Migration news roundup week commencing 12 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.

Content warning: This week's news roundup contains themes around death and rape that some readers may find distressing.

- UK borders and migration policy
- Specific migrant groups
- Cohesion and integration
- International news
- Stories that inspired us this week

UK borders and migration policy

There's been further tragedy in the Channel with two men losing their lives attempting the crossing and two women hospitalised with burns. When discussing Channel crossings on a news podcast interview, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said that most women arriving by small boat will have been raped somewhere along their journey; critics imply that fewer women and girls would make the journey if government hadn't closed the refugee family reunion route. Meanwhile 25 dinghies were seized at the East Midlands airport freight hub en route from Turkey to the Netherlands, and estimated to be capable of transporting around 1,700 people from France to the UK. (Sources: Le Monde, the Guardian, National Crime Agency)

A court has ruled against the Home Office decision to prevent two women and their children currently in Gaza from joining their husbands (already with refugee status) in the UK. The UK visa application centre in Gaza remains closed, and as the Home Office requires biometric checks to be completed prior to travel, these families cannot reach the UK. (Note this is separate from the recently announced plan to resettle some Palestinians under the UK Resettlement Scheme). (Source: the Guardian)

Updates on the Immigration and Asylum Bill include:

- The government published factsheets providing further information on the proposed legislative measures within the Immigration and Asylum Bill 2026, which is making its way through the parliamentary process. (Source: Home Office)
- Human rights and civil liberties campaigners have expressed concerns about proposed changes to how the right to respect for private and family life is considered in immigration decisions. They argue that the implications of these proposals could potentially affect the rights of everyone living in the UK. (Source: Liberty)

Three people thought to be part of a criminal network were arrested after Home Office enforcement activity in relation to suspected fabrication of evidence to support asylum claims made on the grounds of sexual orientation. (Source: BBC)

Specific migrant groups

News items about asylum include:

- The High Court has heard from asylum seeking families, mainly women and children, affected by sudden hotel closures, with many being told to move to other parts of the country, leaving behind friends and support networks. Lawyers representing the families say the Home Office did not consider the traumatic effects of long distance relocations. (Source: Independent)
- The York and North Yorkshire Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime has asked for confirmation that should the Linton-on-Ouse site be used for asylum accommodation, this would be a temporary arrangement until 2029 when the base would be returned to the Ministry of Defence. (Source: Northern Echo)
- Clearsprings Ready Homes' practice of entering long term contracts with private landlords to provide asylum accommodation has come under scrutiny with some questioning whether the deals are good value for money. (Source: property118)

This blog post focuses on the difference between the Immigrational Salary List and the Temporary Shortage List and the implications for employers. (Source: Electronic Immigration Network)

You can sign up to listen to a free lecture about how the migrant population fares in the labour market, based on official data, on 29 October. (Source: Office for National Statistics/Eventbrite)

Cohesion and integration

In response to a shadow minister's claims about ‘no-go zones’ in Luton, this investigation talks to members of the Luton community about their experiences and how safe the local streets feel. (Source: the Guardian)

We missed this a few weeks ago - a report on attitudes and experience regarding racial discrimination in the UK finds that some perceive racial discrimination as getting worse and progress on inequality as going backwards. It identifies workplace equality as a priority. (Source: British Future)

A Scottish newspaper series of stories 'Refugees are welcome here' has been nominated for a media industry award. The stories told readers about people who have found sanctuary in Scotland. (Source: The National)

International news

UN data shows that more than 20,000 children who reached Europe through migration routes in 2025 travelled without parent or guardian. (Source: Info Migrants)

Malaysia has begun returning Myanmar nationals despite concerns over safety, conscription and continuing conflict. (Source: AP news)

Australia is introducing tougher rules for international students who repeatedly change courses or visas to extend their stay. (Source: the Guardian)

Stories that inspired us this week

This article for Black History Month highlights five Black people in Leeds who were an important part of local history. (Source: Yorkshire Evening Post)

You can find details about when and where to visit the free 'Under One Sky' exhibition in Knaresborough at the end of October. It displays photos and stories from people who found refuge in North Yorkshire. (Source: Harrogate News)

'What we leave we carry: Voices of migration to Britain' is a talk in Sheffield on 23 October by writer Colin Grant, part of the Off the Shelf festival of words. (Source: Off the Shelf)

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