

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 4 September 2017.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Refugees and Asylum Seekers (United Kingdom Government Policy)

Fulton MacGregor (SNP) To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the impact on Scotland of the UK Government's policy on refugees and asylum seekers. (S5O-01168)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): I met the then Minister of State for Immigration, Robert Goodwill MP, on 11 October 2016 and discussed a number of issues that affect refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland. Officials also have regular meetings that cover a wide range of issues.

I wrote to the new immigration minister, Brandon Lewis MP, on 16 June 2017 about the same issues. I highlighted the new Scots refugee integration strategy and made clear my view that destitution should never be an outcome of the asylum system.

Fulton MacGregor: Given that vulnerable people—children, in particular—are being badly let down by the UK Government’s broken asylum system and are having their human rights ignored, with local authorities, charities and the third sector being left to pay for the services that they need, how does the Scottish Government’s approach to refugees and asylum seekers, which is evident in the new Scots strategy, contrast with that of the UK Government?

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government takes a very different approach to refugees and asylum seekers. We want to make Scotland a welcoming place for people who seek protection from persecution and human rights abuses. We believe that immigration begins on day 1 of their arrival, not just when refugee status has been granted. The very fact that we have the new Scots refugee integration strategy means that our approach stands in stark contrast to that of the UK Government, which still does not have a strategy. Integration from day 1 is the key principle of our new Scots strategy. We believe that it is vital to build strong communities by enabling people to settle in, make social connections and build new lives.

I am deeply concerned by the UK Government’s attempts to create a two-tier approach to refugees and asylum seekers that distinguishes between those people who have arrived for resettlement and those people who have arrived through the asylum system. As I said, I recently wrote to the new UK immigration minister on a variety of matters in this area. The Scottish Government firmly believes in having one system for all asylum seekers and refugees that treats people fairly, humanely and with respect regardless of how they arrived in Scotland; otherwise, we risk increasing inequalities and creating barriers to the integration that we all seek.

Adam Tomkins (Conservative): Does the cabinet secretary agree that tackling the root causes of migration is every bit as essential as being a place of sanctuary? Those root causes include, but are not limited to, conflict, disease and instability.

In that context, does the cabinet secretary welcome, as I do, the recent announcement that the UK Government has committed to a new £75 million fund in this area that is targeted at reducing the number of people who risk the perilous central Mediterranean route to Europe?

Reply from Angela Constance: It is a pity that the UK Government did not take the opportunity in the Queen’s speech or with the formation of the new central Government to think again about the Dubs amendment. Amber Rudd has deliberately closed down a safe and legal route for some of the most vulnerable children in the world. According to Interpol, 10,000 unaccompanied children have gone missing across Europe in the past two years. Nobody knows where they are. Aspects of what the UK Government has announced will be about supporting people outwith our shores by tackling inequality and ill health, and any investment in international development or addressing the causes of conflict should, of course, be welcomed. However, there is a long way to go before we can say that the UK Government takes a humane approach to immigration, asylum and migration, and it is very sad that the UK Government is not meeting all its obligations—in particular, its obligations to our most vulnerable global citizens: children.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11038&i=100840#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

NHS: Migrant Workers

Grahame Morris (Labour) [330] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many foreign nationals are working in the NHS.

Reply from Philip Dunne: NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. Nationality is self-reported within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record. As of 31 March 2017, latest data available, there are now 137,384 (headcount) foreign nationals, or 11.6% employed in the National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups. 80,822 of NHS staff records do not contain useful data with people choosing not to specify their nationality or not asked to.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/330/>

Nurses: Migrant Workers

Martyn Day (SNP) [61] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, what assessment he has made of the effect of

Reply from Philip Dunne: We are monitoring the impact on the National Health Service.

The latest NHS Digital data available on nationality shows the number of nurses with European Union (excluding United Kingdom) nationalities (EU27) has increased by over 400 between June 2016 and March 2017. This number as a percentage of all nurses has also increased slightly, from 6.9% to 7.0%.

NHS Digital publishes data on the nationality of staff working in the National Health Service in England. Nationality is self-reported within the NHS human resources and payroll system, the electronic staff record.

The Secretary of State has repeatedly said that overseas workers form a crucial part of our NHS and we value their contribution immensely.

We understand the need to give valued NHS staff from the EU certainty, which is why securing an agreement that will guarantee the status of EU nationals here and UK nationals in the EU is one of our top priorities in Brexit negotiations.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/61/>

Agriculture: Migrant Workers

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [1187] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect of the UK leaving the EU on the number of non-UK workers in the agriculture and horticulture sector in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from George Eustice: We remain closely engaged with industry to ensure that we are informed of the latest intelligence on the labour market.

The Home Office intends to commission the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to better understand the reliance on EU migrant workers across the economy and consider the UK's labour market needs.

The number of non-UK workers in the agriculture and horticulture sector after we leave the EU will depend on the final shape of domestic immigration policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-26/1187/>

Visas: Married People

Peter Grant (SNP) [216] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to refund fast track payments made by applicants for partner visas where the processing of those applications has been suspended as a result of the legal challenge to the Government's minimum income requirement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: A temporary hold on decision-making in respect of some partner visa applications was introduced on 22 February 2017 so that the implications of the Supreme Court judgment handed down that day in MM (Lebanon) & Others could be considered.

