

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.

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The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 20 February 2017.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-03957 Christina McKelvie: Lord Dubs Scheme – That the Parliament is deeply shocked by the decision by the UK Government to end the Dubs scheme, which is a resettlement programme to welcome 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees; is angered that the UK Government has reneged on its agreement, having only accepted 300 of the estimated 90,000 unaccompanied child refugees across Europe; believes that this shows a callous, vacuous and moral disregard for some of the world's most vulnerable children; further believes that, in what it considers to be one of the greatest humanitarian crises throughout Europe, it is shameful for the UK Government to close the Dubs scheme; considers that Scotland has already accepted more than its population share of Syrian refugees and stands ready to do more; reiterates that the UK Government has shown a clear lack of empathy and moral duty with its decision to close the Dubs scheme, and urges an immediate rethink by the UK Government.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03957>

S5M-03954 Ross Greer: UK Government Fails Child Refugees – That the Parliament expresses grave concern at the decision by the UK Government to close the Dubs scheme for child refugees; believes that the UK Government previously pledged to take 3,000 lone child refugees but has now limited the Dubs initiative to 350 child refugees; considers that even the original pledge of taking 3,000 falls short of the action required to aid the estimated 90,000 unaccompanied child refugees who arrived in Europe in 2015 alone; condemns the failure of the UK Government to take adequate action to aid refugees during the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War, and calls on the UK Government to commit to taking in more refugees, particularly children, starting immediately.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03954>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Debate

Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2017

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-09/debates/943D85AB-B5C8-42A5-8DE0-EADDDA01B954/ImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Order2017](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-09/debates/943D85AB-B5C8-42A5-8DE0-EADDDA01B954/ImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Order2017)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Unaccompanied Child Refugees

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): The Government take the welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children extremely seriously. That is why we have pledged more than £2.3 billion in aid in response to the Syria conflict—our largest ever humanitarian response to a single crisis.

The United Kingdom has contributed significantly to the hosting, supporting and protection of the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis. In the year ending September 2016, we granted asylum or another form of leave to more than 8,000 children. About 50% of the 4,400 individuals who have been resettled through the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme so far are children. Within Europe, in 2016, we transferred more than 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK, including more than 750 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance. As Home Secretary, I am proud that the UK played such a key role in helping the French to close the camp safely and compassionately.

Yesterday the Government announced that, in accordance with section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, we would transfer the specified number of 350 children who reasonably meet the intention and spirit behind the provision. That number includes more than 200 children who have already been transferred from France under section 67. I must make it absolutely clear that the scheme is not closed. As required by the legislation, we consulted local authorities on their capacity to care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children before arriving at the number. We are grateful for the way in which local authorities have stepped up to provide places for those arriving, and we will continue to work closely to address capacity needs.

The Government have always been clear that we do not want to incentivise perilous journeys to Europe, particularly by the most vulnerable children. That is why children must have arrived in Europe before 20 March 2016 to be eligible under section 67 of the Immigration Act. The section 67 obligation was accepted on the basis that the measure would not act as a pull factor for children to travel to Europe and that it would be based on local authority capacity. The Government have a clear strategy and we believe this is

the right approach.

Here in the UK, we have launched the national transfer scheme and we have also significantly increased funding for local authorities caring for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children by between 20% and 28%. The Government have taken significant steps to improve an already comprehensive approach and we are providing protection to thousands of children in this year. I am proud of this Government's active approach to helping and sheltering the most vulnerable, and that is a position that will continue.

Yvette Cooper: Last week the Prime Minister said: "On refugees, this Government have a proud record of the support...and long may it continue."—[[Official Report, 1 February 2017; Vol. 620, c. 1016.](#)]

This week, the Government cancelled the Dubs scheme after it had been running for less than six months. The Home Secretary said that it has not closed, but will she confirm what it said in the statement yesterday: that once those 350 children are here, that is it—it is closed? Where does it say in the *Hansard* record of our debates on the Dubs amendment that I have here that we will help lone child refugees for only six months? Where does it say that, instead of the 3,000 that Parliament debated, we will help only one tenth of that number? Where does it say that when we get the chance we will somehow turn our backs once again? It does not, because we did not say that at the time.

The Home Secretary knows that what she is doing is shameful. Not only has she closed the Dubs programme, but she has cancelled the fast-track Dublin scheme to help those with family here. The Home Secretary did very good work in the autumn of last year to help those in Calais and to make sure we could take as many children as possible, and I commended her for it. But she also knows that most of those have family here already and were entitled to be here. She has said local councils cannot do more; the truth is that many local councils have said they can do more with more support or more time. It takes time to set up these schemes, and they should not be closed down so quickly.

There are still so many children in need of help. The Home Secretary knows there are thousands in Greece in overcrowded accommodation or homeless, or in Italy still at risk of human trafficking, or teenagers in French centres, which are being closed down now, who have nowhere left to go. The Home Secretary talked about clearing Calais; they are heading back to Calais, and back to Dunkirk: back to the mud, back to the danger, back into the arms of the people traffickers and the smugglers, the exploitation, the abuse, the prostitution rings—back into the modern slavery that this Parliament and this Government have pledged to end.

We know Britain and France can both do better. There are Eritrean teenagers here now in foster homes, after awful trafficking experiences, who are in school with a better future. We can do this; Britain can do better than this. Will the Home Secretary accept that and reinstate the Dubs programme now?

Amber Rudd: ... I repeat that the Dubs amendment that is in place is not closed. We have done what we were obliged to do, and we have correctly put a number on it. The right hon. Lady implies that this is a business of accepting the children and that it is all about numbers; I respectfully say to her that these are children who need looking after over a period. When we accept them here, it is not job done; it is about making sure that we work with local authorities and that we have the right safeguarding in place. That is why we engage with local authorities—why we make sure they have sufficient funds, which we have increased, to look after those young people.

I completely reject the right hon. Lady's attack. The UK has a strong reputation in Europe and internationally for looking after the most vulnerable. That will continue. We have a different approach to where the most vulnerable are. We believe that they are in the region, and that is why we have made a pledge to accept 3,000 children from the region. We are committed to delivering on that. They are the most vulnerable. ...

To continue reading this lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-02-09/debates/441DB6F3-2F20-4A12-A13C-9CB86838707E/UnaccompaniedChildRefugees>

UK Parliament, Written Ministerial Statement

Immigration

The Minister for Immigration (Robert Goodwill): The Government take the welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children extremely seriously, and the UK has a proud history of providing protection for those in need, including some of the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis. The Government's strategy is to support international efforts to find a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the refugee crisis; we must deal with its root causes, as well as respond to the consequences. That is why the UK has been at the forefront of the response to the events in Syria and the region, pledging over £2.3 billion in aid—our largest ever humanitarian response to a single crisis. We are also one of the few EU countries to meet our commitment to spending 0.7% of gross national income on overseas aid.

We have a comprehensive approach to tackling these issues both at home and overseas. By the end of this Parliament, we will have resettled 20,000 Syrian nationals through our Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme and a further 3,000 of the most vulnerable children and their families from the middle east and north Africa region under the vulnerable children's resettlement scheme. We also received over 33,000 asylum claims in the UK last year.

The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children arriving in the UK has risen over the last few years, including in response to this Government's commitment to the transfer of hundreds of children from Calais and to address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable children. The UK has contributed significantly to hosting, supporting and protecting the most vulnerable children affected by the migration crisis. In the year ending September 2016, the UK granted asylum or another form of leave to over 8,000 children. This includes those who claimed asylum in the UK, those who were brought to the UK through our resettlement schemes, those transferred from within Europe, and those granted a refugee family reunion visa.

