Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

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Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and Cultural Minority Communities

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Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

MEMO is produced by the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities in partnership with BEMIS - empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.

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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites been redesigned, so that links published in back issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and click here to be added to the mailing list.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

EU Asylum Reform Package
https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-12-19/debates/5315cd34-da76-4fa2-8eb4-c61f5490a83f/EUAsylumReformPackage

UK Parliament House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration Controls: Scotland

Brendan O'Hara [907634] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of applying different immigration rules to Scotland and other constituent parts of the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Immigration remains a reserved matter and we will consider the needs of the UK as a whole.

Applying different immigration rules to different parts of the UK would complicate the immigration system, harming its integrity, and cause difficulties for employers

who need the flexibility to deploy their staff to other parts of the UK.
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-29/907634/

Immigration

The following three questions all received the same answer

Paul Blomfield [56175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answers of 30 November 2016 to Questions 50075, 50073 and 50074, how many of those people who have claimed to be stateless since 2013 and were refused status in the UK on that basis have been removed from the UK.

Paul Blomfield [56176] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answers of 30 November 2016 to Questions 50075, 50073 and 50074, how many of those people who have claimed to be stateless since 2013 and were refused status in the UK remain in the UK without status.

Paul Blomfield [56177] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answers of 30 November 2016 to Questions 50075, 50073 and 50074, how many of those people who have claimed to be stateless since 2013 and were refused status in the UK on that basis have subsequently been granted status in the UK on other grounds.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Home Office Stateless policy is designed to assist those who do not qualify for protection but are unable to return to the country of their former habitual residence because they are stateless and would not be admitted to any other country. The requirements are set out in the Immigration Rules and reflect our obligations under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the status of stateless persons.

Home Office shares information on the number of Stateless applications received and those removed with UNHCR. The Home Office continues to provide regular updates to UNHCR. UNHCR releases information on annual global stateless trends. The information requested can be found using the following links:

2015:
http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html
http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocAttachment.zip?COMID=576402377

2014:
http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/country/556725e69/unhcr-global-trends-2014.html
http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocAttachment.zip?COMID=5762b0584

2013:
http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/country/5399a14f9/unhcr-global-trends-2013.html
http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocAttachment.zip?COMID=5762b0d84

The information requested on the latest immigration status of those refused Stateless leave is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-05/56175/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-05/56176/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-05/56177/

The three answers referred to in the questions above can be read at
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50073/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50074/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-25/50075/

Immigrants: Employment

Rosena Allin-Khan [57981] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to make individual with limited or indefinite leave to remain aware of the 2014 changes to the right to work rules making an expired travel document with a valid visa no longer sufficient proof of an individual's right to work.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office conducted a public consultation in 2013 on changes to the regulations specifying the document checks that employers should undertake to establish an excuse under the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 in relation to the prevention of illegal working. In that consultation, the Home Office signalled its intention to tighten the system of right to work checks and to focus these on more secure documentation, in order to simplify checks for employers and better prevent illegal working.

When implementing the changes in May 2014, we published new guidance on the relevant pages of Gov.uk and communicated the changes to employers. Employers have a crucial role to play in informing migrants applying for jobs what documentation is acceptable as evidence of a right to work under the regulations. The Home Office has been rolling out biometric residence permits to non-European Economic Area (EEA) migrants granted permission to enter or remain for more than six months in the UK, which provide a simple means of evidencing lawful immigration status.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-15/57981/

Schools: Undocumented Migrants

Martyn Day [56897] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions the Government had with the Scottish Government on proposals to require schools to carry out immigration checks and to propose changes to the prioritisation of illegal migrants in the school admissions process before the introduction of the Immigration Bill 2015-16.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government did not have any discussions with the Scottish Government about requiring schools to carry out immigration checks or changes to the prioritisation of illegal migrants in the school admissions process before the introduction of the Immigration Bill 2015-16. It is not the policy of this Government to require schools to carry out immigration checks or de-prioritise the children of illegal migrants in the admissions process.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-09/56897/

Refugees

Stuart McDonald [52759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who have applied under the statelessness determination procedure since it was established in 2013 have received a decision (a) in total, (b) between six months and a year after their application, (c) between one and two years after their application, (d) between two and three years after their application and (e) more than three years after their application.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office regularly shares information with UNHCR, relating to stateless applications and decisions made. The information provided is published by UNHCR in regular trend reports. The latest published report by UNHCR on mid year trends June 2015 can be found at link below: http://www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/56701b969/mid-year-trends-june-2015.html

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-14/52759/

Refugees: Sponsorship

Peter Kyle [57898] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress has been made on developing the Community Sponsorship Scheme for refugees announced in October 2015.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Community Sponsorship scheme was launched in July by the Home Secretary to empower community groups, including charities and faith groups, to support refugees directly. Community sponsorship is a new model for resettlement in the UK. It is commencing on a small scale and we will closely monitor the scheme to ensure it delivers good outcomes for resettled families and local communities.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-15/57898/

Refugees: Syria

Geoffrey Cox [48245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorites have offered to receive and house Syrian child refugees.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme we are working with more than 170 local authorities to resettle Syrian refugee families in the UK.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-12/48245/

Refugees: Syria

Jo Stevens [57602] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether unaccompanied minors under the Syrian UNHCR Resettlement Programme are subject to the same procedures and protocols which her Department has in place for unaccompanied refugee minors from other countries where there is conflict.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme is based on need and it prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin. We work closely with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to identify vulnerable Syrians that they deem in need of resettlement and whose particular needs can only be met in countries like the UK.

UNHCR identifies refugees for resettlement under the Syrian VPR scheme using their established vulnerability criteria. We do not resettle unaccompanied minors under the Syrian VPR scheme.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-14/57602/

Refugees: Children

Stella Creasy [49305] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the letter from the Immigration Minister to all local council leaders of 8 September 2016, if she will publish the number of places pledged by each local authority area for those unaccompanied refugee children as identified by section 67 of the 2016 Immigration Act to date.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There are currently no plans to publish the number

of places pledged by each local authority area for those unaccompanied refugee children as identified by section 67 of the 2016 Immigration Act. The Home Office publishes the number of asylum claims from unaccompanied children as part of the quarterly immigration statistics release. According to the latest release, in the year ending June 2016 there were 3,472 asylum claims from unaccompanied children. The full statistics can be found at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-april-to-june-2016/asylum#unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-18/49305/

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alistair Carmichael [53365] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made in making an estimate of how many unaccompanied refugee children will be transferred from the EU to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Asylum: Children

Alistair Carmichael [53436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons Eritrean and Afghan children over the age of 15 do not qualify under the eligibility criteria set out in the Guidance: Implementation of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in France published by her Department.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We will in due course specify the number of unaccompanied refugee children to be transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. Eritrean and Afghan children over the age of 15 do not qualify under the published criteria for the implementation of section 67 in France, because these reflect our focus on the very youngest children, those assessed as being at high risk of sexual exploitation and those likely to be granted refugee status in the UK. The latter criterion is based on nationalities with a first instance asylum grant rate of 75 per cent or higher in the year to June 2016.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-16/53365/

and

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-16/53436/

Refugees: Children

Helen Goodman [55864] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will make it its policy to transfer 1,000 children from Calais to the UK before Christmas 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We have worked closely with the French authorities to support the clearance of the Calais camp and to transfer children eligible to come to the UK. Since 10 October, we have transferred over 750 children from France. The current phase has been concluded. More children will be transferred from across Europe under the Immigration Act in the coming months, including children from France.