UKVI communicated this to potential priority visa service customers on 27

February 2017 and will consider any refund requests from customers who paid the priority service fee for a settlement visa before 27 February 2017 and whose application was put on hold by the Home Office. These requests should be made via the usual enquiry helpline: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure#how-to-complain>

Both UK Visas and Immigration and their commercial partners make clear in communications to customers that the priority visa service fee will not be refunded if the visa is refused or takes longer than the publicised processing times, other than in exceptional circumstances.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/216/>

Visas: Married People

The following three questions all received the same answer

Peter Grant (SNP) [299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Government plans to lift the suspension on the processing of certain applications for partner visas that was introduced as a result of the legal challenge to the minimum income requirement.

Peter Grant (SNP) [300] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many partner visa applications are affected by the suspension of processing applications as a result of the legal challenge to the Government's minimum income requirement.

Peter Grant (SNP) [526] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for partner visas for which the additional fee for fast track service has been paid are affected by the suspension on processing applications as a result of the legal challenge to the Government's minimum-income requirement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: A temporary hold on decision-making in respect of some partner visa applications was introduced on 22 February so that the implications of the Supreme Court judgment handed down that day in MM (Lebanon) & Others could be considered.

The partner visa applications affected are those under Appendix FM to the Immigration Rules which fall to be refused and which involve a child or do not meet the minimum income requirement. The temporary hold will be lifted once the judgment's findings have been addressed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/299/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/300/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/526/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following three questions all received the same answer

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1102] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on the eligibility criteria for non-UK EU citizens who wish to settle permanently in the UK but arrive after the specified date in the UK's agreement with the EU when the UK leaves the EU.

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will ensure that non-UK EU citizens who are (a) residing in the UK and (b) posted abroad for work will still be able to apply for settled status after five years after the UK leaves the EU.

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1104] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure EU citizens who have not acquired five years residency and arrived before the cut-off date are able to prove their UK residency

when travelling between the UK and the EU after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), which was laid before Parliament on 26 June, proposes that EU citizens who arrive in the UK before the specified date, have five years' continuous residence and who do not breach the requirements in relation to criminality, public policy and public security, will be able to apply for UK settled status. The specified date is subject to negotiation, but will be no earlier than 29 March 2017 and not later than the date of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

For those who arrive after the specified date, there will be no change to their rights while the UK remains in the EU. After exit, a grace period of blanket permission will apply to them, while they make an application to the Home Office for permission to stay in the UK in accordance with the new rules applying to EU citizens, which are yet to be determined. The ability of EU citizens arriving after the specified date to subsequently obtain further or indefinite permission to stay will depend on the rules in place at the time. Proposals for managing EU migration post-exit will be published as soon as possible, allowing businesses and individuals time to plan and prepare.

It is our intention that all EU citizens living lawfully in the UK before the specified date are covered by our proposals. It will not be necessary to be present in the UK on the specified date and – as is currently the case under the Free Movement Directive - there will be flexibility for temporary absences. This will be subject to negotiations and a reciprocal deal with the EU.

All EU citizens (and their families) in the UK, regardless of when they arrived, will, on the UK's exit, need to obtain an immigration status in UK law. They will need to apply to the Home Office for permission to stay, which will be evidenced through a residence document.

Further details of the Government's proposals are in the policy paper on 'Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU', which is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-the-position-of-eu-citizens-in-the-uk-and-uk-nationals-in-the-eu>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-26/1102/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-26/1103/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-26/1104/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Catherine West (Labour) [1109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for five years or more will be granted the same legal rights as British citizens after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), which was laid before Parliament on 26 June, proposes that EU citizens who arrive in the UK before the specified date, have five years' continuous residence and who do not breach the requirements in relation to criminality, public policy and public security, will be able to apply for UK settled status.

Being granted settled status will mean EU citizens will be free to reside in any capacity and undertake any lawful activity. We also intend to treat EU citizens with settled status in the same way as if they were UK citizens for the purposes of education, benefits and pensions.

The Government undertakes to treat EU citizens who were resident in the UK

before the specified date, according to the principles set out in the policy paper in the expectation that the EU will offer reciprocal treatment for UK nationals resident in its member states.

Full details of the Government's proposal are in the policy paper 'Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU', which is available at the following link:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-the-position-of-eu-citizens-in-the-uk-and-uk-nationals-in-the-eu>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-26/1109/>

Refugees: Syria

Justin Madders (Labour) [742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been resettled in each constituency under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Progress on resettlement under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme is indicated in quarterly immigration statistics, and is broken down by each local authority. The last set of statistics, published on 25 May, showed that 7,307 Syrians have been resettled across 235 different local authorities since the scheme began.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-22/742/>

Asylum: Glasgow East

David Linden (SNP) [106] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are resident in Glasgow East constituency.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Our records indicate that the number of asylum cases awaiting an asylum decision at 31 March 2017 where the latest address is in the Glasgow East constituency is 109.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/106/>

Refugees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [907] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will review the effect of the non-provision of documentation, such as National Insurance numbers, on destitution among people who have been granted refugee status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the Home Office. If they are granted refugee status this support ends 28 days later because they are now allowed to work and can apply for mainstream welfare benefits.

