

Migration news roundup 2 April 2024

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

This [short film about Huddersfield Town Football Club](#) 'Terriers Together' looks at how local pride in a football club can help support a sense of inclusivity and build shared place-based identities. (Sources: X)

Read about '[Refugees Rock](#)', a free climbing club specifically designed for refugees and people seeking asylum. It started in Liverpool three years ago, and now runs at 14 centres across the UK. (Source: Positive News)

International news

[Germany has agreed to accept nearly 150 people from war-torn Gaza](#), most of who are employees of German institutions. (Source: InfoMigrants)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has revealed that [more than 63,000 people have died or disappeared on migration routes around the world over the last ten years](#), with nearly two thirds of deaths caused by drowning. (Source: Reuters)

[A new law in Texas that would allow police to arrest migrants suspected of entering illegally has been put on hold for a second time](#) by the United States Federal Appeal's Court latest ruling whilst it considers whether this would be legal. (Source: AP News)

[Human trafficking in Southeast Asia is on the rise](#), with Interpol warning that Southeast Asian gangs are developing global networks. (Source: Reuters)

UK borders and migration policy

Two more highly critical inspection reports of Home Office operations were published; [one on the health and social care visa route](#); one on [Border Force operations at London City Airport](#). Of note, it reveals that 275 sponsorships were fraudulently obtained by a care home. The [Home Office have published responses to both](#)

[reports](#) - denying the accuracy of fake sponsorship claims, and refusing to accept there is a risk to security at London City Airport. (Sources: Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, Home Office)

More on the Health and Social Care visa route, with this [new briefing explaining changes for employers coming into force in April](#). (Source: Free Movement)

Latest figures reveal that the [first quarter of 2024 has seen the highest number of arrivals via small boats recorded](#). This news broke the same week the [Home Office launched its social media campaign intended to deter Vietnamese migrants](#) from attempting the crossing. Meanwhile, leaked footage has led to accusations that [UK-funded French forces could be putting migrants' lives at risk through aggressive 'pullbacks'](#) of small boats attempting to cross the Channel. (Sources: Sky News, BBC, the Guardian)

Despite the Rwanda Bill still ping-ponging in Parliament, the [Prime Minister says the government is ready to commence removals](#) should the Bill pass. (Source: Evening Standard)

Specific migrant groups

In this article, [Jason Thomas-Fournillier from Doncaster tells his story of being granted asylum](#) by the immigration and asylum tribunal. (Source: Prospect Magazine)

On young people:

- In Leeds, concerns have been raised regarding a [number of referrals made to children's services for children being accommodated in adult asylum accommodation](#). (Source: Leeds Live)
- The High Court has heard evidence from Kent County Council that due to arrival numbers on small boats and delays in moving children through the National Transfer Scheme, [capacity for UASC placements within Kent may run out before the end of March](#). (Source: the Guardian).
- The [Children's Commissioner has raised concerns](#) that 'insufficient long-term solutions' have been identified to house and support unaccompanied minors on arrival in the UK. (Source: Children's Commissioner)

On International Students:

- [A report from the Northern Consortium \(NCUK\), Nous Group, and IC Global Partnership highlights the benefits of Pathway programmes for international students](#). It suggests that the programme supports the students to thrive while also benefiting universities. (Source: The Pie News)
- 57% of the fees income for [Russell Group Universities in the UK now comes from international students, with 24% of all students in the UK being international](#). (Source: Daily Mail)

Cohesion and integration

The British Politics and Policy Centre have published [an article on how Local Councils can help with asylum policy, particularly in regard to integration and follow-on support](#). (Source: London School of Economics)

A paper has been published on [identifying policies that help refugees and host communities thrive across the world](#). The paper looks at policies, institutions and support systems that promote socio-economic integration in a variety of different settings and encourages broader conversations about effective policies for integration. (Source: Centre for Global Development)

Watch this [Panorama documentary about immigration in the UK](#) – looking at the political choices behind the headlines, and hearing from those running businesses who say they rely on migrants, and those who say current numbers cannot be sustained. (Source: BBC)

Contact us about research

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