We will continue to meet our obligation under the Dublin Regulation to transfer unaccompanied refugee children to the UK where a family link has been established.

In line with the legislation, we will in due course specify the number of unaccompanied refugee children to be transferred to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-01/55864/

Refugees: Children

Thangam Debbonaire [56298] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied and separated children have been (a) identified, (b) assessed and (c) transferred under sub-section 1 of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We are continuing to work closely with partners across Europe to identify unaccompanied asylum seeking children who may be eligible to come to the UK.

The Government has transferred more than 750 children to the UK in support of the French operation to clear the Calais camp, including children who meet the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act.

The Dubs process has not ended. More eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months. Following consultation with local authorities on capacity to host unaccompanied children, we will be announcing the specified number in due course.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-06/56298/

Refugees: Children

Thangam Debbonaire [56332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) refugee children and (b) families or carers of such children have been resettled under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Programme since that programme began.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The figures for the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) will be published in the usual way, and will feature in future releases of the Home Office's immigration quarterly statistics.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-06/56332/

Refugees: Children

Catherine West [57953] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, whether any funds from her Department will be used to support the 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees coming to the UK.

Reply from James Wharton: Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding allocated to the Home Office is being used to meet the costs of supporting vulnerable refugees resettled or relocated to the UK for the first year, in accordance with internationally agreed guidelines. This includes unaccompanied children resettled from the Middle East and North Africa under the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme, as well as unaccompanied children relocated from Europe.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-15/57953/

Refugees: Children

Catherine West [57970] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding has been allocated to local authorities to support the unaccompanied child refugees in the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government significantly increased the funding provided to local authorities looking after Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) in July. These rates are based on a detailed analysis of financial information sent to the Home Office by local authorities about their actual cost of caring for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. The analysis showed that the average cost across all local authorities of looking after an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child aged under 16 was approximately

£41,610 per annum and the average cost of supporting those aged 16 and 17 was approximately £33,215 per annum. The Government has made additional funding available for local authorities through the Controlling Migration Fund.

The UK Government takes it's responsibility in all cases involving children seriously has committed to regularly review funding to support and care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children, working closely with the Local Government Association and local authorities.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-15/57970/

Refugees: Children

Diane Abbott [58061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that any refugee children who were recently accommodated at Calais and who were entitled to come to the UK have not been trafficked, become domestic slaves or forced into prostitution.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: We continue to work closely with local authorities, the Department for Education, the Local Government Association, non-governmental organisations, and other Government departments to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children transferred from France to the UK. The Government recently announced its intention to publish a Safeguarding Strategy which will bring together a number of strands of ongoing work and develop a more holistic, robust and evidence-based strategy to supporting these vulnerable children.

Children transferred to the UK were assessed on arrival by Home Office officials who are trained to identify indicators of human trafficking and modern slavery. Under the Dublin Regulation, safeguarding checks are conducted ahead of the children being reunited with their relatives.

The Government takes its responsibilities towards all vulnerable children extremely seriously. That is why when a child goes missing from care, agencies work closely with local authorities and local police forces in order to find them.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-16/58061/

Asylum

David Crausby [49225] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time was for a final decision on an asylum application in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Information regarding Asylum data is published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda the latest release of which can be found at can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2016

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-18/49225/

Asylum

Jim Cunningham [57045] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who have suffered torture abroad and are awaiting her Department's decision on their claim for asylum; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The current Home Office system does not centrally record the basis of an asylum claim. The data requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records. We aim to decide all straightforward asylum claims within 6 months, however there will be some claims which are more complex, including those who have suffered abhorrent acts such as torture. We aim to decide these cases within 12 months.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-12/57045/

Asylum: Hostels

Derek Twigg [56679] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in which (a) local authority areas and (b) Parliamentary constituencies new asylum hostels are planned to open in the next six months.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There are currently seven permanent Initial Accommodation centres located across the United Kingdom in the cities of Liverpool, Cardiff, Birmingham, London, Wakefield and Glasgow. However, we cannot comment on the individual locations of the centres for the safety of the asylum seekers housed there.

The COMPASS Providers are currently exploring, with support from UK Visas and Immigration, the feasibility of additional initial accommodation centres to temporarily accommodate asylum seekers. However, no new sites have been confirmed and any that are proposed will be subject to consultation with the relevant local authority.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-07/56679/

Asylum: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Davies [49879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in the UK have been given a dental check-up in the latest period for which figures are available.

David Davies [49880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is the Government's policy to ensure that unaccompanied children arriving in the UK to seek asylum are given dental check-ups.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Unaccompanied asylum seeking children arriving in the UK are transferred to the care of a local authority. The local authority will arrange for the child's health to be assessed and for a health plan to be drawn up. This will include dental care. Central records are not kept of the number of dental check-ups given to such children.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49879/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-24/49880/

Assisted Voluntary Return Schemes: Vietnam

The following two questions both received the same answer

Fiona Mactaggart [47283] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were returned to Vietnam under the assisted voluntary return scheme in each year from 2013 to 2016 to date; and how many such people had been subject to positive grounds National Referral Mechanism decisions in each such year.

Deportation: Vietnam

Fiona Mactaggart [47284] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people her Department removed to Vietnam in each year from 2013 to 2016 to date; and how many such people had been subject to positive grounds National Referral Mechanism decisions in each such year.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The number of people returned from the UK to Vietnam in each year by Enforced Removals and Voluntary Returns is published on a quarterly basis in Immigration Statistics on the GOV.UK website:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release
The information you requested can be found in tables rt_05 and rt_05_q of the

returns tables:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/572383/returns5-q3-2016-tables.ods
This link will help you to find the most updated returns data by country of destination. The data within this table can be filtered, enabling you to obtain information specifically relating to removals to Vietnam. Instruction on how to use the filters can be found on the 'contents' tab.
We do not hold the requested data of how many such people had been subject to positive grounds decisions on the National Referral Mechanism in the requested format.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-07/47283/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-07/47284/

Immigrants: Detainees

Robert Flello [53575] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost of immigration detention was in each of the last three years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Detention costs over the past three financial years have been published in the Home Office's Annual Report and Accounts, for 2015-16 and 2014-15. Copies of these publications can be found on the .gov.uk website:
For 2015-16:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/539638/HO_AR_16_gov.pdf
For 2014-15:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/441282/HO-AR15_web.pdf

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-17/53575/

Immigrants: Detainees

Heidi Allen [56126] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women recorded as pregnant have been held in immigration detention; and how many of those women left detention to be removed from the UK since the Immigration Act 2016 came into force.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Through section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, which came into force on 12 July 2016, we have placed a 72 hour limit on the detention of pregnant women for the purposes of removal, extendable to up to a week in total with Ministerial authorisation.
It may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose confidential medical information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed. Subject to these limitations, Home Office management information indicates that 12 pregnant women were detained in the immigration detention estate between 12 July 2016 and 30 September 2016. Of these women, 1 was removed from the UK.
The section 60 limitations, along with a new policy on adults at risk in detention, and other improvements to caseworking processes, represent a comprehensive package of safeguards for pregnant women in the immigration system.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-05/56126/

Detention Centres

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alan Brown [57674] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the length of the lease is that has been proposed with the agents responsible for the construction of a new short-term holding facility for immigrants that will be sited near Glasgow Airport.

