

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

Welsh Assembly Debate

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee Report on their Inquiry into Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Wales

There is no direct weblink to the debate which begins at 15.35 at

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=4299&assembly=5&c=Record%20of%20Proceedings#481885>

Press Releases

Call for clarity over EU citizens' future

<https://news.gov.scot/news/call-for-clarity-over-eu-citizens-future>

European Commission: Joint Statement on World Refugee Day 2017

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-17-1724_en.htm

European countries must lift obstacles to reunification of refugee families
<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/european-countries-must-lift-obstacles-to-reunification-of-refugee-families>

On World Refugee Day, UN urges support, solidarity for record number of displaced people
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57013#.WUk-aRN96nY>

On World Refugee Day, OSCE/ODIHR Director underlines commitment of participating States to treat refugees humanely
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/324246>

Help end migrant detention of children
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2017/help-end-migrant-detention-children>

Community policing to help combat migrant fear
<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2017/community-policing-help-combat-migrant-fear>

New Publications

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy (Summary)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00521103.pdf>

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy (Full)
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00518587.pdf>

Migration Statistics
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

Migration Statistics Data File
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/CBPSN06077-data.xlsx>

Securing permanent status: Existing legal routes for children and young people without leave to remain in the UK
http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Securing-permanent-status_legal-routes.pdf

European legal and policy framework on immigration and detention of children
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-immigration-detention-children_en.pdf

Current migration situation in the EU: Community policing
http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-june-2017-monthly-migration-report-focus-community-policing_en.pdf

News

Sturgeon: 'Devil in the detail' of EU citizens deal
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-40379344>

Brexit: Theresa May promises to let 3 million EU citizens stay in UK
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-citizens-uk-theresa-may-settlement-europe-talks-latest-a7803736.html>

Theresa May makes 'fair and serious' offer on EU citizens rights in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jun/22/theresa-may-makes-fair-and-serious-offer-on-rights-of-eu-citizens-in-uk>

EU expats condemn Theresa May's 'pathetic' offer on Brexit rights

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jun/23/eu-expats-condemn-theresa-may-pathetic-offer-on-brexit-rights>

Sleepless, anxious, depressed: EU citizens in the shadow of Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jun/24/eu-citizens-shadow-brexit-sleepless-anxious-depressed>

Brexit deal: 3 million EU citizens allowed to stay in UK permanently - and will get same rights as Britons

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/22/brexit-deal-3-million-eu-citizens-allowed-stay-uk-permanently/>

'That's dope!': EU migrants react to Theresa May's pledge to allow them to stay

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/23/dope-eu-migrants-react-theresa-mays-pledge-allow-stay/>

Theresa May outlines plans on status of EU nationals living in UK post-Brexit

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4629116/Brexit-negotiations-citizens-rights-started-constructively--May.html>

500,000 children raised in UK face fight for passport

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/500-000-children-raised-in-uk-face-fight-for-passport-dd692qmp7>

The plan to keep EU workers in Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15357616.Revealed_The_plan_to_keep_EU_workers_in_Scotland/

Number of Eastern Europeans applying to work in the UK has plunged to a record low after Brexit as 'Britain is less attractive for migrants'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4624376/Number-Eastern-Europeans-applying-work-UK-drops.html>

Brexit: Losing care staff from EU could force disabled people from their homes, report warns

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brexit-disability-rights-care-staff-leave-home-eu-a7805566.html>

Difficulty of NHS language test 'worsens nurse crisis', say recruiters

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jun/24/english-speaking-ovrseas-nurses-fail-nhs-too-tough-language-test>

UK population shows sharpest rise in almost 70 years

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/22/uk-population-shows-sharpest-rise-almost-70-years>

Population growth sharpest in 70 years after 'record' migration levels

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/22/population-growth-sharpest-70-years-record-migration-levels/>

British population boom of half a million is biggest in 70 years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/british-population-boom-of-half-a-million-is-biggest-in-70-years-mkdlptmxv>

UK population sees sharpest rise in 70 years driven by immigration and higher life expectancy as London moves toward 'Megacity' status

