Migration news roundup week commencing 08 June 2026

This Migration News Roundup presents a selection of news, policy, research and statistics from the previous week on migration-related topics. The contents of each story do not necessarily reflect the views of Migration Yorkshire.

- UK borders and migration policy
- Specific migrant groups
- Cohesion and integration
- International news
- Stories that inspired us this week

UK borders and migration policy

Due to an international court ruling, Rwanda has failed in its bid to sue the UK for over £100 million over the cancelled asylum removal scheme. (Source: BBC)

How is government performing in relation to its migration pledges? This updated briefing highlights change in six measurable policy promises, finding the desired changes in many areas. However, asylum appeals are rising and there's a mixed picture on small boat arrivals. (Source: Migration Observatory)

Parliamentary data briefings include 'Small boat Channel crossings' and 'Migration' - how it's measured, change over time, and comparing the UK and EU. (Source: House of Commons Library)

This article describes what legal aid is available for immigration cases. (Source: Free Movement).

Specific migrant groups

News related to the asylum system includes:

- A parliamentary committee published a report describing the asylum system as ‘on the brink’ from severe pressure. It welcomes reduction in hotel use but highlights issues with monitoring refused asylum seekers. The report says ‘local authorities still lack a meaningful say in accommodation decisions’ and requests a long-term plan produced with councils, and a strategy rather than fixes that push costs around the system. It concludes there needs to be end-to-end accountability for the asylum system. (Source: Public Accounts Committee)
- Updated Home Office country information reports on Afghanistan and Colombia used by immigration decision-makers have been under scrutiny after positive decisions on Afghan claims fell significantly. An inspection report notes the difficulty of obtaining reliable information on Afghanistan and raised concerns over using AI in gathering information. (Source: Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration)
- The Home Office was found to have acted unlawfully when it changed its Allocation of Asylum Accommodation policy, which forced survivors of torture and trafficking to share rooms with strangers. (Source: Freedom from Torture)

- A data briefing was published on people seeking asylum and refugees by the House of Commons Library. (Source: UK Parliament)

On children and young people:

- Refugee children's charities said Home Office plans to use AI to assess the age of young people seeking asylum should only be used in an advisory way rather than to make a determination. They fear it could result in more children in adult prisons or detention centres. (Source: the Guardian)
- Freedom of information requests show lone children were held at UK-run short term detention centres in France on nearly 300 occasions in 2025. Conditions were described as 'poor' during inspections. (Source: the Guardian)

The Windrush commissioner said people affected by the Windrush scandal should be given legal support to claim compensation. (Source: the Guardian)

On migrants in the labour market:

- A migrant care worker was awarded almost £30,000 in unpaid wages after his sponsor failed to provide work. The landmark case has opened the door for other cases in the care sector. Meanwhile, in one of several recent cases a care worker's primary school aged children have been told by the Home Office to leave the UK despite living here legally. (Sources: Work Rights Centre, the Guardian)

- A Bradford takeaway has lost its late-night food licence due to employing people who were undocumented. (Source: BBC)
- An updated analysis looks at changes in the overseas workforce size and earnings over time and how this relates to policy. (Source: Migration Observatory)

Stories about international students include:

- The new UKVI system for monitoring of universities sponsoring international students and visa compliance has gone live for a transitional period. (Source: Wonkhe)
- Middle East conflict could affect international arrivals for the new academic year due to rising travel costs and disruption to flight routes. (Source: The PIE)
- A British Council report advises universities to consider alternatives to directly recruiting overseas students, including reaching those already enrolled in UK education. (Source: Icef monitor)

Cohesion and integration

A council in Merseyside confirmed funding withdrawn from Refugee Week events will still be used to support integration and resettlement services. Earlier, the new leader stated the council would not engage with Refugee Week and allocated funding would be withdrawn. (Source: St Helens Star)

Following reports of hate crimes and civil unrest after sentencing for the murder of Henry Nowak, Sikh community leaders in

Southampton have called for peace. Further, Downing Street said the US Vice President was trying to cause division after he intervened in the public discussion to blame migration. (Sources: Al Jazeera, BBC, Independent)

Local reporting of immigration data is critiqued in this article, citing cases where statistics on asylum are conflated with other migrant groups. (Source: the Bureau of Investigative Journalism)

International news

This useful article describes what it'll mean in practice to have EU 'return hubs' in third countries to process individuals whose asylum applications were rejected. Campaigners and rights groups warn it could create an 'ICE-style' enforcement system involving expanded raids, surveillance, and deportations. (Sources: InfoMigrants, the Guardian)

This short documentary examines the dangerous trafficking network between rural Bangladesh and Libya. Many Bangladeshis go missing or are tortured as they chase the dream of a job in Europe, whilst distressed families lose their assets trying to get them back. (Source: InfoMigrants, 19 minutes)

Stories that inspired us this week

During Volunteers' Week, Women for Refugee Women and Refugee Council Scotland were among organisations sharing stories of volunteers supporting refugees. (Sources: Women for

Refugee Women, Refugee Council Scotland)

You can find out about events to celebrate Refugee Week in Hull in this article. The theme this year is 'courage'. (Source: BBC)

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