

[Asylum Seekers and Refugees](#)

[Migration](#)

[Events](#)

[Funding](#)

[Jobs](#)

The Newsflash is a regular 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 Local Government East - Strategic Migration Partnership.

CONTENT

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

- [Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: 5 March 2026](#)
- [Refugee and Migrant Children’s Consortium: Briefing on the National Age Assessment Board February 2026](#)
- [Safe Passage International takes Home Office to court on family reunion suspension](#)
- [‘Life story work’ with refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people](#)
- [UK Trauma Council – Toolkits for children seeking sanctuary](#)
- [Right to Remain – Staying Safe: General Advice](#)
- [The Impact of ‘Safe Country’ Concepts on Women Seeking Asylum in the UK](#)
- [Planning for tomorrow](#)
- [Afghan schemes: funding instructions 2025 to 2026](#)

MIGRATION

- [Chartered Institute of Housing: Winter 2025-26 Housing Rights Newsletter](#)
- [Pre-settled status holders and domestic abuse immigration applications: policy changes](#)
- [Why personal finance is harder when you’re a migrant](#)
- [Learn About Britain](#)
- [Common Ground: Building cohesive communities](#)
- [UK Government expands Hong Kong British National \(Overseas\) route](#)

EVENTS AND TRAINING

- [City of Sanctuary: Local Authorities Thematic Network Meeting - Tackling Misinformation and Disinformation](#)
- [ECPAT UK: Online Training Courses](#)

FUNDING

- [There are no current funding opportunities available](#)

[Back to the top](#)

JOBS

- [Suffolk Refugee Support: Youth Coordinator](#)

Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: 5 March 2026

The Home Office has released a highly significant [new statement of changes to the Immigration Rules](#), the first of the year. The changes cover a range of areas, including visa restrictions, the duration of refugee protection, procedures for failed asylum seekers, alongside updates to English language requirements for settlement.

The statement includes details on the below key areas:

Refugee and Humanitarian protection

The Government is introducing a new, more basic and temporary, 'core protection' offer for refugees. The length of permission given to refugees will be reduced - from five years to 30 months. This change marks the start of introducing a new regime which aims to provide entitlements for refugees that are in accordance with our international obligations, without exceeding them.

Ukraine Permission Extension Scheme (phase 2)

Ukraine Permission Extension scheme changes will allow eligible people to continue their stay in the UK through a further 24 month grant of permission. The application window is being widened so people can apply up to 90 days before their current permission expires, instead of 28 days. This applies both to those extending their permission and to first time applicants.

English language requirements

From 26 March 2027, the English language requirement for settlement will increase from B1 to B2 across a wide range of immigration routes. This reflects what was outlined in the May 2025 Immigration White Paper, '[Restoring Control over the Immigration System](#)'.

Read a summary of the changes in full [here](#)

Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium: Briefing on the National Age Assessment Board February 2026

The Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium (RMCC) is a coalition of over 100 organisations working to promote and protect the rights of young refugees and migrants in the UK, with a key focus on age disputes. One key area of concern for the RMCC has been the introduction of the National Age Assessment Board (NAAB), which is a decision-making function within the Home Office that conducts age assessments on behalf of local authorities when requested to do so by the local authority or by the Home Office

The briefing covers the below areas of concern, followed by 5 recommendations, which you can read in full [here](#):

- Quality and reliability of assessments
- Inconsistent timeliness and double standards
- Lack of disaggregated data
- Undermining local authority judgement
- Lack of independent oversight and quality assurance
- Use of asylum claim information
- Ethical concerns about Home Office employment of social workers
- Impact on children's mental health and wellbeing

Safe Passage International takes Home Office to court on family reunion suspension

The Home Secretary announced a suspension to the Refugee Family Reunion pathway for children reuniting with parents and for partners reuniting, which came into force on 4 September 2025.

Safe Passage International, a charity that works with unaccompanied children and refugees to access safe routes to protection, says the suspension is unlawful, breaching legal obligations, including the duty to safeguard children.