In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe. This included more than 750 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance. Over 200 of those children met the published criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act. The remainder were transferred under an accelerated process based on the family reunion criteria of the Dublin regulation. This was a one-off process, based on the principles of the Dublin framework but operated outside of it, and was implemented in response to the unique circumstances of the Calais camp clearance. All children not transferred to the UK are in the care of the French authorities.

The UK can be proud of its record of helping refugee children and I can today announce, in accordance with section 67 of the Immigration Act, that the Government will transfer the specified number of 350 children pursuant to that section, who reasonably meet the intention and spirit behind the provision. This number includes over 200 children already transferred under section 67 from France. It does not include children transferred to UK where they have close family here. We will announce in due course the basis on which further children will be transferred from Europe to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act to the specified number.

As required by the legislation, we have consulted with local authorities on their capacity to care for and support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children before arriving at this number. Local authorities told us they have capacity for around 400 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children until the end of this financial year. We estimate that at least 50 of the family reunion cases transferred from France as part of the Calais clearance will require a local authority placement in cases where the family reunion does not work out. We are grateful for the way in which local authorities have stepped up to provide places for those arriving and we will continue to work closely to address capacity needs.

The Government will continue to meet our obligations under the Dublin regulation and accept responsibility for processing asylum claims where the UK is determined to be the responsible member state, ensuring that it is in their best interests to come here. We are

working closely with European partners to ensure the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin regulation.

Of the over 4,400 individuals resettled through the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement scheme so far, around half are children and last year we welcomed the first families to the UK under the vulnerable children's resettlement scheme. We are fully committed to an effective response in the affected regions and to resettling the most vulnerable directly from those regions. Within Europe, the UK has also established a £10 million refugee children's fund to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe. The fund includes targeted support to meet the specific needs of unaccompanied and separated children.

Here in the UK, we have launched the national transfer scheme to ensure a fairer distribution of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children across England and ease pressure on the children's services of those local authorities with large numbers of unaccompanied children. To implement the national transfer scheme the Home Office has established a dedicated team to process the transfer of children quickly while at the same time acting in accordance with the child's best interests. The Home Office also published detailed guidance for local authorities setting out the processes involved in transferring unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from one local authority to another, including the need to ensure that the scheme is driven by the welfare of the child.

As announced on 1 November, the Government will also deliver a safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. This will ensure the Government put in place a comprehensive safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children living in or being transferred or resettled to the UK.

To further support the transfer arrangements and underline our commitment to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, the Government significantly increased the funding they provide to local authorities who look after unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Local authorities now receive £41,610 per annum for each unaccompanied asylum-seeking child aged under 16 and £33,215 per annum for unaccompanied asylum-seeking child aged 16 and 17. This represents a 20% and 28% increase in funding respectively. In addition, the Government went further and also increased the funding they provide to local authorities for those young people who turn 18 and go on to attract leaving care support by 33%. These significant increases in Government funding will have a very positive impact on local authorities' ability to care for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

The Government have also announced the £140 million controlling migration fund in England, which is intended to cover a broad range of costs associated with migration. It cannot duplicate or top up unaccompanied asylum-seeking children rates, but it may support short-term costs not included in the mainstream unaccompanied asylum-seeking children grant and costs related to family reunion cases. This could include costs such as the safeguarding assessments, recruitment campaigns for social workers or support workers, specialist counselling or training on the specific needs of unaccompanied children. Additional funding has also been offered to strategic migration partnerships across the UK to help them bolster local structures and ensure they are equipped to deal with the diverse needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

The Government have taken significant steps to improve an already comprehensive approach to supporting asylum-seeking and refugee children. This latest announcement provides further evidence of the Government's commitment to playing its part in the global migration crisis. In addition to the tens of thousands of children in conflict regions and in Europe that are benefiting from UK aid and development assistance, we are providing protection to thousands of children in the UK each year.

The UK should be proud of its overall contribution. [HCWS467]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-02-08/debates/17020838000007/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Student Immigration

Alan Brown: What discussions she has had with the Home Secretary on the Government's student immigration policy. [908595]

Reply from the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation (Joseph Johnson): Department for Education officials meet regularly with their counterparts from the Home Office to discuss a range of issues including student immigration policy. Let me be clear that the Government value the contribution that international students make to the UK's excellent higher education sector, both economically and culturally. That is why we have no plans to limit the number of genuine international students who can come here to study.

Alan Brown: If the Government really value international students, I suggest they reappraise the need for a post-study work visa, which would allow students to come here, integrate into communities and bring value to their campuses and communities. When will the Government revisit that?

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The UK has an excellent post-study work offer. Students can switch into a number of other visa routes to take up work after their studies. About 6,000 switched to a tier 2 skilled worker visa in 2015, and there is no cap on the number who may make that switch.

Alex Chaik: Higher education is one of the United Kingdom's greatest exports, and the Government are promoting it brilliantly. Do the Government think that, as we move forward post-Brexit, we should look to take student numbers outside the immigration figures?

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The key thing is that, whether or not they are in those figures, there is no limit on the number of international students who can come here to study. The UK is the best place in the world to get a higher education, and we are delighted that, for the last six years, over 170,000 international students have come to study in the UK.

Gavin Newlands: Recent UCAS figures show that the number of EU students applying to Scottish universities has already fallen by 5%. The University of the West of Scotland has a new global reach strategy that aims to grow the number of international students attending UWS. Will the Minister explain to the university what it should do to achieve that goal despite the Brexit barriers the Government are putting in its way? [908609]

Reply from Joseph Johnson: The UK is immensely successful at attracting international students. We are second in the world in terms of our market share, behind only the United States. We continue to extend a warm welcome, and we wish that more international students would come.

Carol Monaghan: Scottish universities, of course, were not included in the post-study work pilot. The Scottish Parliament's Europe committee has today published a report calling for Scotland to have a differing immigration system; this is the third parliamentary report calling for that. Will the Minister now urge the Home Secretary to listen and include Scottish institutions in the post-study work scheme?

Reply from Joseph Johnson: Scottish institutions are successful in attracting international students, and they are also successful in seeing those students switch into post-study work. It is important to note that the number switching into work after study is increasing: it was at 6,000 last year—up from 5,000 the year before and 4,000 the year before that.

Carol Monaghan: Being considered an international student post-Brexit will affect whether EU students choose to come to the UK, and that will have a major impact on university funding. What discussion has the Minister had with the Home Secretary on the immigration status of EU students post-Brexit?

Reply from Joseph Johnson: These questions will be considered in the context of the broader discussions relating to our withdrawal from the European Union.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-02-06/debates/7E1F03C6-CA9B-4D4B-8AFB-1DE676065C25/StudentImmigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration Controls

Christina Rees [62977] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on (a) reducing the level of migration to the UK and (b) caps related to international student recruitment.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government is committed to bringing down net migration to sustainable levels.

There is no limit to the number of genuine international students who can come to study in the United Kingdom. There are no plans to change this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-02/62977/>

Immigration: Appeals

Gareth Thomas [61796] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of appeals listed by the (a) first-tier and (b) upper tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber since 2015 have taken more than 12 months to be heard; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Oliver Heald: From 1 January 2015 to 30 September 2016 the number and proportion of appeals listed and disposed of taking more than 12 months was 24,319 (20%) in the First-tier Tribunal and 714 (5%) in the Upper Tribunal.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service does everything it can to avoid unnecessary delay in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber and has provided an additional 4,950 tribunal sitting days for this financial year to reduce caseloads.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-25/61796/>

Immigration Controls

James Cartlidge [63193] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to reopen Tier 3 of the non-EU immigration system.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Tier 3 of the points based system for non-EU migrants has never been opened and there are currently no plans to open it.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-06/63193/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz [62291] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate he has made of the number of EU citizens who have entered the UK since 23 June 2016.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply. ...

