

Migration news roundup 11 July 2022

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

Two inspiring stories this week are related to refugees from Afghanistan. The first features [a British orchestra playing Afghan music and featuring exiled Afghan musicians](#) at a time when the Taliban has banned music. The second is [a spotlight on the real 'Bookseller of Kabul'](#) who is now seeking asylum in the UK and dreams of setting up an Afghan reading room in the British Library. (Sources: the Guardian)

The [Deathless Woman, a film about important events in Roma history, has been touring](#) cities and towns across the UK, including Sheffield and Leeds. The screening has been followed by discussions and Romani language workshops. (Source: Deathless Woman)

In Bradford [Aldo's Italian restaurant hired a Ukrainian teenager](#) as a waiter and the restaurant owner sees his new recruit as 'a great addition to the team'. (Source: Telegraph and Argus)

UK borders and migration policy

The government is [planning for a second attempt to remove asylum seekers to Rwanda](#). The flight will potentially be scheduled to take off before 19 July when the high court will rule on the scheme's legality. Meanwhile the [Home Affairs Committee has heard evidence from refugee charities and former immigration bosses](#) about the impact of the Rwanda policy. The [first woman to receive a notice of intent](#) is reportedly a trafficking survivor. There are further warnings of the [potential danger for LGBTIQ+ people](#) if removed to Rwanda. [Unaccompanied children may be among those detained for the next flight](#). (Sources: the Guardian, Times Series, Mirror, The Times)

[More than 3,000 people crossed the Channel in small boats in June](#), the highest monthly total so far this year. [A smuggling gang thought to be behind 10% of crossings has been uncovered](#) following a criminal investigation across five European countries. (Sources: ITV, the Guardian)

There are apparently plans for a ['league table' with countries ranked according to their willingness to accept returns](#) of refused asylum seekers and offenders. There could be visa penalties for nations that do not co-operate.

Meanwhile, [the Home Office has announced plans for more generous conditions for New Zealand Youth Mobility visas](#) following a similar agreement in respect to Australia. (Sources: Telegraph and Argus, Free

Across the UK there has been [community resistance to immigration raids](#). (Source: the Guardian)

Specific migrant groups

On modern slavery, there are concerns that due to labour shortages, [student visas could become the gateway for human trafficking](#) as investigation of low or non-existent attendance at universities uncovered widespread labour exploitation across the country. (Source: the Guardian)

On EU nationals, the [caseworker suitability guidance was amended to remove the requirement for an application to be put on hold for at least six months](#) where there is a pending prosecution, if the likely conviction doesn't meet criteria for a deportation. This change could help with [delays within the EU settlement scheme](#) which continue to feature in the media. Elsewhere, the [High Court allowed a judicial review related to the rights of people with pre-settled status](#) who do not apply for settled status in time. (Sources: Home Office, Mirror, the Guardian)

On the Hong Kong British Nationals Overseas (BNO) visa, an [extension of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise \(VCSE\) funding](#) for integration support has been confirmed for another nine months, with further details to follow. Meanwhile, Welcoming Committee for Hongkongers, hosted by British Future, published [a report on experiences of Hongkongers settling in the UK](#). While many Hongkongers are feeling welcome, there has been [criticism about a lack of appropriate mental health support](#). The [chair of the Welcoming Committee and the director of British Future reflect on the importance of providing the right support from the start](#). (Sources: Twitter, British Future, the Guardian, Cap X)

On children and young people, [the Children's Commissioner highlighted the importance of listening to refugee and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children](#) to ensure they are heard and represented in policy design, delivery and implementation. The Home Office is recruiting [up to 40 social workers to join the National Age Assessment Board](#) to build capacity to take over the assessments currently carried out by local authorities. Meanwhile [Kent County Council's children's services are marked by Ofsted as 'outstanding'](#) meaning that the unaccompanied asylum-seeking children for which the Council takes responsibility are well cared for. (Sources: Children's Commissioner, Community Care, BBC)

Cohesion and integration

Lochardil Primary School in Inverness has been recognised as [Scotland's first School of Sanctuary](#). The school is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for young people seeking sanctuary. It is expected to receive its first young people from Ukrainian families in the area. (Source: City of Sanctuary)

Researchers conducted [an online survey to measure attitudes in the UK towards refugees from different backgrounds](#). Over 70% of respondents felt the UK should help refugees fleeing conflict areas. However, when asked a more specific question, support for Ukrainian refugees was about 70% compared to only 50% for Afghan refugees. (Source: The Conversation)

The House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs [Committee called for a radical overhaul of the Life in the UK test](#), as the content seems ['a random selection of obscure facts and subjective assertions](#) that most people would not know'. (Sources: UK Parliament, Free Movement)

International news

[UNHCR, UNICEF, and IOM recommend European countries consider alternatives to detention](#) for asylum seeking, refugee, and migrant children. (Source: UNICEF)

Following the international attention that Spain received after the Melilla tragedy, [the Spanish Prime Minister urged NATO allies to consider a bigger role for the alliance in North Africa and the Sahel](#). (Source: VOA News)

[In Germany, it is expected that 130,000 asylum seekers will benefit from an immigration amnesty](#). (Source: InfoMigrants)

[In Belgium, the army will create 750 temporary places in barracks to house asylum seekers](#) to ease the pressure on their reception system for asylum seekers. (Source: Europe Cities)

Contact us about research

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