

Migration news roundup 24 July 2023

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

- [Stories that inspired us this week](#)
- [International news](#)
- [UK borders and migration policy](#)
- [Specific migrant groups](#)
- [Cohesion and integration](#)

Stories that inspired us this week

[Two young girls are now almost fluent in Welsh, after fleeing Ukraine](#) and attending school in Anglesey.
(Source: BBC Wales)

Enjoy this [beautiful photo essay celebrating the contributions of migrants to the NHS](#). (Source: the Guardian)

[A new exhibition in Plymouth features art, poetry, and dance from Sudan, to Ukraine, to Plymouth locals](#).
(Source: Reclaim the Sea)

International news

[The European Union and Tunisia have reached a £90 million deal](#) to strengthen borders, create legal pathways, stop smuggling and return migrants. However, [experts have raised concerns over violence against migrants in Tunisia](#), for example the [evidence of serious human rights abuses against black African migrants](#). (Sources: BBC, UN News, Info Migrants)

UK borders and migration policy

[The Illegal Migration Bill has become the Illegal Migration Act](#), having received royal assent after [the government won crucial votes in the House of Lords](#). [The UN responded saying that the legislation 'is at variance with the country's obligations](#) under international human rights and refugee law'. Implementation relies partly on the UK government's ability to remove people to a third country ([October is reportedly the earliest expected date for the Supreme Court hearing relating to the legality of the Rwanda policy](#)). The [Chief Executive of Refugee Council provided analysis on possible changes to provision and support](#) in relation to the Act.
(Sources: Home Office, BBC, UNHCR, Independent, the Guardian)

Changes to immigration rules cover a range of issues. For example, [an asylum claim can now be treated as withdrawn due to not keeping in touch with the Home Office](#), and failing to attend reporting events. [Occupations in the construction industry have been added to the shortage occupation list](#), along with some fishing jobs. (Sources: Free Movement, BBC)

[The immigration health surcharge migrant workers pay annually to use the NHS, is increasing from £624 to £1,035.](#) Work and visit visas will also rise by 15%, leading to concerns about the impact on individuals. (Source: Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

A [report on the impact of negative asylum decisions](#) highlights homelessness and mental and physical health as issues. This [guide is aimed at local authorities supporting asylum seekers living in temporary accommodation](#). (Sources: NACCOM, Migrant Champions Network)

[It's reported that over 11,000 people are awaiting the outcome of a refugee family reunion application](#) to join family in the UK. (Source: Independent)

The changed immigration rules (above) also affect those applying to the EU settlement scheme (EUSS):

- [from September 2023 those with pre-settled status will have their status automatically extended by two years.](#)
- from 9 August applicants will have to provide a valid reason for late applications before it is accepted, and a Certificate of Application issued.
- EUSS will no longer be open for family members of a qualifying British citizen. (Source: Home Office)

The [Children's Commissioner shared concerns for unaccompanied children as the Illegal Migration Bill passes](#). (Source: Children's Commissioner News)

[A government survey of seasonal workers found 90% would work on UK farms again, but there were concerns](#) - one in ten respondents had been threatened, and under half had warm accommodation, or had not received all the necessary supplies for work. (Source: Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs)

[This article looks back at the tragic event in 2004 when 23 trafficked Chinese people working as cockle pickers lost their lives in Morecambe.](#) The 2015 Modern Slavery Act aimed to prevent this type of exploitation in the UK, but there are [concerns that the new Illegal Migration Act will undermine these efforts](#). Additionally, here's an [insight into the Vietnamese labour export policy, particularly in Nghe An Province](#) (Sources: Lancs Live, Open Democracy, Al Jazeera)

Cohesion and integration

[Eid celebrations brought Muslims and non-Muslims together recently in Grimsby.](#) (Source: Grimsbylive)

In August [Birmingham art gallery 'Ikon' will celebrate its first Migrant Festival](#) whilst in Exeter, [groups including migrant communities and refugees, will be taking part in a multicultural sports festival](#). (Sources: BBC, Exeter City Council)

In Manchester, [a football match between young asylum seekers and local police was organised to build trust and boost community engagement](#). Meanwhile, [Burnley Football Club partnered with Islamic Relief UK to provide essential food packs to people in the community, including refugees and asylum seekers](#). (Sources: Greater Manchester Police, Burnley Express)

Contact us about research

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