

Migration news roundup 22 July 2024

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

As the Paris Olympics approach, [read about individuals in the UK asylum system, for whom sport is very important](#). Relatedly, [meet some of the 36 athletes from 11 countries who will be competing as part of the Refugee Olympic Team](#) in Paris 2024. (Sources: the Guardian, News Center 1)

Leeds resident and former Spice Girl, [Mel B has received an honorary doctorate from Leeds Beckett University](#) on trauma-informed approaches for survivors of domestic abuse. Mel [referenced being the 'daughter of an immigrant' in her acceptance speech](#). Well done, Scary Spice! (Sources: BBC, X)

International news

Speaking at the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum, [representatives from Libya and Tunisia called on the European Union to increase aid to North African states struggling with the effects of largescale migration](#) to Europe via the North African coast. Meanwhile, in the Sudanese city of El Fasher in the North Darfur region, [some 800,000 displaced civilians are trapped with dwindling food, water and medical supplies](#), as fighting between rival militias renders the city inaccessible to international aid groups. (Sources: Al Jazeera, UN News)

In Europe, the [Finnish parliament's approval of a new bill, granting individual border guards the authority to deny asylum to aspiring migrants seeking entry from Russia, prompted criticism](#) from scholars and legal experts as the measures may violate Finland's international commitments as well as the constitution. While [in Ireland, anti-migration protests have erupted into violence again](#) in Dublin, targeting asylum accommodation. (Sources: Al Jazeera, the Guardian)

UK borders and migration policy

[A new 'Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill' was announced](#) in the King's Speech 2024 to establish a 'Border Security Command' to tackle smuggling gangs, ending the agreement with Rwanda, and modernising

the immigration system, including clearing the asylum backlog, ending hotel use, and increasing returns.
(Source: Prime Minister's Office)

At a meeting with European leaders, media reported [the Prime Minister is open to offshoring processing of asylum claims](#), while [he also announced funds for education and employment projects designed to address root causes of migration across the Channel](#) from Africa and the Middle East. (Sources: Financial Times, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office)

[A review of the Seasonal Work visa scheme recommends better conditions for workers](#). (Source: Migration Advisory Committee)

Specific migrant groups

It was revealed during a High Court hearing that the [government plans to prioritise processing asylum claims of those who were previously labelled 'inadmissible'](#) and potentially removed to Rwanda. This affects up to 90,000 individuals, with certain nationality groups likely to be considered first. [People living in asylum accommodation on the Bibby Stockholm, supported by local residents and campaigners, began a protest](#) due to the length of time taken to process asylum claims. Lastly on asylum, [the Home Office apologised about letters that had been sent in error granting asylum seekers leave to remain, and were subsequently retracted](#). (Sources: the Guardian, InfoMigrants)

Civic organisations have sent [a letter to a prime minister outlining steps that a new government could take to fix the issues with the EU Settlement Scheme \(EUSS\)](#). This article lists specific [issues experienced by Roma EU citizens](#). Relatedly, the latest [Immigration Tribunal statistics show that the success rate for EUSS appeals is 43%](#) and the average time to receive a decision is 10 months. (Sources: the Guardian, UK in a Changing Europe, Ministry of Justice)

A [report released this week found that placing lone asylum-seeking children in Home Office child hotels in Kent increased the risk of exploitation and trafficking](#). The report maintains that of the 440 unaccompanied children who went missing from these settings between 2021 and 2024, over a hundred are still unaccounted for. Relatedly, [the Children's Commissioner for England visited Kent](#) and communicated their concerns to the Home Office and the Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration. (Sources: University College London, The Children's Commissioner)

Langar Aid, a Coventry-based charity providing food support to homeless people and others struggling financially, has observed that [there is an increasing number of international students in different cities using soup kitchens and reaching out for food parcels](#). In other news, the Quality Assurance Agency, [commissioned to review transparency and fairness of international student admissions at UK universities](#) (amid concerns that some universities lowered their entry requirements to attract overseas students at foundation level), found that processes have remained fair for both international and home students. (Sources: the PIE Network, BBC)

Cohesion and integration

[A new poll has revealed that Nigel Farage's Reform party has a worse reputation as a 'racist party' than UKIP did back in 2015](#). At the same time, the poll shows only one in five people disapproved of the Rwanda policy being scrapped and highlights a [wider public support for the Labour government's new immigration agenda](#). (Source: British Future)

Kit Fan, a [Hong Kong academic living in York](#), shares his story of renouncing Hong Kong citizenship for fear of [retaliation from the Chinese government](#). (Sources: MSN)

Contact us about research

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