

Migration news roundup 15 May 2023

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

Maria Romanenko, a Manchester based [Ukrainian journalist has been given a volunteering award by the Prime Minister](#) for conducting walking tours for fellow Ukrainians in Liverpool. (Source: ITV News)

An employment thread this week: in France a [social enterprise is developing the artisan craft skills of refugees](#) and supporting them with training and language skills to find work with employers such as Dior. In Germany [migrant entrepreneurs are playing a key role in the tech start up sector](#). (Sources: The Times, InfoMigrants)

International news

[Emergency preparations were made at the world's largest refugee camp](#) in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, in anticipation of a severe cyclone. The million refugee residents mostly live in makeshift accommodation. (Source: Arab News)

[France continues to push back migrants to the Italian border](#) including unaccompanied children. (Source: InfoMigrants)

In an interview [the European Commissioner for Home Affairs discussed EU migration policy and described a new 'Talent Partnership' for Tunisians](#) to be able to come to fill gaps in the EU labour market. (Source: Euronews)

UK borders and migration policy

As conflict in Sudan escalated:

- [The UK evacuated over 2,000 people in total, mostly British nationals and their dependents, from Port Sudan](#) at the start of May, although there are reports that [some British citizens did not join evacuation flights as close family members were not permitted to also travel](#) here.
- Charities have warned that [child refugees in Sudan who want to apply to enter the UK through a family reunion visa may be forced to reach the UK via boat](#).

- It's been claimed that the [UK government's contrasting approaches to those fleeing conflicts in Ukraine and Sudan](#) signify the adoption of a 'segregated immigration policy'.
- There's [a new parliamentary briefing on the UK response to Sudan](#).

(Sources: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Guardian, House of Commons Library)

Political debate was triggered as [newspapers reported predicted net migration figures of up to a million](#). The most recent data shows approximately 500,000 between June 2021/22, partly due to arrivals from Hong Kong and Ukraine. The contentious new estimate came from a centre-right thinktank who attribute the rise in part to international students. Official statistics will next be published on 25 May. (Source: The Telegraph)

[The Illegal Migration Bill had its second reading in the House of Lords](#), with a long debate in which nearly 90 peers were tabled to speak. Opponents included the Archbishop of Canterbury, with Lord Forsyth among the supporters. [Committee Stage, a detailed examination of the Bill, starts on 24 May](#). Here's [a recent parliamentary briefing on the Bill](#) and [an explainer looking at the proposed law in the context of the government's overall plan to stop small boat arrivals](#). Meanwhile, [a former British army chief questioned the suitability of Rwanda as a destination to send people seeking asylum](#) in the UK. (Sources: BBC, UK Parliament, House of Lords Library, Metro)

[The re-opening of detention centres in Oxfordshire and Hampshire has reportedly been delayed](#) from this summer until next year, while [police are still searching for three men after 13 people escaped from Yarl's Wood](#) immigration removal centre. (Sources: Daily Mail, BBC)

Specific migrant groups

[The Bibby Stockholm, a large barge set to house up to 500 people seeking asylum, is docked in Cornwall](#) and is awaiting refurbishment before being moved to Dorset. The ship is part of a range of alternative accommodation sites being considered by the Home Office. (Source: Dorset Live)

This article reveals some of the [challenges faced by Afghan refugees in bridging hotels who are trying to secure permanent accommodation](#), in particular the reaction of private sector landlords. (Source: openDemocracy)

[Only one in three of the Ukrainians who have fled to Europe have found work](#). This article looks at why, despite Europe experiencing a labour shortage crisis, Ukrainian refugees are finding challenges accessing employment or being exploited in the jobs they do find. (Source: Big Issue)

[Keen bakers with a refugee background can apply for a scholarship to achieve an advanced diploma in artisan baking](#) through a six month residential in Nottinghamshire. (Source: The School of Artisan Food)

Relating to people with precarious or temporary immigration status:

- [This new report looks at local authority funded immigration legal advice projects](#) and gives a case study of Bradford council who funds several advice projects.
- A new [parliamentary briefing explains the no recourse to public funds condition](#).
- This article provides an [insight into the experiences of migrants who are undocumented but have found work as food couriers](#). They cannot be employed but some legitimately employed couriers reportedly rent their courier accounts to migrants.

(Sources: Justice Together, House of Commons Library, MENAFN)

Statistics from the system for identifying and supporting modern slavery survivors - the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) - for the first quarter of 2023 show [the number of people referred to the NRM was the highest recorded](#). Albania remains the top nationality, followed by the UK. However, the data shows a sharp drop in the proportion of positive 'reasonable grounds' decisions (from 85% the previous quarter to 58%), attributed to provisions from the Nationality and Borders Act coming into force in January. Relatedly, see this [explainer relating to modern slavery provisions in the Illegal Migration Bill](#). (Sources: Home Office, Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy and Evidence Centre)

Cohesion and integration

[Ukrainians in the UK welcomed a 'special moment of unity' as Liverpool hosted the Eurovision Song Contest](#) on behalf of Ukraine. Alongside the competition was ['Discover Ukraine', an area in the Eurovision village promoting Ukrainian culture](#). (Sources: Sky, Shropshire Star)

Two personal stories discuss belonging in the UK:

- [In this story from the Immigration Nation series, Virginia Williams reflects on her experiences of being a white American in England](#), navigating cultural differences, being treated as a stranger, and access to spaces or conversations not always open to an immigrant.
- In this book extract from 'How to be a patriot', Director of British Future [Sunder Katwala discusses his relationship with his British identity](#) and how to build a new kind of inclusive and shared patriotism.

(Sources: Metro, British Future)

Contact us about research

If you have any questions about our research, contact us:

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