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4628372/UK-population-sees-sharpest-rise-70-YEARS.html>

Brexit fears see 254 per cent rise in number of British applications for French nationality

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/20/brexit-fears-see-254-per-cent-rise-number-british-applications/>

Migrants are wrongly being made homeless. Housing associations must act

<https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2017/jun/20/migrants-wrongly-homeless-housing-associations-charter>

If you want to know the reality of being a refugee, read these claims from Britain's current asylum seekers

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/refugee-asylum-seeker-claims-solicitors-law-stories-syria-afghanistan-a7802531.html>

Images of asylum seeker's life in Birmingham on display

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-40328673>

Historic violin lent by Oxford University to Syrian refugee

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-40328004>

Oxford's fine fiddle for Aleppo violinist Aboud Kaplo

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-20/news/oxford-s-fine-fiddle-for-aleppo-violinist-aboud-kaplo-q6l9t7cr9>

'We are happy in Scotland. We love people and want to make friends' Syrian mum celebrates World Refugee day in Glasgow

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/we-happy-scotland-love-people-10658902>

Visa refusal leaves mother and toddler 4,000 miles apart

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-40357986>

Grenfell Tower survivors 'too scared to seek help' because of immigration status

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/22/grenfell-tower-survivors-too-scared-to-seek-help-because-of-immigration-status>

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Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Engagement with Muslim Community and Mosque Safety

James Dornan: To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it undertakes with Scotland's Muslim community, and whether it will take steps to ensure the safety of mosques in the wake of the latest attack in London. (S5T-00605)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson): I am sure

that I speak for the whole Parliament when I say that our thoughts are with everyone who was caught up in the most recent attack in London. The First Minister chaired a meeting of the Scottish Government resilience committee yesterday, to ensure that we are closely monitoring the situation.

There is no intelligence of a specific threat in Scotland, but Police Scotland has actively reviewed all safety and security plans at Scotland's mosques, which involves ensuring that our armed policing and specialist resources are appropriately deployed.

The Scottish Government has strong, well-established relationships with our Muslim communities and we have been in regular contact to provide reassurance and to understand where there might be tensions. We will not tolerate any attempt to target any community, by any misguided individual or group. Police Scotland continues to monitor hate crime closely and we encourage anyone who has been the victim of or a witness to hate crime to contact the police and report the incident.

James Dornan: During this holy month of Ramadan, Muslim families and communities across Scotland are meeting late in the evening to break their fast and join in worship. Has consideration been given to providing special protection around mosques at such times, to ensure that our friends in Scotland's Muslim community feel safe and secure as they express their faith and go about their lives?

Reply from Michael Matheson: As I mentioned, Police Scotland has reviewed security and policing arrangements around all of Scotland's mosques, and is applying resources in a way that it sees as proportionate and appropriate, given the nature of the threat that has been experienced following the incident in London.

I can assure the member that those arrangements also give consideration to the key times during the day when there are larger numbers of people at Scotland's mosques, including at the time of breaking fast and of joining in prayer in the evening. Police Scotland will continue to keep that under review and will continue to engage with mosques directly to ensure that they are content with the additional security measures that have been put in place. The situation will continue to be monitored in the weeks and days ahead.

James Dornan: Last Thursday, I broke the fast when I chaired a constructive meeting in Cathcart old parish church in my constituency, with Sunni and Shia Muslims as well as representatives of Christian denominations. That gathering illustrated perfectly that people of a diversity of faiths across our nation share the ambition to build stronger communities and live peacefully together. What is the Scottish Government doing in schools, and more generally throughout Scotland, to foster tolerance and respect and to end prejudice, discrimination and hate?

