration news roundup 1 May 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

Sifan Hassan, [two time Olympic champion who sought refuge in the Netherlands at the age of 15, won the London Marathon in her first ever race of this kind](#). This is despite an injury and competing against experts in the race of 26.2 miles. (Source: BBC)

A [play about two young Ukrainian women and ‘Bandura’ players, separated by the war, will be broadcast on BBC Radio 4](#) on 4 May 2023. The drama draws on interviews with refugees from Ukraine. (Source: BBC)

The UK will host Eurovision on behalf of Ukraine in a fortnight. As part of preparations 13 year old Samir Adam Khan from Odessa [has had the chance to sing with 80s pop star Sonia](#). Additionally, as part of its Eurovision Legacy, [Liverpool has created space for members of its Ukrainian refugee community to design a garden that features plants from Ukraine](#). (Sources: Express and Star, BBC)

International news

The [UNHCR has highlighted the topic of disability and forced migration](#) in a series of webinars, and shared tools to be applied to strengthen the protection of people with disability according to the UN Convention. [Murhaf Hamid, an 11 year old seeking asylum in Sweden, raised up to \\$233,000 for Majblomman, a children’s charity](#). (Source: Info Migrant)

Beyond Europe, [migrants took to the streets in Mexico to demand the end of detention centres](#) after 40 people were killed in a recent fire. (Source: BBC)

UK borders and migration policy

The [Illegal Migration Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons](#) this week and will now pass to the House of Lords for consideration. [The government tabled several amendments - there’s commentary on some of these here](#). (Sources: BBC, Gov.UK, Free Movement)

Further responses to the Bill:

- This briefing argues the [Bill may result in people seeking asylum being removed to third countries, or accommodated long-term in the UK, rather than returned to their countries of origin.](#)
- [The Equality and Human Rights Commission \(EHRC\) has expressed concern](#) that the legislation risks breaching international human rights obligations.
 - There are [reports of discontent amongst Home Office staff.](#)

(Sources: Migration Observatory, EHRC, Independent)

Meanwhile, the [Home Secretary has said people arriving on small boats ‘possess values which are at odds with our country’](#), as well as stating that people arriving from Sudan to seek refuge could be removed to Rwanda. (Source: Independent).

According to provisional Home Office data:

- [Nearly a quarter of people crossing the Channel on small boats in the first three months of this year were from Afghanistan.](#)
- The number of people arriving from Albania on small boats has reduced, with just 29 arriving in the first quarter ([271 people arrived during the equivalent period last year](#)).
- [Over 1,000 people have been returned to Albania](#) since a joint communiqué was signed in December 2022.

(Sources: The National News, Home Office)

[The Rwanda scheme is being examined in the Court of Appeal](#) – lawyers have argued Rwanda is not a safe country for such an arrangement and [the system would not allow sufficient time for torture survivors to be identified](#). Meanwhile, [health professionals have added their voice to concerns](#) about the scheme. (Sources: Independent, ITV News, Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

[Research examining the impact of hotel accommodation on people seeking asylum has found to be unsuitable](#) and recommends more investment to find appropriate housing in the community. (Source: Migrant Voice)

A government factsheet outlines [support in place for resettled people from Afghanistan](#), as part of measures to move this group out of bridging hotels. (Source: Home Office)

A new [documentary ‘Leaving to remain’ explores the experiences of three Roma migrants in the UK after the EU referendum](#), and will be shown in cinemas across the country. You can watch the [trailer here](#). (Sources: Guardian, Vimeo)

On Hong Kong, a new [report exploring welcome and support available to Hong Kong BN\(O\) visa children in schools](#) has been published by the Welcome Committee for Hong Kongers, highlighting good practice. Meanwhile, [a short documentary on the same topic has been created by a group of Hong Kong journalists \(‘Study 6000 miles away’\)](#), with a second documentary focusing on the [experiences of older people arriving from Hong Kong](#). (Sources: WelcomeHK, Green Beans – on YouTube)

On Windrush, [artist Barbara Walker is shortlisted for this year’s Turner Prize, exploring the effects of the Windrush scandal on individuals and their families](#). The winner will be announced in December 2023. In Leeds, [‘King, Country and Homes’ is a new exhibition at the Central Library, focusing on two World War II veterans from Jamaica who helped defend Britain](#) and then settled in Leeds. One of them, Alford Gardner, was sent back

to Jamaica in 1947, returning in June 1948 on HMT Empire Windrush. (Source: BBC)

Cohesion and integration

[Members of the Orthodox Jewish community in MP Diane Abbott's Hackney constituency](#) (one of the largest such communities in Europe) have shared their views on her widely publicised controversial letter regarding experiences of racism, whilst Martin Gallagher, a campaigner for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller rights, reflects on [his experiences of anti-Traveller discrimination](#). (Sources: The Jewish Chronicle, The i)

It is reported that [British Muslim communities have been disproportionately affected by the cost-of-living crisis](#), with an increase in Muslims, including those seeking asylum from Muslim-majority countries, missing meals, accessing food banks, and requesting 'Zakat' (charity) support. (Source: The Big Issue)

The [Commission on the Integration of Refugees has been in Glasgow this week](#) hearing the concerns of refugees and people seeking asylum and those supporting them across Scotland. (Source: The Herald)

Contact us about research

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