

# **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.*

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## **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 Centrepont. Samsom's achievement highlights the importance of providing effective support to unaccompanied young refugees. (Source: The Bournemouth Echo)

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