Letter from the UK Statistics Authority: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes international migration estimates on a rolling year basis. These estimates include data on the number of EU citizens who have entered the UK. The most recent estimates, published 1 December, are for year ending June 2016. Therefore, most of the period covered in this release was prior to 23 June 2016. The next release will be published on 23 February 2017 and will cover Long Term International Migration data for the year ending September 2016. This will include international migration estimates for the first three months following 23 June 2016. Data covering a full year (YE June 2017) will be available in November 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-30/62291/>

Refugees: Syria

Stuart McDonald [63148] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy for those admitted to the UK through the Syrian vulnerable persons programme to be able to apply for refugee status in the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Those who benefit from resettlement under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme are granted five years' Humanitarian Protection (HP). At the end of this period they can apply for settlement. It is open to those individuals to claim asylum which may result in them being granted refugee status. Each asylum claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-06/63148/>

Refugees: Children

Tom Brake [62237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) financial and (b) other resources have been allocated to support the implementation of section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in 2016-17.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government seeks to ensure the availability of funding and resources to deliver against its commitments.

At the height of the operation in Calais the UK had deployed over 200 Home Office staff, interpreters and social workers who visited the specialist centres in France to carry out the necessary assessments to determine whether it was in the best interests of the children to be transferred to the UK. We have also seconded an expert to Greece in addition to our long-standing secondee in Italy to support efforts to identify children who may qualify for transfer to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act and the Dublin Regulation.

The Home Office pays a national rate of £114 per day (£41,610 pa) for every UASC under the age of 16 and £91 per day for every UASC age 16 or 17 (£33,215 pa). These rates represent a 20% and 28% increase respectively on the previous rates. We also pay £200 per week (£10,400 pa) as a contribution towards leaving care costs for former UASC aged 18 and over who have leave to remain in the UK, this represents a 33% increase on the previous rate.

More broadly, the Government has established a £10 million Refugee Children Fund for Europe to support the needs of vulnerable refugee and migrant children arriving in Europe.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-30/62237/>

Asylum

Ian Murray [62574] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to (a) ensure that the initial discussions on asylum applications are correct and (b) reduce the number of asylum decisions overturned at appeal.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: All asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits against a background of relevant case law and up to date country information. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

We are working to improve the quality of decision-making to ensure that we properly consider all the evidence provided and get decisions right the first time. UK Visas and Immigration has an internal audit process, consisting of reviews by senior case workers and independent auditors, which assesses whether Home Office policy has been followed.

An allowed appeal is not in itself an indication that our decision was incorrect at the time it was made though we aim to reduce the allowed appeal rate by

analysing the reasons why appeals are allowed and using this to further improve guidance and training.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-31/62574/>

Asylum

Alasdair McDonnell [62671] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will respond to the report from Freedom From Torture, Proving Torture, on its findings on the level of certainty required by her Department for asylum seekers to prove that they have experienced torture.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Officials have reviewed the cases that are referred to in the report and have engaged with, and will continue to work closely with, Freedom from Torture to review and develop further our policy and training.

The underlying policy objective when processing claims involving allegations of torture or serious harm and when considering medical evidence in the context of an asylum claim is to ensure that all relevant medico-legal (and any other) evidence provided in support of the claim is properly considered and given appropriate weight. We consider all asylum claims in a sensitive manner on an individual, objective and impartial basis ensuring that all cases are managed effectively throughout the asylum process to avoid unnecessary delay.

The policy guidance sets out how to properly consider, and afford appropriate weight to, medico-legal evidence as part of a claim for protection. It states explicitly that it is not the role of decision makers to dispute clinical findings in the medico-legal reports or make clinical judgments of their own about medical evidence or medical matters generally and all decision makers are trained in the application of this policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-01/62671/>

Asylum: Housing

Liz McInnes [62738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that asylum seekers have access to decent housing in all areas of the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The contract for asylum accommodation requires contractors to provide accommodation that is safe, habitable and fit for purpose; the requirements are equivalent to the Decent Homes Standards. The contract requires a strict inspection regime for the suppliers and a Home Office contract compliance team undertakes further inspections. When an inspection identifies a defect there are strict time frames within which a remedy must be provided. Over the life of the current contracts the standards of accommodation have improved.

The Home Office works closely with local government to increase the number of local authorities that participate in the asylum dispersal scheme; the number of areas participating has increased by over a third in the last two years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-01/62738/>

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Alan Brown [62801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 31 January 2017 to Question 61888, when the current lease arrangement for the site of Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre with the Crown is due to be reviewed.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre is operated by GEO Group UK Ltd under contract with the Home Office. The freehold of the site is owned by the Crown and held in the name of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. It forms part of the

Government's civil estate and therefore there is no lease arrangement in place.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-01/62801/>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-26/61888/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Child Refugees

Lord Dubs: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have decided to close the scheme for unaccompanied child refugees under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

...

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, we have not closed the scheme to transfer children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act. The announcement yesterday specified the total number of children that will be transferred pursuant to Section 67, as required by the legislation. Over 200 children have already arrived in the UK under this provision and more children will continue to be transferred from Europe up to the specified number of 350.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, I must confess that I am slightly puzzled because, if the Government say that there is a specified number of children, then after that total has been reached the scheme has been closed. I remember—it was not long ago—that the Prime Minister, when she was Home Secretary, told me that the Government were prepared to accept the amendment, and on the same day the then Immigration Minister said to me that the Government would accept the letter and the spirit of that amendment. In arbitrarily closing down a scheme without any good reason for doing so, I believe that the Government are in breach of their own commitments.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the scheme is not closed. As the noble Lord said, we will be accepting up to the limit of 350 but at this point in time the scheme is not closed. ... More children will come. The scheme is not closed. We have to appreciate, and I think noble Lords generally have appreciated, that the capacity of local authorities is limited.

Noble Lords: Rubbish!

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Noble Lords might rubbish that but the capacity of local authorities is limited. We have relied on their good will. It has been an entirely voluntary approach from local authorities, and of course I encourage more local authorities that think that they might have places to come forward. I refer noble Lords to what this Government have done. Up to September 2016 we have provided in this country refuge or other forms of leave for more than 8,000 children. I am very proud of that.

Lord Cormack: Will my noble friend accept that the concern that has been expressed this morning is not confined to the other side of the House? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Sorry, I thought my noble friend might say something else. Yes, I accept the concern but I can only reiterate what I have already said.

Baroness Sheehan: The implication of the Government's actions, if we go according to the letter of the amendment—Section 67 of the Act—is that local authorities have reached the end of the road and have no further capacity. However, that reasoning is palpably faulty. There are many people who have expressed an interest in helping, as well as churches, other faith groups and local authorities. I know several people who have indicated their willingness to help to a local authority but have had little response. Obviously the Government are quite uninterested in taking in more children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, that is absolutely wrong.

We have had informal expressions of interest, and if the noble Baroness has the names of those individuals and church and community groups I encourage her to contact us so that we can get matters in train.

Baroness Morris of Bolton: My Lords, I declare an interest as a member of the business task force that was set up after the Syrian donor conference to provide jobs and help families and the dispossessed in the region, to prevent them making the perilous journey to Europe. The Government have to be congratulated on the work they are doing there. When the number of 450 is reached, will the Government still look at the discretionary clauses under Dublin which allow countries to take in the most vulnerable people? I am particularly thinking of mothers with babies and the victims of traffickers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Yes, the people to whom my noble friend refers in the region are the most vulnerable people on the globe. We do not close our doors to people who genuinely seek refuge in this country. Up to September last year, we gave asylum or other forms of leave to 8,000 children.

