

JULY 2026



MIGRATION

NEWSLETTER



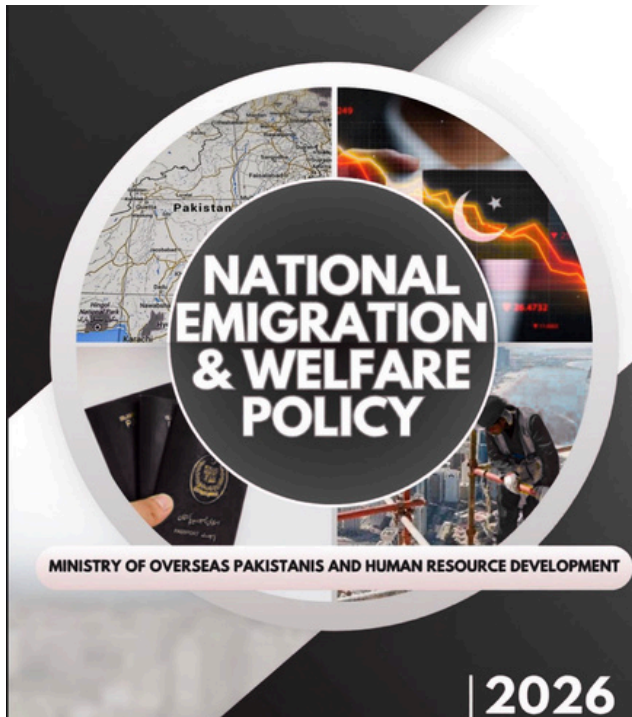
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MIGRATION NEWSLETTER

MIGRATION HIGHLIGHTS



1. Pakistan Unveils Landmark National Emigration Policy

- Pakistan has enacted the National **Emigration and Welfare Policy 2026**, a major legislative overhaul focused on safer, more competitive overseas labour migration.
- Mandates advanced vocational and language skills training before workers can depart.
- Aims to curb exploitation by unauthorised traffickers.
- Designed to boost the global competitiveness of Pakistan's labour force. [For Details](#)

2. Nationwide Crackdown & Repatriation of Undocumented Afghans Intensifies

- Law-enforcement agencies ordered to carry out **immediate arrests** and deportations.
- District administrations required to submit **daily progress reports** to federal authorities.
- Focus remains on individuals residing without valid visas.



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3. Geopolitical Tensions Spark Mass Border Crossings from Iran

- More than **34,000** people have crossed from Iran into Pakistan via the Taftan border post since March, driven by escalating Middle East tensions.
- Significant humanitarian surge recorded at the southwest frontier.
- Security forces and immigration agencies have heightened monitoring along the **Balochistan** corridor
- Authorities are managing the influx amid rising regional instability.



4. Experts Urge Stronger UK-EU Migration Partnership

- A new Migration Policy Institute Europe report calls on the UK and EU to deepen cooperation to tackle **irregular small-boat crossings**.
- Recommends combining tougher border management, action against smuggling networks, efficient returns, and expanded legal pathways.
- Describes the current political climate as a rare opportunity for a long-term strategic partnership.
- Emphasises coordinated solutions over fragmented national approaches.

5. Small-Boat Arrivals to the UK Plunge 45% in 2026

- Channel crossings have fallen sharply as only **12,469** migrants reached the UK by small boat between 1 January and 13 July 2026.
- Represents a **45%** drop compared with the same period in 2025.
- Decline linked to stronger border security measures and closer cooperation with European partners.



1. Applications are now open for the **Refugee Studies Centre**, University of Oxford's highly regarded Online School in Forced Migration, a premier intensive programme designed for professionals shaping the future of refugee and migration response.
[For Details](#)

 2. Applications are open for Pakistani early-career faculty and currently enrolled MPhil/PhD scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences to join the residential **Pre-Conference Workshop: Migration, Trade and Security** in the Asia-Pacific and the Global South.
Deadline for Submissions: **Aug 5, 2026.** [For Details](#)

 3. Join the Migrant Clinicians Network for the **webinar**, Trauma-Informed and Community-Centered Responses to Immigration-Related Stress: Witnessing-Understanding the Effects of Overexposure to Stories of Suffering and Trauma.
[For Details](#)

 4. Join the **Equality of Opportunity and Social Mobility Policy Workshop** and engage with policymakers, researchers, students, and professionals to explore practical solutions for reducing inequality and promoting inclusive social mobility.
Deadline for submission: **21 August 2026** [For Details](#)