Reply from Michael Matheson: The event that Mr Dornan hosted just last week demonstrates that what unites us is greater than what divides us as a society. As a Government, we recognise the importance of having strong, resilient, supportive communities. Last week, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities made a statement in this Parliament setting out our ambitious plan to take action to effectively tackle hate crime and prejudice in Scottish society and, importantly, to create greater community cohesion. That includes steps to progress relationships and behaviours, working in schools, and establishing a refreshed anti-bullying guidance programme. It is all about making sure that we address attitudes at an early stage, and schools and our education system will have a key part to play in helping to support that work. The Government will continue to take forward that work with our partners in local authorities in the months ahead.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11016&i=100649#ScotParlOR>

News

Finsbury Park attack: Roses for Ramadan worshippers

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-40343485>

Dear Theresa May, come and meet some Muslims. It might help if you knew us

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jun/20/theresa-may-muslims-mosques>

'An attack on one faith is an attack on all faiths': Religious leaders condemn Finsbury Park attack

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/attack-one-faith-attack-faiths-religious-leaders-condemn-finsbury/>

Finsbury Park: A mixed and tolerant community that has been left appalled

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/finsbury-park-mixed-tolerant-community-has-left-appalled/>

Religious leaders pull together after Finsbury Park attack

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-20/news/religious-leaders-stick-together-gv89hxx5j>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Educational institutions

S5W-09676 Pauline McNeill: To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that (a) schools and other educational institutions and (b) childcare facilities are used to their full potential, particularly in urban areas where ethnic minorities represent a higher percentage of the population.

Reply from John Swinney: Educational institutions are supported to develop effective engagement with partners and stakeholders, including communities, through the Education Scotland quality frameworks 'How Good is Our School' (HGIOS), 'How Good is Our College' (HGIOC) and 'How Good is Our Early Learning and Childcare' (HGIOELC).

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09676>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-06334 Ben Macpherson: Award Win for Saheliya – That the Parliament congratulates Saheliya, which is a non-profit mental health and wellbeing support organisation based in Leith for black and minority ethnic (BME) women and girls, on being awarded £49,344 from the Big Lottery Fund's Young Start programme; understands that this funding will support Saheliya in providing opportunities to isolated and marginalised BME and Asian girls and women aged 12 to 25; recognises Saheliya's significant positive impact in the local community by providing a range of services to BME, asylum seeker, refugee and migrant women and girls, including counselling and outreach work to promote mental wellbeing; appreciates that this project will help young women become active citizens and change makers, and wishes all at Saheliya, and the women and girls involved, the best in the future.

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Bullying and Harassment of Children and Young People in Schools

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11025&i=100747#ScotParLOR>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (7) IHRA Definition – That this House welcomes the adoption of a formal definition of anti-Semitism by the Government in response to the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA); further welcomes the agreed cross-party support for the definition, including from the Leader of the Opposition and hon. members of all political parties represented in the House in the previous Parliament; congratulates the IHRA and its 31 member countries for adopting the definition; notes that the definition has been officially adopted by the Government, the Labour Party, the UK Police College, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Union of Students, Universities UK, the London Assembly, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and a number of local councils; welcomes the Government's update report on anti-Semitism, including progress made in ensuring wider adoption of the definition; and calls on all other political parties, universities, councils and other public bodies and organisations to continue to adopt the definition and use it to better understand and act against anti-Jewish hatred.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/7>

Press Releases

Man charged with terrorism-related murder following Finsbury Park incident

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/man-charged-with-terrorism-related/

Finsbury Park incident

<https://news.gov.scot/news/finsbury-park-incident>

PM statement following terror attack in Finsbury Park: 19 June 2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-following-terror-attack-in-finsbury-park-19-june-2017>

Lord Bourne statement following terror attack in Finsbury Park

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-bourne-statement-following-terror-attack-in-finsbury-park>

Strong surge of nationalistic populism, xenophobic hate speech were key challenges in Europe in 2016

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/AR-2017-250-EN.asp>

Counter-terrorism measures are fuelling racism, UN rights expert warns

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21778&LangID=E>

Order for Lifelong Restriction for Mosque petrol bomber

<http://www.crownoffice.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/1565-order-for-lifelong-restriction-for-mosque-petrol-bomber>

New Publication

Annual Report on the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance's Activities: covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual_Reports/Annual%20report%202016.pdf

News: Finsbury Park attack

Finsbury Park attack: More armed policing around Scotland's mosques

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-40328536>

Police Scotland steps up security at mosques after terror attack

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/police-scotland-steps-up-security-at-mosques-after-terror-attack-1-4480308>