Lord Reid of Cardowan: Will the Minister explain to us where the figure of 350 came from; what consultations and calculations underpin it; and whether her request that others volunteer from the local authorities means that, if such representations and offers are made, the Government will revise that figure of 350?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord asks a valuable question. We do not stop consulting local authorities. Of course if local authorities or community sponsorship groups were to come forward, we would certainly consider that. The figure of 350—in fact, it was 400—came from local authorities. We have revised it down to 350 because, if some of the family cases break down, the children will need local authority care and we need some capacity to provide it. Our consultation with local authorities is ongoing.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: My Lords, the Minister will recall that last month I raised with her the disappearance of unaccompanied children. Figures from Europol that I first raised in your Lordships' House in June showed that 10,000 children had disappeared on the continent and that hundreds were disappearing here in the United Kingdom. One of the reasons why I was proud to be a signatory to the amendment moved by the noble Lord, Lord Dubs, was the disappearance of those unaccompanied children. Last week, I sent the Minister a statement from ECPAT UK, the organisation established to protect children, which said that it is shocking that the Home Office says it has no evidence. Where do we stand on these missing unaccompanied minors?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I presume the noble Lord refers to children both at home and abroad. Obviously, if a child is in Greece, Italy, France or wherever, it is the responsibility of that Government to safeguard that child. I said to the noble Lord that I did not have evidence of disappeared children in this country. That is not to say that in future that may not happen, but at this point we have had no representation from local authorities to say that children are disappearing. Obviously, if that were to be the case, we would follow it up with some urgency.

Lord Rosser: My Lords, yesterday my noble friend Lord Dubs in this Chamber asked the Government, “to confirm the news that we have heard about the Government intending to bring to an end the scheme under Section 67 of the Immigration Act”, namely, the Dubs amendment. In response, the Government told the House: “A Written Ministerial Statement will underscore that, far from doing that, Section 67 of the Act ... stands”.—*[Official Report, 8/2/17; col. 1715.]*

Why was no reference made yesterday by the Government to any cap of 350 when that response was given to the very specific question from my noble friend Lord Dubs?

Can the Minister also respond to a question about the Written Statement? It says: “Local authorities told us they have capacity for around 400 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children until the end of this financial year”.

What capacity have local authorities told the Government they have for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the 1917-18 financial year on the basis that the current level

of government funding is continued?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend referred the House to the Written Ministerial Statement in which the figure of 350 was iterated; clearly, the WMS was laid not long before Questions began. I cannot remember the second part of the noble Lord's question.

Lord Rosser: I am happy to repeat it because it is a quote from the Government's own Written Statement: "Local authorities told us they have capacity for around 400 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children until the end of this financial year".—[*Official Report, Commons, 8/2/17; col. 10WS.*]

What capacity have local authorities told the Government they have for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the next financial year, namely 1917-18, on the basis that the current level of government funding is continued?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think the noble Lord means 2017-18. Obviously, as I have said to noble Lords, the Government are in constant consultation with local authorities on a range of things, including this. The scheme is entirely voluntary. We do not want to force local authorities to do things that they may not have the capacity to fulfil. Children are of paramount importance.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-09/debates/3F7792BE-BBE2-4057-A2F3-3FBCB3E2985A/ChildRefugees>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Schools

Lord Judd [HL4566] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to ensure that schools are places where children feel free and safe to learn and grow; and how they intend to ensure that schools are not subject to overt or indirect pressure to play an active role in the operation and policing of immigration policies.

Reply from Lord Nash: All schools are bound by requirements of the Equalities Act 2010. The Act makes it unlawful for the responsible body of a school to discriminate against, harass or victimise a pupil or potential pupil:

- in relation to admissions,
- in the way it provides education for pupils,
- in the way it provides pupils access to any benefit, facility or service, or
- by excluding a pupil or subjecting them to any other detriment.

Further information on schools' responsibilities under the Equalities Act is attached.

The school an individual child attends will hold information about that child which will be used by the school to help ensure the child receives the best possible education. Every term the school is required, by law, to send some of this data to the Department for Education (DfE) via the school census. This process has been in place for more than 10 years and the information is used to provide a clear picture of how the school system is working, at local and national level. It helps us to make sure we are allocating funds where they are needed and that no groups of children are missing out on the education they deserve.

This year we also asked schools for additional information on pupil nationality and country of birth as well as data on proficiency in English. The return of nationality and country of birth data is completely optional and parents are under no obligation to provide it if they don't want to. These new data items on nationality, country of birth, and English proficiency will not be passed to the Home Office, or anyone else. They are solely for the Department for Education to use for research.

Separately, where the police or Home Office have clear evidence that a child may be at risk or there is evidence of criminal activity, including illegal immigration, limited data including a pupil's address and school details may be requested from

the Department for Education. It is right that we share this data if it helps to keep a child safe from harm or to prevent a crime. This does not include nationality and country of birth information recently introduced into school census. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the DfE and the Home Office, which is available in the house library, sets out how this process works and the data which is shared.

[Advice_on_the_Equality_Act](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-11/HL4566/>

Refugees: Children in Care

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5011] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer given by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 January (HL Deb, cols 665–6), what assessment they have made of the report in the Independent, on 17 April 2016, of at least 239 refugee children in the UK having disappeared from care facilities in the UK, and the report by ECPAT UK *Heading back to harm: A study on trafficked and unaccompanied children going missing from care in the UK*, published in November 2016, claiming that from September 2014 to September 2015, 593 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children went missing from care at least once.

Reply from Lord Nash: The Government has a comprehensive framework for safeguarding children, including unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children. In light of the recent increase in arrivals of refugee children into the UK, we have been working with local authorities, non-government organisations and other public bodies to make sure that looked after migrant children receive the immediate support they need.

This support has included making sure local authorities are aware of the heightened risk that they may go missing due to being trafficked. We are also funding the Refugee Council and ECPAT to deliver training for foster carers and support workers of unaccompanied migrant children, who may be at risk of trafficking, to ensure they can also offer the appropriate support to the children in their care.

On 1 November we announced through a written ministerial statement our plans to publish a strategy, by 1 May 2017, for the safeguarding of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children in England. In developing this strategy, we will consult local authorities to identify any further action that might be taken to prevent these children going missing.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-26/HL5011/>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at

http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/hbth_report2016_final_web.pdf

Asylum: Children in Care

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4992] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children went missing from local authority care in England in (1) 2014, (2) 2015, and (3) 2016.

Reply from Lord Nash: National statistics on numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) who were looked after at 31 March are available in Table A3 of the attached document. Experimental official statistics on looked after children who went missing during the year are available in Table G1 of the same document.

During the whole year ending 31 March 2015, 190 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were identified as having had a missing incident.

During the year ending 31 March 2016, 640 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children were identified as having had a missing incident. Due to improvements in quality and completeness of the experimental statistics, figures for 2015 and 2016

are not comparable.

These experimental official statistics were collected for the first time in the year ending 31 March 2015 and so figures are not available for 2014.

[Looked after children in England including adoption](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-25/HL4992/)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-25/HL4992/>

Asylum: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4996] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under 12 years of age have been accepted into foster care in the UK in the past 12 months.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL4997] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children between 12 and 18 years of age have been accepted into foster care in the UK in the past 12 months.

Reply from Lord Nash: In the year ending 31 March 2016, there were 50 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children under 12 years of age who were looked after in a foster placement in England and 1,560 between the ages of 12 to 18 years.

The Department for Education only holds the information for England. The devolved administrations hold the information for the other constituent countries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-25/HL4996/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-25/HL4997/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5118] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the strategy for safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children announced on 1 November 2016 will include (1) the provision of independent guardians for all unaccompanied children in the UK, and (2) a commitment to continue to fund local authorities which support unaccompanied children at the same, or higher, rate as they currently receive.