Detention Centres: Renfrewshire

Alan Brown [57757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the proposals for a new short-term holding facility in Renfrewshire for which the original planning application was rejected by Renfrewshire Council's planning committee on 8 November 2016, whether a planning appeal against that decision has been submitted; and what the Government's plans are for that proposed facility.

> **Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Following Renfrewshire Council's refusal of planning permission for a short term holding facility near Glasgow airport the Government is considering its position in relation to the right of appeal. Subject to completion and acceptance of the facility by the Home Office, the lease will be for a period of 25 years.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-14/57674/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-14/57757/

Refugees: Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart [49684] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted refugee status or another type of subsidiary protection in the UK on the basis that they have been trafficked since 2010.

> **Reply from Robert Goodwill:** Our records indicate that since 2010, 1,003 confirmed victims of trafficking have been granted refugee status or other form of protection as a result of an application for asylum. It is not possible to say whether refugee status was awarded due to the applicant being a victim of trafficking without a review of individual case record at disproportionate cost.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-10-20/49684/

UK Parliament House of Lords Written Answers

Schools: Census

Lord Scriven [HL4240] To ask Her Majesty's Government what information was given to those completing the national school census regarding the sharing of details with the Home Office for immigration purposes.

> **Reply from Lord Nash:** The Department for Education (DfE) provide a privacy notice template[1] for schools to use to explain to parents what personal data they collect, why it is collected, who it is shared with and what it is used for. The template we provide to schools also gives parents access to further information about the Department's use of their children's data[2].
>
> With regards to data sharing with the Home Office, a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Home Office and the Department for Education, which covers the sharing of limited information between those parties, is available in the house library. This sharing does not include data relating to the nationality, country of birth and proficiency in English of pupils which is collected solely for Department for Education analysts to use for research. These data items have not, and will not, be shared by the Department for Education with other government departments.

Whilst it is not possible for a parent / guardian or an individual child to opt out of the school census collection, there is certain information (including ethnicity, first language, country of birth, nationality and whether a child is the child of someone in the Armed Services) which must always be as declared by the parent / guardian or the pupil. The school census guidance[3] is clear that the return of this information is voluntary and parents can withhold this information if they choose.

References:

[1] Privacy notice template:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/data-protection-and-privacy-privacy-notices

[2] DfE guidance for how we share data:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data

[3] School census data collection guide:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-census-2016-to-2017-guide-for-schools-and-las

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4240/

Citizenship

Lord Hylton [HL4070] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to initiate a national dialogue for Britain to discuss common citizenship, with active participation by people of all traditions and origins.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: `In publishing her review of Integration and Opportunity, Dame Louise Casey expressed hope that her report will spark a national conversation about improving the integration of communities in Britain, including establishing a set of values around which people from all different backgrounds can unite.

My Right Honourable Friend, Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has made clear he will carefully consider the findings of Dame Louise's review, in consultation with his Government colleagues and faith and other community leaders and will bring forward proposals in the spring.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-13/HL4070/

Agriculture: Seasonal Workers

Baroness Jones of Whitchurch [HL4222] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports of a fall in the number of temporary migrant agricultural workers since the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, what steps they are taking to encourage migrant workers to apply for seasonal jobs on farms.

Reply from Lord Gardiner of Kimble: I refer the Noble Lady to the Oral contribution given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Immigration during the Westminster Hall debate on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme; Volume 617, Column 576WH on 30 November.

I would draw your attention in particular to his reference to recently published Office for National Statistics figures that: "the number of workers from the eight countries of eastern and central Europe that joined the EU in 2004, and from Bulgaria and Romania—the countries most commonly associated with low-skilled labour—are also up year on year. To be precise, there were 129,000 more workers from those countries in the UK in the third quarter of 2016 compared with a year earlier. That does not suggest that there is a major exodus from the United Kingdom although, as I have said, I will continue to monitor the situation carefully."

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4222/

The debate referred to in the answer above can be read at https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-11-30/debates/9F85AF34-B112-4AA8-BBF7-6ECB4542EC14/SeasonalAgriculturalWorkersScheme

Refugees

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL3880] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees have been resettled through the Syrian vulnerable person resettlement scheme and community sponsorship scheme in each region of the UK.

> **Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Progress on resettlement in each local authority is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics, published on 1 December 2016 showed that 4,162 Syrians were relocated to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme between October 2015 and September 2016 and sets out how many were located in each local authority. The figures include those Syrians resettled with a community sponsor during this period.
>
> The refugees that we are bringing to the United Kingdom are very vulnerable people. Our prime concern is their safety and protection as they arrive in this country. We want to protect their privacy and ensure their recovery and integration, as they rebuild their lives in safe and secure surroundings, among supportive communities in the UK. We will, therefore, not be providing a running commentary on numbers that have been resettled with a community sponsor.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3880/

Refugees: Syria

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL4102] To ask Her Majesty's Government what account is taken of the resolution of the House of Commons on the Daesh genocide of minorities (HC Deb, 20 April, col 608) when prioritising victims of genocide for resettlement under the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement programme.

> **Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We are clear that our scheme will prioritise the most vulnerable refugees, and that is why under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifies refugees for resettlement using its established vulnerability criteria. The seven vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR are Legal and or Physical Protection Needs; Survivors of Torture and/or Violence; Medical Needs; Women and Girls at Risk; Family Reunification; Children and Adolescents at Risk and Lack of Foreseeable Alternative Durable Solutions.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-13/HL4102/

Refugees: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Hylton [HL4154] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the risks of unaccompanied child refugees in Europe being recruited by terrorists and other extremist groups, including organised crime.

Lord Hylton [HL4155] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to propose a high-level pan-European meeting to consider the development and implementation of effective responses to the needs of unaccompanied refugee and migrant children.

> **Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** We work with a wide range of organisations both in the UK and across Europe to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals and prevent them from becoming radicalised.
>
> The Government recognises the plight of vulnerable children in Europe and we are taking action on a number of fronts to address this issue. We have established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of

vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. Since 10 October over 750 unaccompanied minors have been transferred from France and more eligible children will be transferred from Europe, in line with the terms of the Immigration Act, in the coming months. We will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin Regulation. The Home Secretary and Immigration Minister have met with their Italian counterparts recently to discuss this issue, and the UK is in regular contact with our European partners at all levels. There is already sufficient scope for the UK to discuss responses to the needs of unaccompanied children with our European partners.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4154/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4155/

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3713] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether unaccompanied asylum-seeking children brought to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be given refugee status or discretionary leave to remain.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All children transferred here under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be expected to make an asylum claim in the UK, which will be considered according to normal processes. We aim to decide 98 per cent of straightforward asylum claims within six months. Where a child does not qualify for asylum and it is clear that safe and adequate reception arrangements are not available in their home country, they will be granted leave to remain under the Immigration Rules for 30 months or until they reach the age of 17 and a half, whichever is shorter.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-30/HL3713/

Asylum: LGBT People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Scriven [HL4183] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 December (HL Deb, cols. 1235-6), why authority from the Immigration Minister, which was stated at the Home Office Strategic Engagement Group in September as being required to publish statistics from the casework database to show the number of people seeking asylum on the basis of sexual orientation, remains outstanding.

