Migration news roundup week commencing 06 April 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 UK-France three-year agreement to prevent small boat crossings was due to expire and has been extended for two months pending negotiations on a longer-term deal that might introduce performance targets. The UK will pay just over £16 million to France for beach patrols during the extension period. This data briefing looks at small boat numbers and the characteristics of people arriving. There's tragic news that at least two people lost their lives on the journey to the UK, the first cases in 2026. (Sources: BBC, Migration Observatory, the Guardian)

This briefing looks at data on deportations and voluntary removals, finding that half of those who made an unsuccessful asylum claim between 2010 and 2022 had returned by the end of last year. (Source: Migration Observatory)

An All-Party Parliamentary Group issued a call for evidence on the impact of recent and proposed immigration and asylum changes on poverty with a deadline of 13 May. Meanwhile, researchers from the Glasgow Refugee, Asylum and Migration Network have highlighted what they see as the negative effects on security and levels of destitution if proposed immigration reforms are fully implemented. (Sources: APPG on Migration, openDemocracy)

Data shortcomings are increasing the challenges of developing effective UK migration policy, according to this analysis, risking consequences such as those from the Windrush scandal. (Source: The Economist)

Specific migrant groups

News on the asylum system includes:

- The High Court ruled that in the cases of two asylum seeking families housed in hotels, the Home Secretary failed to provide adequate accommodation. The case focused on issues of vulnerability, overcrowding, and the length of time certain living conditions can be considered adequate. There’s potential for further legal challenge. (Source: Local Government Lawyer)

- In light of the government's decision to offer families up to £40,000 to leave voluntarily, this article questions the effectiveness of offering financial incentives to leave the UK. (Source: The i Paper)

- This report explores ongoing challenges relating to legal advice and representation for those in the asylum system, and the impact on individuals. It advises that 'charities cannot fill this gap.' (Source: Migrants Organise)

As part of post-Brexit negotiations, the UK is seeking a fixed cap within a proposed UK–EU youth mobility scheme, while the EU has proposed an 'emergency brake' to limit numbers if they rise too high. (Source: Independent)

This briefing explains what share codes are and how they can be used to demonstrate an individual's immigration status. (Source: Free Movement)

This article suggests that visa restrictions and the high cost of living are deterring some international students from selecting UK universities. Meanwhile, you can listen to interviews with Sudanese and Afghan students affected by the government's recent student visa ban. (Sources: The i Paper, the Guardian, 26 minutes)

On modern slavery:

- Following a legal challenge the Home Secretary accepted that modern slavery decision makers were applying an unlawful threshold in relation to ‘reasonable grounds’ decisions. Caseworkers were incorrectly told to refuse cases where ‘objective evidence’ was not provided. (Source: Free Movement)

- New research explores victim engagement in police operations on modern slavery, making recommendations for policy and practice improvements. (Source: Liverpool John Moores University)

- There’s some analysis here of the latest National Referral Mechanism (NRM) statistics. (Source: IOM)

- Resources on Kurdish culture aimed at police officers have been produced by the Modern Slavery Organised Immigration Crime Unit (MSOICU) along with relevant contacts and further reading. (Source: MSOICU)

Cohesion and integration

A recent poll indicates that voters are more likely than not to support the government’s plan to double the wait for indefinite

leave to remain from five to ten years, although a third of respondents didn't express a clear view. There was a narrower margin on the question of whether changes should apply to people already in the UK. (Source: The i Paper)

An anti-far right march took place in London attracting tens of thousands of people. The action, organised by the Together Alliance, brought together community groups and unions from across the country to stand against 'hatred and division and racism'. (Source: BBC)

International news

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz signalled that Germany will work with Syria to facilitate the return of Syrian refugees . (Source: Reuters)

France risks failing to meet the June implementation deadline of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact on border controls due to legislative delays. (Source: Le Monde)

Poland has extended temporary controls at its borders with Germany and Lithuania to counter irregular migration and maintain security. (Source: Reuters)

Stories that inspired us this week

A Ukrainian cultural festival took place in Keighley for the third consecutive year, bringing people together to celebrate their heritage and share their culture. The organising group spoke of

their warm welcome from local residents. (Source: BBC)

In Stirling, a new drama and storytelling project is bringing together refugees from multiple countries to explore their experiences of displacement and resilience through weekly workshops. There’ll be a public performance at the end of the project in September. (Source: Stirling News)

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