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The Newsflash is a bi-monthly round up of publications, information, events, funding and jobs relating to asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers for anyone who wants to keep up to date with the latest developments.

The newsflash is produced by the East of England Local Government Association - Strategic Migration Partnership.

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Asylum Seekers and Refugees – including refugee resettlement

UK and Bangladesh sign agreement to tackle illegal migration – Home Office

In May the [UK and Bangladesh signed a partnership agreement to cooperate on tackling illegal migration](#). This will enable the UK Government to streamline and speed up the returns process. The work will also facilitate legal migration, tackle visa abuse, strengthen data sharing and capacities, and combat serious organised crime.

Asylum seekers detained for removal to Rwanda – Home Office

In May, the first group of failed asylum seekers were [detained in readiness to deport them to Rwanda](#). The cohort being detained can be removed through existing legislation and do not fall under the Illegal Migration Act, meaning the recent Northern Ireland High Court judgment on the legislation has no impact on current operations to relocate people.

Asylum accommodation and UK-Rwanda partnership - House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts

Following Royal Assent of the Safety of Rwanda Bill in April 2024, the Committee of Public Accounts prepared a [report comparing the cost of asylum accommodation \(including the Wethersfield site in Essex\) with the Rwanda Bill](#). The Committee makes recommendations including the need for clearer breakdown of costs and feasibility planning; clarity on how the government will ensure the wellbeing of people awaiting relocation; evaluating the local impact; and evaluating whether the policy has a deterrent impact on irregular asylum journeys.

Physical and mental health support for people seeking asylum – Home Office

The Home Office has published [guidance for asylum seekers](#) who have concerns about their physical or mental health. It provides contact details for accommodation support service providers, other organisations, domestic abuse and suicide prevention helplines. The guidance is translated into Arabic, Chinese and Pashto.

Report on the impact of age assessments on child asylum seekers – Helen Bamber Foundation & Young Roots

The Helen Bamber Foundation and Young Roots drew on focus group discussions to produce a [16-page report on the impact of](#) local authority age assessments. A related [20-page report](#), also by the Helen Bamber Foundation and Young Roots, outlines their recommendations to improve the age assessment process using trauma-informed approaches.

Communities for Afghans – Citizens UK

Following community-sponsorship pathways for resettlement of other nationalities, Communities for Afghans is a project delivered in partnership by Sponsor Refugees and the UK Government. Interested groups (of at least six individuals) are invited to register their interest and attend upcoming information sessions throughout June and July. [Read more.](#)

New-look Housing Rights website

The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) have unveiled a [refreshed version of the Housing Rights website](#). Housing Rights gives recent arrivals and housing advisers up-to-date information about people's rights when looking for a home, based on their immigration status. Coinciding with Refugee Week 2024 (17-23 June), the new website has been designed to improve the user experience and ease navigation so both housing advisers and new arrivals can easily access the information they need.

Home Office data

The Home Office released a number of datasets in this period:

- [Statistics on irregular migration](#) for the year ending March 2024.
- [Immigration system statistics](#) for the year ending March 2024, covering people coming to the UK, extensions of stay, citizenship, EUSS, asylum, detentions and returns.
- [Migration Journey Report 2023](#), a report on how migrants' leave status changes as they journey through the immigration system.
- [National Referral Mechanism and Duty to Notify statistics](#) from quarter January – March 2024.
- Seven-day data on [small boat activity in the English Channel](#) (updated weekly).
- [Analysis of migrants' use of the Graduate route](#) and what they do after their studies.

DLUHC Ukrainian data

DLUHC has released figures relating to Ukrainian nationals in the UK:

- a count of [Ukrainian nationals in employment](#) in the UK, March 2022-March 2024 (disaggregated by age, gender, nation).
- Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme visa data [disaggregated by county, upper and lower tier authority and nation](#).
- Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme visa data by [age and sex of applicant](#).

Migration

Video on how to create a UKVI account and access your eVisa – Home Office & UKVI

The Home Office has released a [promotional video](#) on creating a UKVI account and accessing users' eVisas. The video is only available in English.

More detailed guidance on eVisas is also available [online](#). As advised in the previous Newsflash, anyone with a BRP that expires by the end of 2024 will be contacted soon to register for an eVisa. Everyone else will be contacted later in the year. BRP holders and support organisations are encouraged to sign up for updates to the page.