Reply from Lord Nash: The safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children will be published by 1 May 2017. It will set out further detail on how these children should be safeguarded and have their welfare promoted. In developing the strategy, the Government has committed to review the information currently provided to asylum seeking and refugee children about their rights, their current circumstances, and the role of local authorities in caring for them. We have also said that we will regularly review the funding provided 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/Lords/2017-01-31/HL5118/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL5119] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the strategy for safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children announced on 1 November 2016 will include financial support to local authorities which undertake safeguarding assessments as part of the procedures for family reunification under the Dublin III Regulation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Funding from the Controlling Migration Fund has been made available to local authorities that conducted family assessments during the Calais camp clearance as part of the procedures for

family reunification under the Dublin III Regulation. The wider review of the funding provided to local authorities for the care and support of unaccompanied asylum seeking children will consider the costs to local authorities from conducting family assessments for future family reunification cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-31/HL5119/>

The strategy referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-11-01/HCWS232/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL5177] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the written ministerial statement by the Minister of State for Vulnerable Children and Families, Mr Edward Timpson, on 1 November 2016 concerning a safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children (HCWS232), what that strategy will contain; and when it will be published.

Reply from Lord Nash: The safeguarding strategy for unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children will be published by 1 May 2017.

The strategy will set out how we will continue to support local authorities and other agencies to care for these young people, through increasing placement capacity, encouraging the use of supported lodgings, addressing additional training needs and revising statutory guidance on how to support and care for these children. In developing the strategy, we will also evaluate procedures for the safe transfer of children from Europe, identify further action to prevent these children going missing, review information provided to these children about their rights, and review the funding provided to local authorities to assist them in supporting and caring for these children. The strategy will cover not only unaccompanied children who will become looked after, but also children who are seeking to be reunited with family.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-01/HL5177/>

Asylum: Housing

Lord Beecham [HL5122] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to monitor the performance of contractors providing accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seeker accommodation is provided through a suite of private providers. The performance of these providers is monitored via the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) regime, details of which are set out in their contracts and cover the provision of the whole service. These are monitored formally, on a monthly basis, at Contract Management meetings between the providers and representatives of UK Visas and Immigration.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-31/HL5122/>

Asylum: Uganda

The following four questions all received the same answer

Baroness Barker [HL5158] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT asylum seekers from Uganda have been held in UK detention centres in each of the last three years.

Baroness Barker [HL5159] To ask Her Majesty's Government what was the average length of detention of LGBT people seeking asylum from Uganda in each of the last three years.

Baroness Barker [HL5160] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT people seeking asylum from Uganda have been refused leave to remain in the UK during the last three years.

Baroness Barker [HL5161] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many LGBT people seeking asylum have been deported to Uganda during the last three years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Code of Practice for Official Statistics has established common standards to ensure a coherent and trustworthy service to the user of statistics.

Home Office officials are continuing to review and assess information on the number of people claiming asylum where sexual orientation may form the basis of the claim, in order to ensure that any statistics produced meet the principles on both assured methodology and quality (ensuring statistical methods are consistent with scientific principles) and governing user needs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-01/HL5158/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-01/HL5159/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-01/HL5160/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-02-01/HL5161/>

Press Releases

Inhumane action by the UK Government

<http://news.gov.scot/news/inhumane-action-by-the-uk-government>

Refugee Doctors Programme

<http://news.gov.scot/news/refugee-doctors-programme>

New Publications

Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration: Inspection of Country of Origin Information

http://icinspector.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Inspection-of-Country-of-Origin-Information_November-2016.pdf

Court of Justice of the European Union judgment: According to Advocate General Mengozzi, Member States must issue a visa on humanitarian grounds where substantial grounds have been shown for believing that a refusal would place persons seeking international protection at risk of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2017-02/cp170011en.pdf>

Beyond Detention A Global Strategy to support governments to end the detention of asylum-seekers and refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/53aa929f6>

News: Closure of child refugee scheme

Child migrants: UK to end 'Dubs amendment' commitment

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38912428>

Dubs amendment: End of child migrant scheme 'shameful'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38918317>

Did government go back on its word on child refugees?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-38919873>

Sturgeon: Cutting off Dubs child refugee route 'inhumane'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-38937288>

Child refugees risk being killed, warns Justin Welby

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38926955>

Petition and Sturgeon letter attack child refugee pledge U-turn

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/petition-and-sturgeon-letter-attack-child-refugee-pledge-u-turn-1-4364464>

Scottish church leaders condemn child refugee scheme closure

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-church-leaders-condemn-child-refugee-scheme-closure-1-4363226>

Government 'betraying British values' over lone child refugee relocation scheme

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15078984.Government_betraying_British_values_over_lone_child_refugee_relocation_scheme/

Daughter of 'Britain's Schindler' urges Theresa May to reverse child refugee scheme closure

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15082850.Daughter_of_Britain_s_Schindler_urges_May_to_reverse_child_refugee_scheme_closure/

A shameful, sly decision that betrays child refugees in peril

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/15082884.David_Pratt_A_shameful_sly_decision_that_betrays_child_refugees_in_peril/

Government condemned for taking only 350 lone child refugees from Europe

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/366367/britain-will-take-350-lone-child-refugees-from-europe-says-immigration-minister/>

More children will be trafficked and killed when Dubs scheme ends – Archbishop

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/367428/daughter-of-britains-schindler-calls-for-reversal-of-refugee-scheme-closure/>

Nicola Sturgeon in plea to PM to reverse 'shameful' refugee scheme closure

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/367632/church-officials-condemn-reprehensible-closure-of-child-refugee-scheme>

Nicola Sturgeon in plea to PM to reverse 'shameful' refugee scheme

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15086168.Nicola_Sturgeon_in_plea_to_PM_to_reverse_shameful_refugee_scheme/

Church leaders urge UK government: Keep taking child refugees

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/church_leaders_urge_uk_government_keep_taking_child_refugees

Abandoning child refugees is a shabby cop-out, says peer

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/don-t-abandon-child-refugees-urges-peer-nzr5clttv>

Claims of betrayal as door shuts on refugee children

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/claims-of-betrayal-as-door-shuts-on-hundreds-of-refugee-children-lzfwr9v7s>

PM accused of closing door on child refugees as 'Dubs' scheme ends

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/08/dubs-scheme-lone-child-refugees-uk-closed-down>

Archbishop of Canterbury: ministers should reconsider child refugee decision

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/09/archbishop-of-canterbury-justin-welby-ministers-should-reconsider-child-refugee-decision>

Stopping the Dubs scheme for child refugees is cruel and heartless

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/09/stopping-dubs-scheme-child-refugees-cruel-heartless>

Lord Dubs calls on home secretary to accept more child refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/10/lord-dubs-calls-home-secretary-accept-more-child-refugees>

Dubs delivers petition to No 10 and condemns child refugee 'cop-out'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/11/theresa-may-under-increasing-pressure-to-restart-dubs-scheme>

Archbishop and Tory MPs criticise closure of child refugee scheme

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/09/tory-mps-join-criticism-of-amber-rudd-over-child-refugees>

Daughter of 'British Schindler' urges May to help more child refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/10/daughter-of-british-schindler-urges-may-to-help-more-child-refugees-dubs>

The Dubs amendment: a glowing ember of compassion

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/09/the-guardian-view-on-the-dubs-amendment-a-glowing-ember-of-compassion>

Theresa May handed 500,000-strong petition condemning closure of child refugee programme

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dubs-amendment-refugee-petition-close-child-theresa-may-a7575296.html>