They are also provided with a Biometric Residence Permit and National Insurance Number to help them access these benefits. We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that newly recognised refugees are able to swiftly access benefits and employment support services.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-23/907/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Child Refugees

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied child refugees have entered the United Kingdom under (1) section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, or (2) the Dublin III regulations.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, in 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe. The Government are fully committed to implementing Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, and more than 200 children are already here under that scheme. We are working closely with EU partners to implement Section 67 of the Immigration Act and ensure that children with qualifying family in the UK can be transferred quickly and safely under the Dublin III regulations.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, if I have heard correctly, am I right in thinking that the Government have changed their policy from before the election when they set a cap on Section 67 children coming here, which was going to be 480 in total? Will the Minister confirm that that cap no longer applies?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the figure that we set before the election was based on the capacity of local authorities to accommodate those children through Section 67. As the noble Lord knows, and I have apologised for this, there was an administrative error and that number is now 480. I do apologise. It was not so much a cap as the ability of local authorities to accommodate these children. I have said before at this Dispatch Box that our doors are always open for local authorities to come to us and say that they can accommodate more children.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, when the Minister comes to look again at the Dublin regulations with a view to replacing them, will she look to see if there are ways of setting aside the regulations that require unaccompanied children to travel very long distances from places such as Greece so that they can be reunited with their families? Given the evidence that I sent her previously from Europol about the 10,000 unaccompanied children who went missing on the continent and the more than 360, according to the Independent, who have gone missing in the United Kingdom, can the Minister tell us what has been the fate and what is her speculation about the fate of those unaccompanied minors?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord asked first about Dublin III and what those regulations might look like in the future. We will always co-operate with our European partners in terms of taking unaccompanied children and asylum seekers into this country. It is important to note—the noble Lord alluded to this—that some of these children have to travel many miles. The work that we do in the regions is in many ways more beneficial to these children. There is a huge economy of scale both in financial terms and in the welfare of these children—as well as adults—for them to be helped in the region.

The noble Lord has brought up the issue of missing children before. Of course we work with Europol. When a child is in a European country, that child or adult is the responsibility of that country and we cannot intervene in countries without abiding by the laws and processes of those countries.

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the chaotic demolition of the Jungle camp in Calais last October culminated in hundreds of unaccompanied minors being dispersed to hastily knocked-up centres in France. Those centres were closed in February and to my certain knowledge a good number of those children, with legal rights to come to the UK, are nevertheless still wandering around France living a hand-to-mouth existence. Will the Minister see to it that the Home Office completes the assessment process which was started but never concluded in respect of these children?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I do not decry what the noble Baroness is saying, but as I have just said to the noble Lord, if a child is in France, that child is the responsibility of the French authorities. I have said this many times and I reiterate it now. But I would also say to her that this Government stand willing to help in the process of resettling children. On the point about the demolition of the camps and children wandering around France, I would love the noble Baroness to give me any evidence she has of that. She knows that I

respond to and follow up on the emails she sends to me, and I am happy to do that, but evidence is what we need. We can then work with our counterparts. However, we cannot just go into France and start moving and removing children as we would want.

Baroness Butler-Sloss (Crossbench): My Lords, I have been to Calais and have talked to priests there who on a daily basis are being teargassed along with children aged under 18, and some of them as young as 12. Do the Government understand that that is happening? I also understand that Northern Ireland has not been asked to take any of these children but I gather has expressed a willingness to do so.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, if children are being teargassed, that is very regrettable and I will certainly follow up the point made by the noble and learned Baroness because we would not want that to be happening. Obviously the latter point is a matter for Northern Ireland and we are grateful for any resettlement activity which takes place there. Some 440 people have been resettled in Northern Ireland under the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement programme. Clearly that is voluntary but we would welcome anything in addition to it.

Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru): My Lords, recalling the answer that the noble Baroness gave me before the election and bearing in mind that some of the most vulnerable of these children are those with physical or learning disabilities, can she indicate whether any children in this category have been welcomed here so far?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord has raised an important question, and in fact I think that the noble Lord, Lord Dubs, mentioned it the other day in his speech in response to the Queen's Speech. I should like to state categorically that there are no restrictions on children with mental health or physical disabilities from coming here. The category is obviously that of children who are vulnerable and in need of our protection and we would not in any way exclude those with mental or physical disabilities. What might be a restriction, and I will look into this for the noble Lord, is where a local authority does not have the capacity to take such a child. However, we would not discriminate against any child on the grounds of mental or physical disability.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-29/debates/35AFEA9D-0B9C-4E58-9C71-A4AAB1B5F75E/ChildRefugees>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

UK workforce

Lord Birt (Crossbench) [HL12] Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the UK's workforce in 2016 were non-British nationals.

