

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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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Destitution, Asylum and Insecure Immigration Status

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10883&i=99588#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-05157 Clare Adamson: Wishaw Welcomes Refugees – That the Parliament commends the politicians and the people of Wishaw who have come together to welcome Syrian refugees to the community; believes that the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency has a proud record of welcoming people, including from Vietnam and Congo, and most recently families from Syria; condemns the decision of so-called Scottish Defence League (SDL) to hold a protest in Wishaw on 15 April 2017 regarding the arrival of the Syrians; considers that the views of the SDL are abhorrent and racist

and do not reflect the views of the majority of citizens; regrets the potential disruption, considerable police resources and associated costs to the public purse as a result of the actions of the SDL, and commends Unite Against Fascism Scotland and the other organisations and people who have condemned the SDL and who are mounting a counter-demonstration to stand up to fascism and racism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-05157>

UK Parliament, Delegated Legislation Committee

Draft Immigration Act 2016 (Consequential Amendments) (Biometrics and Legal Aid) Regulations 2017

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-04-18/debates/c6ab163b-3836-4b1d-8842-5433865f8c1b/DraftImmigrationAct2016\(ConsequentialAmendments\)\(BiometricsAndLegalAid\)Regulations2017](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-04-18/debates/c6ab163b-3836-4b1d-8842-5433865f8c1b/DraftImmigrationAct2016(ConsequentialAmendments)(BiometricsAndLegalAid)Regulations2017)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Psychiatry: Migrant Workers

Paul Blomfield [69686] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of psychiatrists currently on a Tier 2 visa who will attract the immigration skills charge.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: No psychiatrists currently on a Tier 2 visa will attract the immigration skills charge.

The immigration skills charge will not apply where an individual has already been assigned a Tier 2 Certificate of Sponsorship at the time the regulations come into force.

There is also an exemption to the immigration skills charge for PhD level occupations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-29/69686/>

Legal Aid Scheme: Immigration

The following three questions all received the same answer

Kate Green [68866] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) children under 18- years of age and (b) young people aged 18 to 24-years old received legal aid funding for immigration cases in each year since 2009-10.

Kate Green [68894] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) children under 18 and (b) young people aged 18 to 24-years of age (i) applied for legal aid through the Exceptional Case Funding Scheme (ECF) and (ii) were granted ECF in immigration cases in (A) 2013-14, (B) 2014-15 and (C) 2015-16.

Legal Aid Scheme: Children and Young People

Kate Green [68895] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) children under 18 and (b) young people aged 18 to 24-years of age received legal aid funding in each of the last seven years.

Reply from Oliver Heald: The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2013 was introduced under the Coalition Government and took effect in April 2013. Section 10 of the Act provided for the Exceptional Case Funding scheme, to address those cases which would not ordinarily be eligible for legal aid under the post-LASPO regime, but where an individual's Convention rights would be breached in the absence of having funded representation.

Applications to the Exceptional Case Funding scheme for immigration matters, by age of applicant, April 2013 to March 2016

FY application received	Under 18	18-24
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	0	12
Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	14	39
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	15	59

Applications to the Exceptional Case Funding scheme for immigration matters, which were granted², by age of applicant, April 2013 to March 2016

FY application received	Under 18	18-24
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	0	0
Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	4	8
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	12	40

As the ECF scheme has developed, providers have familiarised themselves with the legislative framework, which has also been clarified by various judgements during this time. This has led to an increase in the volume of successful applications.

The Legal Aid Agency publishes data on an annual basis which shows uptake broken down by age group including children under 18 and young people. Data covering up to and including the financial year 2015/16 is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/533053/legal-aid-statistics-england-and-wales-client-diversity-data.csv. Data covering the following financial year will be published on 30 June 2017.

Legal help/controlled legal representation completed matters and civil representation certificates closed¹ for immigration matters, by age of applicant, April 2009 to March 2016

Period	Under 18	18-24
Apr 2009 - Mar 2010	12,187	24,366
Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	13,129	23,586
Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	8,137	15,331
Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	5,175	12,268
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	4,050	9,883
Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	4,479	8,947
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	4,876	9,508

¹Includes some instances where a proportion of the costs are met by the opponent

The LASPO Act removed some types of immigration cases from the scope of the legal aid scheme, reflecting the decrease in volumes since its inception in April 2013. Matters closed in the periods shown above will not necessarily have commenced in the same period.

Legal help/controlled legal representation completed matters and civil representation certificates closed¹ for immigration matters, by age of applicant, April 2009 to March 2016

Period	Under 18	18-24	Unknown
Apr 2009 - Mar 2010	12,187	24,366	2,955
Apr 2010 - Mar 2011	13,129	23,586	1,526
Apr 2011 - Mar 2012	8,137	15,331	1,120
Apr 2012 - Mar 2013	5,175	12,268	1,110
Apr 2013 - Mar 2014	4,050	9,883	1,313
Apr 2014 - Mar 2015	4,479	8,947	1,443
Apr 2015 - Mar 2016	4,876	9,508	1,552

¹Includes some instances where a proportion of the costs are met by the opponent

The LASPO Act removed some types of immigration cases from the scope of the legal aid scheme, reflecting the decrease in volumes since its inception in April 2013. Matters closed in the periods shown above will not necessarily have

commenced in the same period.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-23/68866/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-23/68894/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-23/68895/>

Immigration: Advisory Services

Rosie Cooper [69901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what enforcement action the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner is able to take against registered immigration advisors in cases where complaints against that advisor are substantiated.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The enforcement action that the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) is able to take against registered advisors is set out in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and the Commissioners Complaints Scheme

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/complain-about-an-oisc-regulated-immigration-adviser>) which states:

34. If a complaint is substantiated, in whole or in part, it will be included in the organisation's and adviser's regulatory history.

35. The Commissioner may:

- leave the determination on file for consideration at the next relevant application for registration. Practice points may be issued;
- consider and conclude that the organisation and/or an adviser should have their authorisation immediately cancelled; or
- lay a Disciplinary Charge before the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration Services).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-29/69901/>

Immigration

Hilary Benn [63409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on the timing of the return of original documents to people applying for (a) citizenship, (b) further leave to remain and (c) indefinite leave to remain.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The majority of Citizenship applications are submitted through the Nationality Checking Service and original documents are returned to the customer immediately. For other applications where there is a requirement to submit an original document, documents are returned when the application is decided.

Where a request for return of documents is received we aim to return them within 10 working days.

On European applications for Permanent Residence, applicants can apply online and have their passport checked and returned immediately through participating local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-02-07/63409/>

Visas

Jeff Smith [69640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the (a) longest, (b) shortest and (c) average time taken to process a 30-day entry visa was in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office publishes information on visa

processing times online at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-february-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69640/>

Visas

Jeff Smith [69659] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many 30-day entry visas have been granted by nationality of applicant in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Quarterly data on the number of visas issued by category and nationality is published online at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#visas>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69659/>

Visas

Chi Onwurah [69390] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 March 2017 to Question 67822, on visas, whether her Department plans to develop a version of the visa data which is suitable for publication.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office has no plans to publish data on the reasons for the refusal of visa applications.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69390/>

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/2017-03-14/67822/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Paul Blomfield [69838] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what evidence the data from the exit checks introduced in 2015 gives on the proportion of international students who break the terms of their visa.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Home Office is continuing to assess and analyse elements of the exit check data collected in relation to specific cohorts to understand the extent to which estimates provided are statistically robust. This level of detail is not yet available. Over time the data obtained through exit checks will contribute to the statistical picture.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-29/69838/>