Islamophobia to be targeted in new Government crackdown following terror attack near London mosque

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15357709.Islamophobia_to_be_targeted_in_new_Government_crackdown_following_terror_attack_near_London_mosque/

Finsbury Park attack: Theresa May announces review of security at mosques following latest terror assault

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/finsbury-park-attack-latest-theresa-may-review-mosque-security-terrorism-london-muslims-islam-van-a7797071.html>

Finsbury Park attack: Theresa May condemns 'sickening' terror attack

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-40322960>

'Evil borne of hatred': Theresa May slams 'sickening' attack on Muslims in Finsbury Park Mosque horror as 'distracted' Jeremy Corbyn is overcome with emotion

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4617070/Home-Secretary-Amber-Rudd-praises-heroic-Londoners.html>

'He is showing us his sympathy': Finsbury Park terror attack victim welcomes Prince Charles' visit as royal praises 'wonderful' imam who saved attacker's life

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4625996/Prince-Charles-meets-hero-imam-Finsbury-Park.html>

'They will not divide us': Defiant Londoners take to social media as they rally around Muslim victims of Finsbury Park terror attack

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4617336/Londoners-rally-Muslim-victims-terror-attack.html>

Religious leaders unite in condemnation of Finsbury Park attack

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/19/finsbury-park-attack-muslim-council-jewish-sikh-christian>

"Terror Attack" on Worshippers Leaving Prayers at Finsbury Park

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/terror-attack-on-worshippers-leaving-prayers-at-finsbury-park/>

Finsbury Park Mosque: Man dies as van hits pedestrians

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-40322960>

Man arrested after driving van into crowds of worshippers 'causing multiple casualties' at North London mosque

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15355780.Man_arrested_after_driving_van_into_crowds_of_worshippers_causing_multiple_casualties_at_North_London_mosque/?ref=mrb&lp=7

Muslim Council of Britain calls for extra security at mosques after attack

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15355803.Muslim_Council_of_Britain_calls_for_extra_security_at_mosques_after_attack/

Finsbury Park: Man dies, 8 injured as van hits Muslim worshippers near mosque

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/finsbury-park-man-dies-8-injured-as-van-hits-muslim-worshippers-near-mosque-1-4479424>

One dead and eight in hospital after van is driven into crowds near mosque

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/451595/man-held-after-van-driven-into-crowd-near-finsbury-park-mosque/>

Finsbury Park attack suspect named as Darren Osborne

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40332616>

Finsbury Park Mosque: Attack suspect named as Darren Osborne

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/finsbury-park-mosque-attack-suspect-named-as-darren-osborne-1-4479424>

'Don't hit him' Hero imam who stopped angry onlookers beating terror suspect tells why he did it

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/dont-hit-him-hero-imam-10649679>

Finsbury Park attack: Statement from the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group

<https://tellmamauk.org/finsbury-park-attack-statement-from-the-anti-muslim-hatred-working-group/>

Terror suspect ploughs into Muslims before yelling: 'You deserve it...I did my bit'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/terror-suspect-ploughs-muslims-yelling-deserve-iti-did-bit/>

'Don't touch him': Hero imam 'saved life' of suspect of terror attack

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/dont-touch-hero-imam-saved-life-suspect-terror-attack/>

'We're all scared but I'm going back to the mosque tonight': Finsbury Park Muslims defiant in the face of terror

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/worried-go-back-muslim-leaders-ask-security-following-finsbury/>

Out of the night, van mowed down Ramadan worshippers in Finsbury Park

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-20/news/out-of-the-night-van-mowed-down-ramadan-worshippers-in-finsbury-park-0dkgrxtr9>

Do not touch him: imam Mohammed Mahmoud saves Finsbury Park driver from angry mob

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-20/news/do-not-touch-him-imam-mohammed-mahmoud-saves-finsbury-park-driver-from-angry-mob-53cvsb56f>

Tommy Robinson accused of exploiting Finsbury Park assault as far-right fans flames of hate