Lord Dubs to take on Government over deceitful child refugee U-turn

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/lord-dubs-to-challenge-government-backtrack-on-promise-to-accept-vulnerable-refugee-children-a7570586.html>

If we turn our backs on lone Syrian child refugees, British values are truly dead

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/lone-child-refugees-dubs-scheme-calais-travel-ban-theresa-may-a7570866.html>

Archbishop of Canterbury joins MPs in attack on Government's child refugee 'cap'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/09/tory-mps-criticise-government-cap-child-refugees/>

Britain will only take in 350 child refugees of the 3,000 campaigners wanted because cash-strapped councils have run out of space

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4204806/UK-350-child-refugees-Dubs-deal.html>

PM under pressure over cap on child refugees as Archbishop condemns decision
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4208032/Archbishop-saddened-shocked-350-child-refugees-admitted-UK.html>

Daughter of `Britain's Schindler' calls for reversal of refugee scheme closure
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4210982/Daughter-Britain-s-Schindler-calls-reversal-refugee-scheme-closure.html>

50,000-strong child refugee petition delivered to Number 10
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4214426/Lord-Dubs-delivering-50-000-signature-child-refugee-petition-No-10.html>

News: Other immigration and asylum

MPs to have final say on status of EU migrants
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mps-to-have-final-say-on-eu-migrants-m6jbm7cm>

Glasgow dismisses Tory claims they consulted with councils on child refugees
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15087047.Glasgow_dismisses_Tory_claims_they_consulted_with_councils_on_child_refugees/

Migrants could make up four in ten new households: Minister's forecast for the next two decades
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4194570/Migrants-make-four-ten-new-households.html>

Upfront charges for NHS foreign patients in England
<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-38876527>

Refugee doctors to be retained to work in Scottish NHS
http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/15078100.Refugee_doctors_to_be_retained_to_work_in_Scottish_NHS/

Refugee doctors who fled to Scotland want to use their skills in NHS to 'give something back'
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/doctor-refugees-who-fled-scotland-9782602>

Refugee doctors get a helping hand to plug gaps in NHS
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/refugee-doctors-get-a-helping-hand-to-plug-gaps-in-nhs-xswtphm5q>

Nationalists are discriminating against immigrants
<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-02-08/scotland/nationalists-are-discriminating-against-immigrants-0p9cbzmlk>

Sleeping in the undergrowth, the children still hoping to get to the UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/10/sleeping-in-the-undergrowth-the-children-still-hoping-to-get-to-the-uk>

A small shift by the Home Office would mean so much to Syrian families
<https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2017/feb/10/home-office-syrian-refugee-families-islington-council>

Albanians caught entering UK illegally more than any other nationality
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/feb/08/albanians-caught-entering-uk-illegally-more-than-any-other-nationality>

What every home needs: a smiling refugee

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/what-every-home-needs-a-smiling-refugee-kbl6zqhc6>

Future in the balance for refugee support agency

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15086793.Future_in_the_balance_for_refugee_support_agency/

New £50,000 makeover for refugee charity

http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15076983.New_50_000_makeover_for_refugee_charity/

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Religious Literacy

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to combat religious extremism and to promote a cohesive society by enhancing religious literacy at all levels of government.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the Government are challenging all forms of extremism through our counterextremism and Prevent programmes. We are working closely with faith groups to understand the impact of policies and to improve religious literacy in government. The Home Secretary and the Communities Secretary hosted a round table for representatives of all faiths last November.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: I thank the noble Baroness for that Answer, but there are still concerns. The Government paper on the hate crime action plan contained no mention of non-Abrahamic faiths. That suggests something about the religious literacy there. Does the Minister agree that democracy implies being attentive to the legitimate concerns of all sections of the community, not those of a single religious or other majority? Does she further agree that teachings and practices that go against human rights must be robustly challenged, but that we need to know something about what we are challenging before we can do that? Programmes like Prevent cannot be effective without such knowledge. One final point is that I have put the basics of Sikh teachings on one side of A4, and that can be done for other faiths as well. Should that not be essential for religious literacy in government departments?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I missed a little of the noble Lord's question, but I think I have enough to go on. He said that the hate crime action plan did not specifically refer to non-Abrahamic faiths, but the tenets of the action plan cover points on hatred on the basis of religious belief, disability, sexuality and so on. It is therefore implicit within it that, for example, Sikh communities are included. As for the understanding of religious literacy within both government and wider society, both the Home Office and DCLG engage widely and often with faith communities. Shortly after the referendum, I myself met people from different faiths, including Sikhs, in Manchester to discuss religious literacy, the outcome of the referendum and the corresponding hate crime attached to it.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock: My Lords, will the Minister confirm that there has been no violence and no torture, and no wars have been waged, in the cause of humanism?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I do not think I can accurately answer that without looking at my history books.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, can my noble friend tell us whether the Prevent strand of the Government's Contest strategy is part of their counterterrorism strategy or their counterextremism strategy? Can she also say whether there is a religious literacy

element to the training given to Prevent co-ordinators? If there is, would she be happy to place a copy in the Library?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the central tenet of the Prevent strategy aims to protect young people who might be vulnerable to both extremism and terrorist preaching either online or in their communities. Actually, it is a protection mechanism, not a targeting mechanism, as I am sure my noble friend will be aware. It is a protective element to help prevent some of the external forces to which our young people are subjected in a negative way prevailing.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, just three weeks ago I spent half a day in an immigration removal centre and so gained an up-to-date insight into some of the complex and sensitive issues that are being dealt with there. Concerns continue to be raised about the level of religious literacy among some of the asylum caseworkers. Is the Minister content with the level of training that they are getting in religious literacy and, if not, what can be done to improve it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate raises a very important point about the detention estate. Certainly an awful lot of time and effort has gone into the training of staff in terms of the sensitivities around LGBT detainees; in terms of his important point about religious literacy, I will go back and check on just what training is given in that area.

Baroness Hussein-Ece: Does the Minister agree that last weekend's Visit My Mosque initiative, which hundreds—indeed, maybe thousands—took advantage of, was a very good and positive example of promoting greater understanding, community cohesion and tolerance in our society? Does she think that we should have more such initiatives from all faiths to bring people together and establish a more understanding and truthful dialogue?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness raises a really good point about community cohesion. There was a mosque event just near to me last weekend and I had reported back that it was incredibly successful. In fact, the same community holds a summer fair, to which all their neighbours are invited and which is a great initiative—so yes, I would encourage more.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-02-09/debates/BD4E79E3-BDC6-4A06-831A-FDDB0990AE27/ReligiousLiteracy>

News

'Proud to be there' to #VisitMyMosque

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-38875344>

'We want you to know you're not alone': why I went to visit a mosque

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/06/we-want-you-to-know-youre-not-alone-why-i-went-to-visit-a-mosque>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-03955 Ben Macpherson: Megaphone, A New Residency for Theatre Makers of Colour – That the Parliament congratulates Sara Shaarawi and The Workers Theatre on supporting and producing a new residency, Megaphone, for theatre makers of colour in Scotland; notes that The Workers Theatre is a new project, which is based in Leith and Glasgow, to create a co-operatively owned and managed theatre in Scotland;

appreciates that Megaphone is about empowering artists and bringing vibrant diversity to Scotland's theatre; recognises that it is a direct response to the barriers to getting work produced that artists of colour currently face; acknowledges that this is a chance to show solidarity with artists of colour in Scotland and ensure that their voices are heard; appreciates that, in the current political climate, people need to stand by those communities that are most vulnerable; recognises that a crowdfunder was launched on 8 February 2017 to help secure the funds for the residencies; notes that this money will help support three mentored residencies for artists from under-represented communities who want to undertake a theatre project, and encourages everyone to support this project in any way that they can to help ensure Megaphone can amplify the voices of writers and theatre makers of colour in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-03955>

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10775&i=98790#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Voluntary Work: Discrimination

Daniel Zeichner [62447] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will amend the Equality Act 2010, or bring forward new legislation, to protect volunteers from encountering discrimination in the workplace.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: Volunteers are not covered by the Equality Act 2010 (the Act) because they do not meet the definition of an employee under the Act, a position confirmed by the Supreme Court in the case of *X v Mid Sussex Citizens Advice Bureau* [2012]. We have no plans to change this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-01-31/62447/>

A summary of the judgment referred to above can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2011-0112-press-summary.pdf>

and the judgment can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2011-0112-judgment.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Youth Justice: Travellers

Lord Beecham [HL5072] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendations by the Traveller Movement in its report *Overlooked and Overrepresented: Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in the youth justice system*, to address the poorer outcomes for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma children in youth justice, and in particular the case for the Youth Justice Board to update its ethnicity data collection system to include Gypsy and Traveller categories.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We have made clear that, outcomes for children in custody are not good enough. This is evident for all young offenders, including those who identify as Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT).

