

Migration news roundup 9 January 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[Nottingham Forest FC has adopted UNHCR shirts to show support for refugees](#) for the rest of the 2022-23 season. (Source: FourFourTwo)

In another sport-related story, these photos show how [cricket is helping young Syrians living in a Lebanese refugee camp to deal with trauma](#). (Source: the Guardian)

International news

[The arrival of hundreds of migrants from Cuba prompted the closure of a national park in Florida](#); the Dry Tortugas National Park was temporarily closed after an estimated 300 migrants crossed over the New Year weekend. There is a focus now on [President Biden's new plans to introduce a new humanitarian pathway to apply to enter the country legally](#), providing applicants have a financial sponsor in the US. (Sources: NPR, BBC)

[Increasing numbers of Palestinian refugees are making fatal sea crossings](#) towards Europe in search of a better life due to Israel's blockade of Gaza. (Source: Independent)

UK borders and migration policy

We previously reported on government plans for legislation making it harder for people arriving via irregular routes to claim asylum. Now [laws to 'stop small boats'](#) feature as one of the five promises in a major speech from Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Meanwhile a Home Office source apparently warned that [measures to prevent people from Albania arriving in the UK wouldn't reduce the overall number of crossings](#). (Sources: BBC, Sky)

The [Home Secretary is expected to renege on a number of government promises that came out of the Windrush review](#). These include giving more powers to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration and the creation of a new migrant's commissioner post. (Source: the Guardian)

In our previous roundup we shared a media report that government is changing the law to allow new arrivals to be detained in short-term processing centres for four days instead of 24 hours – you can see the [formally amended legislation](#) here. Meanwhile there are [calls for a public inquiry into the problems at Manston processing](#)

[centre](#). (Sources: The National Archives, the Guardian)

[Only 3% of UK employers are using the graduate visa route](#) while many report being unaware of its existence. The route was established to help resolve skill gaps in the UK labour market. (Source: The Pie News)

Specific migrant groups

To relieve pressure on the accommodation estate, [a changed asylum accommodation policy](#) means individuals granted Section 95 support who are already living in private accommodation in the community will be provided with financial support but not offered accommodation unless they make a further request. (Source: UK Visas and Immigration)

Charities are warning [the lack of accommodation on offer has pressured some refugees to consider returning to Ukraine](#) at the end of hosting placements under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. [Thousands of people have been placed in hotels](#) by councils responding to homelessness when sponsorships end. (Source: Independent)

[In over 96% of reports of modern slavery offences, no charges are brought](#), according to this article that also features the work of South Yorkshire Police. (Source: inews)

The Home Office introduced [a fixed-term funding pilot to incentivise councils to transfer more unaccompanied children to their area](#), with the aim of closing hotels currently accommodating unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The funding will cover the transfer of each child between 16 December 2022 to 28 February 2023. (Source: UK Visas and Immigration)

This article from Wales highlights [the difference a safe home can make to young people](#) fleeing persecution. Another story from Wales describes [an ambulance crew welcoming young Ukrainian refugees into their station](#) and teaching them new skills. (Sources: Wales Online, Nation Cymru)

Cohesion and integration

[Residents in rural North Somerset villages helped provide support when refugees were moved into a hotel](#) outside Bristol Airport. Residents coordinated support such as providing service users with lifts into Bristol when they needed essential services, given the remote nature of their accommodation. (Source: Bristol Live)

Jess Thompson, Founder of Migrateful (an organisation where refugee cooks teach their traditional cuisines to the public in cookery classes), discusses [the importance of projects bringing together people from different communities and backgrounds](#) such as through shared experience of food. (Source: inews)

This article talks about [the increasing number of people in the world learning Ukrainian](#), the methods they are using to do this and how learning a language reflects attitudes towards the conflict in Ukraine. (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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