Migration news roundup week commencing 26 October 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 recent trends in the Channel crossings involving larger boats and higher numbers of people, a ‘mass casualty event’ is seen as inevitable by the Home Office border security commander. Meanwhile in Hampshire, the government is reportedly proposing to re-open and expand the Haslar immigration removal centre in Gosport and looking at nearby Fort Blockhouse as a potential landing site for small boat arrivals. (Sources: Independent, iNews)

More detail has been revealed about the refugee student route, one of the new 'safe and legal routes' announced recently. The scheme will start in 2027 with a small number of students and sponsoring universities will provide accommodation and a

bursary. (Source: The PIE)

On settlement reforms, Energy Secretary Miatta Fahnbulleh was reported to have criticised the government's lengthening of the settlement process saying it would delay integration, then removed the related post from her constituency website. She later retracted comments in an interview about migration policy and confirmed she supports the Home Secretary's plans. (Source: the Guardian)

Many people on visas pay around 60% more into the NHS budget than it costs to treat them because they contribute to it through taxes as well as the immigration health surcharge, according to a briefing from an independent health think tank. (Source: Nuffield Trust)

Caseworker guidance for immigration staff dealing with Worker and Temporary Worker sponsor licensing has been updated relating to when there's a change in circumstances of employer sponsors. (Source: UK Visas and Immigration)

Specific migrant groups

A Palestinian father describes the pain of separation from his family in Gaza, as the Home Office continues to refuse to waive biometric requirements for their visas, amid appealing a court ruling. There are thought to be up to 300 similar cases involving Palestinians who applied for refugee family reunion before the route was suspended in September last year. (Source: Al Jazeera)

Continuing on the topic of refugees, these guides were recently published:

- Safe Return Reviews and Revocation of Refugee Status for those going through reviews of their protection status. (Source: Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit)
- A toolkit for professionals working on protection claims where climate change is a factor. (Source: Earth Refuge)
- An interactive resource covering services and support in the UK co-produced by people with lived experience of the immigration system. This is an update on an existing resource, now in web app format. (Source: Praxis)

This article on the Hong Kong BN(O) visa route covers visa refusals related to overseas convictions linked to political protests and discusses options available to unsuccessful applicants. Elsewhere, the Hong Kong community in Solihull is fundraising for this year's Poppy Appeal for veterans. (Sources: Free Movement, Solihull Observer)

New estimates of the economic contribution of international graduates to host country economies calculate the contributions of 2024 graduates and highlight that the UK is one of the countries benefiting most. (Source: Icef monitor)

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner Eleanor Lyons has criticised several proposed measures in the Immigration and Asylum Bill, including using delays in disclosure to cast doubt on credibility, due to the impact on survivors of sexual violence. This legal article points out that behaviours such as disclosure

delays, inconsistencies and inaccuracies in accounts, and failure to provide information, are acknowledged in the government's own guidance as not unusual for those with genuine claims. (Sources: the Guardian, Free Movement)

This piece covers an example of migrant healthcare workers seeking employment support from a company but still struggling to secure work, while in Merseyside there's been continued racial abuse of migrant care workers, often from children still at primary school, despite previous incidents being reported to the police. (Sources: BBC, Liverpool Echo)

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse has opened an inquiry on 'the public sector response to Black, minoritised and migrant women who are survivors of domestic abuse'. The deadline for submissions of evidence is 19 November. (Source: Women's Aid)

Cohesion and integration

This interactive data briefing shows how Yorkshire and Humber compares to other UK regions and nations in relation to different groups of migrant residents, including place of birth and reason for migration, and change since Brexit. (Source: Migration Observatory)

Sunder Katwala, the Director at think tank British Future, reflects on British attitudes towards support for those seeking sanctuary, in the context of the 75th anniversary of the Refugee Convention. (Source: Eastern Eye)

A nugget of migration history is revealed in 100-year-old letters between a couple who were hoping to be reunited in London in the 1920s amid typical barriers to making a journey: money, employment and family ties. Meyer travelled to study and became an anthropologist, while Sonia and both their families had fled the Russian Empire to South Africa. (Source: Craven Herald)

International news

It's been reported that irregular border crossings into the EU fell by almost one-third in the first nine months of 2026. Meanwhile, this article comments on how far-right parties across Europe have sought to link recent protest violence and civil unrest to immigration and border policies. (Sources: Frontex, the Guardian)

Outside Europe nearly 4,000 refugees from Yemen have made the treacherous journey across the Red Sea to Djibouti recently. This collection of stories illustrates the impact of escalating conflict. (Source: the Guardian)

Stories that inspired us this week

A pioneering heart surgeon Asif Hasan, who came to the UK in the 1980s, received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pride of Britain Awards, for dedicating over three decades to caring for thousands of children with complex heart conditions. (Source: Mirror)

A school in Shropshire has been delivering cookery classes to bring together Afghan and other pupils. Albrighton Primary School partnered with Shrewsbury Food Hub to deliver the classes, introducing children to new foods and cultures and helping Afghan young people feel at home. Closer to home, ammunition boxes from Ukraine have been turned into artwork that's being displayed at Bolton Priory, near Skipton from 29 October to 13 November. (Sources: BBC, Ilkley Gazette)

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