Immigrants

Tulip Siddiq [69385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 20 January 2016 to Question 22366, how many migrants granted leave to remain in the UK did not have no recourse to public funds conditions imposed on them because of exceptional circumstances in each year since 2010-11.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: I am sorry, but data is not held in the requested format and to establish whether a migrant did not have the no recourse to public funds condition imposed due to exceptional circumstances would require individual examination of records. This would incur disproportionate cost. Total grants of leave to remain can be found in table ex_01_q in the Home Office's Immigration Statistics October - December 2016 release, available for download at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016> with the data tables at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables#extensions>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69385/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-13/22366/>

Immigrants: Employment

Kate Osamor [69725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken to process checks by the Employer Checking Service is.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The published service standard for the Employer Checking Service is 5 working days but the average processing time between 01/11/2011 and 28/02/2017 was 4.5 working days.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-29/69725/>

Construction: Undocumented Workers

Paul Blomfield [70196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's news story of 14 October 2015, entitled Campaign to tackle illegal working in construction begins, how many businesses were served with immigration enforcement referral notices under Operation Magnify; and how much each of those businesses paid in penalties.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: In the Autumn of 2015, 11 Civil Penalty notices were served under Operation Magnify, focusing on the Construction industry.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-30/70196/>

Refugees: Children

Roger Godsiff [69980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the implication for her policies of the finding of the Thematic Report on migrant and refugee children, published by the Council of Europe on 10 March 2017 that Europe's treatment of child refugees increases the risk of radicalisation; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The Government notes the Council of Europe's report on migrant and refugee children and is committed to implementing policies which do not inadvertently create incentives for children to make dangerous journeys into and across Europe and place their lives in the hands of people traffickers and criminal gangs. That is why we have focused our efforts on providing support in and around regions of conflict, and on providing safe and legal routes for children to come to the UK via our resettlement schemes. The Government is also working with law enforcement agencies and governments across Europe to clamp down on those seeking to exploit or radicalise human beings. The welfare of all children in the UK is a priority and unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children are entitled to the same care and support as any other looked after child.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-30/69980/>

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

https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016806fdd08

Asylum

Paul Flynn [70670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to increase the number of voluntary deals with local authorities

to widen the dispersal of asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Since 2015, the Home Office has been working closely with accommodation providers and local authorities across the UK to increase the number of areas that participate in the asylum seeker dispersal scheme; this activity has already increased the number of dispersal areas by a third and continues to encourage those local authorities that aren't participating to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70670/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Robert Ffello [53631] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what community-based alternatives to detention her Department developed and implemented as a result of the report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration, published in March 2015, and the report by Stephen Shaw, Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons, Cm 9186, published in January 2016.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: There is always a presumption of liberty and detention is only ever used sparingly and for the shortest period necessary. For those individuals with no right to remain in the UK, we expect them to leave the country of their own volition and the Home Office has programmes to support voluntary return.

The Home Office expects that current and planned reforms, and broader changes in legislation, policy and operational approaches will lead to a reduction in the number of the most vulnerable detained and the duration of detention before removal.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-11-17/53631/>

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

<https://detentioninquiry.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/immigration-detention-inquiry-report.pdf>

The Stephen Shaw Review referred to in the above question can be read at

http://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/resources/52532_shaw_review_accessible.pdf

Detainees: Pregnancy

Nusrat Ghani [69792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women recorded as pregnant have been held in immigration detention since the Immigration Act 2016 came into force; and how many of those women left detention to be removed from the UK.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Through section 60 of the Immigration Act 2016, which came into force on 12 July 2016, we have placed a 72 hour limit on the detention of pregnant women for the purposes of removal, extendable to up to a week in total with Ministerial authorisation.

It may not always be appropriate for healthcare professionals to disclose confidential medical information that the patient has asked not to be disclosed. Subject to these limitations, Home Office management information indicates that 27 pregnant women were detained in the immigration detention estate between 12 July 2016 and 31 December 2016. This resulted in 5 pregnant women being removed from the UK.

The section 60 limitations, along with a new policy on adults at risk in detention, and other improvements to caseworking processes, represent a comprehensive package of safeguards for pregnant women in the immigration system.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-29/69792/>

Deportation

Steve Reed [70991] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) men and (b) women have been deported from the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: The number of enforced returns by gender is published in table rt_03 (returns data tables) in 'Immigration Statistics, October - December 2016', available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593032/returns2-q4-2016-tables.ods.

The term 'deportations' refers to a legal definition of a specific set of returns. Deportations are a specific subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. The deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. Published information on those deported is not separately available. As such, the question has been interpreted as referring to enforced returns. In an enforced return, it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and / or has no valid leave to remain in the UK. They have declined to leave voluntarily and the Home Office enforces their departure from the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70991/>

Human Trafficking: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Fiona Mactaggart [69432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how the evaluation of the National Referral Mechanism will examine the effectiveness of that mechanism for children.

Human Trafficking

Fiona Mactaggart [69433] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the evaluation of the National Referral Mechanism pilot will be completed; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The National Referral Mechanism pilot has been testing a new model for identifying and referring victims, processing cases and making effective decisions. The pilot has been dealing with both child and adult potential cases of modern slavery and the evaluation will consider decision making and timeliness for both cohorts. The final stage of the evaluation is currently underway and it is anticipated that the findings will be ready for publication summer 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69432/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-28/69433/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Digital Technology: Migrant Workers

Lord Cromwell [HL6557] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the oral answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 27 March (HL Deb, col 355), and in the light of the call by the Coalition for a Digital Economy in its report *Global Britain: From local startups to international markets*, published in February, to allow the highly skilled into the country through a minimum six-month visa to enter the UK and seek work, whether they intend to take steps to provide visas more quickly for such workers who are invited to work in the UK; and if so, what are those steps, and what is the proposed timescale for the implementation of any necessary changes to the visa application process.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The current Points Based System already provides for ways in which highly skilled migrants from outside the European Economic Area can work in the UK. The Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent) route allows leading digital technology talent endorsed by Tech City UK to enter the UK without needing a job offer from a sponsoring employer.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the UK remains open for business and continues to grow and thrive – and ensuring our new relationship with the EU works for employees and employers will be important in the months ahead.

For individual skilled migrant workers invited by an employer to work in the UK, their visas are routinely processed within three weeks, with premium services available for applicants who need faster decisions. Some jobs in digital technology, as identified by the independent Migration Advisory Committee, are recognised shortage occupations and are exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-03/HL6557/>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-27/debates/A1753E7B-7C61-4705-B3BD-A701CBEE3C00/DigitalTechnologySkilledWorkforce#contribution-6EEE96C4-7F28-4005-8EB3-F8DC916551E4>

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

<http://coadec.com/Coadec-Report-A-Global-Britain.pdf>

Digital Technology: Migrant Workers

Lord Cromwell [HL6558] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the oral answer by Lord Ashton of Hyde on 27 March (HL Deb, col 355), whether they intend to address the need for people from overseas with the requisite digital technology skills to be able to come to work in the UK during the Brexit negotiation process; if not, what assessment they have made of the impact of failing to address that need in the short-term on the UK economy; and if so, what steps they are taking to support access to the skills required in that sector.