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-20/news/tommy-robinson-accused-of-exploiting-finsbury-park-assault-as-far-right-fans-flames-of-hate-50p8dssd3>

Finsbury Park: Right-wing extremists react to attack on Muslims by urging UK to 'cast Islam out of country'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/finsbury-park-attack-muslims-islam-right-wing-extremists-response-uk-a7799901.html>

Finsbury Park Mosque attack: Right-wing commentators upset after being accused of radicalisation

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/finsbury-park-latest-right-wing-commentators-accused-radicalisation-islam-anti-muslim-katie-hopkins-a7797166.html>

Boy of 13 reported for celebrating Finsbury Park mosque van attack

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/boy-of-13-reported-for-celebrating-finsbury-park-mosque-van-attack-lv82tr08v>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Islamophobic attacks in Manchester surge by 500% after arena attack

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/22/islamophobic-attacks-manchester-increase-arena-attack>

'Far-right fascists and Islamist terrorists are driven by same hatred': Brendan Cox speaks out

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/far-right-fascists-islamist-terrorists-driven-hatred-brendan/>

Muslims call for more security to fight rising Islamophobia

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-20/news/muslims-call-for-more-security-to-fight-islamophobia-qv8krp8d3>

'I fear for my Muslim child growing up in this country' says woman who was comforted by Sajid Javid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-21/news/i-fear-for-my-child-in-uk-says-woman-sajid-javid-comforted-hqqbzqgj2>

Mosque bomb attack man given lifelong restriction order and jailed

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/453912/mosque-bomb-attack-man-given-lifelong-restriction-order-and-jailed/>

Watch racist thug with Nazi tattoo on his chest launch petrol bomb attack on Edinburgh mosque

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/crime/watch-racist-thug-nazi-tattoo-10661694>

Security tight as far-right protesters meet anti-fascist demonstrators

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-4635440/Security-tight-far-right-protesters-meet-anti-fascist-demonstrators.html>

Britain is not Islamophobic. This is one of the best countries in the world to be a Muslim

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/19/britain-not-islamophobic-one-best-countries-world-muslim/>

The rise of Islamophobia in Europe - and how we can deal with it

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/12/rise-islamophobia-europe-can-deal/>

Google hosts far-right videos urging Islamophobic violence

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-21/news/google-hosts-far-right-videos-urging-islamophobic-violence-fxgdwkw2>

Surge in support for Gab, a website that allows hate speech

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/surge-in-support-for-gab-website-that-allows-hate-speech-790mg09tw>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Policing 2026

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Michael Matheson): ... This is the first time that a 10-year strategy has been developed for policing in Scotland. It was finalised following wide-ranging consultation and engagement, in which strong support was demonstrated for the key elements of the strategy. I am happy to endorse the vision that is set out in policing 2026.

The merger of 10 police organisations into a single police service has not been without its challenges, but through the commitment and professionalism of officers and staff much has been achieved. Savings have been realised, allowing resources to be focused on service delivery. Public confidence in the police remains strong and recorded crime is at a 42-year low. ...

The past few weeks have underlined the changing nature of the threats that we ask our police service to address. We experienced a global cyberattack on 21 May, and we have seen cowardly terrorist attacks on the streets of London and on children and young people at a pop concert in Manchester. Police forces and their emergency services colleagues across the United Kingdom respond heroically in the face of those attacks and we all appreciate their work.

The single police service has strengthened access to specialist policing capabilities, including firearm capabilities, across Scotland's communities. That, coupled with the decision to increase the number of firearms officers in Scotland, has ensured that Scotland is well prepared to respond. Over the past few weeks, Police Scotland has provided assurances that it is fully supported to lead our fight against terrorism. However, we will continue to keep that under constant review.

It is by interacting with communities and being trusted by them that we will prevent further attacks from taking place. ...

The strategic police priorities capture the public's expectations of our police service. To deliver on those, the strategy focuses on five key areas: protection, prevention, communities, knowledge and innovation. ... I welcome the commitment in the strategy to building on Police Scotland's already strong community relations. I believe that those strong community links and the increase in front-line policing capacity to be delivered by the strategy will further improve public confidence in the police. ...

