# Migration news roundup week commencing 06 July 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 Immigration and Asylum Bill has had its first parliamentary reading. As anticipated in last week's bulletin there'll be changes in several areas including appeals, removals, and modern slavery. (Source: UK Parliament)

- There'll be measures obliging people to repay around £10,000 of asylum accommodation and support costs once they start paid work. (Source: BBC)

- The new Independent Immigration Appeals Authority (IIAA) will be established and start hearing appeals from late 2027. (Source: Home Office)

- In relation to Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the definition of 'family' will be narrowed to parent, spouse, or child under 18. The government estimates this will result in 11,700 additional refusals annually, although its impact assessment suggests more than half of those people would remain in the UK. (Sources: the Guardian, Home Office)

- The contents of the Bill are summarised in this legal blogpost, while this editorial questions the effectiveness of passing another act of parliament on immigration, the fourth in as many years, despite a 41% reduction in small boat crossings in the last six months. (Sources: Freemovement, the Guardian, Independent)

Campaigners have echoed Migration and Citizenship Minister Mike Tapp's call on the government to scrap the proposal to extend the settlement wait for care workers to 15 years. (Source: the Guardian)

In case you missed it, this report considers the role of devolved authorities in shaping immigration policy. (Source: IPPR)

A journalistic investigation has uncovered a convicted people smuggler living and working in Leicestershire and claiming asylum using a false identity. Meanwhile, a Rochdale grooming gang leader released from prison cannot be deported to Pakistan despite having had his British citizenship revoked, protected in law due to the length of his UK residency. (Sources: BBC, Free Movement)

## Specific migrant groups

After months of discussions between the Home Office and Highland Council, plans to house asylum seekers at a military site in Inverness have been dropped. Meanwhile in our own region, local people in Linton-on-Ouse have expressed concerns over plans to use a nearby RAF base as asylum accommodation

. (Sources: BBC)

In a flurry of activity, the Home Office released five independent inspection reports covering asylum casework, administrative reviews, visa overstayers, contact with migrants without leave, and border refusals. The asylum casework report is highly critical of asylum decision making and leadership within the Home Office asylum teams. (Sources: Electronic Immigration Network, Free Movement)

Alongside new legislation, the government confirmed new safe and legal routes will start being rolled out from the autumn: a new community sponsorship scheme, and sponsored study and work routes. There are also changes to the Right to Work and Right to Rent schemes, strengthening rules on digital identity verification and requiring employers to carry out additional checks on subcontractors and agency workers. (Sources: Home Office, Electronic Immigration Network)

Amal Sahel, a young man who escaped military conscription in Yemen after witnessing the death of his friends, describes his journey to safety in the UK and his relief at being greeted with welcoming smiles. (Source: the Guardian)

A new government research briefing considers how immigration policy has affected international student numbers, which are falling rapidly. A wider examination of international students looks at their economic impact and how likely they are to stay in the UK after their studies. (Sources: House of Commons Library, Migration Observatory)

## Cohesion and integration

A new short film on what it means to be English, 'A Love to Letter to England', features a poem narrated by actor Ian McKellan, which considers what it means to support a football team or belong to a nation. It was commissioned by The National Conversation. (Source: YouTube, under two minutes)

This briefing explores the meaning of ‘good character’ in citizenship applications. (Source: Free Movement)

A majority of the Welsh Senedd voted to defend Wales' participation as a Nation of Sanctuary, despite Reform representatives’ calls for the policy to end. (Source: BBC)

This article reports that non white British people say they are seeing a resurgence of racism sparked by anti-migration attitudes, with organisations reporting higher levels of harassment and abuse towards staff members from different backgrounds. (Source: Reuters)

## International news

The European Commission has proposed an extension to the EU's Temporary Protection framework for people displaced from Ukraine until March 2028, recognising that conditions in Ukraine remain unsuitable for large-scale returns. (Source: European Commission)

Beyond Europe:

- In South Africa, thousands of foreign nationals sought safety amid anti-migrant unrest, following heightened tensions linked to irregular migration. (Source: Reuters)

- The Spanish government reported significant demand for its new regularisation scheme, with more than a million migrants applying for legal status and work permission. (Source: the Guardian)

- Tunisia has come under international criticism following reports that authorities have dismantled key asylum safeguards, leaving refugees and asylum seekers with reduced access to protection. (Source: Amnesty International)

## Stories that inspired us this week

This Disability Pride month, refugees with disabilities demonstrate how determination and opportunity has helped them overcome the most significant challenges and make lasting contributions to their communities. (Source: UNHCR)

With the World Cup dominating the headlines, professional football players from displaced backgrounds, some of whom are competing for their national teams, have formed a symbolic

'Gamechanging Team' to highlight the talent and resilience of refugees. In other football news, Nasser Hamid, a young man from Sudan describes his journey from refugee to referee, recalling how his love of football helped him to integrate into his new home in the UK. (Sources: Infomigrants, BBC)

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