Reply from Lord Ashton of Hyde: We seek to guarantee the rights of EU citizens who are already living in Britain, and the rights of British nationals in other member states as early as we can. This remains an early priority for the forthcoming negotiations. We will control immigration so that we continue to attract the brightest and the best to work or study in Britain, but manage the process properly so that our immigration system serves the national interest. As part of that it is important that we understand the impacts of different options on different sectors of the economy and the labour market. We are taking action across the entire education and training pipeline to ensure we have the digital skills to maintain our world leading digital economy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-03/HL6558/>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-03-27/debates/A1753E7B-7C61-4705-B3BD-A701CBEE3C00/DigitalTechnologySkilledWorkforce#contribution-6EEE96C4-7F28-4005-8EB3-F8DC916551E4>

Immigration: Appeals

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6559] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of individuals pursuing appeals in (1) the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), and (2) the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), did not have representation, for each year, since December 2012.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The proportions of individuals pursuing appeals

that did not have representation are:

	2013	2014	2015	2016
(1) the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber)	25%	21%	21%	20%
(2) the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber)	12%	12%	10%	10%

The data are based on the number of disposals recorded as not represented and are reported in calendar years.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-03/HL6559/>

Asylum

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6680] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many grants of discretionary leave to remain were made in 2016 in respect of asylum seekers whose claims had been refused; and how the reasons for those grants were classified.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes the number of asylum applications and initial decisions broken down by nationality, each quarter in table as_01 of the Immigration Statistics release. The latest figures are attached to this answer. They are also available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/asylum>

Each asylum case is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and protection is granted where it is needed. Information regarding the reasons that an individual is granted status is not readily accessible from central statistical records and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through a manual search of individual case files.

[Asylum Table](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6680/>

Asylum

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6681] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their estimate of the number of refused asylum seekers currently in the UK who have no immediate prospect of leaving.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has a long and proud tradition of providing a safe haven to those who genuinely need our protection.

All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Where a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, and there are no remaining rights of appeal or obstacles to their return, the Home Office expects unsuccessful asylum seekers to return voluntarily to their home country. The Home Office can assist persons who wish to return voluntarily. The Home Office's preferred option is for those who have no legal basis to remain in the UK to leave voluntarily and we offer assistance to those who choose to do so. Further details can be viewed at;

<https://www.gov.uk/return-home-voluntarily/who-can-get-help>

But if an individual does not leave the UK voluntarily, then it will become necessary to enforce their removal.

The Home Office closely monitors developments in all countries of return and takes decisions on a case-by-case basis in the light of international obligations and the latest available country information. The Home Office only enforces removal when it and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return.

Enforced removals are carried out in the most sensitive way possible, treating those being removed with respect and courtesy.

Details of total numbers of cases who have had asylum claims refused and have no basis to remain having exhausted all appeal rights can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-february-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6681/>

Asylum

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6682] To ask Her Majesty's Government what practical assistance is provided by the Home Office to refused asylum seekers who are co-operating with re-documentation procedures, to obtain new travel documents.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Where a failed asylum seeker has agreed to return to their home country voluntarily, the Home Office Voluntary Returns Service (VRS) will assist them with obtaining travel documents required by the receiving country to facilitate entry. VRS will provide their travel costs to the embassy or High Commission and will also cover the cost of the travel document if required.

Where a failed asylum seeker does not choose to return voluntarily, the Home Office will engage directly with the relevant embassy or High Commission to obtain the required travel document for return.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6682/>

Asylum: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6683] To ask Her Majesty's Government what children's best interest evaluation has been made of their policy to refuse children entitled to asylum in the UK the family reunion rights granted to adults since the removal of the UK's immigration reservation to the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 2008.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The current family reunion policy meets our international obligations. Widening it to allow children to sponsor family members would create additional motives for them to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family, and risk hazardous journeys to seek to enter the UK illegally. This would play into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people, and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

The Government believes that the best interests of children are reflected in their remaining with their families and claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach; this is the fastest route to safety.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6683/>

Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6684] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reasons for the fall in the number of people who have been resettled to the UK under the Mandate resettlement scheme, from 90 in 2009 to eight in 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Mandate plays an important part in facilitating the resettlement of refugees in various locations across the world. There is no specific quota or target for the number of people resettled via Mandate. The referral of cases (and the corresponding numbers of arrivals) under Mandate is dependent on the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) identifying cases which meet its criteria.

Mandate operates in addition to the Gateway programme which resettles 750 people a year. This is in addition to our commitment to resettle 20,000 people

under the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement scheme and 3,000 people under the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-05/HL6684/>

Asylum: LGBT People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Scriven [HL6481] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people identified as LGBT were held in asylum detention centres for more than (1) one month, (2) two months, (3) six months, and (4) one year, over the last two years.

Lord Scriven [HL6482] To ask Her Majesty's Government in relation to those claiming asylum on the grounds of being LGBT, how many cases have not been determined after (1) one year, and (2) two years, from the date of the individual claiming asylum.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 27 February 2017, the Home Office responded to an FOI request asking for information relating to detainees who identify as LGBT in the immigration detention estate. The FOI asked for information relating to detainees who identify as LGBT in the immigration detention estate. These questions concerns asylum seekers, who have been recorded as being LGBT, and the numbers held in detention and the time taken to determine their asylum claims.

The data you have requested in relation to LGBT asylum seekers over the last 2 years is not readily available. The required information would only be recorded in the case notes sections within the Home Office database or held solely on the paper files. The time required to examine individual cases and extrapolate the required data would exceed the cost limit.

We are currently reviewing how and when to publish information on LGBT asylum claims though no decision has yet been taken regarding either a final timetable or the methodology of any such release.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-30/HL6481/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-30/HL6482/>

Immigration Bail

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6237] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to introduce automatic bail hearings under Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are currently working with the Ministry of Justice, Her Majesty's Court Service and the First-tier Tribunal to implement the Secretary of State's duty to introduce automatic bail hearings, as set out in paragraph 11 of Schedule 10 to the Immigration Act 2016. This is one of a number of reforms necessary to implement the wider immigration bail provisions in Schedule 10 and it will be commenced alongside those other provisions in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6237/>

The section of the Immigration Act 2016 referred to in the above answer can be read at
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/schedule/10/part/1/crossheading/duty-to-arrange-consideration-of-bail>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6236] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in introducing detention reviews for those held in immigration removal centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Any individual detained within immigration detention is already subject to regular review, both on a scheduled basis and whenever there is any change in circumstances that might be material to the decision on whether or not to continue detention. Reviews are carried out at successively more senior levels the longer the detention continues.

Following publication of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's Report into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons on 14 January 2016, work has been ongoing to design a more effective case management process to replace the existing procedure for reviewing detention. This includes a more proactive approach to the review of detention, through Case Progression Plans which show the monitoring and review of ongoing detention and with a focus on return or, if appropriate, release. Case Progression Plans are currently being piloted across the Home Office and are subject to evaluation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6236/>

The Government response to the Stephen Shaw report, referred to in the above answer, can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492227/gov_paper_2_.pdf

The Stephen Shaw report can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52_532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Scriven [HL6243] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with civil society organisations regarding community-based alternatives to immigration detention centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office engages with civil society organisations at official and Ministerial level on a regular basis as part of the development of policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6243/>

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL6209] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March.

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL6210] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the findings of the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March, in particular that (1) too many detainees were held for prolonged periods, (2) the average length of detention was high, (3) children were detained for long periods of time due to failures in age assessment processes, (4) in one case, an incorrect Home Office age assessment led to the detention of a child for 36 days before social services confirmed that the boy was 16 years old, (5) the adults at risk policy was not yet widely understood, (6) there had been a three-fold increase in incidents of self-harm since the previous inspection, (7) the causes of self-harm had not been sufficiently analysed and there was no strategy to reduce it, and (8) four detainees had narrowly escaped fatal or serious injuries as a result of self-harm during the previous year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government takes the welfare of detainees extremely seriously and has carefully considered the HM Chief Inspector of Prisons' (HMCIP) report on Morton Hall immigration removal centre. The service improvement plan will be published on the HMCIP website shortly.