Lord Scriven [HL4184] To ask Her Majesty's Government, concerning asylum claims relating to gender and sexual identity, when they expect the data on the asylum casework database to have been quality assured to a sufficient standard of accuracy to enable their publication.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office remains committed to publishing information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation. Any data publications must be in line with reporting standards. Work is ongoing to assure the quality of the data for publication.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-15/HL4183/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-15/HL4184/

The answer referred to in the question above can be read at
https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2016-12-14/debates/4D06F8D4-3A8C-4779-8115-4D06A0C776C3/AsylumSexualOrientation

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Stuart McDonald (828) UN International Migrants Day – That this House acknowledges the significant contribution that migrants make to all parts of the UK; welcomes those who choose to call the UK their home whether they are joining family, studying, working or seeking refuge or asylum; remembers all those migrants that have lost their lives fleeing persecution; and joins in celebrating UN International Migrants Day, 18 December 2016, as an opportunity to raise awareness of the rights of migrants in this country and the UK's duty to provide a place of protection and safety.
http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/828

New Publications

Interim Report into Integration of Immigrants
http://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/themes/570513f1b504f500db000001/attachments/original/1483608320/APPG_Interim_Report_Screen.pdf?1483608320

Impact of the cap on work permits on the UK Economy
https://www.migrationwatchuk.org/pdfs/mw400-impact-of-the-cap-on-work-permits-on-the-uk-economy.pdf

Current migration situation in the EU: separated children
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-december-2016-monthly-migration-report-separated-childr.pdf

News

SNP calls on UK Government to up its game on taking in more refugees given scale of Syrian crisis
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/14980566.SNP_calls_on_UK_Government_to_up_its_game_on_taking_in_more_refugees_given_scale_of_Syrian_crisis/

MPs call for immigration devolution
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38518107

Scottish Government welcomes call for immigration to be devolved
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15005628.Scottish_Government_welcomes_call_for_immigration_to_be_devolved/

MPs back discussion on devolving immigration to Scotland
http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/mps-back-discussion-on-devolving-immigration-to-scotland-1-4333246

MPs draw up plan to devolve control over immigration
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-06/scotland/mps-draw-up-plan-to-devolve-control-over-immigration-qrwf60f9g

Theresa May faces calls to implement regional immigration policy
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jan/05/theresa-may-faces-calls-to-implement-regional-immigration-policy

Immigration policy for Wales 'should be considered'
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-38507803

Home Office criticised for opaque child refugee transfer process
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/21/home-office-criticised-for-opaque-child-refugee-transfer-process

Child asylum seekers from Jungle camp launch legal bid
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38455222

Child asylum seekers 'launch legal challenge against Amber Rudd'
https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/338352/child-asylum-seekers-launch-legal-challenge-against-amber-rudd/

Calais child asylum seekers launch legal action against UK government
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/28/calais-child-asylum-seekers-legal-action-against-uk-government

Calais Jungle camp children legally challenge Home Secretary over handling of asylum claims
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/calais-children-launch-legal-home-secretary-asylum-claims-a7499406.html

Calais Jungle youngsters refused entry to UK launch legal challenge against the Home Office
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/28/calais-jungle-youngsters-refused-entry-uk-launch-legal-challenge/

Calais migrant teenagers sue the home secretary
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/calais-migrant-teenagers-sue-the-home-secretary-3m92kgnkk

Calais teen refugees launch legal action against Home Secretary Amber Rudd claiming she broke the law in refusing to offer them asylum in the UK
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4073094/Calais-teen-refugees-launch-legal-action-against-Home-Secretary-Amber-Rudd-claiming-broke-law-refusing-offer-asylum-UK.html

Dawit's story: how one young refugee's tragedy could spell hope for thousands
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jan/01/eritrean-refugee-tragedy-guardian-observer-appeal-safe-passage-charity

All migrants should learn English before moving to UK: Verdict of Labour MP...it's time to ditch failed multiculturalism
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4089544/ALL-migrants-learn-English-moving-UK-Verdict-Labour-MP-s-time-ditch-failed-multiculturalism.html

Force migrants to live where needed, say MPs
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/force-migrants-to-live-where-needed-say-mps-n0jd25b0m

Rules on immigration confusing
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rules-on-immigration-confusing-sv39lgkxj

Migrants should have to learn English, say MPs and peers
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38510628

Scrap insurance rule for stay-at-home parents from EU, says Tory MP
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/30/scrap-insurance-rule-stay-at-home-parents-eu-tory-mp-sarah-wollaston

Cap on skilled migrants does business no harm, study says
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-04/news/firms-accused-of-crying-wolf-over-cap-on-skilled-migrants-pgzv6mbg7

Lord Dubs: refugees face greater hostility than ever in 2017
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/28/lord-dubs-refugees-face-greater-hostility-than-ever-in-2017

New Glasgow exhibition focuses on portraits of immigrants to the UK
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14974264.New_Glasgow_exhibition_focusses_on_portraits_of_immigrants_to_the_UK/

Scotland opens its arms and its heart on International Migrants Day
http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/14973569.Scotland_opens_its_arms_and_its_heart_on_International_Migrants_Day/

Decision to refuse Pakistani Christians entry to the UK reversed
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/decision_to_refuse_pakistani_christians_entry_to_the_uk_reversed

Teenage asylum seekers forced to share rooms
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-01-04/scotland/teenage-asylum-seekers-forced-to-share-rooms-b8pq5gdps

Afghan teen detained by Home Office threatens to kill himself
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jan/03/afghan-teen-detained-home-office-threatens-kill-himself

'It's a disaster': Couple left devastated after groom's sisters banned from visiting Scotland for wedding
http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/its-disaster-couple-left-devastated-9481791

Syrian baker who fled war now serving pastries in East Lothian
http://www.scotsman.com/news/syrian-baker-who-fled-war-now-serving-pastries-in-east-lothian-1-4324419

Refugee baker brings sweet taste of Syria to new neighbours
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/refugee-baker-brings-sweet-taste-of-syria-to-new-neighbours-lcjvxrccl

Digital classroom will help child refugees
http://www.scotsman.com/future-scotland/tech/digital-classroom-will-help-child-refugees-1-4324034

Two thirds of deportation orders not enforced
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/ireland/two-thirds-of-deportation-orders-not-enforced-dcn3nf0pj

Generous residents donate gifts to refugees spending their first Christmas in Glasgow
http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/14986988.Generous_residents_donate_gifts_to_refugees_spending_their_first_Christmas_in_Glasgow/

Big-hearted junior club organise weekly football matches to help Syrian refugees settle into Scottish life
http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/big-hearted-junior-club-organise-9517792

Dutch woman with two British children told to leave UK after 24 years
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/dec/28/dutch-woman-with-two-british-children-told-to-leave-uk-after-24-years

Dutch mother-of-two married to Briton who has lived in the UK for 24 years is told to leave after she applied for residency following Brexit vote
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4071770/Dutch-mother-two-married-Briton-lived-UK-24-years-told-leave-applied-residency-following-Brexit-vote.html

German neuroscientist also told to leave UK after residency rejection
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/dec/29/german-neuroscientist-told-to-leave-uk-residency-application-rejected-monique-hawkins

Man told to take citizenship test despite living entire life in UK
https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jan/05/man-told-to-take-citizenship-test-despite-living-entire-life-in-uk

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament House of Lords Written Answers

Community Relations

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Mawson [HL3870] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds to work together on projects and programmes in local communities.

