

Migration news roundup 28 August 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

Launching this week in Hull is [the ‘Tomorrow’ exhibition by women who have survived conflict and persecution](#), running until 27 September. (Source: Freedom Festival Arts Trust)

In York [a peaceful march was planned for Ukrainian Independence Day](#). (Source: York Press)

Read the [stories of individuals supporting people seeking asylum at the southern US border](#). (Source: UNHCR)

International news

Attempts to prevent migrant crossings continue around the world:

- [Reports of systematic, mass killings of migrants at the Saudi-Yemeni border](#), many of them from Ethiopia, are denied by Saudi border guards. (Source: BBC)
 - Having hoped to reach Europe but imprisoned in Libya, [161 Nigerians returned home via the United Nation’s voluntary repatriation scheme](#). (Source: Al Jazeera)
- [Italian authorities prevented the Aurora rescue ship from docking in the nearest port at Lampedusa for nearly 40 hours](#), despite low supplies and deteriorating health of passengers. A new Italian law requires rescue ships to sail to the port assigned to them – in this case, Trapani in Sicily. (Source: InfoMigrants)

In contrast, in the US [a court is considering whether the Texan authorities should remove an installation of buoys on the Rio Grande designed to prevent migrants crossing](#) from Mexico. (Source: the Guardian)

UK borders and migration policy

[This report considers what the asylum ‘in-tray’ could look like for the next government in 2025](#) predicting that even [if the Rwanda plan is implemented, arrivals will outpace removals](#) resulting in a growing ‘perma-backlog’ of people. On asylum accommodation, it recommends ‘creative thinking and close working with local government.’ Meanwhile, [the Prime Minister cast doubt on how quickly small boat crossings can be countered](#). (Sources: Institute for Public Policy Research, Sky, the Independent)

In annual reports from the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), the [report on short term holding facilities in the North East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber](#) criticises confiscation of medicines, and voices concerns about the screening interview. [Reports on Heathrow](#) and [Gatwick immigration removal centres](#) highlight long detention periods and issues relating to the cancelled Rwanda flight. (Source: IMB)

[Official quarterly migration statistics were published](#) for the year ending June 2023. [Initial analysis highlights care worker visas driving work migration](#) and small boat migration accounting for 41% of asylum seekers, as well as [a growing asylum backlog](#). [National insurance number allocations to non-UK nationals](#) - a proxy for immigration - show a large majority issued to non-EU nationals, with India and Nigeria the top nationalities. (Sources: Home Office, Migration Observatory, the Guardian, Department for Work and Pensions)

Counter to usual media coverage, [this article suggests the UK is being used as a route for some migrants from North Africa to reach France](#). This article warns that [haulage drivers may consider leaving the industry due to large fines](#) for unintentionally bringing people across the Channel in lorries. (Sources: Telegraph, BBC)

This [briefing on spouse and partner visas](#) gives an overview of the financial requirements. (Source: Free Movement)

[Over 900 people have not proceeded with medical treatment when facing upfront NHS charges](#) during the past two years. The article highlights the case of a Sheffield man who had a stroke after not receiving treatment for a blood-clotting condition. (Source: the Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

[The use of the Bibby Stockholm as asylum accommodation could face a legal challenge led by the Mayor of Portland](#) who claims the Home Office should have applied for planning permission. (Source: Sky)

This article claims [government has failed to enable sufficient safe routes for Afghans](#) despite launching Afghan schemes, according to the International Rescue Committee. (Source: Express and Star)

[This article explains difficulties faced by Sudanese nationals evacuated to the UK](#) earlier this year, as their future migration status and entitlements seem unclear. (Source: Free Movement)

On children and young people:

- Following the removal of cartoons in the children's asylum processing centre in July, [a campaign is to send thousands of cheerful postcards to asylum seeking children to welcome them to the UK](#). (Source: the Guardian)
- [Kent County Council is taking legal action against the government due to failure to properly enforce the National Transfer Scheme](#), which disperses unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to councils across the country. (Source: Kent Online)

[A recent online national survey carried out with HongKongers highlights social isolation](#) despite high functioning, integration and high levels of education and qualifications, with Hong Kong media noting that [one third of recent Hong Kong migrants to the UK have secured full-time employment](#). (Sources: University of Liverpool, South China Morning Post)

Cohesion and integration

Regarding the legacy of transatlantic slavery, [a leading UN judge stated reparations by the UK are ‘required by history and is required by law’](#). Further, this article argues that [reparation is not only about money but also about recognition](#) – including the names and identities of enslaved African people who contributed to the development of industrial and economic systems around the world. (Sources: the Guardian, The Conversation)

[A centre to commemorate the UK’s anti-apartheid movement will open next year](#), funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The centre will provide information about the UK’s multicultural heritage, collect stories, and reach out to schools. (Source: the Guardian)

[An opinion poll found the government’s recent ‘small boats week’ may have backfired](#), strengthening Labour’s lead on immigration. The topic is now in the top three issues most important to voters, after health and the economy. (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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