 5. The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** is inviting expressions of interest for a new editorial team to lead International Migration, its flagship peer-reviewed journal. The journal publishes multidisciplinary research on global migration and welcomes experienced scholars and institutions to help shape migration research and policy worldwide.
Deadline for submission: **6 September 2026** [For Details](#)
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Country / Region	Update / Policy Shift	Effective / Recent Period	Potential Impact on Pakistanis
United Kingdom	Sharp rise in sponsored study visa refusal rates (Pakistan ~ 41% in early 2026 vs ~ 6% prior year); tougher university sponsor compliance (refusal rate threshold cut to 5%; higher enrolment/completion rates); RAG traffic-light system for sponsors	Q4 2025–Q1 2026 onward; compliance rules strengthened mid-2026	Much higher refusal risk for student visas; universities more selective or limiting recruitment from Pakistan to protect sponsor licences. Processing delays also noted.
United Kingdom	Graduate Route (post-study work) shortened from 24 to 18 months for most applications	Applications from 1 Jan 2027	Shorter work window after studies, reducing appeal for some Pakistani students seeking post-study experience or pathways.
Canada	National study permit targets reduced (e.g., ~ 155,000 new student arrivals planned for 2026); SDS fast-track ended earlier; higher proof-of-funds (living costs ~CAD 22,895 for single applicant)	2026 Levels Plan; funds update 2025 onward	Tighter competition and higher financial thresholds for undergraduate/diploma applicants. Master's/PhD at public institutions generally exempt from Provincial Attestation Letter (PAL) and partly from caps (from Jan 2026).
Canada	Parents and Grandparents Program (PGP) new intake paused; existing applications continue	2026	Limits family reunification pathway for diaspora; Super Visa remains an alternative for visits.

Australia	Genuine Student (GS) requirement (stricter than former GTE); higher living-cost proof (~AUD 29,710); student visa fee rises (to AUD 2,000 then ~AUD 2,500 from July 2026); managed growth / National Planning Level (~ 295,000 commencements); Pakistan remains high-risk (AL3) with elevated scrutiny/refusals	GS and financials ongoing; fee increase July 2026	More rigorous evidence of genuine study intent, finances, and course relevance required. Higher costs and refusal risk for student visas.
Australia	Employer-sponsored salary thresholds indexed upward; restrictions on onshore “visa hopping”	Salary rise from July 2026; hopping rules from Feb 2026	Higher pay thresholds for sponsored work visas; harder to switch temporary visas onshore.
United States	End of open-ended “Duration of Status” (D/S) for F-1 (and related) students → fixed admission period (generally up to 4 years or program end + 30-day grace); new Visa Integrity Fee (~ \$250)	Rule published July 2026; effective ~Sept 2026	Fixed end dates instead of open-ended status; more extensions/administrative steps needed for longer programs. High historical F-1 refusal rates for Pakistanis noted in reports.
UAE	Significant practical tightening / high rejection rates reported for Pakistani visit, family, and some business visas (community and business reports of 65- 80%+ rejections or severe restrictions in 2025-2026); no formal public ban confirmed	Ongoing reports through mid-2026	Major disruption for business travel, family visits, and short stays. Labour/residence holders generally less affected; alternatives (e.g., Saudi package tourism, other destinations) being used.

Germany	Guest worker residence permits for new third-country applications halted; shift toward skilled pathways (EU Blue Card, Opportunity Card / Chancenkarte); online consular processes emphasized	Guest worker halt ~June 2026	Fewer lower-skilled temporary options; stronger emphasis on qualifications, points-based Opportunity Card, or Blue Card for professionals/students. APS certificate still key for many Pakistani study applicants.
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NGO OF THE MONTH: SEHER - BALOCHISTAN