Lord Young of Cookham: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

... Estimates of the percentage of people in employment who are non-UK nationals can be derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is a survey of people resident in households. According to the LFS, 11% of people in employment in the UK were non-UK nationals in 2016. As with any sample survey, estimates from LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Estimates of employment by nationality are published quarterly in the Labour Market Statistical Bulletin on the Office for National Statistics website.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/datasets/employmentbycountryofbirthandnationalityemp06>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL12/>

Refugee children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL138] Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied refugee children they estimate to be in Calais and nearby in northern France; and how they intend to identify those with a claim to come to the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In October 2016, the French Government requested the support of the UK Government for its clearance of the Calais camp. As part of our comprehensive support for the camp clearance we transferred more than 750 children to the UK directly from France. Those children who were not eligible for transfer to the UK are in the care of French authorities.

The French Government is alive to the threat of new camps appearing in northern France and we are aware of reports of some migrants returning to the area. However, official figures for the number of children present in the area are not available. Children in France are the responsibility of the French authorities.

On 10 March, the Government published the basis on which further transfers to the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 will be made. The Government has invited referrals of eligible children from France, Italy and Greece. The UK Government will not be involved in the identification or assessment of children.

Under Article 8 of the Dublin III Regulation, children can have their asylum claims transferred to another EU Member State where they have close family. We continue to work closely with the French authorities and other EU partners to ensure the timely and efficient operation of the Dublin III Regulation.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-22/HL138/>

Asylum seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL87] Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were admitted into the UK in each month from June 2015 to March 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes the number of asylum applications received at ports each quarter by nationality in table as_01_q of the *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are attached and are available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/615150/asylum1-jan-mar-2017-tables

Table as_01_q: Asylum applications from main applicants received at ports, Q1 2015 to Q1 2017		
Year	Total applications	Applications received at ports
2015 Q1	6,027	579
2015 Q2	6,279	507
2015 Q3	10,231	792
2015 Q4	10,196	1,040
2016 Q1	8,228	924
2016 Q2	7,810	781
2016 Q3	7,146	1,021
2016 Q4	7,419	1,160
2017 Q1	6,516	884

Table Notes: Source: Table as_01_q, Immigration Statistics January to March 2017, Home Office
(1) These data are provisional and subject to update.

[Table as 01-q : Immigration Stats Jan-March 2017](http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL87/)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL87/>

Asylum seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL88] Her Majesty's Government what level of benefits and other support is given to (1) single, and (2) married, asylum seekers each month after arriving in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Asylum seekers and their dependants who would otherwise be destitute are supported by the Home Office under the powers set out in section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

The support usually consists of free furnished accommodation (with utility bills and council tax paid) and a weekly cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs. The current level of the allowance is £36.95 per week for each supported person in a household. Asylum seekers and their dependants who are accommodated by friends or relatives can apply to receive the cash allowance if they need help to cover their essential living needs.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL88/>

Asylum seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL90] Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers were deported on reaching the age of 18 in (1) 2014, (2) 2015, and (3) 2016.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of enforced returns by age is published in table rt_03 (returns data tables) in '*Immigration Statistics, January - March 2017*', (attached) and is also available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/615158/returns2-jan-mar-2017-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.

Year	Total enforced removals	Under 14	14-15	16-17	18-20
2004	21,425	1,448	123	274	1,722
2005	20,808	1,361	173	278	1,643
2006	19,372	1,049	111	198	1,365
2007	17,770	786	68	95	1,041
2008	17,239	684	76	91	1,060
2009	15,252	584	53	84	1,013
2010	14,854	296	26	30	991
2011	15,063	140	9	31	1,138
2012	14,647	183	17	23	855
2013	13,311	160	12	15	795
2014	12,627	76	2	14	601
2015	12,111	82	6	6	701
2016	10,872	26	1	0	610

Notes:

Data from Q1 2015 are provisional figures.

Data on returns are based on individual cases. Multiple returns of the same person within a year are counted as multiple returns.

Source: *Immigration Statistics January - March 2017*, Home Office, table rt_03.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL90/>

Asylum seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL92] Her Majesty's Government what was the main reason the majority of 18 year old asylum seekers were deported in 2016.

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. We do not remove asylum seekers. Those who are found not to need protection are refused but have a right of appeal to the independent courts. Once appeals rights are exhausted they are required to leave the UK.

The term 'deportation' refers to returns which are enforced following either a criminal conviction in the UK (or overseas) which has resulted in a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, or where it is considered that removal of an individual is conducive to the public good due to their criminality.

Those individuals who do not need protection are expected to return home if their asylum claim is refused and dismissed on appeal. 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'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 by actively promoting the Home Office Voluntary Return Service.

If an individual does not leave the UK voluntarily, then it may 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.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL92/>

Asylum seekers

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL153] Her Majesty's Government what percentage of those allocated asylum places under the UK Syrian Vulnerable Persons scheme are religious minorities.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The refugees that we are bringing to the United Kingdom are very vulnerable people. Our prime concern is their safety and protection as they arrive in this country. We believe that one way to protect their privacy and ensure their recovery and integration is to limit the amount of information about them that we make publicly available.

