

Migration news roundup 29 January 2024

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

[Councillor Roza Salih is now a columnist for a Scottish newspaper](#). Originally from Iraqi Kurdistan, you might remember she first came to public attention as a ‘Glasgow Girl’, campaigning for her school friend facing deportation. (Source: the Herald)

A group of [Ukrainians in Caerphilly are planting a ‘Gratitude Orchard’](#). (Source: Nation Cymru)

International news

There have been some key developments across Europe:

- In Germany, [a bill which is intended to make it ‘faster and more efficient’ to deport people who seek asylum, has been approved](#) by the lower house. (Source: InfoMigrants)
- [Germany has also reformed its citizenship legislation](#), allowing multiple citizenships and making it easier for migrants living in the country ‘legally’ to attain German citizenship. (Source: DW)?
- Finally, Spain, Greece and Hungary have all recently seen [court rulings reproofing their treatment of young people that are unaccompanied and seek asylum](#). (Source: The Guardian)

Elsewhere, [the UNHCR warns about the very high number of Rohingya who have died at sea](#) in search of safer places to live. (Source: Al Jazeera)

[This study considers ‘compassion fatigue’](#) by exploring three recent examples of forced migration, including Ukrainians seeking sanctuary in Europe. (Source: Migration Policy Institute)

UK borders and migration policy

Following a [House of Lords Committee recommendation last week](#), peers have voted in favour of a non-binding motion [asking for the new treaty with Rwanda to be delayed](#) until the promised measures to ensure Rwanda’s safety are in place. However, [the government has decided against holding a parliamentary debate over the treaty](#)

and will proceed with plans to ratify it on 31 January. The [House of Lords will have the opportunity to debate the Safety of Rwanda Bill](#) at its second reading next week. (Sources: UK Parliament, BBC, Sky News)

[The government is reportedly planning a consultation on a 'British homes for British workers' policy](#) which would prioritise UK citizens for social housing. (Source: the Guardian)

A new report says that [councils spent over £77m supporting people with no recourse to public funds](#) - a 22% increase on the previous year. A [Yorkshire and Humber specific report](#) is also available. (Source: NRPF Network)

Specific migrant groups

This article about [a man from Yemen who is seeking asylum here sheds light on the complexities of asylum claims](#). (Source: Independent)

On EU nationals, the Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) has published regional [reports on the support provided by local authorities to EU children in care who are eligible to apply to the EUSS](#). In Yorkshire and Humber, issues raised in most local authorities include a lack of documented processes and written operational guidelines. Furthermore, [the IMA issued a statement raising concerns about the Home Office's implementation of a High Court judgment on pre-settled status expiry](#). It highlighted that a two-year extension for pre-settled status does not address the court's ruling, and that there is a lack of clarity regarding automatic acquisition of permanent residence rights. (Source: IMA)

A new [report highlights that at least 1,300 children were incorrectly classified as adults by the Home Office](#) during an 18-month period. Many of these young people were placed in adult asylum hotels and 14 children spent time in adult prisons, sharing cells with adult males. (Source: Refugee Council)

Following a High Court hearing, the government has now amended its guidance which from January last year had resulted in [modern slavery victims with criminal convictions being excluded from support](#) through the National Referral Mechanism. Also on modern slavery, this article highlights the ongoing concerns about [exploitation of migrant workers in the social care sector](#). Finally, [a new report calls for a better response to trafficking in humanitarian settings](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Justice and Care)

Cohesion and integration

ITV's Dr Amir Khan talks about being [proud of his British Pakistani heritage, but also his experiences of racism](#) growing up, and even now. (Source: Bradford Telegraph and Argus)

The [regional organiser of the far right group 'Patriotic Alternative' from Pudsey in Leeds, has been found guilty](#) of 'stirring up racial hatred.' He is awaiting sentencing. (Source: Yorkshire Evening Post)

Author Fiona Williams [reflects on ideas of 'belonging' as a black woman in a predominantly white space](#), lack of access to everyday things such as afro hairdressers and plantain in shops, and asserting her right to 'be at home' wherever she is. (Source: the Guardian)

A new [Bollywood film explores the theme of precarious Indian migration to the UK on 'donkey routes' and also makes reference to colonial-era forced migration](#) and displacement of populations under British rule. (Source: The Conversation)

[The Hindu 'Holi' festival will be celebrated again in Leeds this spring, with tickets now on sale and organisers aiming to 'bridge the gap between different cultures](#), radiate love and positivity through music, colours, and delectable cuisine.' (Source: Yorkshire Evening Post)

Contact us about research

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