

Migration news roundup 12 June 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

The Musicians Union launched [free union membership for refugees](#). Music therapist [Harmin Sijercic explains the importance of music to him after arriving in the UK from Bosnia](#) in the 1990s. (Sources: Musicians Union, Metro)

[St Augustine's Centre is inviting local people to make paper birds](#) for their Refugee Week exhibition in Halifax. (Source: Halifax Courier)

International news

[UNHCR raised concerns over refugees trapped in Khartoum](#) – it's unable to carry out humanitarian activities beyond telephone support due to increased violence and security issues. (Source: Info Migrants)

[EU ministers agreed new migration and asylum laws](#) that allow individual countries to return asylum seekers to third countries they decide are safe, but they have included charges for not hosting relocated refugees at €20,000 per person. (Source: the Guardian)

UK borders and migration policy

[The Prime Minister visited Dover with Border Force officials](#) - here's [analysis of his claim that 'stop the boats' policies are starting to work](#). (Sources: Prime Minister's Office, BBC)

On the Illegal Migration Bill:

- [Debate continued in the House of Lords](#), with peers sitting through the night. [The Prime Minister suggested he could use the Parliament Act to push the legislation through](#) if necessary. (Sources: the London Economic, iNews)
- [This briefing highlights risks of children growing up in the UK without a route to citizenship](#). (Source: KIND UK)
- There are reports that [government plans to detain and remove over 3,000 people seeking asylum each month](#) from January 2024, simultaneously needing to invest in legal aid at detention sites. Elsewhere it's

claimed government modelling shows the [number of people arriving via irregular routes would need to be below 10,000 annually](#) for the new law to be workable. (Sources: the Guardian, the Times)

- [Migration Yorkshire's briefing on the Bill](#) is now available. (Source: Migration Yorkshire)

This article provides an interesting insight into (anonymous) [former home secretaries' views on the challenges of reducing net migration](#). (Source: BBC)

Specific migrant groups

On asylum:

- [People seeking asylum will no longer receive differential treatment based on their route into the UK](#), which has been the case since the Nationality and Borders Act came into force last year. The move will make it easier to tackle the backlog of outstanding asylum claims. [You can see immigration minister Robert Jenrick's full statement here](#). The Illegal Migration Bill is set to replace this policy approach should it become law. (Sources: the Guardian, UK Parliament)
- The government announced its [latest measures will move up to 5,000 asylum seekers out of hotels](#) into alternative accommodation sites, with two new vessels procured ([Liverpool has been ruled out as a location](#)). Additionally, there will be room sharing in asylum hotel accommodation, despite [unsuccessful attempts to require people to share four to a room at a London hotel](#) recently. [There's been criticism of the moves](#). (Sources: Home Office, Sky, the Guardian)
- The [Home Office is facing compensation claims](#) after its blanket policy of seizing asylum seekers' phones was found last year to be unlawful, as the UK's surveillance watchdog has written to affected individuals. (Source: the Guardian)

[Cornwall's first leadership conference focusing on the resettlement of refugees in local communities](#) will take place on World Refugee Day. (Source: Cornwall Council)

[An inquiry found that for certain types of EU settlement scheme applications, the Home Office failed to fulfil its obligation](#) to issue Certificates of Application to applicants that immediately provide evidence of their rights. (Source: Independent Monitoring Authority)

The UK security minister stated that [China has closed unofficial 'police stations' in Britain](#). Meanwhile, [Hongkongers in the UK held vigils to mark the 1989 Tiananmen anniversary](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Hong Kong Free Press)

Modern slavery news:

- [This briefing considers the impact of changes to the 'reasonable grounds threshold'](#), where the Home Office makes a decision on a referral, changed by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022. (Source: Human Trafficking Foundation)
- [An update on the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority](#) (GLAA). (Source: GLAA)
- [Guidance for healthcare professionals encountering survivors](#). (Source: VITA Network)
- ['Taking Stock' is a ten minute awareness raising video about exploitation in UK warehouses](#). (Source: Stronger Together)
- This powerful article written by someone with lived experience argues that [the trafficking sector should have a focus on 'survivorship'](#), similar to oncology services. (Source: Open Democracy)

[A briefing on the exploitation of young people highlights added pressures of the cost of living and summer holidays.](#) (Source: Barnardo's)

Why the Windrush matters today is [a new report that explores public attitudes towards race and diversity in Britain. The report also describes what people know about Windrush,](#) identifying a lack of awareness among many. Check out these [events to celebrate the 75th anniversary since the arrival of the Empire Windrush](#) to UK shores, plus [this google calendar highlights more local events.](#) (Sources: British Future, Windrush 75 network, Google)

Cohesion and integration

There's [a new report on English language learning and integration in Scotland.](#) (Source: University of Glasgow)

[Two thirds of the UK think immigration is too high](#) according to a poll for the i newspaper. While 44% of respondents said immigration was an important issue facing the country, it was far behind the cost-of-living crisis and healthcare as priorities. (Source: BMG Research)

[Student Action for Refugees celebrated a different story for each day of Volunteers' Week 2023.](#) (Source: STAR Network)

Contact us about research

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