We will closely monitor progress towards implementing these recommendations. Stephen Shaw CBE has been invited to carry out a short review later this year to assess progress against his previous review into the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6209/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6210/>

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

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6234] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March, what assessment they have made of the reasons for children being detained at the centre for (1) 12 days, (2) 36 days, and (3) 151 days, during the last year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not comment on individual cases.

The Home Office policy is not to detain children. Where there is doubt as to the age of an individual. Immigration Enforcement will detain individuals who claim to be a child (under 18) until they are referred to a local authority for a Morton-compliant age assessment. Individuals who frustrate the age assessment and identification process may incur a lengthened period of detention. All three individuals were later identified as children and released into the custody of local authorities.

The Government will respond to HM Chief Inspector of Prisons Report on the unannounced inspection of Morton Hall immigration Removal Centre in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6234/>

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

<http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmiprisons/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

Baroness Lister of Burtersett [HL6235] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March, what steps they are taking to reduce the length of time individuals are detained; and whether they plan to introduce a maximum length of detention.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is already the case that individuals detained under Immigration Act powers are held for the minimum time necessary to achieve their removal from the United Kingdom.

As part of the Government's response to the review of the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons undertaken by Stephen Shaw CBE the Home Office has introduced, or is planning to introduce, a range of measure designed to further minimise the length of time individuals spend in immigration detention. These measures include: a new internal detention gatekeeper function to monitor admissions to the detention estate; new case progression plans with a clear focus on the individual's removal from the UK; and quarterly internal case progression panels to monitor progression of all detained cases and reduce the number of

long-term detainees.

The Government has no plans to introduce a maximum time limit on immigration detention.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6235/>

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

<http://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmiprisonswp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Scriven [HL6242] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March, what steps they are taking to reduce the length of time individuals are detained for immigration purposes.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As part of the Government's response to the review of the welfare in detention of vulnerable persons undertaken by Stephen Shaw CBE the Home Office has introduced, or is planning to introduce, a range of measures designed to further minimise the length of time individuals spend in immigration detention. These include: a new internal detention gatekeeper function to monitor admissions to the detention estate; new case progression plans with a clear focus on the individual's removal from the UK; and quarterly internal case progression panels to monitor progression of all detained cases and reduce the number of long-term detainees.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6242/>

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

<http://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmiprisonswp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Scriven [HL6244] To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March, what steps they are taking to ensure that staff in immigration detention centres understand and apply their guidance on adults at risk in immigration detention.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A training presentation pack on Detention Services Order (DSO) on the care and management of adults at risk in the detention estate (08/2016) was circulated to all Home Office Immigration Enforcement staff in the immigration detention estate, including staff at Morton Hall immigration removal centre (IRC) in September 2016.

The final version of DSO 08/2016 was published on 27 February 2017. Home Office business embedded trainers are delivering training on the DSO to staff in the IRCs, including supplier and healthcare staff. Staff at Morton Hall IRC received training in February and a refresher training session will be added to the annual training schedule for NOMS staff at the centre.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6244/>

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

<http://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmiprisonswp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

Detention Services Order 08/2016 referred to in the above answer can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594770/DSO_Adults_at_risk_.pdf

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Scriven [HL6245] To ask Her Majesty's Government, with reference to the *Report on an unannounced inspection of Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre* by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, published on 21 March, what assessment they have made of the relationship between the absence of limits on the length of time an individual can be detained and the incidence of self-harm in immigration detention centres.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All incidents of self harm are treated very seriously and every step is taken to prevent incidents of this nature. Staff at all centres are trained to identify those at risk of self harm so that action can be taken to minimise the risk. Notices in various languages are displayed in IRCs setting out that where a detainee is concerned about a fellow detainee this should be brought to the attention of a member of staff. Formal risk assessments on initial detention and systems for raising concerns at any subsequent point feed into established self harm procedures in every IRC. These are in turn underpinned by the Home Office Operating Standard on the prevention of self-harm and detention services order 06/2008, Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork (ACDT).

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6245/>

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

<http://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2017/03/Morton-Hall-IRC-2016.pdf>

The Operating Standard on Assessment Care in Detention Teamwork referred to in the above answer can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257720/assessment-care-in-detention.pdf

Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre

Lord Scriven [HL6246] To ask Her Majesty's Government when (1) the Home Secretary, and (2) the Immigration Minister, last visited Morton Hall Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Secretary and Home Office Ministers conduct visits, and host meetings, on the whole spectrum of Home Office business regularly. It is our policy not to provide details of such visits. Information on ministers' meetings is released quarterly as part of Government transparency and accountability data and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-july-to-september-2016>

A copy has also been attached to this answer.

[Ministerial Meetings](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-03-21/HL6246/>

Press Releases

A broken asylum system

<https://news.gov.scot/news/a-broken-asylum-system>

Wales should be world's first 'nation of sanctuary' for refugees and asylum seekers, says National Assembly committee

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/newhome/pages/newsitem.aspx?itemid=1707&assembly=5>

Companies charged following death at immigration centre

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/companies-charged-following-death-a/

Protecting all children in migration: Commission outlines priority actions
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-906_en.htm

Questions & Answers: Protecting of children in migration
http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-17-907_en.htm

UN agencies welcome EU policy to protect migrant and refugee children
https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56553#.WO-H_VN96nY

Rights of refugees and migrants with disabilities must be priority in new global action plan – UN experts
<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56555#.WO-GqVN96nY>

Migrant child protection still a grave concern
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2017/migrant-child-protection-still-grave-concern>

New Publications

Factsheet: Family Reunion: Dublin III
<https://migrantslawproject.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/dublin-iii-reformatted.pdf>

Factsheet: Family Reunion: Dublin III: Evidence
<https://migrantslawproject.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/dublin-iii-evidence-reformatted1.pdf>

Refugee recognition and resettlement
<http://www.ilpa.org.uk/data/resources/33130/17.03.24-Refugee-recognition-and-resettlement.pdf>

“I used to be someone” Refugees and asylum seekers in Wales
<http://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11012/cr-ld11012-e.pdf>

Cities of Rights: Ensuring health care for undocumented residents
http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/publication/CityOfRights_FINAL_WEB_EN.pdf

Understanding third and fourth births in Britain: What role do increased immigration and multiple partnerships play?
http://www.cpc.ac.uk/publications/cpc_working_papers/pdf/2017_WP83_Understanding_Third_and_Fourth_Births.pdf

News

End of appeal court shambles: UK to get new fast-track system to deport thousands of foreign criminals and failed asylum seekers
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4419878/New-government-plan-hasten-failed-asylum-seekers-exit.html>

Theresa May unveils £1bn package to help refugees from Syria
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/theresa-may-unveils-1bn-package-to-help-refugees-from-syria-1-4411377>

We're working to spread asylum seekers more evenly across UK, says No 10
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/10/were-working-to-spread-asylum-seekers-more-evenly-across-uk-says-no-10>

Doctors fight against becoming 'border guards' for Home Office immigration enforcement

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/doctors-home-office-immigration-enforcement-border-guards-nhs-doctors-of-the-world-a7693461.html>

People who oppose UK immigration are less happy than those who support it, research shows

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-immigration-people-opposed-less-happy-than-those-who-support-it-research-a7664561.html>

Half of British public support more immigration of highly skilled workers, poll suggests