Lord Mawson [HL3874] To ask Her Majesty's Government what lessons they have learned from projects with hands-on practical experience of building integrated communities; how they will build on the success of those projects; and what role those projects will play in achieving the changes that are recommended in *The Casey Review: a review into opportunity and integration*.

> **Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth:** The government is committed to building more integrated communities and widening opportunity. We have spent over £60 million on integration projects since 2010/11, helping to create the conditions for people to live successfully alongside each other.
>
> This includes funding for community – based tuition to help isolated adults to learn English and the Near Neighbours programme, supporting well over 1,000 small projects bringing people together across faith, social and ethnic boundaries.
>
> The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made clear he will be studying Dame Louise's findings closely. As part of those considerations, we will look to learn from our existing integration projects. In spring, we will come to the House with our plans for tackling the issues raised by Dame Louise, so that we can continue to build a country that works for everyone.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3870/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3874/

The Casey Review, referred to in the questions above, can be read at
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

Community Relations

Lord Mawson [HL3872] To ask Her Majesty's Government what evidence there is that practical lessons have been learnt from past research conducted into integration in British communities.

Lord Bourne of Aberystyth: Dame Louise Casey's Review into integration and opportunity published on the 5 December takes account of academic and other research and considers previous community cohesion reports and programmes. The government will be studying her Report carefully and will publish a response in the spring.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3872/

The Casey Review, referred to in the answer above, can be read at
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

Community Relations

Lord Mawson [HL3873] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much has been spent over the last five years on studies about integration in British communities and what impact this has had, if any.

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The only comprehensive study, in the last five years, has been Dame Louise Casey's Review into integration and opportunity, published on 5 December 2016.

A number of Departments will have undertaken studies in support of policy objectives related to integration, however information on the cost of these studies is not held centrally.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3873/

The Casey Review, referred to in the answer above, can be read at
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

Muslims

Lord Patten [HL4253] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the contribution of Ahmadi Muslims to the UK.

Reply fromn Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Faith communities make a vital contribution to Britain, guiding the moral outlook of many, inspiring great numbers of people to public service and providing help to those in need. Ahmadiyya Muslims have made an immeasurable contribution to this country through their representation in business and public services, as well as charitable work such as the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association's support for The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal which has raised thousands of pounds.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4253/

News

Scotland's largest Menorah to be lit in Edinburgh
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-38451362

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament House of Commons Written Answer

Public Appointments: Ethnic Groups

Paula Sherriff [57262] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what proportion of public appointments were of ethnic minority candidates in (a) 2015 and (b) 2016.

Reply from Ben Gummer: Statistics on public appointments are published annually by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Statistics on Public Appointments are published annually by the Commissioner for Public Appointments and the data can be found at:

http://publicappointmentscommissioner.independent.gov.uk/statistical-reports/.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-12/57262/

UK Parliament House of Lords Written Answers

Diplomatic Service: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Berridge [HL4026] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many heads of mission to international organisations from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are from a black or minority ethnic background.

Reply from Baroness Anelay of St Johns: As of the 30 November, of the seven of Heads of Mission to international organisations that have reported their ethnicity (86% of the total number of Heads of Mission to international organisations), none are from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background.

Continuing to improve the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's record on diversity, equality and inclusion is fundamental to our aim of being the best diplomatic service in the world. We undertake a range of interventions to improve our leadership and management capability and to remove barriers to the progress of under-represented groups in the FCO, to help people reach their full potential. Action includes a bespoke talent development scheme for BME staff; role models from all backgrounds; diverse interview panels at all grades; diverse shortlists for senior positions as the norm; and outreach to attract diverse talent into the FCO, focused on BME candidates and those from a low-socio economic background.

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Lord Bradley [HL3275] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people of each ethnic group, broken down by religion, were in prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The information requested is provided in the quarterly offender management statistics publication, which is published on gov.uk. A copy of the information is included in the attached table.

Prison population by ethnicity and religion

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-16/HL3275/

Press Release

Asian Muslims and black people do better in school, worse in work

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asian-muslims-and-black-people-do-better-in-school-worse-in-work

New Publications

Ethnicity, Gender and Social Mobility
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/579988/Ethnicity_gender_and_social_mobility.pdf

Equal Pay Duties - Race and Disability
http://www.crer.org.uk/images/PDFs/PSEDequalpay2017x

News

Has publishing really become more diverse?
https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/dec/27/has-publishing-really-become-more-diverse

British Asians 'struggle for top jobs despite better school results'
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/dec/27/british-muslim-womens-school-gains-not-paying-off-in-work-study

30 years ago I struggled as a black engineer. It seems little has changed
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/27/ethnicity-engineering-black-minority-ethnic

Three hijabs are issued to Police Scotland officers
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-38450326

Senior Church of England clergy 'not diverse enough'
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38387302

Where are the black dolls in high street stores?
http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-38065205

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime

Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to strengthen (a) monitoring, (b) data collection, (c) reporting and (d) staff training with regard to (i) human trafficking and (ii) hate crime. (S5W-05529)

Reply from Michael Matheson: The Scottish Government's Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy will be published by 31 May 2017 as required by the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015. This will set out the Scottish Government's plans to address human trafficking in Scotland, including monitoring, data collection, reporting and staff training. The Scottish Government's draft proposals in these areas are set out in the draft strategy (available at https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/humantrafficking-team/a-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-strategy/) a public consultation on which recently closed. In relation to hate crime, we accept the recommendations of the report of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion, and will set out how we intend to take these forward in early 2017. This will include monitoring, data collection, reporting and staff training.

http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05529

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-03204 Jackson Carlaw: Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 – That the Parliament recognises that 27 January 2017 marks Holocaust Memorial Day; believes that the day should serve as an opportunity for learning institutions, faith groups and communities across Scotland, including in Eastwood, to remember the six million men, women and children murdered by the Nazi regime in occupied Europe; notes that the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 is "How can life go on?"; understands that this theme aims to look at the aftermath of the Holocaust, subsequent acts of genocide and the challenging questions that such actions continue to raise for individuals, communities and nations about their responsibilities in the wake of such criminal acts; values the Holocaust Educational Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz project, which gives two post-16 students from every school and college in Scotland the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau; celebrates the Holocaust survivors who subsequently made Scotland their home and thanks them for their contribution to Scotland as a nation, and recommits to ensuring that anti-Semitism in all its forms is challenged without fear or favour.
http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03204

UK Parliament House of Commons Written Answers

Internet: Bullying

Tim Farron [57899] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce online abuse.

Reply from Ben Wallace: We expect social media companies, and internet platforms, to have robust processes in place and to act promptly when abuse is reported. The Government continues to work closely with social media companies and other relevant actors and experts to make sure they are committed to protecting those who use their platforms. The law is clear that what is illegal offline is illegal online. Robust legislation is in place to deal with internet trolls, cyber-stalking and harassment, and perpetrators of grossly offensive, obscene or menacing behaviour. The Criminal Justice Act 2015 strengthened two existing communications offences: section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, and section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 which can now be used to prosecute misuse of social media. The police now have longer to investigate either offence, and the maximum penalty for the former has been increased to two years imprisonment. The Crown Prosecution Service published guidance to prosecutors in October on crimes involving social media. The Home Office has allocated £4.6 million of the Police Transformation Fund specifically to begin the critical work of setting up a comprehensive and joined up programme of digital transformation across policing.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-12-15/57899/

Hate Crime: Merseyside

Angela Eagle [52718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many racially or religiously aggravated offences were reported in Merseyside in each month since the EU referendum; and what change that represents compared with the figures for 2015.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office publish statistics on racially or

religiously aggravated offences by force by quarter. The most recently published statistics, to June 2016, can be found in the Home Office Open Data Tables available at https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-recorded-crime-open-data-tables

In October, the Home Office published Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2015/16. This release included an Annex of provisional data for specific racially or religiously aggravated offences in England and Wales around the time of the EU Referendum. Force level breakdowns for these offences up to September 2016 will be published in Home Office Open Data Tables in January 2017. These tables will be released alongside the ONS quarterly Crime Statistics. For information, the hate crime report is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has one of the strongest legislative frameworks in the world to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-11/52718/

UK Parliament House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime: EU Nationals

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL4132] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to counter xenophobia towards European Union nationals.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have been working with the police at national and regional levels to monitor hate crime since the EU Referendum and to ensure that local forces have the necessary assistance and guidance to respond.