Margaret Mitchell: ... it is stated ... that "Crime figures are not an accurate measure of demand: Only 1 in 5 incidents attended by police result in a crime being recorded ...

considering recorded crime in isolation is therefore not an accurate measure of demand on policing services.”

What is the cabinet secretary doing to ensure more accurate recording of the demands on police time? ...

Reply from Michael Matheson: ... About 80 per cent of the almost 3 million calls that Police Scotland receives each year do not relate to crimes; a large number of them deal with issues including vulnerability. As is set out in the 2026 strategy, Police Scotland intends to change the way in which it assesses vulnerability, with the introduction of the THRIVE—threat, harm, risk, investigation, vulnerability and engagement—system, which will more effectively assess an individual’s vulnerability in order to ensure that they receive an appropriate response to their needs. ...

Rona Mackay: Does the cabinet secretary agree that Police Scotland must be able to adapt, as it sees necessary, to the changing nature of crime that it faces in today’s world?

Reply from Michael Matheson: No member in the chamber will be in any doubt about the changing nature of the crime that our police service faces. There are challenges such as the increasing threat of cybercrime and online fraud, as well as the recent terrorist attacks in London and Manchester, so it is absolutely crucial that Police Scotland has the resources, capacity and capability to meet those challenges head on. That is why the policing 2026 strategy has been developed. The strategy is the first 10-year strategy for policing in Scotland. It is challenging to imagine what the situation will be like in 10 years, but we can, nevertheless, ensure that we build on the key strengths that exist in Police Scotland so that we can address the existing, new and emerging threats as they develop in the months and years ahead.

John Mason: Relationships between communities and local police are important to my constituents and, I think, to others, especially if there can be continuity with the police. Does the cabinet secretary feel that the new strategy will impact on those local relationships?

Reply from Michael Matheson: Local policing is key to the success of policing overall. It is key even to the sophisticated capabilities of Police Scotland to deal with major issues such as terrorism. Preventing such things from happening in the first place is about having strong, resilient and cohesive communities alongside trusted police who are part of those communities. That is at the heart of the 2026 strategy.

Local policing will be strengthened as a result of the strategy, which is about improving the police’s capacity and capability to undertake that engagement work. That will ensure that the strong links that the police have with communities are built on and developed in the future. We can see that from the SPA’s annual review. Local authorities are feeding back, and strong partnerships exist already. The 2026 strategy is about building on that work and putting local policing at the heart of our policing model.

To read the full statement and Q&A see

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11016&i=100657#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation

S5W-09631 Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government what progress it is making with the implementation of the recommendations in Scotland’s National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government has established a

Multi-Agency National Implementation Group to oversee implementation and monitor progress of the actions from the National Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation. The Implementation group held its inaugural meeting in November 2016 and has met on a quarterly basis over the course of 2017.

A 'Year One Update' on the National Action Plan will be published later this year, documenting the actions and activities undertaken in the first year of the plan.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09631>

Female Genital Mutilation

S5W-09632 Mary Fee: To ask the Scottish Government how many cases of female genital mutilation have been identified in Scotland since 2011, and how many people have been convicted for this.

Reply from Angela Constance: FGM, by its very nature, is a hidden issue. It may be underreported, and those who are affected may not be able to come forward or share their concerns.

Between 1 April 2014 and 13 June 2017 there have been 83 referrals made in relation to concerns for girls who were at risk of harm from Female Genital Mutilation. These child concern figures are taken from Police Scotland's Vulnerable Persons Database (iVPD) which was fully implemented in all divisions from the 1 April 2014. These concerns can be broken down as follows:

Financial year 2014-15 - 20 referrals

Financial year 2015-16 - 24 referrals

Financial year 2016-17 - 34 referrals

to date this financial year - 5 referrals

These referrals resulted in child protection procedures being undertaken, information shared and investigation carried out, with no criminality found.

