

Migration news roundup 5 September 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[A Ukrainian living in the UK describes her journey to reclaim her birth name](#) after changing her name to help improve employment opportunities. (Source: Metro)

[Puppet Mo was out and about in Hull](#) - he's an unaccompanied migrant child and was part of Hull Freedom Festival at the weekend. (Source: Hull Daily Mail)

International news

The Netherlands is pressing ahead with [plans to house asylum seekers on cruise ships](#) with a second ship set to be moored at Amsterdam. (Source: Sky News)

There have been a number of news items on pushbacks of migrants. The [Greek government withdrew the offer of a medal to an NGO worker](#) who has led rescue missions of refugees in Greek waters, after he spoke out against pushbacks. This comes as a Frontex (EU border control) official says [Greece should face closer checks over its treatment of asylum seekers](#). Across the Bosphorus, [Iran and Turkey have been accused by Amnesty of forcibly returning Afghan refugees](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Info Migrants)

UK borders and migration policy

With the High Court hearing on whether the Rwanda policy is unlawful taking place on 5 September, news coverage on the Rwanda scheme includes:

- The [Home Secretary pressed ahead with plans to relocate refugees to Rwanda despite being advised of the high risk](#) of trafficking and exploitation. (Source: The Times)
 - The Law Society gave evidence to the House of Lords suggesting the [Rwanda partnership may breach international law](#) for example by breaking the UN's principle of non-refoulement, whereby people could face a risk of persecution upon return. (Source: The Law Society Gazette)
 - [Survivors of the Rwandan genocide who were housed in hostel accommodation in Rwanda have been made homeless](#) to make room for refugees relocated under the UK-Rwanda partnership. (Source: the Guardian)

- A [report on asylum seekers facing removal to Rwanda found high levels of suicide risk](#), highlighting a lack of screening from the Home Office to identify vulnerable individuals who may not be suitable for removal. (Source: Medical Justice)

Channel crossings continue to make the news as numbers of arrivals increase during peak season with over [25,000 people crossing the Channel so far this year](#). Contracts published show the [Home Office has paid over £2.5m to private companies to pick up migrants](#) in small boats. Meanwhile, reports say that [Albanian migrants crossing the Channel could face criminal records checks by Albanian authorities](#) upon arrival in the UK. Finally, this article says [government and media are misrepresenting the increase in Albanian asylum seekers](#) arriving by small boats, conflating people smugglers with traffickers. (Sources: BBC, Independent, the Guardian)

This [opinion piece from an immigration solicitor examines Home Office surveillance of migrants](#), arguing that both current and previous governments have failed to respond to immigration in a humane and positive way. (Source: the Guardian)

Following the publication of the immigration statistics in August, the Home Office issued a press release highlighting that [India is now the country with the highest number of study, work and visit visas](#) in the UK. Meanwhile, this article gives an [overview of the new Scale-up visa route](#). (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

As up to [50,000 Ukrainian refugees could experience homelessness](#) due to sponsorships ending, government launched its [campaign to encourage more people to sponsor Ukrainian refugees](#). This [updated Migration Observatory briefing on Ukraine](#) includes details of visa grants in the UK. [In Scotland another cruise ship will provide temporary accommodation to Ukrainian refugees](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities, Migration Observatory, BBC)

On asylum the media continues to focus on Albania. There are [concerns of the lawfulness of government plans to fast track removal of Albanian asylum seekers](#). In response to negative messaging and figures quoted out of context about Albanian asylum seekers, [this article attempts to present the facts through Home Office official statistics](#). (Sources: Independent, the Guardian)

On children and young people, the President of The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) warns [new government measures to move unaccompanied asylum-seeking children out of hotels fail to address longstanding issues](#), such as lack of placements, rising costs, inadequacy of funding for care leavers and profiteering from private foster care agencies. (Source: ADCS)

Cohesion and integration

[MP Tim Loughton writes about why the UK must do more to meet its commitment to resettle, welcome and support Afghan refugees](#). He also suggested more ways to help integration for newly arrived refugees, including removing bureaucratic barriers to accessing employment and providing tailored support for women. (Source: Prospect)

A study from the Trades Union Congress found that [over 120,000 workers from minority ethnic backgrounds have resigned from their jobs due to racism](#). Respondents to the study reported experiencing racist jokes and harassment at work. Only 19% of respondents who had experienced harassment reported the most recent incident to their employer, with half feeling their concerns would not be taken seriously. (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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