Read the news article in full [here](#)

'Life story work' with refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people

Children and Families Across Borders (CFAB) have worked in partnership with [Blue Cabin](#) and [Therapeutic Life Story Work International](#) to create a [family of new resources](#) to support life story work with refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people. The resources are designed to provide guidance in an area where very little is currently available. The resources are free and available for anyone to access.

UK Trauma Council – Toolkits for children seeking sanctuary

The UK Trauma Council have a [range of resources](#) available which have been developed for adults supporting children and young people seeking asylum in the UK, including those working in education settings, community organisations and supported accommodation. The resources are free and available to download.

Right to Remain – Staying Safe: General Advice

Right to Remain have produced a [flier](#) on staying safe against the threat of far-right violence. It provides clear definitions and practical guidance on what to do if an individual experiences or is at risk of aggression or violence from far-right groups. The flier offers practical advice to support immediate safety and long-term resilience, centred on community care.

Tips include:

- Being prepared
- Being harassed
- Being aware of your surroundings
- Being filmed
- Aftercare
- Solidarity and witnessing
- Protests

The Impact of 'Safe Country' Concepts on Women Seeking Asylum in the UK

Women in Refugee Law (WiRL) and Asylos have worked in close collaboration to explore the impact of 'safe country' legislation on women seeking international protection, and the role of the country-of-origin information in fair and evidence-based asylum procedures. Together, they have produced this [report](#), which outlines the use of safe country concepts in the UK, highlights concerns about the impact on women seeking protection from gender-based harms, examines the role of country of origin information, and makes a range of important recommendations. In particular, the paper highlights the importance of recognising and valuing knowledge produced by women with lived experience.

Planning for tomorrow

This [report](#), published by the British Red Cross, evaluates the UK's response to displacement from Ukraine. The research is grounded in the lived experiences of people displaced from Ukraine and those who supported them. It is based on a survey of 1,421 displaced Ukrainians, as well as interviews with Ukrainians, hosts and professional

stakeholder. The insights from the report show how the UK can improve current schemes and better prepare for future crises, so that it doesn't need to start from scratch each time.

Afghan schemes: funding instructions 2025 to 2026

These [funding instructions](#) were first published on 25 April 2025. They were updated on 26 February 2026 as a result of policy changes to include information on:

- Individuals who have received an extension within HMG transitional accommodation
- Homelessness
- A new change of circumstance process for local authorities

These documents tell local authorities what funding is available to support the Afghan Resettlement Programme (ARP). They explain:

- how the funding works
- how local authorities can use it to support Afghans
- how to claim funding

Migration

Chartered Institute of Housing: Winter 2025-26 Housing Rights Newsletter

The most recent edition of the Chartered Institute of Housing Rights newsletter has been published and can be viewed [here](#).

Some key articles to note in this issue are as follows:

- an [article by Kate Wareing](#) on the new community-based asylum accommodation pilots
- [community based alternatives to asylum hotels](#)
- an [article on the Asylum Support Appeals Project](#) (ASAP), which looks at the coming changes in asylum support
- latest [government policies on homelessness, child poverty](#) and their impact on migrants

Pre-settled status holders and domestic abuse immigration applications: policy changes

Rights of Women has produced a [new guide](#) about changes to immigration policy affecting migrant victim-survivors of domestic abuse. It explains changes to government policy that allows migrants with pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme to keep this status when they obtain another form of immigration status, including as a victim of domestic abuse. Rights of Women is monitoring the impact of this policy change. If you know of women who are affected by this policy change and experience any difficulties, they would like to hear from you (contact nicole@row.org.uk).

Why personal finance is harder when you're a migrant

The Conversation has published [an article](#) detailing the issues migrants face in the UK, which makes it difficult for them to thrive financially. It sets out that migrants tend to arrive with a good work ethic, qualifications, professional experience and a drive to succeed, but they must navigate unfamiliar banks and financial products whilst also needing a good credit score to access mortgages, loans and even mobile phone contracts.