In resettlement the UK works according to the humanitarian principles of impartiality and neutrality- which means that we do not take into consideration the ethno-religious origins of people requiring assistance as we resettle solely on the

basis of needs, identified by UNHCR. We therefore do not believe it is appropriate to publish a religious and ethnic breakdown of those who have been resettled. Notwithstanding this the Home Office is committed to publishing data on arrivals in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-22/HL153/>

Press Releases

UK government publishes proposals on rights of EU citizens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-publishes-proposals-on-rights-of-eu-citizens>

Status of EU citizens in the UK: what you need to know

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know>

EU investment plan to tackle root causes of migration agreed

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20170628IPR78506/eu-investment-plan-to-tackle-root-causes-of-migration-agreed>

New Publications

Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621848/60093_Cm9464_NSS_SDR_Web.pdf

The need for psychosocial care and support for refugees and asylum seekers

<http://tinyurl.com/ycd76q9m>

News

New powers to tackle human trafficking in Scotland

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-40449501>

Human trafficking and exploitation powers come into force

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15382079.Human_trafficking_and_exploitation_powers_come_into_force/

ID cards planned as Theresa May sets out offer to EU citizens

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/id-cards-planned-as-theresa-may-sets-out-offer-to-eu-citizens-1-4487204>

May tells EU citizens "we want you to stay" but survey suggests 1m foreign workers are thinking of leaving

http://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/15373184.May_tells_EU_citizens_quot_we_want_you_to_stay_quot_but_survey_suggests_1m_foreign_workers_are_thinking_of_leaving/

Almost one in ten people living in the UK is a foreign national, new report shows

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/29/almost-one-ten-people-living-uk-foreign-national-new-report/>

The number of foreign citizens living in the UK surges from one in 20 to almost one in 10 in just a decade, claims report
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4650360/OECD-Nearly-10-living-UK-foreign-citizens.html>

Tenth of the UK's population are foreign citizens
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-30/news/tenth-of-the-uk-s-population-are-foreign-citizens-fjmd39hh0>

More than one million foreign workers preparing to leave UK within five years
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/brexit-latest-news-eu-workers-leave-uk-europe-five-years-non-british-settled-status-a7808751.html>

Almost half of highly skilled EU workers 'could leave UK within five years'
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/jun/27/eu-workers-leave-uk-deloitte-brexit>

UK accepts fewer than half the child refugees it promised to take under Dubs Amendment
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/uk-child-refugees-dubs-amendment-accepted-less-than-half-tory-government-home-office-a7815366.html>

Immigration detainees bring legal challenge against £1 an hour 'slave' wages
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jun/28/immigration-detainees-legal-challenge-slave-wages>

How can the Home Office get away with paying workers £1 an hour?
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jun/30/home-office-pound-hour-asylum-seekers-exempt-minimum-wage-legislation>

Immigration is both instrumental for modernisation of societies and for Europe's survival
<http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/News-View-EN.asp?newsid=6717&lang=2&cat=8>

'Please help us': Refugee family's plea to stop UK deporting Palestinian-Syrian student
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/uk-deporting-palestinian-syrian-refugees-asylum-seekers-yousef-hassan-middlesbrough-petition-dublin-a7807616.html>

'If you have money, there is a way': Asylum seekers fly into Europe using fake IDs raising fresh concerns for border security
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/07/01/have-money-way-asylum-seekers-fly-europe-using-fake-ids-raising/>

Mother wins legal battle to remain in UK
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/mother-wins-legal-battle-to-remain-in-uk-q7wj3ls0s>

[TOP](#)

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Integration of minority communities

S5O-01184 Alexander Burnett (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what initiatives it is introducing to help integrate minority community groups into wider society.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to building cohesive and resilient communities where everyone enjoys the

opportunity to flourish. Integration is a long-term and two-way process, and we are very clear that it is not something that can or should be 'done to' people. It needs people and communities to be involved, and to take steps which will enable everyone to be active citizens. We are taking forward a range of approaches - like implementing the Race Equality Framework and developing a refreshed New Scots refugee strategy - to ensure this, and today I had the pleasure to visit Fife Migrant Forum to hear about their important work as well as announce over £20m funding for the next year to promote equality and cohesion across Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5O-01184>

[TOP](#)

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Equality Data

S5W-09672 Alex Rowley (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether the Scottish Employability Support Service will (a) collect and publish equality data and (b) monitor whether its services meet the needs of BME people who are long-term unemployed or at risk of becoming so.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government requires providers to collect equality information as part of the delivery of our employment services, Fair Start Scotland (from April 2018), Work First Scotland and, managed by SDS, Work Able Scotland. Part of the rationale for collecting this information is to help ensure that equalities groups are benefitting from the services, but we will also be undertaking evaluation activity to better understand if and how participants' needs are being met.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09672>

Data collection

S5W-09674 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that it collects sufficient data on the (a) accessibility and (b) quality of (i) schools and other educational institutions, (ii) medical institutions and (iii) public transport, particularly in urban areas where ethnic minorities represent a higher percentage of the population.