It is noteworthy, however, that in the 2015/16 'Children in Custody' report that describes the number of GRT children in young offender institutions (YOI), that participation in education, work or vocational or skills training in custody is higher

for those identifying as GRT in YOIs when compared to the rest of the cohort. In December we set out our response to Charlie Taylor's review of the youth justice system and how we will improve outcomes for young people across the youth custodial estate. Measures include developing a new pre-apprenticeship pathway to ensure that all children and young people are in education, training or employment on their release, boosting the number of front line staff in YOIs and developing two 'secure schools' with a particular focus on education and health. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is keen in principle to move to the 18+1 ethnicity monitoring system from the 2011 Census and is examining the requirements and dependencies with existing IT systems and identifying the feasibility and indicative costs of moving to the revised classification system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-30/HL5072/>

The report referred to in the above question can be read at http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_50229-1.pdf

The report referred to in the above answer can be read at https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/11/Children-in-Custody-2015-16_WEB.pdf

Young Offenders: Travellers

Lord Beecham [HL5074] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration has been given to establishing and promoting Gypsy, Traveller and Roma groups in Secure Training Centres and Young Offenders Institutions, based on successful models seen in the secure adult estate.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: We have already introduced elements from the models used in the adult estate in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs). These include guidance on good practice, which is available to all staff and includes guidance on those identifying as Gypsy, Romany or Traveller (GRT); and issues for the management of GRT young people which is incorporated into the general training of new officers.

We are committed to improving the outcomes for all young people in the youth justice system, including those who identify as GRT. We want all young people in custody to have their individual needs assessed and a personal plan in place to drive improvements in their behaviour, education and health.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-01-30/HL5074/>

Press Release

New Scotland Committee members to spearhead progressing equality in 2017

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/new-scotland-committee-members-spearhead-progressing-equality-2017>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Hate Crime

Fulton MacGregor: To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to tackle hate crime in schools. (S5W-6546)

Reply from Angela Constance: All forms of hate crime and prejudice are completely unacceptable. In schools, we want all children and young people to learn tolerance, respect, equality and good citizenship to address and prevent prejudice. Whilst not specifically about tackling hate crime, promoting positive attitudes amongst children and young people is key to long term prevention.

The Scottish Government takes bullying very seriously, and we are currently refreshing our national approach to anti-bullying (including prejudice based bullying). 'Respect for All' will help everyone involved in the lives of children and young people to identify and address bullying, including racist, homophobic and abusive behaviour whether it happens online or offline. Teachers, schools, local authorities, youth organisations and sports organisations will be able to draw on this advice when refreshing their anti-bullying policies. The guidance will be published later this year.

In addition, Relationships sexual health and parenthood (RSHP) education is an integral part of the health and wellbeing area of the curriculum in Scotland. In 2014 we published guidance on RSHP education in schools that clearly states how important it is that RSHP education addresses diversity and reflects issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people or children with LGBTI parents, such as same sex marriage and hate crime.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-06546&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Man who sent anti-Semitic messages to MP and others jailed

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/man_who_sent_anti-semitic_messages_to_mp_and_others_jailed/

News

Brexit: Hate crimes could soar once Article 50 is triggered, police and community groups warn

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-latest-article-50-hate-crimes-police-eu-negotiations-a7574591.html>

We must guard against hate crimes, but Britain is not a racist country

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/we-must-guard-against-hate-crimes-but-britain-is-not-a-racist-country-a7575046.html>

Home Secretary's Statement on Tackling Anti-Muslim Hatred

<https://tellmamauk.org/home-secretarys-statement-tackling-anti-muslim-hatred/>

Catholics are again Scotland's oppressed minority

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/12/catholics-are-again-scotlands-oppressed-minority>

Brexit hate crime focus of Cardiff Uni monitoring study

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-38919475>

Suspended Tory admits inappropriate Diane Abbott tweet

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-38930689>

Conservative official suspended over racist tweet aimed at Diane Abbott

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/feb/09/alan-pearmain-conservative-official-suspended-over-racist-tweet-aimed-at-diane-abbott>

Tory councillor suspended over 'completely unacceptable' racist tweet depicting Diane Abbott as ape

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/09/diane-abbott-tells-brexiteer-minister-f-attempts-kiss-commons-bar/>

Far-right bid to disrupt building of mosque in Aberdeen

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15077130.Far_right_bid_to_disrupt_building_of_mosque_in_Aberdeen/

Drunk youth grabbed religious scarf from woman

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15077162.Drunk_youth_grabbed_religious_scarf_from_woman/

Former Moderator visits mosque to show support after attack

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/former_moderator_visits_mosque_to_show_support_after_attack

Anti-racism campaigner cleared of racism

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-38912888>

Facebook stops advertisers illegally discriminating by race

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/feb/09/facebook-stops-advertisers-illegally-discriminating-race>

Brief Encounter clock stilled by row over 'racist' comments about child migrants

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/02/07/brief-encounter-clock-stilled-migrant-comments-row/>

Internet troll to be sentenced over anti-semitic death threats to Labour MP

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/crime_courts/15084193.Internet_troll_to_be_sentenced_over_anti_semitic_death_threats_to_Labour_MP/

Internet troll who made vile anti-Semitic death threats to Jewish Labour MP telling her she'd 'get it like Jo Cox' is jailed

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4213040/Troll-jailed-making-death-threats-Jewish-MP.html>

Images released after anti-Semitic football chants

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-38901977>

Police hunting two football fans over shocking video of group chanting vile anti-Semitic abuse at Spurs fans on a tram

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4201354/Police-hunting-two-football-fans-anti-Semitic-abuse.html>

FA Council's Ray Kiddell sparks Kick It Out complaint with 'ethnic' comment

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2017/feb/10/kick-it-out-football-supporters-federation-complain-fa-ray-kiddell>

Why did Oxford circulate a criminalised image of me – because I'm a black man?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/feb/10/oxford-university-circulate-criminalised-image-black-man>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Human Rights

Liam McArthur: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-05681 by Derek Mackay on 19 January 2017, what information it holds on the progress of human rights improvements in Scotland since 2007, and how this is measured. (S5W-6349)

Reply from Angela Constance: Information on Scotland's performance against the full spectrum of international human rights norms is available from a wide variety of sources.

These include reports prepared by the Scottish Government, national human rights institutions and civil society under United Nations and Council of Europe treaties. Information from other sources is also relevant, including public attitudes surveys, parliamentary proceedings, impact assessments, the Equality Budget Statement and reports on the progress made by public authorities to achieve Equality Outcomes.