To date there have been no convictions in Scotland, nor in any other part of the UK, for FGM related offences. Every referral or child welfare concern that is brought to the police relating to concerns that girls have been at risk of having FGM performed on them has been fully investigated by Police Scotland, and no criminality has been found.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09632>

Press Releases

Presiding Officer welcomes Commission Report which marks a 'coming of age' for the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/105395.aspx>

Boost to open government

<https://news.gov.scot/news/boost-to-open-government>

Queen's Speech – more Brexit clarity needed

<https://news.gov.scot/news/queens-speech-more-brexit-clarity-needed>

Policing 2026

<https://news.gov.scot/news/policing-2026-1>

Parliament to nominate new Scottish Information Commissioner

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/105436.aspx>

Eid Mubarak

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/eid-mubarak-2/>

New Publication

Commission on Parliamentary Reform Final Report: Your Parliament, Your Voice

<https://test123582.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/commissiononparliamentaryreformreport-june2017.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Queen's Speech 2017: What it means for Scotland

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/queens-speech-2017-what-it-means-for-scotland>

Eid al-Fitr 2017: Theresa May's message

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

Foreign Secretary's message for Eid

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-message-for-eid>

New Publications

MEMO+ The UK Government Legislative Programme

http://www.scojec.org/memo+/2017/17vi_uk_legislative_programme.pdf

Guide to Healthy Living: Mosques

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/619891/Guide_to_Healthy_Living_Mosques.PDF

Polygamy

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN05051/SN05051.pdf>

News

Queen's Speech summary: Bill-by-bill at a glance

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-40339564>

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New Publication

Police Scotland: 2026 Strategy – Serving a Changing Scotland

<http://www.spa.police.uk/assets/126884/408059/strategy>

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Other News

Hebridean island set for first mosque

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-24/scotland/hebridean-island-set-for-first-mosque-bx5fd7sb8>

Extra security for 'Europe's largest Eid party' in Birmingham

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-40326774>

Newcastle Eid celebration: Six hurt as car hits crowd

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-40397028>

1 arrest, 6 hurt after car strikes pedestrians at Eid event

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/1-arrest-6-hurt-after-car-strikes-pedestrians-at-eid-event-1-4485899>

Six injured as car crashes into group of Muslims leaving Eid prayers outside Westgate sports centre in Newcastle

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/car-crash-newcastle-eid-westgate-road-sports-centre-police-injured-arrested-a7806971.html>

Six injured after car hits crowd celebrating Eid in Newcastle

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/25/six-injured-after-car-hits-crowd-celebrating-eid-in-newcastle>

Six injured as 'car crashes into pedestrians celebrating Eid'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/25/five-injured-car-crashes-into-pedestrians-celebrating-eid/>

Six injured as car hits Muslim worshippers in Newcastle

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/six-injured-as-car-hits-muslim-worshippers-in-newcastle-bhjtqsplq>

Pupils taught to help classmates at risk of 'honour' violence

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/pupils-taught-to-help-classmates-at-risk-of-honour-violence-1-4484058>

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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>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11013&i=100637#ScotParlOR>

**** Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19S052017.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19S052017.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19PMS052017.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19PMS052017.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19ENS052017.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19ENS052017.pdf)

Financial Memorandum

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill19FMS052017.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill19FMS052017.pdf)

Statements on Legislative Competence

[http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20\(Repeal\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBILL19LCS052017.pdf](http://www.parliament.scot/Offensive%20Behaviour%20at%20Football%20and%20Threatening%20Communications%20(Repeal)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBILL19LCS052017.pdf)

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

Recommendation on Promoting social inclusion and shared values through formal and non-formal learning (closing date 11 August 2017)

http://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/social-inclusion-shared-values-learning_en#documents

**** Implications of the Article 50 withdrawal process: Negotiations for Scotland** (closing date 18 August 2017)

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/bNSXXQg6LIUOr/>

**** Inquiry into Immigration** (closing date 25 August 2017)

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/CLt5v51Fty7eL/>

**** European Union's (EU) legislation on the legal migration of non-EU citizens** (closing date 18 September 2017)

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/content/consultation-european-unions-eu-legislation-legal-migration-non-eu-citizens-fitness-check-eu_en

