

Migration news roundup 16 September 2024

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[A new blue plaque is to be unveiled in Barnsley in October](#) to commemorate the arrival of 200 Hungarian refugees to the town in 1956. (Source: Barnsley Chronicle). ?

In the north east, [Sarah Ahmadi, a Sunderland-based project leader and Afghan refugee, has been named as one of the top 20 trailblazing refugee women in Europe](#) for her work supporting people seeking refuge. Whilst in London, a collaboration between [artist Es Devlin and the UN high commissioner for refugees will showcase 50 portraits of refugees](#). (Sources: Sunderland Echo, the Guardian)?

International news

[The German government has put forward a policy to extend tightened border controls to all of the country's land borders](#) in order to curb irregular migration. Also in Germany, [the Office for Refugee Affairs has responded to housing shortages by announcing plans to convert a large office complex into accommodation for 1,500 refugees](#). Residents say they will welcome their new neighbours but have expressed concern about housing so many people in one location. (Sources: the Guardian, InfoMigrants)?

[A growing number of people fleeing Sudan have arrived in Libya](#), contributing to the estimated 760,000 refugees in the country. 38% of migrant respondents in a recent IOM survey expressed their intent to remain in Libya permanently. (Source: InfoMigrants)?

[Bangladesh has increased border security](#) as increasing numbers of Rohingya civilians enter the country due to escalating violence in Myanmar. (Source: Reuters)?

UK borders and migration policy

[The government has reiterated its intention to tackle smuggling gangs](#) in order to prevent Channel crossings, while some [call for more safe and legal routes, and express concern that the government's approach may increase the risk of further fatalities](#). It has also been reported that [the average number of people travelling in](#)

[each boat has now increased to over 60](#), from about 40 in 2021. (Sources: BBC, the Guardian, The National)?

[This analysis considers how available data could be used to assess progress against the new government's pledges relating to migration](#). (Source: Migration Observatory)?

[A review of the previous government's work to assess Rwanda as a suitable country to send some people seeking asylum](#), has criticised various aspects of the process, noting that most of the Rwandan stakeholders consulted were linked with the country's government. (Source: Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration).??

[From October, bereaved partners on family visas will be able to apply for a waiver of the £2,885 settlement fee](#) if they are facing destitution. (Source: Home Office)

[The Home Secretary has asked the Migration Advisory Committee \(MAC\) to review the financial requirements for family visas](#). The previous government had intended to increase the minimum income requirement to £38,700. (Source: MAC)?

[The government has published a new factsheet on eVisas](#), explaining the process Biometric Residents Permit (BRP) holders should use to create a UKVI account and access their eVisa. [This new briefing explains section 3C leave](#), which is temporary leave granted to someone whose visa has expired but is awaiting a decision on an extension application. (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)?

Specific migrant groups

Figures from the Home Office show that [19 asylum seekers have been waiting for over 10 years](#) for a decision on their application, with one person waiting for 16 years. In a new survey, [councils have called for an extension of the 28-day move on period](#) from asylum accommodation. 89% of respondents reported increased homelessness in their local authority due to lack of central government support. (Sources: Big Issue, Local Government Association)?

The latest [statement of changes to immigration rules contains a few provisions related to the EU Settlement Scheme \(EUSS\)](#), including the upgrade of pre-settled to settled status without the need for further applications. Other [changes include cancellation of pre-settled status for people who helped someone to obtain, or attempt to obtain, EUSS leave fraudulently, and tightening the rules for family members](#) in relation to late applications. (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)?

There are several stories covering conditions for migrant workers. [Organisations supporting seasonal workers in the agricultural sector have reported a 100% increase in dismissals](#) compared to the same period last year. Farms must now guarantee at least 32 hours a week to migrant workers, which may have led to increased productivity targets. Relatedly, [the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority is investigating recruitment processes at a farm in Hereford](#) where five Indonesian workers were dismissed for failing to reach fruit picking targets. Meanwhile, [a tribunal has ruled that an Indian nurse claiming unfair dismissal should be given backpay from the dismissal date](#), as well as a monthly payment, until the case concludes. The nurse paid a £22,000 fee to an agent in India, but upon arrival in the UK his employer sponsor failed to provide the promised work. (Sources: the Guardian, HortiDaily, Indian Express)?

The children's commissioner has expressed concern after a freedom of information request revealed some [failings in the National Referral Mechanism which expose victims of trafficking, including children in care, to the risk of being exploited again](#) by their perpetrators. Also on children, the [Independent Chief Inspector of](#)

[Borders and Immigration plans to examine age assessments carried out by the National Age Assessment Board](#) and is calling for people with firsthand experience to provide evidence. (Sources: the Guardian, Community Care)?

[The Home Office has increased the financial savings, or maintenance funds, required for international students applying to study in the UK.](#) Meanwhile, [admissions officers from UK universities have welcomed an increase in course inquiries from overseas recruitment agents](#), attributing this to the messaging coming from the new government. (Sources: The Pie News, the Guardian)?

[A new report by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman finds that the Windrush compensation scheme is wrongfully denying people recompense.](#) (Source: Free Movement) ?

Cohesion and integration

[A new report, 'After the riots', highlights policy priorities for resilience and social cohesion.](#) The report calls for greater efforts in bringing together people from different backgrounds and provides 12 policy proposals to address the factors that contributed to the unrest, including a national social cohesion strategy. (Source: British Future).?

Contact us about research

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