

Migration news roundup 24 April 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

The [Refugee Council accepted a €10 million donation](#) from a Spanish historian called Joaquín Romero Maura, which they say will allow them 'to make a big difference in the lives of refugees and people seeking asylum'.
(Source: Civil Society)

[Meet the refugee weightlifting team](#) that will be participating in the 2023 World Weightlifting Championships.
(Source: International Olympic Committee)

International news

[There are growing concerns about the numbers of people fleeing Sudan as a result of the recent outbreak of conflict.](#) Sudan itself hosts more than a million refugees from neighbouring countries. (Source: Al Jazeera)

A report by the United Nations concludes that [money provided by the European Union to state entities in Libya has enabled crimes against humanity towards migrants.](#) Meanwhile this piece argues that [policies of outsourcing asylum to countries in Africa are likely to fail.](#) (Sources: The Grayzone, The Conversation)

UK borders and migration policy

[The government is expected to make an amendment to the Illegal Migration Bill](#) which would enable the Home Secretary to ignore interim injunctions from the European Court of Human Rights. These 'Rule 39 orders' were used to prevent removals to Rwanda last year. [This article argues that the new law will make it more likely that people arriving irregularly will 'disappear'](#) rather than engage with the authorities. (Sources: BBC, Free Movement)

On the Rwanda scheme, [some people previously threatened with removal have now been accepted into the asylum system.](#) Meanwhile a poll for More in Common found that while 46% of respondents supported the [Rwandan scheme](#), 34% thought it would reduce the number of people crossing the Channel. Finally, [a Rwandan opposition politician has voiced concerns](#) about the suitability of the country for the scheme. (Sources: Independent, Daily Mail, Mirror)

The latest figures show that just over [5,000 people have crossed the Channel in small boats so far this year](#) compared with 6,300 at the same point in 2022. This article considers how [smuggling gangs have capitalised on political developments in the UK to encourage people from Albania](#) to take this route. Meanwhile the [French and British authorities are investing in advanced detection systems](#) to improve monitoring of the coastline. Finally, [this article considers whether new ‘safe and legal routes’ could prevent small boat crossings](#). (Sources: Evening Standard, Mirror, Marine Link, Free Movement)

[A Home Office training course has been encouraging staff to show greater empathy to people who are applying for visas or are seeking asylum](#) by referring to them as ‘customers’, as opposed to ‘subjects’ or ‘cases’. (Source: the Guardian)

[A Nigerian graduate who originally came to the UK on a highly-skilled migrant visa is now reliant on food banks](#) to feed her family due to the cost of visa fees. Relatedly, [this article considers how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting households on the 10 year route](#) to settlement. (Sources: Metro, New Statesman)

Following a campaign, [legal advice surgeries for people in immigration detention must now be delivered in person](#). (Source: Women for Refugee Women)

Specific migrant groups

The Home Office told the High Court that it [expects to accommodate up to 140,000 people seeking asylum by the end of this year, declaring this a national emergency](#) caused by rising small boats arrivals. The court accepted the Home Office’s position, overriding a council-led legal challenge against its plans to use a former RAF site in Essex. (Source: Financial Times)

[Wales’ Basic Income pilot attracted criticism from the Prime Minister for including unaccompanied young people who seek asylum among its recipients](#). The scheme offers £1,600 a month to 18-year-olds leaving care, which the Welsh Government hopes will help those young people to ‘rebuild their lives’. (Source: BBC)

The [guidance for the Hong Kong British National \(Overseas\) route has been updated](#). One of the main changes allows family members of a main applicant who passes away during the application process to continue with an application. (Source: Home Office)

[This report suggests that the Windrush scheme, which is intended to help and support those whose lives have been affected by the ‘Windrush scandal’, has failed them](#) and ‘violated’ their right to ‘an effective remedy’. (Source: Human Rights Watch)

Cohesion and integration

This comment piece, following the release of the Evidence for Equality National Survey, [explores the complexities of racism, and highlights that certain ‘white’ communities also experience racism](#), such as Gypsy, Traveller, Roma and Jewish people. (Source: the Guardian)

A journalist whose family owned slaves and who recently visited Grenada to make a formal apology, has [called on King Charles to also apologise on behalf of the monarchy and the British government for historical links to slavery](#). (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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