Police forces are responding robustly to recent incidents, and victims can be reassured that their concerns about hate crime will be taken seriously by the police and courts.

On 26 July we published the cross-Government Hate Crime Action plan which includes actions to drive down hate crime across all communities, including £2.4million for security at places of worship and £300,000 funding for community groups who wish to start innovative projects. We have allocated some of that funding to a project which will support Polish and Romanian nationals dealing with hate crime incidents in London.

Ministers and officials have also met Ambassadors and High Commissioners from all EU states and offered reassurance and a single point of contact for them to raise concerns over hate crime on behalf of their citizens. We have also given advice to embassies on practical steps they can take to help their citizens and we continue to work closely with them on this issue.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4132/

Antisemitism

The following two questions both received the same answer

Baroness Tonge [HL4088] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed official definition of anti-semitism will include criticism of the government of Israel.

Lord Ahmed [HL4162] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether their new definition of anti-Semitism will allow for the criticism of the government of Israel and its policies towards the Palestinian people.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism adopted by Her Majesty's Government does not preclude criticism of Israel. As the definition makes clear, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

The full text of the working definition of anti-Semitism and examples (attached) can be found at: http://european-forum-on-antisemitism.org/report/working-definition-antisemitism-ihra

Anti Semitism

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-13/HL4088/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-14/HL4162/

World War II: Genocide

Baroness Whitaker [HL4109] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 12 December (HL3686), when the consultation on the design competition for the Holocaust memorial will begin, and which Roma organisations will be consulted on the competition.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The new Holocaust Memorial will stand as a statement of our commitment to remember the Holocaust and, crucially as a statement of determination to stand up to prejudice and hatred of all kinds. While the focus of the Memorial will be on the persecution and murder of 6 millions European Jews, it will also appropriately represent the experiences of the Roma/Sinti and of all groups persecuted by the Nazis. It is therefore vital that representatives of all victims of Nazi persecution are able to have their say on what the Memorial looks like.

Once the shortlisted designs are received for the Memorial, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation will hold exhibitions and consultations all around the United Kingdom, providing all people with an opportunity to connect.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-13/HL4109/

The answer referred to in the question above can be read at
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-29/HL3686/

News

Some of Britain's top universities are becoming no-go zones for Jews, Baroness Deech claims
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/12/22/britains-top-universities-becoming-no-go-zones-jews-baroness/

Universities have shown 'grave cowardice' on dealing with anti-Semitism, Government's Holocaust envoy says
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2016/12/23/universities-have-shown-grave-cowardice-dealing-anti-semitism/

Universities chasing Arab donors 'fuel antisemitism'
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pandering-to-arab-donors-fuels-university-antisemitism-d33z3hlh0

Anti-Semitism 'is turning some of Britain's top universities into no-go zones for Jewish students'
http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4060272/Anti-Semitism-turning-Britain-s-universities-no-zones-Jewish-students.html

Jewish students' union denies claims of rife antisemitism at UK universities
https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/dec/23/jewish-students-union-denies-claims-rife-antisemitism-uk-universities

Will Britain's new definition of antisemitism help Jewish people? I'm sceptical
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/28/britain-definition-antisemitism-british-jews-jewish-people

Neo-Nazi defies ban with racial slurs on Twitter
http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/neo-nazi-defies-ban-with-racial-slurs-on-twitter-rr76czksv

Anxious Poles in the UK 'won't report hate crimes'
https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jan/07/poles-lin-uk-scared-to-speak-up-on-hate-crimes

Poles living in the UK 'scared to report hate crimes' after Brexit because of alleged lack of Government support
http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-hate-crime-polish-eastern-european-too-scared-to-report-police-british-government-support-a7515196.html

Racism in primary schools only reflects the society the Tories have created
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/29/racism-primary-schools-tories-immigration

Transport police hunt three Asian men who racially abused woman on commuter train
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/14990554.Transport_police_hunt_three_Asian_men_who_racially_abused_woman_on_commuter_train/

A moment that changed me: learning people disliked me for my skin colour
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jan/06/a-moment-that-changed-me-skin-colour-racism

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament First Minister's Questions

British Values Oath

John Mason: To ask the First Minister what discussions the Scottish Government has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the proposal by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that holders of public office should swear an oath to uphold "British values". (S5F-00706)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): The Scottish Government has had no communication from the UK Government in relation to the secretary of state's response—which was premature, in my view—to "The Casey Review: A review into opportunity and integration" on social cohesion. We respect the work that has been published by Dame Louise Casey on integration and

opportunity. The Scottish Government will certainly consider her suggestions carefully in terms of their relevance to Scotland.

John Mason: I thank the First Minister for that answer. Is the First Minister any clearer than I am as to what British values actually are and whether everyone in Scotland should be expected to have them? I, for one, certainly do not feel particularly British.

Reply from the First Minister: It is an important issue and—as I said—we respect the work that has been carried out by Dame Louise Casey, which deserves to be given proper consideration. I suggest that the UK Government do the same, and commit to giving it proper consideration rather than taking the premature step of announcing that all public servants should be compelled to swear an oath. Such an oath potentially risks exclusion of people who do not define their values as being uniquely British.

As a nation—I hope that this is something that all members across the chamber agree with—Scotland has a long history of welcoming people of all nationalities and all faiths. We are committed to supporting their integration into our communities. That is not, in my view, done through swearing of oaths but by creating a country where everyone has an opportunity to flourish, where diversity is truly welcomed and celebrated, where we judge people on the contribution that they make to our country while they are here, and where we do not expect them to give up their own identities and backgrounds in the process.

http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10709&i=98330#ScotParlOR

The Casey Review, referred to in the answer above, can be read at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575973/The_Casey_Review_Report.pdf

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Forced Marriage

Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) charges and (b) prosecutions there have been in Scotland for offences of forced marriage under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, broken down by year, including the current year to date, and how this compares with the use of forced marriage protection orders. (S5W-5389)

Reply from Angela Constance: No charges have been reported to COPFS under s122 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and there has therefore been no prosecutions.

