Migration news roundup week commencing 2 November 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

The Autumn Budget included some immigration reforms. Investment was announced for large-scale asylum accommodation sites linked to closing hotels; the Local Government Association asked for engagement with councils in response. Other immigration measures relate to visas: for skilled workers there are changes to salary thresholds, and for 'highly' skilled workers an extension of up to six months to find a new sponsor if employment ends. The graduate visa length will be extended to two years for graduates from universities with strong compliance and employment outcomes. Changes will be from

spring 2027. (Sources: HM Treasury, Local Government Association, electronic immigration network)

The Home Secretary has been accused of refusing to engage with ministers beyond the Home Office on the impact of migration policy changes, who say her plans to change the asylum system run counter to the Prime Minister's pledge to end rough sleeping. (Source: the Guardian)

The Home Office responded to concerns raised by a House of Lords committee over the power to change the Immigration Rules without parliamentary approval. The response noted that changes can be challenged through usual questions and debates but there's no mechanism for Parliament to overturn a decision, a position the committee found 'unsatisfactory'. (Source: electronic immigration network)

This legal briefing gives an overview of section 3C leave, which allows migrants to continue to work and rent while waiting for a decision on their visa extension or application for a different type of leave to remain. (Source: Free Movement)

Specific migrant groups

Government published guidance on the three new refugee sponsor routes announced earlier this year. Lead sponsor applications from registered charities and non-profits are open for the named sponsorship route, with a separate refugee work route opening in spring 2027. The schemes will be capped and with a small number of arrivals at first from seven host countries, with numbers expected to increase in time. (Sources: UK Visas and Immigration, Home Office)

News on the asylum system includes:

- Following news that the use of AI to summarise asylum interviews was failing accuracy checks, a digital rights campaign warns that the technology's rapid spread through the immigration system raises concerns over bias and lack of transparency. With around 7,000 AI summaries produced each month, the Home Office has been accused of obstructing information requests from campaigners about how the tool is used in decision making processes. (Sources: Open Rights Group, Independent)

- The increased use of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) is said to be increasing community tensions and anti-migrant activism across the country, despite the mix of reasons for HMO increase rather than solely due to asylum accommodation. Reform-led Durham County Council has passed a motion calling on the government to disclose the locations of asylum accommodation to elected members. Councillors from other parties highlighted serious repercussions if this information was in the public domain. (Sources: Financial Times, South West Durham News)

You can listen to a three-part mini-series about Afghan refugees. (Source: the Documentary Podcast, 30 minutes each)

UK survivors of modern slavery considering a return to their country of origin are being offered information about support on return to help them make decisions. The Virtual Orientation Programme is open to people from Albania, Brazil, Pakistan and Vietnam. (Source: International Organization for Migration)

The impact of the forthcoming international student levy has been re-calculated as causing a greater loss in university fees

than previously thought. The government's updated impact assessment also reduces the expected funds raised for home student maintenance loans. (Source: The PIE)

Cohesion and integration

This article describes the positive contributions made by migrants to the UK and how a lack of acknowledgement of the benefits, particularly by government, poses risks to social cohesion and their investment in the country. (Source: the Guardian)

A short film looking at race, culture and identity in Britain through the eyes of the local convenience store 'bossman' has won an award. Rikaz Niyas used the setting of his local community in Harrow to explore experiences of being British and South Asian, and discrimination felt by immigrant communities. (Source: LADbible, 2 minutes 30)

In case you missed it, this report 'Tackling Barriers to Education and Employment with Refugee Women in Wales' looks at overlapping barriers created by immigration status, gender and ethnicity, and shares stories of resilience and aspiration from

those with lived experience. (Source: Open University)

International news

Ireland announced a new form of immigration permission for Ukrainians who are working and living independently that will give more certainty beyond the temporary permission currently in place, with time on this status counting towards naturalisation. (Source: Government of Ireland)

Spain deported 16 migrants from Ceuta to Morocco after their asylum claims were rejected. This is the first forced removal since the mass crossing of people in the summer. The European Commission proposed increasing the EU border agency's operational capacity and strengthening its role in coordinating returns including improved Frontex crisis response capacity, as a lesson learned from Ceuta. (Sources: Independent, European Commission)

The UN's work agency reported progress on an EU-funded partnership training Bangladeshi workers for skilled vacancies in Europe that's trained over 1,000 people. (Source: International Labour Organization)

Stories that inspired us this week

You can read the transcript of this year's Harrell-Bond lecture by UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih, former President of Iraq, to understand the UNHCR vision for support to refugees beyond emergency assistance. (Source: UNHCR)

15-year-old Arno is part of the Refugee Olympic Team who will compete in judo at the Youth Games in Dakar in early November. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo , he now lives in Kenya. You can also listen to a sporting history programme about the first Refugee Olympic Team in 2016. (Sources: BBC, Sporting Witness on BBC Sounds, 10 minutes)

This article looks back at the sanctuary provided around the world to 200,000 Hungarians in the 1950s, described as 'an extraordinary act of solidarity'. One of those individuals was Thomas Wasserman who went on to play for Chelsea Football Club. (Source: UNHCR)

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