Modern Slavery awareness raising resource – Home Office

The Home Office has updated its [resource](#) page to raise awareness of Modern Slavery amongst public sector professionals and partners that might come across victims, enabling them to better spot the signs and report concerns. The resource contains links to videos, external training materials, toolkits and e-learning courses. These are categorised according to their target audience, such as local authorities, health professionals and enforcement teams.

How to Change Minds on Migration – Praxis

Praxis has shared [guidance](#) on having impactful, accurate and fact-based discussions on migration with family, friends and colleagues. The guidance highlights the importance of personal stories and positive framing in influencing perceptions. It includes examples and practical tips.

IOM World Migration Report 2024

IOM has published its latest [World Migration Report](#), which provides an overview of global migration trends and developments. The report covers a wide range of topics, including the impact of climate change on migration, security, gender, and mobility after COVID-19. (Try performing a search using Ctrl+F “united kingdom” or a specific country of origin for specific data and information). The key data are available in an [interactive format](#), too.

UK Launch Event

On **26 June, 12:00 – 13:00**, IOM UK will host a virtual UK launch of this report. The talk will be opened by the UK Chief of Mission. It will then be led by the IOM's global head of research and publications, the lead on remittances and diaspora development, followed by a Q&A. Please register via this [link](#).

Roma Archive, Peterborough – COMPAS Charity

COMPAS charity in Peterborough have received a grant from the National Trust Heritage to create a Roma Archive. [The Roma Archive and Cultural Centre](#) (RACC) will focus on identity, pride, remembrance and solidarity, and aims to create a digital archive of resources, including a podcast and digitised oral histories and artwork, to achieve the charity's goal to "preserve heritage of European Roma migrants".

To find out more and get updates on the progress of the archive, follow the [Roma Archive and Cultural Centre Facebook page](#).

Research

The impact of migration on UK population growth – The Migration Observatory

The Migration Observatory at the University of Oxford has produced a briefing on the [impact of migration on future demographic trends in the UK](#), based on official estimates and projections. The report finds that migration has been the main driver of population growth in the UK between 2004 and 2022, and projects that migration will account for 92% of population growth until 2046.

Events and Training

Refugee Week 2024

[Refugee Week 2024](#) will take place in the UK from 17-23 June, to coincide with World Refugee Day on 20 June. The week-long event celebrates the contributions of refugees and promotes understanding of their experiences. The theme this year is 'Our Home'.

Refugee Week Exhibition in St Albans – Herts Welcomes Refugees

Herts Welcomes Refugees have organised an exhibition of art and text from refugees on what 'home' means to them. The exhibition is at the St Albans Museum + Gallery throughout June. The artworks on display were gathered from refugees and asylum seekers that attend art clubs, conversation groups, homework clubs and other activities.

Where: St Albans Museum + Gallery

When: 1 – 30 June 2024

Price: Free

For more details: <https://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/herts-welcomes-refugees>

Online events which are accessible by all include:

A free curated film programme of feature length and short films

When: Self-access throughout Refugee Week, 17th-23rd June 2024

Where: Links will be available online during Refugee Week. Check [FREE Film Programme: Other Cinemas](#)

An evening of poetry readings from international artists

When: June 17, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm –

Where: Register online [Poetry Readings with The Other Side of Hope Magazine](#)

Buy from refugee-led brands during Refugee Week - The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN)

[Anqa](#) has partnered with Refugee Week UK to offer a curated selection of products that highlight the diverse creativity and cultural richness of the TERN community. Every purchase directly supports a refugee entrepreneur, helping them to grow their business.

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month 2024 (GRTM)

June is Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month, celebrating and raising awareness of GRT communities' histories and cultures.

Teaching resources - Norfolk County Council: NCC has produced resources for primary and secondary education, celebrations, displays and assemblies, and resources about GRT culture. Click [here](#) to access.

Unlearning Lightbulb: seminar and networking event, Chelmsford

Date: 24 June, 12:00-17:00

Place: Anglia Ruskin University MAR010, Bishop Hall Lane MAR010 Chelmsford CM1 1SQ

For more information and to register: [click here](#).

Online entrepreneur support introduction - The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network (TERN)

TERN is hosting a free online introductory session for entrepreneurs and businesspeople who are interested in supporting refugee entrepreneurs.

