

Migration news roundup 8 January 2024

Image

View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

Read about how for the first time since 2010, a small number of [Rohingya refugees have been able to be resettled from camps in Bangladesh](#) and the freedoms this has given to those individuals. (Source: the Guardian)

Sheffield residents, check out [‘At The End Café’ - a new outlet serving traditional Ukrainian food](#). (Source: MSN/Sheffield Star)

International news

This article explores [the story behind a plane stopped in France carrying over 300 Indian citizens hoping to enter the US via Nicaragua](#). It describes the politics behind why migrants travel to this specific transit country and how the US government is responding. (Source: the Guardian)

A photo series paints [a picture of the situation facing Afghan refugees](#) on its border, returning to their country. (Source: Al Jazeera)

Reviews of migration in the EU during 2023 confirm [the central Mediterranean \(Tunisia to Italy\) was the primary arrival route for 2023](#) and discuss 2024: the push to create more agreements with non-EU countries to prevent migration or process asylum claimants, [new EU detention plans and forthcoming European parliamentary elections](#). (Sources: Al Jazeera, InfoMigrants)

UK borders and migration policy

National policy news has been dominated with disagreement over asylum decision making data. [Government stated the older, pre-28 June 2022 backlog had been cleared](#) which [drew much criticism](#), with [some civil servants accusing the Home Office of gaslighting the public](#). This led to [the Office for Statistics Regulation confirming they would look into it](#). This [legal blog published a useful analysis](#) of the situation. (Sources: BBC, Yorkshire Post, inews, Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

[International students now cannot bring family with them to the UK](#), as latest government policy to reduce net migration has come into force. There's an exception for those on postgraduate research courses or with government scholarships. (Source: Sky)

The Home Office published then withdrew impact assessments for asylum accommodation sites [RAF Weathersfield](#), [RAF Scampton](#) and the [Bibby Stockholm](#), describing them as 'published in error'. Media coverage included that the Bibby Stockholm report found [housing asylum seekers onboard was discriminatory](#) on the grounds of age and sex, and [potential for tensions between Muslim groups](#) was identified in the RAF Scampton report. (Sources: Home Office, BBC, Lincolnshire Live)

[A fundraising initiative to repatriate the body of Leonard Farruku](#) to his family following his death on the Bibby Stockholm, has raised over £18,000. (Source: Gofundme)

Concerns have been raised about [sophisticated visa scams aimed at Ukrainians](#) planning to come to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, with charities calling for more awareness of the issues it causes. (Source: Independent)

A leader from the former democratic opposition in Hong Kong described Home Office [decision makers as rejecting asylum claims from Hong Kongers for 'absurd' reasons](#), revealing a lack of understanding of the danger they face. (Source: the Guardian)

Cohesion and integration

This article reflects on [what Britain can learn from the successful integration of Ugandan Asian refugees](#) fifty years ago, highlighting the importance of a warm welcome, community networks and language skills. (Source: Financial Times)

Here's an insightful article about [how dating someone with a different mother tongue can enrich a relationship](#). (Source: The Conversation)

[In Wethersfield, local residents had mixed responses to several asylum seekers](#) from the airbase who ventured into a local social club. (Source: the Guardian)

[Four stories of refugees in the UK](#) were shared for the New Year, including Ukrainian student Bohdana who now lives in York. They were supported through an EU-funded integration project. (Source: International Rescue Committee)

Contact us about research

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