

# Migration news roundup 03 March 2025

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

*This Migration News Roundup presents a selection of news, policy, research and statistics from the previous week on migration-related topics. The contents of each story do not necessarily reflect the views of Migration Yorkshire.*

- [UK borders and migration policy](#)
- [Specific migrant groups](#)
- [Cohesion and integration](#)
- [International news](#)
- [Stories that inspired us this week](#)

## UK borders and migration policy

It's [quarterly immigration statistics publication](#) time! (Source: Home Office)

- [Media coverage focuses on the record number of over 108,000 asylum applications received in 2024](#) (despite fewer people arriving by small boat than in 2022) but also [a fall in the asylum grant rate](#), with refusals higher than grants last year, as well as [a drop in the number of people granted visas for work or study](#) particularly for the health and care visa and student dependants. (Sources: BBC, Sky, Migration Observatory)
- This short commentary anticipates lower net migration reporting in May, and that [the politics of immigration are lagging behind falling numbers](#). (Source: British Future)
- Migration Yorkshire's data dashboards for Yorkshire and Humber are updated: [Refugee and asylum seeker](#), [Ukraine](#), [EU Settlement Scheme](#) and [Newcomers dashboards](#). (Source: Migration Yorkshire)

[This letter draws attention to the struggles of health and care workers to obtain visas for their children](#), due to the challenge of proving 'sole responsibility'. (Source: the Guardian)

[The Seasonal Worker scheme is being extended by five years](#). Relatedly, this article explores [concerns about labour exploitation in the agricultural sector](#). (Sources: Food Ingredients First, the Conversation)

## Specific migrant groups

On asylum:

- As government announces plans to cut the foreign aid budget, there are reports that [almost half of the aid budget will be spent on asylum accommodation in the UK](#). (Source: the i paper)
- [A new report investigates the use and impact of ‘streaming algorithms’ to help determine asylum claims](#). It raises concerns about the limitations of AI in understanding human emotions and culture specific mannerisms as well as inaccuracies in interview transcripts. (Source: Migrant Rights Network)

On children and young people:

- United Nations data shows [a record number of children died attempting to cross the Channel in 2024](#). (Source: the Guardian)
- An inspection report highlights [serious child safeguarding concerns at the UK’s short-term holding facilities](#) in France. (Source: electronic immigration network)
- The Association of Directors of Children’s Services ([ADCS](#)) [reiterated the need for more support from government to support unaccompanied asylum seeking children](#) including funding, faster decisions on asylum claims and more specialist mental health support. (Source: ADCS)

The [Homelessness Code of Guidance for councils has been amended to clarify that pre-settled status holders who are non-EU family members are also in scope](#). (Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

On international students:

- Fact for the day: [50 world leaders \(who were in post during 2022\) were educated at UK universities](#), higher than any other country. (Source: the Guardian)
- It’s been suggested [UK universities might benefit as international students may look here rather than the USA](#) as a place to study. (Source: the Guardian)

## Cohesion and integration

A report on public opinion and social trends shows [concerns around issues of immigration have become more prevalent over the last two years](#), but behind a range of other issues. 54% considered immigration one of the top issues facing the country today (up from 43% in 2022) with greater prominence among older age groups. (Source: Office for National Statistics)

New [dashboards on rough sleeping show nearly a third of those sleeping rough in December 2024 who recently left an institution were those who had left asylum services](#), falling to 18% for Yorkshire and Humber. (Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Data Framework Dashboard)

In case you missed it, [this report estimates over four million people of a migrant background living in the UK are not eligible to vote in parliamentary elections](#) and recommends voting rights are based on residence. It includes estimates of 'non-enfranchised residents' in each council and constituency area. (Source: Migrant Democracy Project)

## **International news**

[Following German elections where debates around immigration took centre stage, we're watching to see what the results mean for migrants](#). Merz, the next Chancellor, wants to tighten immigration policy by building on a plan parliament passed in January that could lead to refusal of entry to people who are undocumented and seeking asylum. (Source: Business Standard)

[It's been a year since Albania's parliament approved Italy's migrant centres, yet both centres stand empty](#). This article explores what might happen next. (Source: InfoMigrants/DW)

## **Stories that inspired us this week**

After challenges in her route to higher education as a young refugee from Iran, [Negar Rezaei is working towards her ambition of becoming a pilot as a student in aerospace engineering at Sheffield Hallam University](#). (Source: FE News)

Two stories in the news feature women from Ukraine. Valentyna Klymova, [one of the first Ukrainian refugees to move here after the Russian invasion, shares her experience](#) and how being accepted has changed her own attitudes. Hear from [singer Viktoria Rekin, who came to the UK with her daughter, about building a new home in the UK](#) with the support and kindness of people in Northumberland. (Sources: the Guardian, Itv - three minute video)

## **Contact us about research**

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

[research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk](mailto:research@migrationyorkshire.org.uk)  
[0113 378 8188](tel:01133788188)

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