Learn About Britain

Learn About Britain (LAB) is a national charity working to educate those new to the UK, as well as young people growing up in Britain, about British history, citizenship and culture. LAB is looking to partner with local organisations in the East of England to run free educational tours for newly arrived communities in the region, as well as to piloting free online tutoring for people preparing for the Life in the UK citizenship test.

Learn more about the project [here](#). You can also contact the charity's founder, Joe Hayman: joe@learnaboutbritain.uk to discuss further.

Common Ground: Building cohesive communities

This [new guidance on social cohesion](#) has recently been published to help local authorities fulfil their role to promote and maintain community cohesion as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty. The guidance is authored by the Belong Network, a non-government organisation undertaking research, policy and practice on social cohesion. It has been endorsed on a cross-party basis by the Local Government Association, providing local authorities with the tools to address the challenges they face in this area, and share good practice with the goal of building cohesive communities.

UK Government expands Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route

Adult children of British National (Overseas) status holders who were under 18 at the time of Hong Kong's 1997 handover to China will now be eligible to apply for the route independently of their parents. Their partners and children will also be able to move to the UK under the expanded route. It is estimated 26,000 people will arrive in the UK over the next 5 years. In November, the Home Secretary further affirmed her commitment to Hong Kongers by confirming they will retain [a 5-year pathway to permanent UK settlement](#) – compared to a new standard baseline of 10 years' residence for most other migrants.

Applications will be open for this expanded route later this Spring, according to [Mike Tapp](#), The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Read this Home Office news story in full [here](#).

Events and Training

City of Sanctuary: Local Authorities Thematic Network Meeting - Tackling Misinformation and Disinformation

City of Sanctuary's first thematic network meeting of the year will take place on 26 March, 12:00-13:30 and will focus on Misinformation and Disinformation.

To register for the event, click [here](#). Joining details will be shared closer to the date.

More information about City of Sanctuary and what they do and offer can be found on their [website](#).

ECPAT UK: Online Training Courses

Overview of Child trafficking Modern Slavery and Exploitation

This course is split into two modules and gives an overview of child trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery in the UK, support to identify child exploitation, and an understanding the needs of child victims and to explore practice issues.

Module 1: 24 March, 9.30-1.30

Module 2: 25 March, 9.30-1.30

To book: [An Overview of Child Trafficking, Modern Slavery and Exploitation | ECPAT UK](#)

Care for Child Victims of Trafficking: Safe Accommodation and Missing from Care

This course is split into two modules. Module 1 gives an overview of child trafficking, exploitation and modern slavery in the UK, and Module 2 considers the impact of trauma and 'what works' in providing safe accommodation for child victims of trafficking, including the particular issues of victims of trafficking going missing from care.

Module 1:

Tuesday 21 April 2026, 9.30am — 1pm

Tuesday 19 May 2026, 9.30am - 1pm

Module 2:

Wednesday 22 April 2026, 9.30am — 1pm

Wednesday 20 May 2026, 9.30am - 1pm

To book: [Care for child victims of trafficking: Safe accommodation and missing from care | ECPAT UK](#)

Funding

There are no current funding opportunities available.

Jobs

Suffolk Refugee Support: Youth Coordinator

Suffolk Refugee Support (SRS) are looking for a Youth Coordinator to coordinate, deliver projects and provide advice to refugee and asylum-seeking young people across Suffolk, including their Homework Club, Youth Club and Refugee Football Group.

Hours: 21 hours per week

Salary: £18,103 (pro rata from £30,172 FTE from 1 April 2026) – Band 3

Deadline: 20 March 2026

Interview date: 26 March 2026

If you know anyone who might be interested in this role, more information and the recruitment pack can be found [here](#).

If you have had this passed on to you and you want to receive e-mail updates yourself, you can subscribe by emailing karen.lowes@localgoveasteng.gov.uk

If you wish to unsubscribe from the Newsflash please email karen.lowes@localgoveasteng.gov.uk