Social Enterprise Census 2017 (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SECensus2017>

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

**** Volunteering Support Fund**

Closing date 14 July 2017

Scottish Government grants to support organisations to recruit additional volunteers (who will contribute towards delivering a new volunteering project, or extending/expanding an existing one) and improve how volunteers are supported in their role. The fund is intended to:

- Increase the diversity of volunteers, especially to include those who experience disadvantage or would traditionally experience barriers to volunteering;
- Improve opportunities for skills and personal development through volunteering;
- Improve the third sector's capacity to support, train and deploy volunteers; and
- Enhance the services organisations deliver to better meet the needs of the communities they serve.

For more information and to download an application form see

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/>

Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017

No set closing date – applications will be accepted until the fund has been fully allocated

BEMIS Scotland in collaboration with the Scottish Government is delighted to continue the themed years programme and invite multicultural communities across Scotland to join the celebration of the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and the 2017/18 Scottish Winter Festivals.

This programme will enable Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities to participate in and enhance the dynamic celebrations which are taking place across Scotland.

Constituted charitable and non-profit organisations and community groups can apply for grants of between £250 and £1,000 to stage an event to tell the story of their community's history and heritage in Scotland using 'intangible cultural heritage' – for example: language, music, song, dance or storytelling.

For more information see

<https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/yhha-grant-guidelines.pdf>

For an application form see

<https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/yhha-application-form.docx>

Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowships: Migration – Living Well Together

Closing date: 19 September 2017

Applications are welcome for projects focused on strengthening cohesion and communication, tackling isolation and supporting communities to live harmoniously together and realise their economic potential. For information see

<http://www.wcmt.org.uk/categories/migration-living-well-together>

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**** This week!**

Refugee Festival Scotland

20 June to 2 July

The full calendar of events is available at

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

**** This week!**

1 Day Without Us: A human-centred immigration policy for Scotland?

26 June 2017 in Dumfries (6.30-8.30)

Public discussion on what principles should govern Scottish immigration policy, and whether Scotland should have a human-centred immigration policy. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/y7lajp85>

**** This week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

27 June 2017 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

22 August 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

29 August 2017 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to provide information about housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

**** This week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

27 June 2017 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

22 August 2017 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

29 August 2017 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, the barriers faced in building a new life in Scotland, and entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

**** This week!**

Creating a Fairer Future for All

29 June 2017 in Edinburgh (12.00-4.30)

Young Scot Fairer Future Panel event to explore the Race Equality Framework, share stories, and collectively create actions for change. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/ydehz8af>

**** This week!**

Understanding of Muslim women

29 June 2017 in Edinburgh (5.30-7.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre training to enhance understanding of Muslim women, their needs and the issues they face. For information contact David Bradwell

dbradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

**** This week!**

Connect with the UK Parliament - how can people get their voices heard at the UK Parliament?

30 June 2017 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

UK Parliament interactive workshop to find out how you can take forward the issues you care about, and get your voice heard. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ycpzzmu2>

**** BME women's experiences of work in Scotland**

25 July 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-12.30)

27 July 2017 in Edinburgh (10.00-12.30)

Close the Gap focus groups to hear about barriers experienced by black and minority ethnic women in entering or progressing in the workplace, and how to realise equality for BME women at work. For information about the Glasgow event see <http://tinyurl.com/y8u2nz59>, and for the Edinburgh event see <http://tinyurl.com/y96ddz9r>

**** Finding a New Home**

22 August 2017 in Edinburgh (7.30-9.00)

Just Festival discussion about the challenges of welcoming people burdened with the weight of experiential and emotional baggage, and ways to make life in Scotland inclusive, productive and happy for anyone who settles here. For information see <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/GJFJJK>

**** Immigration Act 2016 – “The Hostile Environment” basics**

5 September 2017 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

PAiH training to ensure that people providing services to or working with immigrants have up to date information to make sure their clients are able to access services without delay and prepare for being excluded when it is inevitable. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact training@positiveactionh.org

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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://www.gov.scot/>

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