

Migration news roundup 06 November 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[Alphonsine Kabagabo, director of Women for Refugee Women, shares her experience fleeing Rwanda in 1994](#) and rebuilding her life in Europe. (Source: the Guardian)

[North Yorkshire libraries have been granted Libraries of Sanctuary status](#) for providing a safe space for asylum seekers and refugees. (Source: The Scarborough News)

International news

[In Germany new legislation allowing people seeking asylum to work after three or six months of arrival](#), instead of nine months, is waiting for approval from the parliament. (Source: Info Migrants)

There are also several significant events and developments globally:

- A deal mediated by Qatar enabled [the evacuation of approximately 320 foreign nationals out of Gaza](#). (Source: Reuters)
- [1 November was the deadline Pakistan imposed on 1.7 million undocumented people to leave the country](#); most of them are Afghan refugees. (Source: BBC)
- [There are currently almost seven million internally displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#), the highest number ever recorded, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). (Source: Info Migrants)

A number of African countries including [Rwanda and Kenya are bringing in Schengen-like visa-free travel for all African nationalities](#) to improve trade and tourism on the continent. (Source: Independent)

UK borders and migration policy

[A progressive policy think tank published a policy response report on Channel crossings](#). It recommends a focus on increasing safe and accessible routes to claiming asylum, improving relations with France and the EU, and making the asylum system work better. (Source: IPPR)

[The UK signed a 'migration and security agreement' with Austria](#), as the latter seeks to adopt its own Rwanda-style offshoring measures and will work collaboratively with the UK over how to manage third country asylum returns. Meanwhile, [concerns have again been raised over the risk of children wrongly assessed as adults being removed to Rwanda](#). (Sources: the Guardian, open Democracy)

New [modern slavery statistics were published](#) covering to the end of September 2023, with [commentary highlighting a growing backlog in decision making on claims](#). (Sources: Home Office, Free Movement)

[There's a call for evidence into the Homes for Ukraine Scheme](#) from the Public Accounts Committee, closing 12 November. (Source: UK Parliament)

A new survey reveals that [the majority of British people now hold positive views on immigration](#). (Source: the Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

On asylum, [litigation regarding the proposed accommodation centre at Scampton is ongoing](#). As part of another ongoing legal challenge, in February [the Chartered Institute for Environmental Health is to give evidence against the government's plans](#) to exempt asylum accommodation from Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licencing rules. (Sources: Lincolnshire Live, Landlord Today)

[The Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) published an article on Roma communities](#) based on Census data. Over 100,000 people in England and Wales identified as Roma, with the highest number in Sheffield (2,710 people). (Source: ONS)

[This article discusses the experiences of young people seeking asylum and safeguarding risks of sharing rooms with adults](#) following Home Office age-assessments. Meanwhile, a committee in the [House of Lords outlined flaws in Home Office age assessment and fee regulations in a report](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Free Movement)

Cohesion and integration

[A new oral history project, 'Look Back to Look Forward', explores the experiences of Irish exiles in Great Britain over the past 50 years](#). The exhibition is online from 1 November and on tour nationally, including coming to Leeds. (Source: the Guardian)

'When you eat together, you stick together' - [The Old Oak Film has been well-received by refugee and asylum-seeking groups across the country](#) with a series of special screenings and food sharing events, 'it really demonstrated what social cohesion looks like'. (Source: Cosmic Cat Films - two minute video)

Contact us about research

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