Reply from Angela Constance: Scotland has an impressive set of high quality public sector data and internationally significant informatics research. Collective data agreements, use of questions in core surveys, and combined data sets are helping to provide a broader range of data for ethnic groups. In addition, the Scottish Government has recently engaged with stakeholders on a new Equality Evidence Strategy, which sets out equality evidence gaps, including on ethnicity. This strategy will be published in Summer 2017 and the Scottish Government will work with partner organisations to further develop the equality evidence base over the next four years.

This suite of data and research is used to inform Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs) which consider the impact of new or revised policies, practices or services against the requirements of the public sector equality duty. The duty requires all Scottish public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations. It covers people in respect of all aspects of equality (age, disability, sex, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy and maternity). Good quality evidence helps to ensure the needs of all people are

taken into account during the development and implementation of a new policy or service, or when a change is made to a current policy or service.

More specifically, the Scottish Government ensures it collects sufficient data on accessibility and quality of Schools and Other Educational Institutions, Medical Institutions and Public Transport, and more detail on these areas are as follows:

Schools and Other Educational Institutions

Data on the quality and accessibility of schools and educational institutions is gathered through a number of data sources and much of this analysis can be provided for both urban areas and ethnic groups:

Information on the condition and suitability of (local authority funded) school buildings is collected in the school estates core facts survey which has been carried out annually since 2007;

The number of pupils who have been assessed as having an adaptation requirement and the nature of the adaptation required is collected in the annual pupil census;

Education Scotland inspect and report on the quality of education in a sample of early learning and childcare settings, primary schools, secondary schools, special schools, community learning and development services, colleges, and residential educational provision. These inspections include evaluations of the quality indicator 'Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion'. Education Scotland also inspect the education functions of local authorities;

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) collect a wide range of data on accessibility and quality covering Universities and Colleges in Scotland. Information is collected and published to meet a range of stakeholder needs;

Medical Institutions

Information Services Division of NHS (ISD) publishes a six-monthly update on recording of ethnic group in hospital admission and hospital outpatient data.

Public Transport

Data on the quality of public transport is gathered from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) which asks users about their views on buses and trains on a number of dimensions. The SHS also collects information on the accessibility to several public services, including public transport. This data is collected for minority ethnic groups and is available split by urban /rural geography. Other sources of information on the quality of public transport are user satisfaction surveys that are run regularly.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09674>

Planning

S5W-09675 Pauline McNeill (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what measures are in place to (a) prevent spatial segregation in urban areas, (b) monitor areas that are at risk of segregation and (c) tackle existing segregation in cities, particularly in areas where ethnic minorities represent a higher percentage of the population.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Planning Policy states that that "Local development plans should allocate appropriate sites to support the creation of sustainable mixed communities and successful places and help to ensure the continued delivery of new housing." As the statutory housing authority, councils have a requirement to prepare a Local Housing Strategy which among other things should consider the housing requirements of all equality groups and undertake an Equality Impact Assessment as per the Equality Act 2010. Within the Race Equality Framework 2016-30, there is a goal that "minority ethnic people have fair and proportionate influence on community planning".

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09675>

Gypsy/Travellers

S5W-09663 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to raise awareness of the health and social care needs of Gypsy/Travellers.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is fully committed to providing the people of Scotland, including Gypsy/Traveller communities, with the NHS Services that ensure people come first and that those who use services get the right care and support whatever their needs, at any point in their care journey. In response to concerns about difficulties experienced by Gypsy/Travellers in relation to GP registration, we issued a revised General Practitioner patient registration form in 2013, providing explicit instruction that Regulations relating to GP registration apply equally to members of the travelling and settled communities.

We continue to provide funding to organisations, including the Minority Ethnic Carers People Project (MECOPP), working to improve health outcomes for the Gypsy/Traveller community.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09663>

Gypsy/Travellers

S5W-09664 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to tackle discrimination faced by Gypsy/Travellers.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government recognises that Gypsy/Traveller communities are among the most disenfranchised and discriminated against in Scotland. We are continuing with work in a range of areas such as education and housing to achieve better outcomes for Gypsy/Travellers and are providing funding to organisations working with the community. We plan to publish a strategic programme of work document in Autumn 2017, bringing together all the relevant policies across Scottish Government which help to secure improved outcomes for Gypsy/Travellers.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09664>

Race Disparity Audit

S5W-09656 Adam Tomkins (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-05299 by Angela Constance on 14 December 2016, whether it will provide an update on its discussions with the UK Government regarding the Race Disparity Audit, and what decision it has reached on the approach for Scotland.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government has taken the decision not to take part in the UK Government Race Disparity Audit.