Police Scotland has advised that since 28 March 2012 there have been 16 applications for Forced Marriage Protection Orders. There have been no prosecutions for breach of an order.

http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05389

Forced Marriage

Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government what its assessment is of how effectively Section 122 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, regarding forced marriage, is operating. (S5W-5390)

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government believes that everyone in Scotland who can marry or enter into a civil partnership has the right to do so freely and without coercion and the legislation in Scotland is there to ensure choice, safety and protection. Section 122 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 is providing an additional layer of protection to people who may be affected by forced marriage. There have been no prosecutions under the Act. The 2014 legislation does not replace the Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011 but sits alongside it. The protection provided by

and FMPO continues to exist alongside a new criminal offence. This means that a person could choose to take the civil route, or to go to the police (as they can now). Note that if a person chooses to go to the police, and the police refer the case to COPFS, it will then be for the COPFS to decide whether or not to take any criminal proceedings against those involved in forcing a person into marriage.

http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05390

Press Releases

The First Minister's 2016
https://firstminister.gov.scot/3697-2/

Cabinet to meet in Pitlochry
http://news.gov.scot/news/cabinet-to-meet-in-pitlochry

New Publications

Scotland's Place in Europe

First Minister's speech
http://news.gov.scot/speeches-and-briefings/scotlands-place-in-europe-1

Position Paper
http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00512073.pdf

First Minister's 2017 New Year Message
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jz2A9TTVB2Y

First Minister's Christmas message
https://firstminister.gov.scot/first-ministers-christmas-message-2/

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament House of Lords Written Answers

National Identity

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Ahmed [HL4191] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of reports that civil servants and other holders of public office might be required to swear an oath to British values, what is their definition of British values.

Lord Ahmed [HL4192] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they consider that any British values are different from universal values; and, if so, which ones are different.

Religion

Lord Ahmed [HL4193] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any major religions that do not subscribe to universal values.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: As the then Home Secretary explained in her speech of 23rd March 2015, British values – such as regard for the rule of law, participation in and acceptance of democracy, equality, free speech and respect for minorities – are supported by the overwhelming majority of British people. They are sustained by our most important local and national

institutions. And they are the means by which we have made our multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious society succeed.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4191/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4192/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4193/

Public Sector: National Identity

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL4229] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require public servants to take an oath of obedience to British values; and if so, what sanctions will apply for a refusal to do so.

Public Sector: Northern Ireland

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL4230] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to require public servants in Northern Ireland to take an oath of obedience to British values.

National Identity

Lord Lester of Herne Hill [HL4231] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any calculation has been made of the estimated cost to the public purse of administering the proposed oath of obedience to British values.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: My Right Honourable Friend, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made clear he will be studying Dame Louise Casey's Review of integration and opportunity closely. As part of those considerations, we will consider carefully, in consultation with government colleagues in both the United Kingdom and devolved administrations, Dame Louise's recommendation that British values be included in a new oath for those in public office.

In spring, we will come forward with our plans for tackling the issues raised by Dame Louise, so that we can continue to build a country that works for everyone.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4229/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4230/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-19/HL4231/

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3532] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in identifying a more reliable methodology than the one currently used to measure the number of girls at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

The Government has taken a range of measures to support professionals, increase our understanding of FGM and co-ordinate activity across Government. This includes:

- a mandatory reporting duty requiring regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police came into force on 31 October 2015.

• publishing new multi-agency guidance on 1 April for all frontline professionals, including the police, which is statutory, for the first time.
• over 70,000 professionals have completed our free FGM e-learning, which we have updated to include information on the recent changes to the law.
• the Department of Health's £4 million FGM Prevention Programme which is improving the NHS response • Department for Education have funded the Barnardo's and Local Government Association's National FGM Centre which is working to strengthen the social care response.

The Government also recognises the importance of gathering and disseminating information on the prevalence of, and attitudes to, FGM. In addition, we are part-funding a 2015 prevalence study and we have also introduced the recording and publication of FGM patient data across the NHS in England. We will not stop FGM until we have changed attitudes within communities. In July 2016, the Department of Health delivered a targeted patient and public facing FGM prevention advertising campaign based on our understanding of the motivations for FGM which has generated over 650,000 views on social media.

We continue to work closely with community organisations, faith groups and survivors to better understand the motivations behind FGM. The FGM role and function is to coordinate work across Government and carry out outreach work. However, we are clear that all agencies have a role to play in tackling FGM.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-11-24/HL3532/

Female Genital Mutilation

The following three questions all received the same answer

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3885] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the statutory mandatory reporting duty in relation to female genital mutilation.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3886] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many reports have been made by teachers, social workers and health professionals, so far, to the police regarding known cases of female genital mutilation involving victims under the age of 18.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3887] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will require cross-government working in order to ensure a cohesive approach is adopted in addressing female genital mutilation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

Mandatory reporting of FGM came into force in October 2015 and requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers to report known cases in under 18s to the police. Figures are not collated centrally. However, we continue to engage with the police, professional bodies and wider stakeholders to monitor its implementation.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3885/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3886/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3887/

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3889] To ask Her Majesty's Government what analysis they have made of the Female Genital Mutilation Enhanced Data in relation to the

support provided by the NHS to women and girls who have had or who are at risk of female genital mutilation.

Reply from Lord Prior of Brampton: National Health Service commissioners actively use Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) data to plan FGM services locally.

For example, in London, NHS England is piloting the triangulation of data with local population prevalence and police data, to evaluate the multi-agency approach to their FGM prevention work, and they will explore national roll-out of this approach in the new year.

In addition, NHS England is working with police and social care partners to overlay the information from the NHS Digital reports with other FGM information sources to create a more extensive picture of FGM. This in turn will build a broader understanding of FGM, and how best to use this combined information to commission appropriate services for girls and women affected.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-06/HL3889/

Female Genital Mutilation

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3939] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include female genital mutilation as a mandatory element in the personal, social, health and economic programme of study in schools.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: There is no mandatory programme of study for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). Schools have the autonomy to tailor their PSHE to reflect the needs of their pupils, including teaching about female genital mutilation (FGM), drawing on the resources, tools and evidence provided by experts such as the PSHE Association.

The Government has worked with the PSHE Association to develop a section of their website focusing on FGM and including a range of guidance and resources for teachers and schools to use.

The non-statutory programme of study for PSHE includes giving young people the opportunity to learn about taking care of their body, understanding that actions such as FGM constitute abuse and are a crime under British law and universal human rights, and develop the skills and strategies required to get support if they have fears for themselves or their peers.

In addition, the statutory 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' guidance, updated in September 2016, includes information for schools on the issue of FGM and reminds schools of their duty in relation to reporting cases of FGM. A copy of the guidance is attached.

Keeping children safe in education

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3939/

Female Genital Mutilation Protection Orders

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3940] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that police forces and local authorities are making use of female genital mutilation protection orders.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath [HL3941] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children have been prevented from leaving the country because it is believed they are going abroad to undergo female genital mutilation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. We will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs) were fast-tracked for implementation in July 2015, to protect girls before the school holidays started. The most recent data shows that in the period July 2015 – June 2016, 68 orders were granted.

FGMPOs may include conditions to protect victims or potential victims, including preventing them from being taken out of the UK. Centrally held data is not disaggregated to show the actual number of victims prevented from travelling.

We continue to work with the police and other agencies to ensure that FGMPOs are being used as widely as possible. On 1 April, we issued statutory guidance on FGM for all frontline professionals which includes information on FGMPOs. The Home Office-led FGM Unit delivers an ongoing programme of outreach across the UK which includes providing support to local areas and speaking at awareness raising events. The Unit recently visited all forces in England and Wales to understand their response to FGM and raise awareness of examples of best practice, including on the use of FGMPOs.

