Migration news roundup



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

There has been further reaction to last week's earned settlement policy announcements, with this piece reporting concerns expressed by Olivia Bailey, Labour MP and chair of the women and equalities committee, about the impact on women and children. A separate article explores similar issues, examining what the proposed changes could mean for refugee women seeking to rebuild their lives following traumatic experiences. (Sources: The Guardian, Big Issue)

Three quarters of immigration raids are carried out without warrants, according to this article, which describes the impact on businesses and individuals of increased immigration enforcement activity in recent years. The author questions the quality of intelligence used to justify some raids, highlighting that two-thirds of visits last year did not lead to arrests. The article also raises concerns that, in some cases, officers may have

entered premises unlawfully. (Source: The Bureau of Investigative Journalism)

There are concerns about an increasing number of indefinite leave to remain refusals for Turkish nationals on European Community Association Agreement (ECAA) visas, a route for Turkish nationals establishing businesses in the UK, closed to new applicants since 2021. The article claims that Home Office decision letters contain errors and suggests there has been a change in how individual circumstances are assessed. MP David Lammy has likened the situation to the Windrush scandal. (Source: The Guardian)

An inspection report of the UK-France 'one in, one out' agreement notes that the scheme's prioritisation by the Home Office impacted wider immigration enforcement activity, owing to the detention capacity required for individuals awaiting removal to France. The report also highlights that France rejected up to half of the cases proposed for return, with the reasons for these decisions not always clear. (Source: Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration)

Far right activist Daniel Thomas has pleaded guilty to criminal damage. In September, he used a knife to slash a dinghy in the

English Channel after its occupants had been rescued by the authorities while crossing from France. (Source: BBC)

Specific migrant groups

Recent media reports and commentary have raised a range of concerns about the government's earned settlement policy, including:

- Refugees who currently have 5 years permission to stay in the UK are uncertain how they will be affected when this permission expires. (Source: The Guardian)
- The Skilled Worker Justice Alliance is preparing a legal challenge to the retrospective nature of the changes. (Source: Electronic Immigration Network)
- The Home Secretary has been criticised for 'creating heightened legal risk' for the government, with critics arguing that the policy could affect multiple aspects of family life. (Sources: Institute for Government)

Kier group has been awarded a contract to develop infrastructure at RAF Barnham, one of the proposed large-scale asylum accommodation sites. The government has updated its factsheets, stating that awarding a contract does not mean a final decision

has been made. Local protesters have raised concerns about spending £3.4m on a site that may not go ahead. (Sources: BBC, Home Office)

A man has appeared in court in Hull after planning an arson attack on a hotel housing asylum seekers. The increase in such attacks, coupled with threats against staff, has led charities working with migrant groups to reduce their public visibility and increase spending on security. (Sources: BBC, Byline Times)

New reports and research include:

- A study into decision-making in the immigration system has found that Western norms are regularly applied when considering family relationships. The report also raises concerns about approaches to LGBTQ+ identities and mental health. (Source: Public Law Project)
- This research project examined how public sector workers are affected by working with people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The authors argue that the NRPF condition increases pressure on already underfunded services, contributing to staff burnout and increasing welfare costs rather than reducing them. (Source: Social Sciences)

The3million, an organisation supporting EU citizens in the UK, has taken the Home Office to court after it removed pre-settled status from individuals deemed to have received it in error. Nearly 1,500 people are said to have been affected. (Source: The Guardian)

Following intervention by the Joint Committee on Human Rights, the Home Secretary has confirmed in writing that prosecutions linked to the Hong Kong pro-democracy protests will not be a barrier to obtaining a Hong Kong BN(O) visa. (Source: UK Parliament)

People kidnapped and held for ransom in Libya whose modern slavery claims were refused in the UK may be entitled to have those decisions reconsidered, following a Court of Appeal ruling in the case of a Syrian man who was captured and tortured while attempting to reach the UK. He was released after his family paid the kidnappers. The Home Office had argued that this experience did not constitute exploitation. (Source: The Guardian)

The government has said it will legislate to address forced labour in UK supply chains. This follows a recent parliamentary committee hearing where a Shein representative was unable to

confirm whether the company's products use cotton from Xinjiang, the region of China where Uyghur Muslims are known to be subject to forced labour. (Source: UK Parliament)

News on international students:

- A report assessing the economic contribution of international students in UK business schools identifies the net benefits generated by individual constituencies. Leeds Central and Headingley are ranked among the UK's top ten constituencies, with a net economic benefit equivalent to almost £2,000 per resident. (Source: Chartered Association of Business Schools)
- A poll of over 400 universities found the UK is losing international postgraduate applicants faster than its rivals. (Source: Financial Times)
- In a personal reflection, an ESOL lecturer describes her work supporting people from different refugee backgrounds and the complex life changes facing many learners. (Source: FE Week)
- This light-hearted article explores less expected cultural factors that influence international students to select the UK as their study destination, with music being a particularly

significant draw. (Source: British Council)

Community organisations are invited to apply for Year 3 of the Windrush Compensation Advocacy Support Fund; £600,000 is available for 2027–28 to help people navigate compensation claims. Applications close on Friday 4 December 2026. (Source: Home Office)

The High Court has ruled that the Home Office acted unlawfully by treating a young Eritrean seeking asylum as an adult, despite an ongoing age dispute, in order to facilitate his removal to France under the 'one in, one out' scheme. (Source: Free Movement).

Cohesion and integration

Sunder Katwala, Director at British Future, raises concerns about the government's new settlement proposals and their potential impact on social cohesion, particularly for recently recognised refugees, who could face waits of up to twenty or thirty years before becoming eligible for settlement. (Source: British Future)

International news

Leaders from 41 European countries have endorsed a joint statement from the UK, Denmark and Italy, recognising the root causes of migration and committing to stronger cooperation, border security and efforts to tackle people-smuggling networks. (Source: Prime Minister's Office)

Libyan authorities have repatriated 602 migrants to Chad following security operations targeting migrants accused of entering the country irregularly. (Source: Reuters)

Belgium has approved legislation allowing police to enter private homes to detain undocumented migrants who have been refused asylum and failed to comply with orders to leave the country. (Source: The Guardian)

Stories that inspired us this week

Lev Stromvas, a young Ukrainian who arrived in the UK aged 14, describes how playing music as part of Southampton Youth Wind Band helped him overcome language barriers and connect with his new community. Lev recently performed at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Music for Youth Proms. (Source: Southern Daily Echo)

Celebrity Traitors winners Romesh Ranganathan and Sebastian 'Bash' Croft have discussed the positive impact of their donations to refugee charities. Despite some initial backlash online, they said it had encouraged open conversations and galvanised further support and awareness of issues facing refugees. (Source: Metro)

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