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/half-of-british-public-support-more-immigration-of-highly-skilled-workers-poll-suggests-a7687086.html>

If Theresa May really wants to protect refugees why does she fuel such hatred?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/11/theresa-may-refugees-croydon-attack>

Death at immigration detention centre comes under investigation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/apr/10/death-at-immigration-detention-centre-comes-under-investigation>

Dozens of landlords fined after roll-out of new Right to Rent immigration checks

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/407807/dozens-of-landlords-fined-after-roll-out-of-new-right-to-rent-immigration-checks/>

UK needs immigration to keep service industries going, says ONS

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/apr/12/uk-needs-immigration-to-keep-service-industries-going-says-ons>

Immigration 'particularly important' to some sectors of UK economy, says ONS report

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/immigration-uk-economy-important-sectors-retail-hospitality-health-brexit-labour-market-leave-eu-a7680506.html>

Improve how people see refugees, AMs tell ministers

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-39506344>

To truly be a global nation we must help desperate refugee children

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-11/news/to-truly-be-a-global-nation-we-must-help-desperate-refugee-children-mkxgx38jt>

Immigration skills charge could hit health funding for years

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/apr/06/immigration-skills-charge-could-hit-health-funding-for-years>

Curbs on foreign nurses 'would make hospitals unsafe'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-07/news/curbs-on-foreign-nurses-would-make-hospitals-unsafe-0c0qk009n>

The NHS is interfering with immigrants' visa applications if they don't pay up their hospital debts

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/nhs-immigration-debt-pregnant-women-is-dont-pay-their-debts-a7672006.html>

EU migrants make up 11% of manufacturing workforce - ONS

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-39576112>

UK-born children of EU couple living in Britain denied permanent residency
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-born-children-eu-couple-parents-dutch-spanish-denied-permanent-residency-brexit-a7682696.html>

Churches and charities fill asylum vacuum left by 'lukewarm' state
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/03/money-love-volunteers-uk-helping-asylum-seekers-government-support-charities-faith-groups>

Rekar's long trek to Britain
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/rekars-long-trek-to-britain-5xg7f9m3d>

Refugee's heartbreaking note to charity after receiving 'simple' welcome pack
http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/15212919.Refugee_s_heartbreaking_note_to_Glasgow_charity_after_receiving_simple_welcome_pack/

I worry asylum caseworkers are failing people in their darkest hour
<https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2017/apr/08/asylum-caseworkers-home-office-cuts-syria-war>

UK discriminates against Christian refugees from Syria, claims former Archbishop of Canterbury
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-christian-refugees-syria-lord-george-carey-discrimination-archbishop-of-canterbury-muslims-a7681446.html>

It's not Christians who are unwelcome in the UK – it's refugees
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/14/christians-unwelcome-refugees-syrian-government-policy>

George Carey: Christians face genocide, but the Government looks the other way
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/12/george-carey-christians-face-genocide-government-looks-way/>

Christian refugees are 'let down' by Britain
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-13/news/christian-refugees-are-let-down-by-britain-jfd6npbsg>

Refugees and the Mitchell in harmony
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/refugees-and-the-mitchell-in-harmony-kzmn9tbht>

Syrian refugee' felt oppressed' by Stop the War protest
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39540340>

Glasgow houses more asylum seekers than any other UK council
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/glasgow-houses-more-asylum-seekers-than-any-other-uk-council-1-4416388>

Family of Syrian refugees name newborn baby daughter after Scottish volunteer who gave up her time for them
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/family-syrian-refugees-name-newborn-10215413>

Number of potential human trafficking victims in Scotland rises
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/number-of-potential-human-trafficking-victims-in-scotland-rises-1-4418337>

Community in anti-hate rally at scene of horror attack on asylum seeker

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/400186/community-in-anti-hate-rally-at-scene-of-horror-attack-on-asylum-seeker/>

Croydon asylum boy assault: Up to 20 people watched attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-39470487>

Crowd of 30 could have joined in attack on teenage asylum seeker say police

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/crowd-30-could-joined-attack-10151521>

Croydon asylum seeker attack: 'Up to 20 people' watched as teenager brutally beaten up

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/croydon-asylum-seeker-attack-20-people-watched-teenager-brutally-beaten-latest-a7663711.html>

'He's lucky to be alive': Asylum seeker, 17, brutally attacked by a racist gang is named as Kurdish-Iranian student as police reveal 'up to 30 people joined in the attack'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4374572/CCTV-3-suspects-wanted-asylum-seeker-attack.html>

Croydon attack comes as charities report growing number of hate crimes

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/apr/03/croydon-attack-comes-as-charities-report-growing-number-of-hate-crimes>

Teenage asylum seeker almost killed by 'brutal' mob can't remember who he is, says brother

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/05/first-picture-croydon-attack-asylum-victim-emerges-brother-says/>

Well-wishers raise thousands for teenage asylum seeker attacked in Croydon

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/04/well-wishers-raise-thousands-teenage-asylum-seeker-attacked>

Croydon is a welcoming community – we will not stand idly by while hateful thugs sully our home

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/03/croydon-will-not-stand-idly-hateful-thugs-sully-home/>

Beaten asylum seeker 'thought he was dying'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/first-picture-emerges-of-beaten-asylum-seeker-dljmkz3vs>

Battered asylum seeker cannot recognise brother

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-05/news/battered-asylum-seeker-cannot-recognise-brother-9qtl8wdr0>

We owe a duty of care to children seeking refuge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-13/news/we-owe-a-duty-of-care-to-children-seeking-refuge-3nj5v56dv>

This St George's Day, we should remember that the patron saint of England was an immigrant

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/st-georges-day-symbol-of-the-far-right-was-an-immigrant-a7695511.html>

International student migration research update: What do international students do after their studies?

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/internationalstudentmigrationresearchupdate/april2017>

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Community Relations

Press Release

Gypsy/Traveller guidance

<https://news.gov.scot/news/gypsytraveller-guidance>

New Publication

Guidance for Local Authorities on Managing Unauthorised Camping by Gypsy/Travellers in Scotland

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00516357.pdf>

News

Europe's top rabbi calls for solidarity with Muslims

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/08/rabbi-calls-on-muslims-to-join-fight-for-religious-freedoms>

Dialogue marks faiths' response to the Westminster attacks

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39482705>

Birmingham Central Mosque holds 'best of British' tea party in response to EDL rally

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15212779.Mosque_holds_best_of_British_tea_party_in_response_to_EDL_rally/

Muslims in Birmingham defy EDL rally with 'Best of British' tea party

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/edl-rally-muslims-birmingham-central-mosque-english-defence-league-a7674131.html>

The one image that sums up Birmingham's response to EDL march

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/birmingham-edl-march-photo-picture-woman-mosque-best-of-british-tea-party-muhammad-afzal-a7674726.html>

Mosque throws 'Best of British' tea party in response to EDL march

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/09/mosque-throws-best-british-tea-party-response-edl-march/>

EDL protest overshadowed by tea party at mosque

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/edl-protest-overshadowed-by-tea-party-at-mosque-h086537f0>

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Equality

Press Releases

International Roma Day: Statement of the Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/statement-of-the-secretary-general-thorbj-rn-jagland-ahead-of-the-international-roma-d-1>

Ahead of International Roma Day, ODIHR Director Link urges states to capitalize on Roma and Sinti's potential for European societies

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/310471>

New Publications

Pregnancy and ethnic factors influencing births and infant mortality: 2014 (England and Wales)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/pregnancyandethnicfactorsinfluencingbirthsandinfantmortality2014>