In addition, Border Force plays a vital role in helping to identify and protect potential victims of FGM travelling to and from the UK. A rolling programme of joint police-Border Force operations take place at airports during the school holidays targeting inbound and outbound flights to and from countries with a high prevalence of FGM, forced marriage and human trafficking. Border Force works in close partnership with other agencies, including social services, the police and non government organisations.

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3940/
and
http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2016-12-07/HL3941/

Press Releases

PM to set out plans for 'shared society'
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-to-set-out-plans-for-shared-society

Sir Eric Pickles publishes report into tackling electoral fraud
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sir-eric-pickles-publishes-report-into-tackling-electoral-fraud

Christmas 2016: Prime Minister's message
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/christmas-2016-prime-ministers-message

Hanukkah message from Theresa May
https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/hanukkah-message-from-theresa-may

Foreign Secretary's Chanukah message
https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-chanukah-message--2

New Publication

Securing the ballot: review into electoral fraud
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/545416/eric_pickles_report_electoral_fraud.pdf

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Other News

Brexit: Protecting human rights in Scotland in a changing relationship with Europe
http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1538/brexit-position-statement-december-20-dec-3.pdf

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Ethnicity Pay Gap Bill
http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/ethnicitypaygap.html

EU Citizens Resident in the United Kingdom (Right to Stay)
http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/eucitizensresidentintheunitedkingdomrighttostay.html

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill
http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html

Student Support (Non-Interest-Bearing Finance) Bill
http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/studentsupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

***** closes this week!***
Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on Racially and Religiously Aggravated Hate Crime *[England and Wales]* (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_rr_consultation_2016.html

***** closes this week!***
Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Policy on Prosecuting Crimes against Disabled People *[England and Wales]* (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_dhc_consultation_2016.html

***** closes this week!***
Consultation on the Crown Prosecution Service Public Policy Statement on the prosecution of offences involving hostility on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity *[England and Wales]* (closing date 9 January 2017)
http://www.cps.gov.uk/consultations/hate_crime_ht_consultation_2016.html

***** closes this week!***
Draft Referendum Bill (closing date 11 January 2017)
http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00507743.pdf

Immigration (closing date 20 January 2017)
http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/161208-new-inquiry-immigration/

Tackling inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities *[England and Wales]* (closing date 27 January 2017)
http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2015/gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities-inquiry-launch-16-17/

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (closing date 14 March 2017)
http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Europe of Diversities
closing date for applications: 28 February 2016
European Union funding for projects to promote unity in diversity, support sharing of good practices in fighting discrimination and promoting diversity at local and regional level, and help to identify and target discriminatory practices at local and regional level and build understanding between majority and minority societies. For information see https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rppi-eudi-ag-2016.html

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals
17 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)
21 March 2017 in Dumfries (9.30-12.30)
PAiH training on issues related to EEA nationals' access to services and important changes in regulations. For information see http://www.paih.org/training/

Rights of refugees and asylum seekers
17 January 2017 in Glasgow (1.15-4.15)
21 March 2017 in Dumfries (1.15-4.15)
PAiH course to explore how the asylum system operates, and barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers. For information see http://www.paih.org/training/

**** 'Combined by our Humanity – Enhanced by our Diversity' – Why an Inclusive National Identity Matters**
22 January 2017 in Glasgow (4.30)
BEMIS/Celtic Connections exploration of the unique local expressions of Scottish cultural heritage and their global connections. For information see http://tinyurl.com/z4uxttp

Discrimination Law in 2017
23 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.00-4.00)
Equality and Human Rights Commission Conference to review recent changes in employment law. For information see http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/ads/17i_ehrc.pdf or contact Kyle Mulholland equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com / 0141 228 5925.

**** BEMIS celebrates BURNS: A Toast Tae the Lassies**
25 January 2017 in Glasgow (8.00)
BEMIS celebration of Rabbie Burns' iconically internationalist outlook and egalitarian spirit. For information see http://tinyurl.com/zv86ylz

Meet the Funders/Capacity Building
26 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15am and 4pm)
Glasgow City Council event for Third Sector organisations throughout Glasgow to engage with funders, fundraisers, and capacity building and support organisations. For information contact Karen Latta 0141 276 9906 / karen.latta@glasgow.gov.uk.

National Holocaust Memorial Day
26 January 2017 in Bishopbriggs (6.00 – 8.30)
The theme of this year's memorial event is "How can life go on?" For information please contact Maureen Sier maureen@interfaithscotland.org

Rape Crisis Scotland volunteer information evening
27 January 2017 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)
Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for women, particularly disabled, BME, older and trans women, to volunteer to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence. For information see http://tinyurl.com/hz2vvf9

Cultural Competence
31 January 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
25 April 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council course focusing on how culture affects all our lives, and examines the extent to which culture influences and governs our beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and decision-making. It explores our own practice and attitudes to cultural differences, and examines different worldviews, so that participants can confidently work with people no matter where they come from. For information see http://tinyurl.com/jdfkkz2 or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study
8 February 2017 in Edinburgh (1.00-3.30)
The Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study used the 2001 census findings and various health datasets to compare the health of ethnic groups in Scotland. For information see https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shels-dissemination-seminar-2-tickets-29978191578 or contact Theresa Kirkpatrick Theresa.kirkpatrick@ed.ac.uk

Separated Children
9 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
11 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council course about supporting separated child refugees. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees
22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
8 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. For information see http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8 or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Working with Interpreters
1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
31 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. For information see http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Integration and Working with Syrian Families
2 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
1 June 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council course to explore the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlights the challenges and opportunities for them as they build a new life here in Scotland. For information see http://tinyurl.com/zy436gr or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Engaging hard to reach groups
8 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council course about engaging with hard to reach groups. For information please contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

** **Honour-Based Violence: Who is Doing What to Whom, and Why?**
14 March 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)
Scottish Women's Aid workshop to discuss discuss the meaning of Honour in the context of Honour-based violence, the influence of family, community, faith, tradition, migration and gender in victims/survivors' experiences, links to domestic abuse and gender-based violence, the long term impact and consequences of Honour-based violence on minority ethnic women children and young people, and appropriate service responses to supporting survivors. For information see http://tinyurl.com/hzeo96f

Talking to Young People about Equality
23 March 2017 in Fife (venue tbc) (6.00-9.00)
Youth 1st workshop to help Youth Workers to begin a dialogue about equality with young people and to understand that good knowledge of equality and inclusion will improve their employability. For information contact Gayle Brown 01592 645 355 / gayle@youth1st.co.uk or see https://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8004

Refugee Rights to Housing
30 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)
Scottish Refugee Council Course about refugee housing rights. For information contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament http://www.parliament.scot/

Scottish Government http://www.gov.scot/

UK Parliament http://www.parliament.uk/

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations

UK Government Honours system https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview

European Parliament http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/

One Scotland http://onescotland.org/

Scottish Refugee Council http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Interfaith Scotland http://www.interfaithscotland.org/

Equality and Human Rights Commission http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/

Equality Advisory Support Service http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com

Scottish Human Rights Commission http://scottishhumanrights.com/

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO http://www.scvo.org.uk/

Volunteer Development Scotland http://www.volunteerscotland.net/

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) http://www.oscr.org.uk/

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/

BBC News http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/

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Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

*The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438)* ***http://www.scojec.org/***

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and Cultural Minority Communities

BEMIS** is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692)* ***http://www.bemis.org.uk/

*The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism.* ***http://onescotland.org/***

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