Migration news roundup week commencing 10 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

The new Prime Minister responded to the Ceuta news story by stating he'll visit the Border Force on the south coast and work with the Home Secretary to explore what more is needed in relation to Channel crossings. (Source: BBC, one minute)

As figures suggest people using small boats to cross the Channel are down by as much as 43%, this article discusses how effective the government has been in trying to prevent the crossings. Whilst smuggling operations have been disrupted, they have not stopped - with smugglers widening the range of coastline they operate from, using larger 'mega dinghies', and also using lorries

as an alternative route. This related data briefing analyses why small boat arrivals have declined in 2026, recognising the impact of both policy and non-policy factors. (Sources: the Guardian, Migration Observatory)

The government's quarterly Immigration Advice Authority (IAA) newsletter is now available for July - you can also follow the link to sign up. (Source: IAA)

Specific migrant groups

News on asylum includes:

- Rainbow Migration, a charity supporting LGBTQIA+ asylum seekers, has raised concerns about the Home Office reducing the number of asylum interviews from two to one, stating this provides less opportunity for individuals to fully explain their circumstances (Source: DIVA)

- Procurement of asylum housing in County Durham is starting up again, after being paused due to concerns about the impact on local communities. The Home Office has advised that it urgently needs more bedspaces. (Source: The Northern Echo)

- A number of residents were dragged from their properties and a police officer was bitten during anti-migrant violence in Thetford, Norfolk. Several arrests were made and the local MP condemned the behaviour, stating 'I know many Thetford residents share my disgust and concern'. (Source: Sky)

In case you missed this item on young people, the Upper Tribunal rejected the Home Office's claim that age assessments conducted by their in-house National Age Assessment Board on young people seeking asylum should be given 'special weight' over those carried out by local authority social workers. (Source: Free Movement)

On EU settlement, it's been reported that some EU nationals with leave under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) have received Home Office letters informing them their status was granted 'in error'. (Whilst this is concerning for the individuals, it's part of a process announced earlier this year 'to maintain the integrity and fairness of the EUSS' by removing pre-settled status from individuals who are no longer eligible.) (Sources: the Guardian, Home Office)

On modern slavery:

- research suggests UK businesses can't identify and prevent modern slavery, and don't even have basic systems in place . (Source: Institution of Occupational Safety and Health)

- a survivor of trafficking who was forced to drive a small boat across the Channel at gunpoint and subsequently received an eight-month prison sentence has been successful in challenging the Home Office practice of pursuing criminal charges without first considering a referral to the National Referral Mechanism. In a separate case, another suspected victim of trafficking who was removed to France under the 'one in, one out' scheme is to be returned to the UK after a High Court judgement in his favour. (Sources: Free Movement, the Guardian)

- a new report investigates migrant labour exploitation in the construction industry, highlighting some of the issues arising from subcontracting chains that make it difficult to monitor worker welfare on site. (Source: FLEX)

On Windrush, a university free legal advice clinic supporting Windrush clients to apply for compensation has been recognised

during a visit to Downing Street, as part of celebrations for Windrush Day. (Source: Leicester University)

On skilled workers:

- the government has expanded the Global Talent visa, enabling more than 100 innovative companies to bring scientists and engineers to work in the UK. (Source: Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade)

- a range of surprising employers have registered with the Home Office to sponsor international skilled workers, including vape shops and car washes. However, people applying for non-graduate professions are not eligible for sponsorship. (Source: BBC)

Cohesion and integration

Residents in Dover have been interviewed on their attitudes towards small boat arrivals and how they feel about the way Dover is portrayed by rightwing influencers and politicians. (Source: the Guardian)

This article explores population and demographic changes in the UK since the millennium, in what they're calling ‘Britain's Quarter Century’ - in particular, looking at changing levels of immigration and population diversity, and how these have been reflected in changing social attitudes over the last 25 years. (Source: The Conversation)

International news

The Malaysian government has come under criticism for a proposed repatriation plan for Rohingya refugees, amidst increasing online hate towards the refugees within Malaysia. Malaysia, which is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention but hosts more than 215,000 refugees, said it won’t return the 5,000 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar if their lives would be at risk. (Source: Al Jazeera)

Following significant numbers of people crossing from Morocco into Spanish Ceuta, most people returned quickly although many of those remaining are unaccompanied children. Meanwhile, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen offered strengthened operational and financial support for Morocco to help manage migration flows, and Italy introduced temporary border checks on travellers arriving from Spain by air and sea.

(Sources: International Rescue Committee, Politico, the Guardian)

Stories that inspired us this week

Read about Saifullah from Afghanistan, who was dealing with loneliness when he came to Barnsley. Supported by the Refugee Council, he's now rebuilding his life and has found friendship by joining a local cricket team. (Source: Refugee Council)

A teenager who came to the UK as an unaccompanied refugee has been named his college's 'Student of the Year' and received an award from Centrepoint. Samsom's achievement highlights the importance of providing effective support to unaccompanied young refugees. (Source: The Bournemouth Echo)

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