Autonomy in the right place: school governance reform in Scotland

http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/autonomy-in-the-right-place_Apr2017.pdf?noredirect=1

Gypsy and Traveller cultural awareness e-training

<http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/what-we-do/professional-advice-consultancy-training/upcoming-cultural-competency-online-learning/>

News

Imams advise army eager to recruit more Muslims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-04/news/imams-advise-army-eager-to-recruit-more-muslims-ptfftc3sn>

Old Bailey's first non-white judge was mistaken for defendant

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39537439>

First Asian Scot circuit judge told to 'try hairdressing'

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/first-asian-scot-circuit-judge-told-to-try-hairdressing-1-4414877>

Anuja Dhir becomes first non-white circuit judge at Old Bailey

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/apr/08/anuja-dhir-becomes-first-non-white-circuit-judge-at-old-bailey>

Meet the first non-white circuit judge at the Old Bailey

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/07/meet-first-non-white-circuit-judge-old-bailey/>

Try hairdressing, top judge was told

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/the-scottish-judge-who-made-the-cut-h6qzbcqg8>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Islamophobia

S5W-08278 Anas Sarwar: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5O-00690 by Angela Constance on 23 February 2017 (Official Report, c. 2), what steps it is taking to ensure that Islamophobia is not a barrier to young Muslims participating in politics and society.

Reply from Angela Constance: We are committed to tackling Islamophobia in all its forms, and we recognise the importance of ensuring that young Muslims are able to participate fully in society at all levels. We will continue to tackle hate crime, encourage people to report it, and challenge prejudice and intolerance wherever it exists. Our vibrant and multi-faceted minority communities make a significant contribution to our national life – we will ensure that continues to be recognised and celebrated.

We are supporting a programme of work through a coalition of equality organisations to increase representation of women, disabled people, and those from Black Minority Ethnic communities and faith groups – as well as Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex communities - in politics.

Young Scot is working with the Scottish Government's Race Equality Team, through a co-design model for race equality in Scotland of young people from minority ethnic backgrounds and communities in realising the vision and ambition of the Race Equality Framework. To advance race equality, tackling racism and addressing the barriers that prevent people from minority ethnic communities from realising their potential.

We have provided over £300,000 of funding to Show Racism the Red Card, Amina and Interfaith Scotland from the Equality Budget during 2016-17 to help promote equality and address discrimination. Of this funding Amina has been delivering workshops in secondary Schools since 2012 to tackle Islamophobia and raise awareness of Islam.

On World Interfaith Harmony Day - 7 February 2017, Interfaith Scotland and St. Ninians School collaborated on an Interfaith event to encourage harmony between all regardless of faith. This was attended by over 200 young people attended from 6 schools.

Show Racism the Red Card has a project Tackling Contemporary Racism delivers a transformative educational programme to young people across Scotland to educate against formation of racist attitudes including Islamophobia.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8278>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10798&i=98967#ScotParlOR>

Islamophobia

S5W-08279 Anas Sarwar: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5O-00690 by Angela Constance on 23 February 2017 (Official Report, c. 2), in light of the barriers arising from Islamophobia and gender stereotyping, what steps is it taking to enable young Muslim women to participate in politics and society.

Reply from Angela Constance: I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-08278 on 13 April 2017 which addresses this question in part and is available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at: <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>

In addition, we are committed to tackling gender stereotyping in all its forms, and we recognise the importance of ensuring that young Muslim women are able to participate fully in society at all levels. We are taking a range of steps to advance

gender equality and tackle violence against women, and a draft delivery plan for our Equally Safe strategy was published on 23 March setting out ambitious steps in this area.

The Scottish Government is funding Amina £111,534 and Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations Scotland (CEMVO) with funding of £62,000 for 2016/17. CEMVO is establishing a minority ethnic Women's network and aiming to hold a number of related events in 2017 to link in to the Race Equality Framework (REF) actions. The first event was held on 22 February, with over 90 women attending. As well as looking at the vision, purpose and structure of a possible network for Minority Ethnic women, discussion took place on employability issues, with potential solutions identified. Additionally over the course of 2017 we will organise a series of Themed Roundtables linked to REF themes involving policy officials with key experts from a range of statutory and third sector organisations and academia. One of these Roundtable events will focus on employability and, amongst other sources, will consider the feedback gathered at the minority ethnic women's network event.

Amina works to promote equality for Muslim Women by tackling prejudice, hate crime and inspiring community cohesion. Amina's Building Bridges project focuses on Muslim, Minority Ethnic women in Dundee to provide information and support on a range of areas from mental wellbeing to registering to vote. Building confidence and participation that strengthens Muslim, Minority Ethnic women of all backgrounds to fulfil their potential and participate fully.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8279>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10798&i=98967#ScotParlOR>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8278>

Online racist bullying

S5W-08498 Annie Wells: To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5F-00477 by Nicola Sturgeon on 17 November 2016 (Official Report, c. 23), what steps it has taken to tackle the specific issue of online racist bullying.

Reply from John Swinney: Bullying of any form is entirely unacceptable and we need to be vigilant in challenging any racist and abusive behaviour in our schools. We want all children and young people to learn tolerance, respect, equality and good citizenship to address and prevent prejudice. In March 2016, we published the Race Equality Framework for Scotland, and are taking forward a number of actions to ensure that minority ethnic pupils have confidence in, and are effectively supported by, approaches in schools to prevent and respond to prejudice-based bullying and racist behaviour or incidents.

In addition, we funded 'Show Racism the Red Card' (Scotland) £50,000 in 2016-17 to deliver a programme of anti-racism education to young people in Scottish schools.

All schools and local authorities should have anti-bullying policies in place. The Scottish Government agreed to a request from the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee for further engagement on the development of the Government's refreshed anti-bullying guidance with a range of stakeholders. This revised guidance will be clear that all types of bullying, including prejudice-based bullying is unacceptable and must be addressed whenever and wherever it arises.

To support a proactive approach to addressing bullying, the Scottish Government fully funds respectme, Scotland's anti-bullying service to provide direct support to

local authorities, schools, youth groups and all those working with children and young people to build confidence and capacity to address all types of bullying effectively.

The Scottish Government has also been working across government and with key stakeholders to update our action plan on child internet safety to ensure we have appropriate frameworks of training, support and information in place for professionals and families, including children and young people. The updated action plan will be published in April 2017.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8498>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10630&i=97736&c=1948225#ScotParlOR>

Discrimination in schools

S5W-08512 Rachael Hamilton: To ask the Scottish Government what procedures are in place to ensure that schools provide a safe environment for their students and staff, free from all forms of discrimination.

Reply from John Swinney: The Scottish Government want all children and young people to be free from discrimination so that they can learn and reach their full potential. That is why education in Scotland is underpinned by policies and legislation which have equality and diversity at their hearts, such as Curriculum for Excellence, Additional Support for Learning, GIRFEC and the Equality Act. In this way we help schools and local authorities work towards eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

We recognise too that pupil safety and wellbeing begins with a whole-school ethos which is founded on positive relationships. Authorities and schools have available to them a range of strategies and approaches for promoting positive relationships and behaviour. Support and training in these approaches is provided by Education Scotland's Rights, Support and Wellbeing Team.