There have been on-going discussions with the UK Government since December 2016. We remain unconvinced that participation in the Audit is in Scotland's interest. Furthermore we are aware of the concerns of stakeholders around the nature of the audit. We are clear about the importance of collecting race equality data and continue to find ways to improve data and evidence that is available. The Equality Evidence Strategy, which will be published shortly will provide a basis for strengthening the evidence base on race equality in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09656>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-05299>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Freedom

Jim Shannon (DUP) [168] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the Government's policy is on protecting the right of (a) Christians and (b) people of other religious beliefs to wear or carry religious symbols in public.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government believes that both Christians and people of other religious beliefs should be able to wear or carry religious symbols in public so long as they act within the boundaries of the law while doing so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/168/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Police treatment of Muslims

Lord Pearson of Rannoch [HL48] Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the comparative treatment by police of (1) Muslims, and (2) non-Muslims, particularly in areas with large Muslim populations.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has made no such assessment. The police officer oath of attestation emphasises the responsibility of every officer to uphold fundamental human rights and treat all citizens – whatever their religion - with fairness and respect, while Police and Crime Commissioners have a responsibility to serve all citizens in their community with integrity and diligence.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL48/>

Freedom of religion and belief

Lord Alton of Liverpool [HL81] Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to promote freedom of religion and belief as part of (1) their Counter-Extremism Strategy, and (2) the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government works to protect and promote pluralistic values – including freedom of religion and belief - through its Counter-Extremism Strategy. Faith communities are crucial to tackling hatred and intolerance. Through our 'Building a Stronger Britain Together' programme we are supporting partners across the country to challenge extremism – including faith groups.

Protecting freedom of religion and belief is also central to the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and cuts across two of the four pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy: addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

The new Commission for Countering Extremism will also support our faith communities in stamping out extremism and promoting our fundamental values.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL81/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

James Kelly (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on calls to repeal the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012. (S5O-01191)

Reply from the Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs (Annabelle Ewing): Offensive, hateful and prejudicial behaviour associated with football, and online threats of violence and hatred, continue to be a problem. I share the concerns expressed by equality groups that repealing the 2012 act in the absence of a viable alternative will send entirely the wrong message to the public—that expressions of prejudice and hatred at football matches are somehow condoned and decriminalised.

Police and prosecutors need appropriate tools to tackle hate crime, which is why I commissioned the independent review of hate crime legislation in Scotland. I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the review next year, and I remain opposed to repealing the 2012 act.

James Kelly: It is clear, following the consultation on my proposed member's bill, that there is massive support for repeal of the 2012 act. It is also clear that there is a majority in Parliament in favour of repealing the act. With that in mind, will the minister agree to work with me on a sensible approach to repealing the act? Will she also work with parties in Parliament and groups outside it on developing a positive approach to behaviour at football matches and tackling sectarianism?

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: This Government stands on the side of the tens of thousands of football fans throughout Scotland who simply want to go to a football match with their family and friends and not be surrounded by tainted, prejudicial and hateful behaviour.

I have to say that I find it very strange indeed that, at a time when our society faces so many challenges, Labour's number 1 priority for legislation is to repeal the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012 without offering a viable alternative. What a strange set of priorities, and what contempt those priorities display for people who are targeted by hateful, prejudicial and abusive behaviour.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11042&i=100869#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Racist hate crime

S5W-09713 Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-07442 by Annabelle Ewing on 13 March 2017, whether it is possible to gather information on racist hate crime from the recorded crime database.

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: It is not possible to gather information on all racist offending from the recorded crime database. Information is available on the offences of racially aggravated harassment and racially aggravated conduct, however this does not include cases where racism was considered an aggravator to the main crime or offence. Statistics for racially aggravated offences (racially aggravated harassment and racially aggravated conduct) from 2006-07 to 2015-16 are shown in the following table.

We are currently working with Police Scotland as they develop the data they hold on their Vulnerable Persons Database with a view to producing new analysis on

police recorded Hate Incidents (which would include incidents with a race element). We anticipate a further update for users on the development of this work later in the year.

Number of racially aggravated offences recorded by the police in Scotland, 2006-07 to 2015-16:

Year	Racially aggravated offences
2006-07	4,474
2007-08	4,543
2008-09	4,564
2009-10	4,513
2010-11	4,173
2011-12	3,486
2012-13	2,903
2013-14	2,712
2014-15	2,456
2015-16	2,132

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-9713>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-07442>

Data collection: racist and religious hate crime

S5W-09714 Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-07442 by Annabelle Ewing on 13 March 2017, for what reason (a) it and (b) the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service does not hold information on the faith group, gender, race, or country of origin of victims of racist or religious hate crime, and what its position is on collecting such information when implementing the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion.

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Scottish Government's statistics on court proceedings are derived from IT systems designed to facilitate operational needs of reporting crime and prosecuting individuals. These systems were not primarily designed for the reporting of the characteristics of victims of hate crime.

Dr Morrow's independent advisory group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion reported in September 2016 and recommended that the SG works with partners to improve the monitoring and data collection in relation to hate crime, and to develop methods to include qualitative indices of improvement in community cohesion for minorities.

We are currently working with Police Scotland as they develop the data they hold on their Vulnerable Persons Database with a view to producing new analysis on police recorded Hate Incidents (which would include incidents with a race or religious element). We anticipate a further update for users on the development of this work later in the year.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-9714>

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

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-07442>

Data collection: racist and religious hate crime

S5W-09715: Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government whether it holds information on the (a) faith group, (b) gender, (c) race and (d) country of origin of the

perpetrators of (i) racist and (ii) religious hate crime and, if not, what its position is on collecting such information when implementing the recommendations of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion.