Date: 9 July, 17:30 (alternative dates 10 or 12 September at 17:30)

Place: Google Meet (joining details will be shared with registrants)

Registration: [Eventbrite](#)

Asylum Support and Appeals eLearning – Asylum Support Appeals Project (ASAP)

ASAP offers free eLearning courses on asylum support and appeals. The courses are designed for frontline workers, advisors, and volunteers working with asylum seekers. [Read more and register.](#)

Modules: Introduction to Asylum Support; Schedule 10 Support; Right of Appeal; Appeals Support; Section 4 Support; How to prove destitution; and support for survivors of domestic abuse.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and Young People Resources – National Children's Bureau

The National Children's Bureau has three information packs relevant to staff working with UASC:

- [Information and Advice for Providers Working with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People](#): containing resources, tools and guidance to support providers who work with UASC.
- [Information and Advice for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People](#): containing materials designed for young people, including mental health helplines and webchats to discuss their physical and emotional wellbeing.
- [Supporting Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People Living in Supported Accommodation – Learning Examples](#): containing key learning examples on the barriers and enablers in providing effective accommodation support to UASC.

Funding

Funding sites to check

Recipients of this bulletin are advised to regularly check sites the following sources of grant funding:

- The [National Lottery Community Fund](#) has previously funded refugee, asylum and migrant community projects.
- The [Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](#) lists refugee and asylum seekers amongst its key outcomes.
- The [Barrow Cadbury Trust](#) take requests on a rolling basis.
- The [Paul Hamlyn Foundation](#) take requests on a rolling basis.
- The [Blue Thread](#) lists migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as one of its two funding pillars.

Jobs

Trustee – Baca Charity

The Baca Charity is seeking a Trustee to join its Board. For more information click [here](#).

Salary: Voluntary

To apply: Send your expression of interest to Mark Vyner, the Chair of Trustees by email to:

mark.vyner@bacacharity.org.uk including: full contact details, details of relevant experience/qualifications, a cover letter.

Closing date: none provided.

Multiple roles – King’s Arms Project, Bedfordshire

The King’s Arms Project in Bedford is hiring multiple roles, as outlined below. Click to [read the full job descriptions and apply](#).

Facilities Officer

Terms: Permanent

Hours: 24 hours per week

Salary: £26,000 pro rata plus Pension Scheme, Life Insurance, Employee Discount App

Location: Bedford Town Centre based, but working across Bedfordshire, so a clean Driving Licence is essential

Closing Date: Sunday 30th June

Bank ESOL tutor

Terms: zero hours contract

Hours: various

Salary: £26,000 pro rata plus holiday pay

Closing date: none provided

ESOL tutor

Terms: permanent

Hours: 15-31 hours a week, negotiable, term time only

Location: Shefford, Bedfordshire

Salary: £26,000 pro rata plus holiday pay, Pension Scheme, Life Insurance, Employee Discount App

Closing date: none provided

Creche Nursery Assistant

Terms: zero hours contract

Hours: 10am – 2pm term time only

Location: Shefford, Bedfordshire

Salary: £23,795 *pro rata* plus holiday pay

Closing date: none provided

Kids United Holiday Club Assistant

Terms: zero hours contract

Hourly rate: £11.44

Hours: During school holidays – each half term and the first week of the summer holidays

Location: Bedford Sports & Hockey Centre, Chester Rd, Bedford MK40 4HL

Job start date: from July 2024

Closing date: none provided

Immigration Specialist Caseworker – Citizens Advice Stevenage

Citizens Advice Stevenage is recruiting an Immigration Specialist Caseworker. This worker will be part of the team delivering a new county-wide service commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council that is due to launch later this year. For more details and to apply [click here](#).

Salary: £24,056

Terms: Full-time, permanent

Closing date: 8 July

Client Partnership Coordinator – Suffolk Refugee Support

Suffolk Refugee Support is looking for a Client Partnership Coordinator to be responsible for providing support and leadership to Suffolk Refugee Support in the development of partnerships with clients to enable consultation, engagement and co-design of our services.

To apply, and view the Recruitment Pack and Application forms, click [here](#).

Hours: 28 hours per week

Salary: £23,094 (pro rata from £28,867 FTE for 35 hours per week)

Deadline: 4th July at 12 noon

Interview date: 11 July

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