# 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

The Immigration and Asylum Bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons and now moves to the House of Lords. A new amendment to the Bill will allow those who have become appeal rights exhausted to be removed with no notice (within a six-month period) instead of the current five working days. The government hopes this will avoid last minute appeals. Charities are concerned about the impact on individuals, many of whom may not have had access to appropriate legal advice in relation to their claim. (Sources: Home Office, BBC, the Guardian)

This article reports on asylum seekers being removed to France on the last 'one in, one out' transfer flight, renewing debate about the impact of the scheme. (Source: the Guardian)

A review by the government's migration advisory body looked at two routes for admitting 'top talent' to the country. It described the labour market outcomes for the 'Global Talent' route as 'respectable' but recommends minimum earnings at the point of

settlement. It advises closure of the ‘Innovator Founder’ route to attract entrepreneurs creating scalable businesses, due to a likely net cost in the long term. (Source: Migration Advisory Committee)

In relation to the earned settlement policy changes, migrants' rights groups argue longer routes to settlement may have significant consequences for older and vulnerable people, giving an example of a blind Nigerian pensioner who has lived in the UK for 26 years. (Source: the Guardian)

Plans to expand an immigration removal centre in Oxfordshire have prompted criticism over its proximity to a sewage treatment facility. Campaigners and local residents have expressed concerns about the suitability of the site. (Source: the Guardian)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has released an International Migration Statistics Strategy, outlining plans for delivering migration estimates over the next decade. (Source: ONS)

## Specific migrant groups

News about asylum accommodation sites includes:

- The Immigration Minister confirmed a set of eight asylum hotels that have been closed, while others earmarked for closure will be announced in coming months. A fact verification site examined a defence minister’s claim of how

many hotels this government has closed in total, making it clear that since a peak in 2023 some closed under the previous government and some under the current government. It also highlights there's a difference between the fall in the number of individuals being accommodated in hotels and the fall in the number of hotels in use. (Sources: Mirror, Full Fact)

- The proposed asylum site near Piddington continues to be a source of controversy as residents plan to bring a legal challenge over the plans. In related news, the village of Barnham in Suffolk near the former RAF base also proposed as a possible large site, was planning a referendum for leaving the UK, in an echo of Piddington's previous protest vote. (Source: BBC)
- An undercover investigation said asylum seekers living at ex-military site Crowborough are not receiving adequate welfare checks. The documentary also focuses on the effect of the site on the local community. (Source: ITV, 58 minutes)

On refugees:

- This article provides an overview of the three new refugee sponsorship routes announced earlier in the autumn and due to open next year: community sponsorship, study, and work. (Source: Free Movement)
- This research looks at employers, their role and influences when hiring refugees, suggesting ways to overcome common barriers they encounter. (Source: Red Cross)

- This review of ‘Seize the Summit’, a film about refugees attempting to climb Kilimanjaro, contemplates the importance of portraying refugees as human beings. (Source: the Guardian)

In case you missed it, Hong Kongers in Sheffield have expressed concern at the continuation of the city's twinning arrangements with the Chinese city of Chengdu due to China's human rights record. (Source: BBC)

The Scottish government has published a review of its Ukrainian support programme. While describing a ‘safe and warm welcome’, it emphasises that housing is central to overall success and that the ‘Super Sponsor’ scheme is not sustainable. (Source: Scottish Government)

Following a legal challenge, financial exploitation will now be recognised by the government as a form of modern slavery. The case related to a care worker from Pakistan who was charged £22,000 by an agent to secure a role which turned out not to exist, leaving him and his family destitute. (Source: the Guardian)

On international students:

- The Home Office has stated it is not using compliance measures and visa refusals as a tactic to reduce the number of international students. It said it made changes to

the compliance system partly because of increases in people on student visas claiming asylum. (Source: The PIE)
- This year's winners of the #WeAreInternational awards, that celebrate people who make a different to international students, include Joel Mordi, a student at York University who has a refugee background and co-founded initiatives to support refugees. (Source: UK Council for International Student Affairs)

## Cohesion and integration

An ‘experiment’ poll on who the British public believe should be prioritised for social housing has been published. The results show lower priority for those with refugee status than for UK citizens, even for those refugees with the greatest level of need. (Source: YouGov)

A university research project aims to develop an approach to language education that includes indigenous minority languages, foreign languages and English, with the goal of discovering how learning languages like Welsh can support the integration of asylum seekers and refugees. (Source: Swansea University)

## International news

Five EU countries have announced a pilot scheme for a Rwanda-based ‘return hub’ for people whose asylum claims have been rejected, the first to use the EU's newly agreed Returns

Regulation. (Source: the Guardian)

UNHCR has launched a Refugee Data Portal bringing together data on refugee populations, living conditions and socio-economic conditions. This will provide a more comprehensive evidence base for those working to support displaced populations. (Source: UNHCR)

Spain declared a migration emergency as a record 1,488 migrants arrived in the Canary Islands in 14 dinghies on one day. New EU rules that came into force in June haven't prevented migration into Spanish territories. (Source: Al Jazeera)

## Stories that inspired us this week

The Head of Celtic FC Foundation in Glasgow stated, 'We are a football club formed through migration,' in reference to the history of those who fled hardship in Ireland. Now the Foundation is working with Scottish Refugee Council on a pilot project, providing advice and signposting to refugees. (Source: Third Force News)

'Tent', a network of 500 companies such as Pret a Manger and Marriott hotels, reports that between them they have employed more than 85,000 refugees across Europe and the Americas since 2022. The founder describes it as 'a win-win-win for refugees, for businesses, and for society'. (Source: PR Newswire)

This film review describes 'Hazara Town', a documentary about a displaced Afghan family living in Pakistan waiting for the chance to build a life somewhere else, based on the director's own

family experiences. (Source: Variety)

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