

Migration news roundup 27 March 2023

Image
View of Houses of Parliament from bridge over river Thames

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Stories that inspired us this week

The [next edition of the UK's first literary magazine of Sanctuary is open for submissions](#) until the end of May, and welcomes contributions of poetry, writing and artwork by refugees and migrants, or contributions on the theme of migration by anyone. (Source: the other side of hope)

[An Oxfordshire bus driver has helped reunite an 8 year old Ukrainian refugee with her toy gnome](#), the only toy she brought with her when she fled to the UK with her mother. (Source: Oxford Mail)

International news

[The European Union has raised concerns over Tunisia's political, economic, and social unrest](#) as they fear this could instigate a new migration flow towards Europe. In Greece, [refugees, people seeking asylum and other migrants took to the streets in Athens in protest against migrant pushbacks](#). (Sources: InfoMigrant)

UK borders and migration policy

[The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration \(ICIBI\) has published his latest annual report](#). (Source: ICIBI)

On the Illegal Migration Bill:

- The UNHCR has published a new [paper analysing the legal context surrounding the Bill](#).
- [A new report estimates that more than 190,000 people could be detained or become destitute](#) if the bill is passed.
- [This article explores the possible implications for the smuggling trade](#).

(Sources: UNHCR, Refugee Council, The Conversation)

Following the announcement that government will increase its funding to France to tackle irregular migration, [this briefing provides an overview of previous and planned spending](#). (Source: UK Parliament)

On the Rwanda scheme:

- [Home Secretary Suella Braverman visited Rwanda last week](#), viewing prospective accommodation for UK asylum seekers. [The government is reportedly planning for flights to begin before the summer.](#)
 - [The US has criticised Rwanda's human rights record.](#)
- The [government's suggestion of possible reforms to European Court of Human Rights procedures, to stop the use of injunctions to prevent removals, has been disputed](#) by legal experts. Meanwhile this article considers [the implications should the UK withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights.](#)

(Sources: Sky News, Independent, the Guardian, Chatham House)

[The addition of several construction jobs to the Shortage Occupation List could have limited impact](#) due to high visa fees and the English language requirement, according to this article. (Source: Construction News)

Specific migrant groups

[A group of international students who had their visas revoked over the English test scandal are calling on Rishi Sunak to help them clear their names](#) and [presented a petition at Downing Street.](#) (Sources: the Guardian, National Herald)

[The Home Office is not making its usual £150,000 annual award from the Windrush community engagement fund](#) this year, reportedly due to internal disagreement about whether funds should be given to groups that have expressed criticism of the government on social media. (Source: the Guardian)

On asylum:

- There is a new [parliamentary briefing on the decision-making backlog.](#)
- [This report recommends that the government implements an integrated housing approach](#) with NGOs and local authorities which includes access to support.
 - An RAF site in Lincolnshire could be used to [accommodate up to 1,500 people seeking asylum.](#)

(Sources: House of Commons, Refugee Action, BBC)

‘My dream was to give her the best future, but in exchange I sacrificed my motherhood and her childhood’ – [read Jenny's story and those of other migrant domestic workers.](#) (Source: IMIX)

[There is new guidance to help local authorities assess adults with no recourse to public funds \(NRPF\)](#), as well as some [information on setting subsistence rates.](#) (Sources: NRPF Network)

Cohesion and integration

[Racial disparity in maternity care in the UK was the focus of a Black Maternal Health conference](#), highlighting that black women are four times more likely to die in pregnancy and childbirth than white women. (Source: the Guardian)

What's in a name? Following St Patrick's Day on 17 March, [Irish stereotypes are being challenged through a photography exhibition](#) featuring a wide range of people all with the name 'Paddy'. (Source: the Guardian)

Contact us about research

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Source URL: <http://migrationyorkshire-beta.leeds.gov.uk/news/migration-news-roundup-27-march-2023>