The safety of school staff and school staff's responsibilities under equality legislation are matters for individual local authorities as their employers. In terms of teacher responsibilities to pupils, the Standards for Registration set by the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) require teachers to commit to the principles of democracy and social justice through fair, transparent, inclusive and sustainable policies and practices in relation to the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010. The GTCS's Code of Professionalism and Conduct on Equality and Diversity require teachers to engage and work positively with pupils, help pupils understand different views, perspectives and experiences and develop positive relationships as well as recognise that they are role models.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8512>

Tackling hate crime and prejudice

Oliver Mundell: To ask the Scottish Government which projects it funds to tackle hate crime and prejudice; what criteria it uses to determine which projects to support, and what analysis it carries out of their effectiveness. (S5W-8347)

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government funds a number of projects which help to tackle hate crime and prejudice, and these are listed online at: <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/equality-funding-2016-2017/>. Bids to the Promoting Equality and Cohesion Fund are assessed in relation to the criteria contained in the guidance for bids. Funding applications must relate to specific outcomes (for example, people covered by hate crime legislation to experience lower levels of hate crime) and funded projects are required to submit progress reports every six months to demonstrate the impact their work is having

for intended beneficiaries.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-8347>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Religious Dress and Symbols: Workplace

David Amess: What assessment the Church of England has made of the implications of the European Court of Justice ruling of March 2017 on wearing religious dress and symbols in the workplace. [909693]

Reply from the Second Church Estates Commissioner (Dame Caroline Spelman): The Church of England was very concerned by the judgment of the European Court of Justice that stated that blanket bans on the wearing of political, philosophical or religious signs do not amount to cases of direct discrimination, because that conflicts with the pre-existing rulings of the European Court of Human Rights. By leaving the European Union, we presumably stand some chance of resolving such inconsistencies.

David Amess: Does my right hon. Friend agree that this is yet another reason to be pleased that last year the British people took the decision to leave the European Union? The ruling was deeply offensive to people of all faiths and totally unnecessary.

Reply from Caroline Spelman: Yes, and it was completely at odds with the statutory purpose of the Church of England, which was put far better than I possibly could by the head of the Church, Her Majesty the Queen, when in 2012 she made it clear that the Church of England “has a duty to protect the free practice of all faiths in this country.” That is what we should be able to do if we can resolve this inconsistency.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-04-20/debates/6052C7F6-85EA-45C9-AAA5-926B1C282C6E/ReligiousDressAndSymbolsWorkplace>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Antisemitism

The following two questions both received the same answer

John Mann [70456] To ask the Prime Minister, how many meetings she has had and with whom at which anti-Semitism was discussed.

John Mann [70457] To ask the Prime Minister, how many times she has discussed (a) anti-Semitism and (b) anti-Semitism on the internet with her (i) Cabinet colleagues and (ii) international counterparts.

Reply from Theresa May: Anti-Semitism continues to be a problem in this country which is why it is right that, as a Government, we are able to demonstrate the seriousness with which we take it, as we do for other forms of hate crime.

This Government has led the way in adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism and continues to build on the solid work of the cross-Government working group on tackling anti-Semitism, which ensures that we are alive to any issues and concerns of the Jewish community and can respond quickly. I and ministerial colleagues are in regular contact with representatives of the Jewish community, including the Jewish Leadership Council, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Community Security Trust and other key stakeholders. Concerns about the levels of anti-Semitism and anti-Semitism on the internet are discussed by the relevant Cabinet ministers as and when the need arises, and with international counterparts.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70456/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-04-13/70457/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Racially Aggravated Offences

Baroness Manzoor [HL6561] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to tackle racially motivated attacks against (1) ethnic minority women, and (2) asylum seekers and refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government deplores all racially motivated attacks. A strong legal framework is in place to tackle hate crime including criminal offences of incitement to racial hatred and racially or religiously aggravated assault and criminal damage. This Government published a new hate crime action plan in July 2016. The Government supports a range of programmes including Tell MAMA, True Vision and Stop Hate UK that focus on encouraging victims including ethnic minority women, asylum seekers and refugees to report hate crime and signposting them to services that provide support for victims.

The Government's Building a Stronger Britain Together (BSBT) programme includes a range of organisations working with different communities across England and Wales that support women and girls from ethnic minorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-04-03/HL6561/>

The hate crime action plan referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

Information about the "Building a Stronger Britain Together" programme can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-announces-support-for-groups-fighting-extremism>

Press Releases

£500,000 for anti-sectarianism projects

<https://news.gov.scot/news/gbp-500-000-for-anti-sectarianism-projects>

Supreme Court judgment concerning issues arising from claims of indirect discrimination on grounds of race and/or age and/or religion.

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0161-press-summary.pdf>

The full judgment in the above cases can be read at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0161-judgment.pdf>

New poll shows racism has been given a shot in the arm, says TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/equality-issues/black-workers/black-workers-conference/new-poll-shows-racism-has-been-given-shot-arm>

New Publications

Why Me? Research into the experiences of those who have experienced hate crime in order to understand the kind of support services that they actually need

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/17iv_sarec.pdf

Dealing with hate crime

<http://www.ukren.org/uploads/Dealing%20with%20hate%20crime.pdf>

Let's talk about racism: An interim report about the experiences of Black and minority ethnic workers in the workplace

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/LetstalkaboutRacism.pdf>

Visible and Invisible Barriers: the impact of racism on BME teachers

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/sites/default/files2014/barriers-report.pdf>

News

Hate crime victims urged to take part in review

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15220918.Hate_crime_victims_urged_to_take_part_in_review/

£500,000 for projects aiming to tackle sectarianism

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15236291._500_000_for_projects_aiming_to_tackle_sectarianism/

'Third of Scots children' have experienced racism, warns charity

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/education/third-of-scots-children-have-experienced-racism-warns-charity-1-4417143>

Schools turn blind eye to rise in racism, say campaigners

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15216192.Schools_turn_blind_eye_to_rise_in_racism_say_campaigners/

Complacency on racism has to be challenged

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/15216198.Complacency_on_racism_has_to_be_challenged/

Quarter of minority staff in NHS are bullied

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-20/news/quarter-of-minority-staff-in-nhs-are-bullied-nb6kkj0z8>

Kirk's historic apology over sectarianism 15 years on

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15231496.Kirk_39_s_historic_apology_over_sectarianism_15_years_on/

BME teachers often given stereotypical roles in schools, survey finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/14/bme-teachers-stereotypical-roles-in-schools>

Teachers given projects based on racist stereotypes, study finds

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/14/teachers-given-projects-based-racist-stereotypes-study-finds/>

Judge disciplined over speech saying racism 'alive and well' in judiciary
<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/apr/06/judge-peter-herbert-disciplined-jcio-speech-racism-judiciary>

Life after white supremacy: the former neo-fascist now working to fight hate
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/04/life-after-hate-groups-neo-fascism-racism>

There's a hidden hate for Jews
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news-review/theres-a-hidden-hate-for-jews-np2jdvwgqz>

Quarter of Jewish students in UK 'fear anti-Semitic attacks on campus'
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jewish-students-uk-british-universities-anti-semitism-israel-bds-national-union-students-nus-malia-a7665111.html>

Quarter of Jewish students suffer abuse
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-05/news/quarter-of-jewish-students-suffer-abuse-n0cvmm6d>

'I've got a foreskin, haven't you?' Shocking video shows vile Chelsea fans singing anti-Semitic song before their FA Cup clash against Tottenham
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4436538/Video-shows-vile-Chelsea-fans-singing-anti-Semitic-song.html>

Police sergeant forced black colleague to display toy monkey on her desk, tribunal hears as he is accused of racism
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/21/police-sergeant-forced-black-colleague-display-toy-monkey-desk/>

Three children racially abused and spat at as they walk home from adventure playground in north London
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/04/18/three-children-racially-abused-spat-walk-home-adventure-playground/>