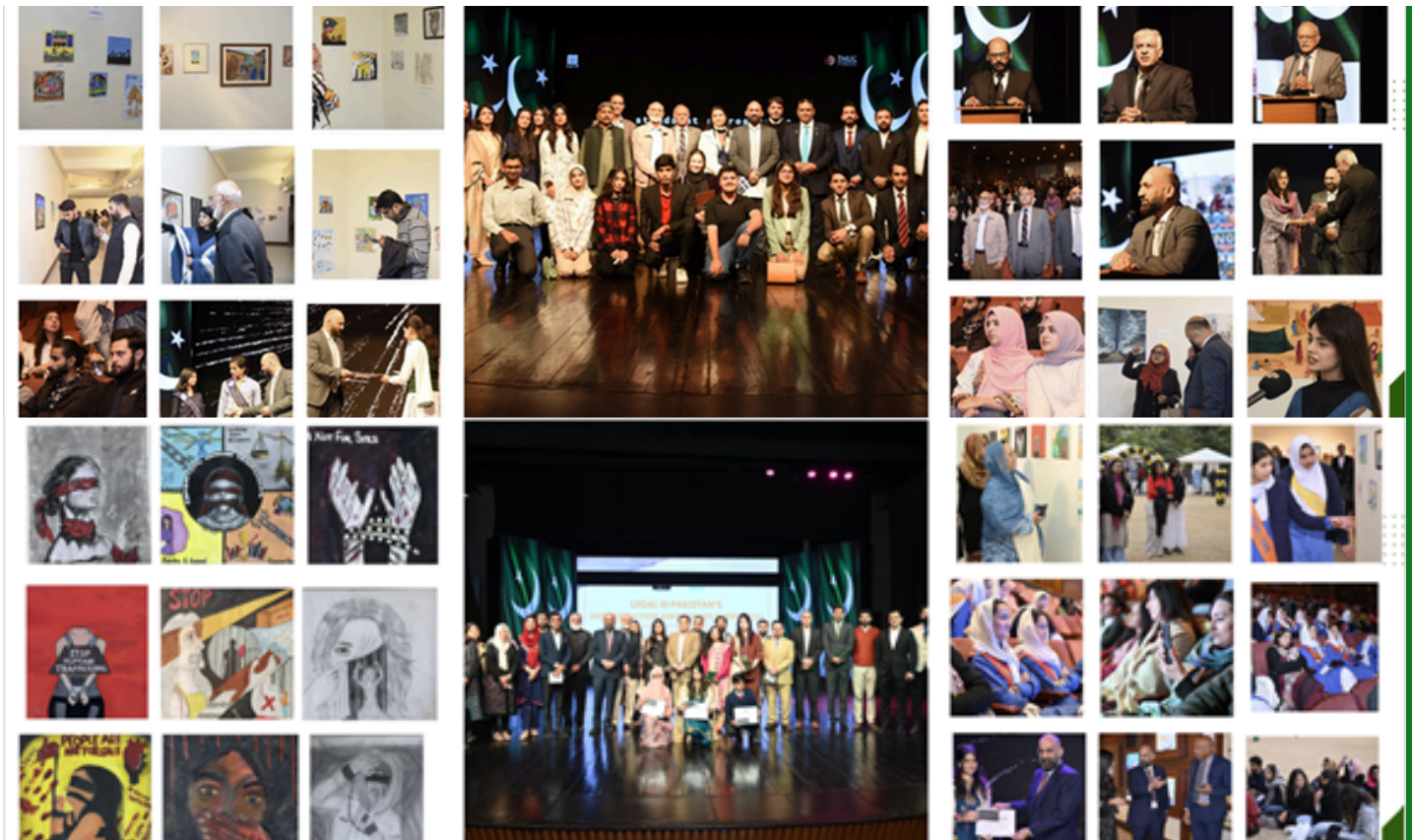
The **Society for Empowering Human Resource (SEHER)** continued its protection and legal assistance work across Balochistan in **July 2026**, supporting vulnerable migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, deportees, and returnees with **UNHCR** support. Key achievements included:

- **151 people** received legal counselling and aid.
- **1,025** protection and legal inquiries were resolved through the **ALAC** helpline.
- **778** skilled refugees were enrolled in the **Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB)** Talent Catalog through seven orientation sessions (**January-July 2026**).
- **1,401** deportees were recorded at the Chaghi and Chaman border crossings (**1-20 July 2026**).

As the only organisation implementing **TBB** in Balochistan, **SEHER** continues to connect skilled refugees with international employment opportunities while delivering essential legal and protection services.



Call For Collaborators



Legal ID Foundation invites partners to collaborate on the **4th Annual Observance of International Migrants Day** under the campaign **#GovernMigrationBetter**.

Theme: Not Just Movement, Meaning

Date: 18 December 2026 | 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Venue: Museum Hall, Lok Virsa, Islamabad

The event will **reframe migration as a purposeful human journey rather than an escape** through **art, interactive role-play, living tableaux, multi-stakeholder dialogue**, and **audience engagement**. We welcome collaboration from government institutions, international organisations, diplomatic missions, UN agencies, civil society, academia, artists, youth networks, migrant communities, media, and the private sector. Join us in advancing meaningful, dignity-centred migration governance. **Interested organisations and individuals are invited to express interest via email.**

Get Involved?

DO YOU HAVE YOUR STORY?

**Are you making some meaning contribution
in the field of Migration?**

Share it now!

For Queries and sharing your contributions; feel free to reach out to us:

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