

Migration news roundup 26 June 2023

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

To mark Refugee Week, [UNHCR shared a series of short videos](#) about [inspiring people with a refugee background, including Bemeriki who is a permaculture expert](#), teacher and refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo and is now living in Uganda. Here in the UK [three inspiring people were interviewed about overcoming the challenges of forced displacement and making the UK](#) their home, including Gaida Dirar from Hull. (Sources: UNHCR, YouTube, Big Issue)

Here are a few highlights from local Refugee Week events - [St Augustine's Centre in Halifax created a giant 'Compassion' themed outdoor artwork](#) and [Theatre of Sanctuary Opera North in Leeds hosted a concert featuring performers with personal experience of displacement](#). (Sources: Counterpoints Arts, Yorkshire Bylines)

International news

As the demand for skilled workers increases, [New Zealand is set to simplify their immigration rules and create a faster route to securing permanent residency](#). Meanwhile in Australia, [migrant advocacy and service groups call for reform of the Australian skills and qualification recognition system](#) to improve migrant access to more suitable employment and to address the labour supply issues. (Sources: Reuters, the Guardian)

The USA has condemned the [recent law passed in Uganda that extends existing anti-LGBTQ legislation to now include the death penalty](#), and it imposed travel restrictions on Ugandan officials (Source: Al Jazeera)

[Mass migration could rise as climate related issues become more common](#). For that reason author Gaia Vince proposes that we should embrace migration and 'ditch outdated border controls'. Additionally, this podcast [calls for an urgent review of our overall attitude toward migration in order to avoid what is described as one of the worst refugee disasters in the Mediterranean](#). (Sources: Euronews, Al Jazeera)

UK borders and migration policy

[A Refugee Manifesto, spearheaded by Lord Roberts of Llandudno](#), accuses the government of 'making a mockery of human dignity' and calls for changes to the way the UK treats people seeking sanctuary. (Source:

Independent)

[Gang members who allegedly charged people between £2,500 and £7,500](#) to facilitate Channel crossings, were arrested this week. Meanwhile in Birmingham there have been arrests as part of [enforcement action targeting undocumented workers](#). (Sources: National Crime Agency, BBC)

[There is a new briefing on the seasonal worker visa](#) and [here is an overview of the term ‘refugee’](#) from a legal perspective. (Source: Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

A new briefing [on the latest Home Office statistics looks at the state of the asylum system](#). And a [private firm have won a £1.1m contract to deliver health services](#) at a RAF site set to be used as asylum accommodation in Essex. (Sources: Free Movement, Independent)

[Writers from migrant or refugee backgrounds can win £15,000](#) as part of a new literary prize. (Source: the Guardian)

[This article examines the argument that refugees should claim asylum in the first safe country they arrive in](#). (Source: Free Movement)

A [new Homelessness Escalation Service has been set up to support non-UK national individuals who are houseless](#) and waiting for a decision on their immigration application. (Source: Home Office)

On the EU Settlement Scheme, Kari-Ann Moller, the wife of a Roxy Music musician, who has lived in the UK for 74 years has been caught up in aftermath of Brexit. The [Home Office stated there was no evidence she had ever lived in the UK, so the couple submitted a photo of her on the cover of a Roxy Music album](#) from the 1970's. (Source: the Guardian)

[Welcome Churches hosted a Friendship Festival in Sheffield](#) in partnership with Sheffield Chinese Christian Church. [Over 500 Hongkongers attended the event](#) and were welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield. (Sources: On Your Side UK, Welcome Churches)

On Young People, the Illegal Migration Bill has been rejected by the Welsh Parliament, [stating the Bill ‘completely disregards children’s rights’](#). A joint letter has also been sent to the Home Secretary from [the UK’s top medical institutions, warning of ‘unimaginable levels of harm’ that would be caused if children are locked up indefinitely](#). Meanwhile, health professionals have reported that [an increasing number of children are being diagnosed with malnutrition in asylum hotels](#) and there is evidence [young people with a refugee background struggle to access higher education in the UK](#) due to a lack of understanding of their eligibility. (Sources: BBC, the Guardian, Times Higher Education)

On modern slavery:

- [This briefing considers the impact of the Illegal Migration Bill](#) and proposes amendments to facilitate access to early legal advice for people affected by modern slavery. (Source: Anti Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit)
- [This advice for journalists about interviewing survivors](#) shares some useful insights. (Source: openDemocracy)
- [There’s new guidance for businesses](#) on the vulnerability of displaced people. (Source: Anti-Slavery International)

- [There's a new report on labour exploitation in London](#). (Source: Young Foundation)

On Windrush:

- The latest [data on Windrush compensation](#) suggests by the end of May 2023, the amount paid and offered to individuals through the scheme was just above £75 million, with 66% of claims having had a final decision. However, [some sources suggest that so far only one in four of the 6,348 applications submitted have received payment](#) and the [unit in charge of reforming Home Office after the Windrush crisis may be closing at the end of this month](#). (Sources: Home Office, the Guardian)
- Recent analysis of [documents in the National Archives reveal further injustices experienced by the 'Windrush generation'](#), showing that between 1958 and 1970 at least 411 individuals with mental and physical conditions were sent back to Commonwealth nations in the Caribbean. (Source: BBC)
- As events continue to mark the 75th anniversary of Windrush, read about [the influence of the Windrush generation on British music](#) and learn how to gather oral family history by speaking to older relatives from the Windrush generation and others, to record their stories and experiences. (Source: The Conversation)

Cohesion and integration

[Refugee Week Ambassadors Gaida and Mayas Dirar share their experiences of involvement in Refugee Week](#) and how advisory groups encourage participation and help amplify refugee voices. (Source: Migration Yorkshire)

[The Scottish Refugee Council has created a new website dedicated to the real-world impact of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy](#), featuring over 50 projects supporting refugee integration across Scotland. (Source: Scottish Refugee Council)

[Actor David Harewood delivered the annual Richard Dimbleby lecture for the BBC](#) focusing on Windrush and exploring the challenges faced by his parents' generation and his own personal experience of being Black and British. (Source: BBC)

[A Lake District Tour boat firm has been accused of preventing tour guides from mentioning the link between some shoreline grand houses and the historic slave trade](#). (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

If you have any questions about our research, contact us:

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