Majority of Scots aren't racist but we need to deal with the growing problem
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/real-life/majority-scots-arent-racist-need-10203317>

Detective accused of placing toy monkey on black colleague's desk
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-39584127>

Visitor complaints could force children's museum to remove 'offensive' golliwogs
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/visitor-complaints-could-force-children-s-museum-to-remove-offensive-golliwogs-vrsqj0qm>

Outrage as hate-filled neo-Nazi marchers wearing balaclavas and masks shut down town centre
<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/outrage-hate-filled-neo-nazi-10234713>

Self defence class over Islamophobia 'normalisation' fear
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-38981436>

Britain First leader is slammed for posting 'video of Muslims in London rejoicing at the Paris attacks' which was actually a Pakistani cricket celebration from 2009
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4433010/Britain-leader-posts-fake-Paris-celebration-video.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

LGBTI inclusive education

<https://news.gov.scot/news/lgbti-inclusive-education>

Standing up for human rights

<https://news.gov.scot/news/standing-up-for-human-rights>

New Publication

Universal Periodic Review of human rights in the United Kingdom – May 2017 - Scottish Government position statement

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00516802.pdf>

News: Council elections

At a glance: SNP manifesto for May's council elections

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39666272>

At-a-glance: Scottish Conservative council manifesto

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39641145>

At-a-glance: Scottish Labour council election manifesto

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39630707>

At-a-glance: Scottish Lib Dem council election manifesto

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39577498>

At-a-glance: Scottish Green council election manifesto

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39566360>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Divorce: Islam

Alison Thewliss [69666] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance she has issued to staff of her Department on the recognition of Talaq divorces.

Reply from Robert Goodwill: Guidance for staff includes instructions and policy documents covering the requirements in the Family Law Act 1986, relevant case law and example divorce documents.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-29/69666/>

Press Releases

Easter 2017: Theresa May's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/easter-2017-theresa-mays-message>

Foreign Secretary's 2017 Easter message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-2017-easter-message>

Passover 2017: Theresa May's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/passover-2017-theresa-mays-message>

Vaisakhi 2017: Theresa May's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaisakhi-2017-theresa-mays-message>

New Publication

Briefing: Scottish Independence Referendum Procedure: Section 30 Orders

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LIF-2017-0036/LIF-2017-0036.pdf>

News

The Government is running a UK-wide campaign to encourage low-paid workers to check their pay to ensure they are getting the National Minimum Wage (NMW). By law, all workers aged 25 and over must be paid at least the National Living Wage, or, if they are younger, the National Minimum Wage rate relevant to their age group.

Minimum wage rates increased on 1 April 2017:

- the apprentice rate is now £3.50 per hour
- the rate for 16 to 17 year olds is now £4.05 per hour
- the rate for 18 to 20 year olds is now £5.60 per hour
- the rate for 21 to 24 year olds is now £7.05 per hour
- the rate for people aged 25 and over is now £7.50 per hour

<https://checkyourpay.campaign.gov.uk/>

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General Election

News

Theresa May to seek general election on 8 June

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-39629603>

General Election will be about indyref2, says Theresa May

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/general-election-will-be-about-indyref2-says-theresa-may-1-4422712>

Sturgeon: May election move 'huge miscalculation'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-39630699>

Nicola Sturgeon promises to make election about indyref2

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/nicola-sturgeon-promises-to-make-election-about-indyref2-1-4422211>

General election: Nicola Sturgeon says SNP would back 'progressive alliance' to keep Tories out of power

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/nicola-sturgeon-general-election-snp-progressive-alliance-tories-conservatives-out-power-labour-a7691186.html>

Salmond: May capitalising on Corbyn's 'weakness' with election

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/salmond-may-capitalising-on-corbyn-s-weakness-with-election-1-4422647>

Ruth Davidson: A stable May government will ensure a better Brexit

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-04-19/news/a-stable-may-government-will-ensure-a-better-brex-it-q2lr3n0m6>

UKIP manifesto to pledge a burka ban

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39682939>

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Other News

UK's human rights institutions call for strengthened human rights protections during period of change

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/uks-human-rights-institutions-call-for-strengthened-human-rights-protections-during-period-of-change/>

Black men must face the truth about prostate cancer

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/apr/16/black-men-truth-prostate-cancer>

FGM: 123 victims treated in Wales last year, figures show

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-39630199>

FGM: The mother trying to protect her daughters

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-39282927>

Teachers 'need training to spot honour-based abuse'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-39485061>

Charities sound the alarm on male 'honour abuse'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39485348>

Less than half UK teachers say they have received training to spot signs of forced marriage

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-teachers-forced-marriage-see-signs-training-less-half-fmu-government-unit-fgm-female-genital-a7678486.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/103883.aspx>

Bills in Progress 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>

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

Domestic Abuse Bill (closing date 1 May 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/104171.aspx>

Policing 2026: Draft Strategy (closing date 8 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>

**** Independent review of hate crime legislation** (closing date 12 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/hate-crime/2f6c8d5f/>

Improving educational outcomes for children and young people from travelling cultures (closing date 28 May 2017)

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/support-and-wellbeing/improving-educational-outcomes-for-children/>

Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

Here to Stay? Young Eastern Europeans' experiences of life in the UK (no closing date given)

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

Hate Crime and Prejudice Scotland Mapping Exercise (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BJPT5PL>

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!**

Creative Communities Fund

Closing date for applications: 28 April 2017

Community groups from across Scotland that are led by refugees or that have a focus on working with refugees can apply for up to £500 to participate in the festival. Groups can apply for funding to deliver an event or activity with their members and local audiences that will help to strengthen their connections, partnerships and networks with receiving communities. For more information and guidance please contact:

communitydevelopment@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/refugee_festival_scotland

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

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/jdfkz2> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

**** this week!**

“Hidden in Silence”

26 April 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00-8.00)

The Cross Party Group on Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse is hosting a screening of the documentary “Hidden in Silence,” which addresses childhood sexual abuse in Scottish BME communities. For information contact Marianne Paton Marianne.Paton@parliament.scot

**** this week!**

Domestic Abuse and BME Women, Children and Young People

26 (9.30-4.30) and 27 (9.30-12.30) April 2017 in Edinburgh

Shakti training to include definitions of domestic abuse; how domestic abuse affects women and families from BME communities, and BME children and young people; the concept of ‘honour’ and how it affects BME women experiencing domestic abuse; forced marriage; and immigration issues including entitlement to support. For information see <http://shaktiedinburgh.co.uk/events-training/> or contact info@shaktiedinburgh.co.uk / 0131 475 2399

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Seminar

2 May 2017 in Glenrothes (10.00-2.00)

Fife Violence Against Women Partnership seminar for professionals to raise awareness of the very current issue surrounding female genital mutilation, including prevalence, consequences, legal aspects and implications for practice. For information see <https://www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8332> or contact Mary MacIntyre 01592 583 690 / fvawp@fife.gov.uk

Fair and equal volunteering

9 May 2017 in Glenrothes (9.30-1.00)

Fife Voluntary Action course to enable organisations to feel more confident in understanding the difference between equality and diversity. For information see <https://www.fivevoluntaryaction.org.uk/news.asp?id=8216> or contact David 0800 389 6046 / info@fivevoluntaryaction.org.uk

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.

Working with Interpreters

31 May 2017 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Integration and Working with Syrian Families

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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk / 0141 223 7982.

Making change happen: Using the courts to make rights a reality

1 June 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland workshop to discuss how organisations can use the law and the courts to bring about social change. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/l8hfxsm>

New Scots: Working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees

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.

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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 <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

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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