

Migration news roundup 27 August 2024

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

After hiding his origins for many years, [Rustam Wahab, a 22-year-old student of philosophy, politics, and economics at Southampton University whose family fled Afghanistan to the UK in 2001, is now proud to talk about his story on Instagram](#), with his account having over 700,000 followers.?(Source: BBC)

Two students from migrant background, [Tienga Ngale and Vishal Udaya Kumar, have been shortlisted for the prestigious national award of Social Work student of the year 2024](#). More education related news, [a group of 19 women who were studying for medical degrees in Afghanistan have been granted permission to continue their medical studies in Scotland](#), after being denied the right to pursue their studies in their home country by the Taliban. (Sources: Brunel University of London, the Guardian)

More on the [25-year-old boxer Cindy Ngamba, who competed as part of the Refugee Olympic team and won a bronze medal](#) – she hopes that the first-ever medal won by the team is a source of hope and inspiration for other refugees to never give up on their own dreams for victory. (Source: The Independent)

International news

[Net migration to Sweden has fallen below zero](#) for the first time in 50 years, a result of recent government measures to restrict migration. (Source: the Guardian)

In Hungary, as a response to a €200 million fine by the European Union's top court from June for noncompliance with EU asylum law, the [government representative threatened to abandon border enforcement altogether, welcome aspiring EU migrants with "transport to Brussels free of charge"](#). Meanwhile, [a new law came into force in Hungary restricting state support for Ukrainians from specific regions](#), with those from the Roma ethnic minority, expected to be most affected. (Sources: AP News, BBC News)

Beyond Europe, the United States has worked with several countries in attempting to curb migration into North America, including by [paying Panama for equipment, transportation and logistics to repatriate 'undocumented' migrants](#); signing an agreement with [the Philippines to host Afghan nationals as they process their applications](#)

[for asylum in the United States](#); and by encouraging [the Brazilian government to impose new entry restrictions on selected Asian nationalities](#) suspected of arriving in Brazil to facilitate further travel to the United States. ?
(Sources: BBC, Al Jazeera, AP News)

UK borders and migration policy

It is [quarterly immigration stats](#) publication week! All our data dashboards, including [Refugee and Asylum seeker](#), [Ukraine](#) and [EU Settlement Scheme](#) have been updated. Here are some good opinion pieces worth a read:

- Migration Observatory highlights that [the Labour government have inherited falling immigration](#), but stresses that the asylum process has stagnated.
- Free Movement observes that [only 4% of people who claimed asylum in the last 12 months have had their claims processed](#) and dives into detail of some other cohorts including students and EUSS.
- BBC picks up on the point that [fewer people are coming from abroad to work in the NHS and care sectors](#), and also reports on the [asylum numbers and small boats](#). (Sources: Home Office, Migration Yorkshire, Migration Observatory, Free Movement, BBC)

In other news, [as outlined in its pre-election manifesto](#), the government has announced [a series of measures to reduce irregular migration and increase deportations](#). The actions, which include [plans to reopen two detention centres, have been criticised by Amnesty International](#) who accused the Labour Party of ‘reheating the last Government’s rhetoric.’ Other suggested approaches include [tackling migrant smugglers in their countries of origin](#), including Iraqi Kurdistan. (Sources: The Labour Party, The Independent, Amnesty International, Express)

The [interim ICIBI Chief Inspector has outlined his priorities for the coming months](#), including inspections into clandestine entry into the UK, and the Home Office process and practices regarding age assessments. Calls for evidence will follow soon. (Source: gov.uk)

Finally, the Department of Health and Social Care in collaboration with the Home Office published a [help sheet to assist adult social care providers applying for a Certificate of Sponsorship to sponsor care workers overseas on the health and care visa route](#). It outlines the steps involved in the application process and includes tips on how to provide the appropriate evidence required by the Home Office to meet the genuine vacancy requirement. (Source: Skills for Care)

Specific migrant groups

A new [report from British Red Cross on commissioning and provision of healthcare services for people seeking asylum highlights practical improvements needed](#) to ensure that they receive the best care possible. It includes a standardised user journey, data collection and access to interpreters. Elsewhere, the Guardian reports [that the number of people seeking asylum who have died in the care of the Home Office has more than doubled in the last year](#). (Sources: British Red Cross, the Guardian)

Few more reports published in the last two weeks focusing on different migrant groups:

- On people from Ukraine – investigates [the closure of the Ukrainian family scheme and its impact on affected families](#) and calls for the scheme to be reinstated.
- On Roma – the outcome of multi-method research involving universities, civil society organisations, social care practitioners, and legal professionals, examines [Roma families' experiences with children's services in the UK](#), and identifies systemic barriers and opportunities for improvement.
- On BN(O) visa holders – [explores the needs and challenges of BN\(O\) children with special educational needs](#) and their parents in navigating the education system and support provision in the UK.
- Modern slavery – [revealed barriers for survivors of modern slavery to access support, created by a lack of cultural and structural competency in the UK's response to modern slavery](#). The report calls for designing more culturally competent services and policies that are better adjusted to survivors' individual and cultural challenges and needs. (Sources: Work Rights Centre, Law for Life, Hongkongers in Britain, Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre)

More on modern slavery, the government's [Modern Slavery Training Resource page](#) has been updated while an investigation by the BBC, which uncovered a [trafficking ring within the Scottish fishing industry](#) between 2012 and 2020, highlights concerns with the criminal investigation and justice system. (Sources: gov.uk, BBC)

Finally, this article explores how [a decline in student visa applications from India and Nigeria deepens concerns about the financial impact](#) this may have on UK universities. (Source: Research Professional news).

Cohesion and integration

'Who is Your Neighbour', a South Yorkshire charity promoting unity across communities, and 'IMIX' have announced they will be hosting an [online event, 'Creating Spaces that Disrupt Division' in September to facilitate meaningful dialogue and bridge divides](#). Similarly, [City of Sanctuary have launched a free pack encouraging us all to start having 'courageous conversations' about refugee rights](#) with our friends, colleagues, neighbours and families. (Sources: IMIX, City of Sanctuary)

Contact us about research

If you have any questions about our research, contact us:
research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk
[0113 378 8188](tel:0113 378 8188)

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