The Scottish Government is committed to further enhancing the National Performance Framework. Both human rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals are central to that work.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-06349&ResultsPerPage=10>

The answer referred to in the above question can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05681&ResultsPerPage=10>

Press Release

Article 50 Bill

<http://news.gov.scot/news/article-50-bill>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Douglas Carswell [63143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many prosecutions have been brought under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 since the introduction of that legislation.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong physical and psychological suffering to women and girls.

There has been one prosecution brought under the Female Genital Mutilation Act

2003, which was unsuccessful. The police and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have highlighted that one reason for the lack of investigations and prosecutions is a lack of referrals. In addition, cultural taboo and the age and vulnerability of the victims may prevent them coming forward.

In 2015 we significantly changed the law to breakdown these barriers. We introduced: extended extra-territorial jurisdiction, lifelong anonymity for victims, a new offence of failure to protect a girl from FGM and a mandatory reporting duty. We have also introduced FGM Protection Orders and latest figures show that 79 have been made to protect girls.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-06/63143/>

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New Publications

Opinion on combatting female genital mutilation and other harmful practices

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/document.cfm?doc_id=42315

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Other News

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: TAKE FIVE to stop fraud

If your charity receives a request to hand over (or do something else with) personal or financial information, you need to take a moment to reflect and step back from the situation. Yes, even if they say they're the bank, police or another trusted organisation, you still need to take the time to stop and think about what's really going on. ...

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news/take-five-to-stop-fraud>

Campaigners bid for FGM clinic in Wales

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-38885221>

Joint Statement on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-17-214_en.htm

Questions and Answers about Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-215_en.htm

Malin Björk: "Female genital mutilation is a way to control women's bodies and sexuality"

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170203STO61016/bj%C3%B6rk-female-genital-mutilation-way-to-control-women%E2%80%99s-bodies-and-sexuality>

United Nations: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56114#.WJnTxxJ96nY>

UN urges renewed fight to end female genital mutilation as populations grow where practice occurs

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56111#.WJnTzRJ96nY>

The mysteries of Tinker's Heart

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/the-mysteries-of-tinker-s-heart-1-4360561>

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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/studentssupportnoninterestbearingfinance.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership Communications (closing date 17 February 2017)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GCHSCPCcommunications>

Measurement framework for equality and human rights (closing date 21 February 2017)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-measurement-framework/measurement-framework-consultation>

Racism at work (closing date 27 February 2017)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RacismAtWork>

Brexit and Immigration (closing date 28 February 2017)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B22hK1jLWDQKWkg4VkrLQmo4ajq/view>

Destitution and asylum in Scotland (closing date 8 March 2017)

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/Destitution_and_Asylum_Call_for_Evidence_Final_20170125.pdf

Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: increasing numbers of successful donations (closing date 14 March 2017)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00511160.pdf>

Draft Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/equality-unit/draft-gender-representation-on-public-boards/>

**** Changes to The Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules 2014 arising from the Immigration Act 2016** (closing date 23 March 2017)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/590887/tpc-bail-consultation.pdf

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

**** Parliamentary Reform** (no closing date given)
<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CommissionParliamentaryReform/>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)
<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Social Economy Growth Fund

closing date for applications: 17 February 2017

The Scottish Government Social Economy Growth Fund will enable the third sector/social economy to improve and increase services and support for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. It will help organisations to increase their capacity to support disadvantaged people – for example by expanding existing services and employing additional staff. The Fund will support organisations with a proven track record of working successfully with individuals and families who experience disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion. For more details, and an application form, see

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/social-economy-growth-fund-guidance/>

**** closes this week!**

Social Innovation Fund

closing date for applications: 17 February 2017

The Scottish Government Social Innovation Fund enables social economy organisations to work in collaboration with research institutions, the public and private sector to develop, test and scale up new ideas and solutions to tackle poverty and disadvantage. For more details, and an application form, see <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/social-innovation-fund-guidance/>

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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**** this week!**

Guide to the Disclosure Scotland PVG Process

15 February 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Volunteer Scotland event to explain the purpose and requirements of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme for people working with children and vulnerable (“protected”) adults. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/h5efppz> or contact 0141 332 2444.

**** this week!**

Evaluating Anti-Prejudice Projects

16 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.3—3.30)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights capacity building session on evaluating anti-prejudice projects. The session will focus on developing effective, proportionate approaches to evaluating anti-prejudice projects or interventions, and will be especially useful for organisations with more limited experience of evaluation. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zlr3tot>

**** this week!**

Aspiring Communities Fund information event

16 February 2017 in Glasgow (2.00- 4.30) *advance registration required*

GCVS/GWSF event to provide information about new Scottish Government funding to support fragile and disadvantaged communities across Scotland to develop and deliver community-led solutions that tackle inequality and poverty. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jcngqym> or contact 0141 332 2444.

**** this week!**

Area Partnerships: Engaging BME Communities

17 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-1.30)

Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights workshop to explore why minority ethnic community groups are still under-represented in accessing Area Partnership funding, and how to engage better, and encourage participation and representation. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zr6fsdc>

Share My Table

20 February 2017 in Glasgow (10.30-2.30)

Launch of Scottish Refugee Council and Tramway project to bring people together through food and conversation in response to recent debate and media attention surrounding migration. For information see <https://www.facebook.com/events/825479087590846/> or contact Deborah May Deborah.May@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

The Holocaust: an Introduction - Part 2

Online – three sessions: 20 and 28 February, and 6 March

Yad Vashem course about the Holocaust, an inconceivable historical event, an idea so inhumanly warped that spread like wildfire through an entire continent, instigating the systematic annihilation of millions of Jews. For information see <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/holocaust-part-2>

**** Being a Muslim woman in Scotland**

21 February 2017 in Edinburgh (6.00-8.30)

Amina community conversation to discuss hate crime and islamophobia. For information see <http://www.mwrc.org.uk/events/edinburgh-roadshow/> or contact info@mwrc.org.uk / 0141 212 8420

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

22 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

7 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.

Leadership Skills for BME Workers

25 February 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

11 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

STUC training to improve or develop leadership skills. For minority workers who hold positions of responsibility in their union, or who would like to become more involved in their union in the future. For information contact Kirsten McTighe kmctighe@stuc.org.uk / 0141 337 8148.

Make sectarianism a history lesson

25 February 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

Xchange Scotland training to explore group and dialogue facilitation to challenge hate and nurture togetherness. For information contact sos@xchangescotland.org

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.

Introduction to Child Protection

1 March 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

GCVS session in partnership with Children in Scotland to discuss child protection, your individual and organisation's roles and responsibilities and the steps should you feel a child requires your support. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zqw4ays> or contact 0141 332 2444.

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.

Equality and Fair Work – Taking Action in your Workplace

3 March 2017 (registration until 24 February) in Edinburgh (10.00-4.30)

Scottish Union Learning and the Equality and Human Rights Commission event to consider equality legislation such as the Equality Act 2010 and the Fair Work Framework, with an emphasis on how these can be used in the workplace to ensure fairer and more equal workplaces. For information contact Alan White awhite@stuc.org.uk / 0141 337 8153

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.

**** Human Rights Tour**

8 March 2017 in Aberdeen (9.30)

British Institute for Human Rights event to raise awareness about human rights and their relevance in everyday life. For information see <https://www.bihar.org.uk/Event/human-rights-tour-aberdeen>

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 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>

**** Employability & Muslim Women in Scotland**

20 March 2017 in Edinburgh (12.00)

Amina event bringing together employability providers to facilitate discussion, create new partnerships and work together to foster best practice, ensuring that services address the needs of Muslim women. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/hm4wf4p>

Rights and entitlements of EEA nationals

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

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/>

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.

Cultural Competence

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.

Separated Children

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.

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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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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 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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