

Migration news roundup 30 August 2022

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

Elias Chiguvi, [a Leeds resident from Zimbabwe has successfully set up his own haulage company](#), aiming to rival well-known UK firm, 'Eddie Stobart'. (Source: Yorkshire Live)

[A boy from Skipton is cycling along the Leeds-Liverpool canal to raise money](#) for Bradford City of Sanctuary and Bradford African Community. (Source: Telegraph and Argus)

[Sheffield taxi drivers in collaboration with other organisations arranged a day trip to the seaside for refugees from Ukraine](#), including a visit to a theme park. (Source: The Star)

International news

The [Rwandan government and partners are putting measures in place to support refugees trapped in Libya](#) through temporary evacuation to Rwanda. Over 400 refugees are currently housed at a centre near the capital Kigali. [Denmark is also in talks with Rwanda about a UK-style transfer of people seeking asylum](#), which human rights campaigners say could violate international law. (Sources: Taarifa, Independent)

[UNHCR has called the EU response to the Ukraine crisis 'exemplary'](#) but challenged states over their response to other refugee groups. Meanwhile, the EU asylum agency is alerting EU countries to [increasing numbers of Georgians also seeking asylum due to the war](#). (Sources: The Times Hub, Schengen Visa Info)

UK borders and migration policy

The press reported [record numbers of people crossing the Channel in small boats](#) to claim asylum in the UK: 1,295 on a single day. Statistics released by the Home Office confirm [Albania is now one of the top nationalities arriving via this route](#) (with an initial asylum grant rate of 53%) and there is [speculation that this could be linked to organised gang activity](#). The [UK and Albanian governments announced plans for joint work to tackle the issue](#). (Sources: BBC, Home Office, the Guardian)

[A new Scale-up visa will enable fast-growing businesses to recruit highly skilled workers](#). Individuals will be granted two years leave to remain and will not require sponsorship or permission after the first six months. The

[High Potential Individual visa](#) for graduates from top global universities was announced earlier this year - this article provides an [overview of the application process for a High Potential Individual Visa](#). (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)

The [Home Secretary signed a returns agreement with Pakistan](#) to facilitate returns of people who have committed crimes or are in the UK without immigration permission. (Source: Home Office)

Specific migrant groups

Following the [publication of the latest quarterly immigration statistics](#) until the end of June 2022, [press coverage highlights some of the major findings regarding the asylum system](#) such as asylum grant rates at a 32 year high (at 76%) and that [just 21 asylum seekers have been removed to safe third countries under the Home Office's inadmissibility rules](#) since January 2021. (Sources: Home Office, the Guardian, Independent)

The Home Office data release includes updated information on:

- [Hong Kong nationals on a British National Overseas \(BNO\) visa](#) - there were 18,100 applications for this route in between April and June 2022, making a total of 140,500 applications since 31 January 2021
- EU nationals applying for the EU Settlement Scheme at local authority level, revealing [370,000 EUSS applications in Yorkshire and Humber](#) by the end of June
- [New data on Afghan resettlement](#) nationally, as of 12 August.

Two [asylum seekers described their recent experience of staying in the Initial Accommodation centre in Wakefield as prison-like](#) due to restricted freedoms such as curfews, access to healthcare and meals. Meanwhile, a [joint letter from refugee charities has called on the government to abandon its plans to utilise reception centres](#) as asylum accommodation, following the reversal of plans to use a former RAF site in North Yorkshire. (Sources: BBC, Yorkshire Post)

Refugees minister [Lord Harrington confirmed he asked the Treasury to double the thank you payment for hosts](#) on the Homes for Ukraine scheme to £700 per month. This is linked to concerns over potential host drop-out due to the cost of living crisis, and the impact on homelessness support that would be needed. Harrington is also launching [an appeal for more hosts for Ukrainians to come forward](#) as he expects less than a quarter of people who signed up to actually become hosts. (Source: the Guardian)

[The Home Office released new instructions to speed up the National Transfer Scheme](#) for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; the operating threshold has increased to 0.1% of an area's child population, time for allocation of referrals has reduced to five days, and there is increased financial support for councils. (Source: Home Office)

Cohesion and integration

Government published evaluations of: [the Integration Areas programme](#) featuring Bradford, [ESOL community projects](#) mentioning Kirklees, and [projects funded under the Controlling Migration Fund](#) with projects in Bradford, Sheffield, Wakefield and Migration Yorkshire's [Welcoming Young Refugees project](#). (Source: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities)

Research examines [why British Muslims may face more disadvantages in the labour market](#) than the white British population. (Source: The Conversation)

[The cost of living crisis will not impact on everyone equally, with those from ethnic minorities more likely to be adversely affected](#) according to research by People Like Us. (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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