Migration news roundup week commencing 17 August 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

Around 3,000 Afghans who have received permission to resettle in the UK are thought to be trapped within Afghanistan and unable to leave, despite acknowledgement from the MoD that many are still at risk from the Taliban. (Source: Independent)

As another 'mega-dingy' carried a record 230 people across the English Channel, the trend towards larger boats comes under scrutiny, against a background of increased profits for organised gangs. Despite the change in tactics, there has been a 43% decrease in numbers making the crossing in the first six months

of this year compared with the previous year. Interventions by French authorities has led to 10 small boats being stopped at sea since the spring, alongside increased land based surveillance operations. (Sources: Independent, the Guardian, infoMigrants)

A new 24 week statutory timeframe for determining some immigration and asylum appeals came into effect on 12 August. Lawyers have raised concerns about how this will work in practice, with a significant backlog of existing cases unaffected by the new framework. A government news story has also been published. (Sources: ILPA, Gov.uk)

The Royal College of Nursing has published a report on exploitation of international nursing staff working in the social care sector, finding that some employers actively use workers' immigration status as a tool to suppress complaints. (Source: Electronic Immigration Network)

This article explains the reasons why official confirmation that a person has been a victim of trafficking does not necessarily mean that person is eligible to claim asylum. (Source: Free Movement)

Four Ugandan boxers are said to have 'disappeared' in Glasgow after competing in the Commonwealth Games. This is not uncommon after major sporting events where athletes have previously attempted to claim asylum in the UK. (Source: the Guardian)

A review of legal arguments concerning climate change and displacement notes significant challenges due to the lack of any internationally recognised category of 'climate refugee'. (Source: Free Movement)

On asylum accommodation:

- As more asylum hotels close across the country, a new briefing examines what happens to residents when they have to move. Relatedly, the government continues to reopen military sites, despite considerable local opposition. (Sources: Gov.uk, the Guardian)

- Research into the number of asylum seekers supported by local authorities has shown a wide variation between the most deprived and the most affluent areas across the country. The Prime minister has said that wealthier areas

should be more involved in asylum dispersal. (Sources: The Spectator, BBC)

Specific migrant groups

UK universities are calling for the government to reverse a tax on international student fees after applications for student visas to the end of July fell 11% compared with the previous year. Sector leaders warn the drop in income puts the future of UK universities at risk. (Source: the Guardian)

Around 100 children have been wrongly detained as adults under the government's 'one in, one out' policy, according to an independent monitoring board appointed to scrutinise immigration detention facilities. (Source: the Guardian)

Cohesion and integration

New polling by the International Research Committee finds that most Britons want more focus on the reasons for asylum seekers fleeing their own country, and less focus on how they arrive in UK. Conducted by YouGov, the poll also found that most Britons are sympathetic to those fleeing war or persecution and are proud of Britain's history of offering asylum to those in danger. (Source:

IRC)

Following the disorder in Thetford, the Guardian looks in detail at why the town became such a flashpoint for anti-immigration protests, particularly why alleged Houses of Multiple Occupancy became such a target, and the lingering tensions amongst the local community. (Source: The Guardian)

Lord Dubs has shared his personal story of escaping Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and finding safety and opportunity in Britain as part of Refugee Council's celebration of the 75th anniversary of the UN refugee Convention. (Source: Refugee Council)

A new podcast features transgender refugees in Bradford who talk about their experience of finding sanctuary in a northern city. (Source: QueerAF)

International news

12 Afghan women and girls bravely document a day in their lives five years after the Taliban's return to power, revealing how restrictions on education, work, movement and freedom have reshaped their daily existence. Despite fear, surveillance and

isolation, their stories highlight resilience and determination, telling the world, “We are still here.” (Source: the Guardian)

New IOM data show that although irregular migration arrivals to Europe fell sharply in early 2026, migrant deaths on key routes rose dramatically, indicating that journeys are becoming increasingly dangerous due to severe weather, conflict, shifting migration policies and longer, riskier travel routes. (Source: IOM)

In response to the role of social media in last week’s Ceuta border crisis, the EU has met with social media platforms to urge stronger monitoring and closer cooperation with fact-checkers during crises. (Source: InfoMigrants)

Stories that inspired us this week

A Level exam success all round for students from Ukraine like Oles, who initially struggled with English language skills when he started at Bradford Grammar School but has gone on to achieve A’s and A*’s and is headed to Durham University to study Law. Also, Anastasiia who was delighted to tell her father in Ukraine about her results and is on her way to study Sociology at Newcastle University. (Sources: The Yorkshire Post; The Northern Echo)

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