Reply from Annabelle Ewing: The Scottish Government report "Religiously Aggravated Offending in Scotland 2016-2017" includes information on the gender of the accused for religious aggravation charges reported to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal (COPFS). This information is derived from the COPFS database with the report available here: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/6107/0>
For race crime, as recorded on the COPFS database, 77% of the charges reported to them in 2016-17 related to a male accused.

Statistics on other characteristics of the perpetrator are not available centrally.

Dr Morrow's independent advisory group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion reported in September 2016 and recommended that the SG works with partners to improve the monitoring and data collection in relation to hate crime, and to develop methods to include qualitative indices of improvement in community cohesion for minorities.

We are currently working with Police Scotland as they develop the data they hold on their Vulnerable Persons Database with a view to producing new analysis on police recorded Hate Incidents (which would include incidents with a race or religious element). We anticipate a further update for users on the development of this work later in the year.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-9715>

Antisemitism

S5W-09666 John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, what work it has carried out since 2007 to tackle antisemitism, including how it works with other countries.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is committed to doing all that we can to prevent and eradicate hate crime and prejudice, including anti-semitism. In our response to the Report of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion we set out an ambitious yet practical plan of action to make progress in this area.. Our response and these action can be viewed at: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/1336>

Since 2007 the Scottish Government has been supporting the work of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities to promote dialogue and understanding between the Jewish community and other communities in Scotland. We have also supported Interfaith Scotland to deliver Scotland's National Holocaust Memorial Day event each year since 2012 in partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. This event promotes multi-faith and multi-cultural society based on mutual trust, respect and understanding.

The Scottish Government welcomes the opportunity to engage with international governments as appropriate to raise matters of importance and to hear the views and concerns of other countries.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09666>

The news release referred to above can be read at

<https://news.gov.scot/news/next-steps-on-tackling-hate-crime>

Antisemitism

S5W-09667 John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, which organisations asked it to adopt the International Holocaust Memorial Trust's working definition of antisemitism, and what issues it identified with the previous definition.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government engages frequently

with the Scottish Council for Jewish Communities and others on a range of issues, and one of these has been the International Holocaust Memorial Trust's working definition of anti-Semitism. The Scottish Government continues to work with representatives to support the needs of the Jewish communities, building strength and eliminating fear in Scotland. We consider the definition to be helpful and it will assist in informing our approach to tackling anti-Semitism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09667>

The news release referred to above can be read at
<https://news.gov.scot/news/next-steps-on-tackling-hate-crime>

Antisemitism

S5W-09669 John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, what its response is to concerns that adopting the International Holocaust Memorial Trust's working definition of antisemitism could impact on the right to criticise the actions of the Israeli Government and state.

Reply from Angela Constance: We note that detailed guidance accompanying the definition states that "Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic." We are happy to continue to engage in dialogue on these issues.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09669>

The news release referred to above can be read at
<https://news.gov.scot/news/next-steps-on-tackling-hate-crime>

Antisemitism

S5W-09670 John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, in light of its plan to adopt the International Holocaust Memorial Trust's working definition of antisemitism, whether it plans to redefine other forms of discrimination and, if so, which.

Reply from Angela Constance: As set out in our response to the recommendations of the Report by the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion, the Scottish Government will engage in dialogue around definitions and terminology, taking account of any conclusions that Lord Bracadale's review of hate crime legislation may offer in this regard. We will continue to engage with a wide range of communities to consider how we can tackle all forms of hate crime and prejudice.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09670>

The news release referred to above can be read at
<https://news.gov.scot/news/next-steps-on-tackling-hate-crime>

Antisemitism

S5W-09671 John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government, further to its news release of 13 June 2017, Next steps on tackling hate crime, what the practical implications of adopting the International Holocaust Memorial Trust's working definition of antisemitism will be.

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government is determined that there should be no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred that makes our communities feel insecure or threatened in their daily lives. We are committed to tackling all forms of discrimination and promoting a multi-faith and multi-cultural society based on mutual trust, respect and understanding.

Adopting this definition will help to inform our work in this area. We will work with key partners including Police Scotland to explore further how the definition supports efforts to tackle anti-semitism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09671>

The news release referred to above can be read at

<https://news.gov.scot/news/next-steps-on-tackling-hate-crime>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Anne Main (Conservative): ... What more can be done to protect all persons of faith who are being persecuted for their faith, particularly our students on campuses who are suffering large amounts of anti-Semitism?

Prime Minister: ... She is absolutely right that this is important. Sometimes we talk a lot about people who are being persecuted for their faith in countries abroad, but actually we need to be very clear that, sadly, we do see people here suffering attacks, particularly anti-Semitic ones, on campuses. The Community Security Trust does a lot of work with students to provide support, and I am happy that the Government are supporting them. We are also supporting Muslim communities that are suffering from Islamophobia. There is no place for such hate in our society, and we must all work to stamp it out.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-06-28/debates/2CBD7C4C-2C6F-49DF-9C56-D5AA938D013A/Engagements#contribution-823B5D66-6930-4183-94D1-8F7AC4A41731>

Hate Crime: Aggravated Offences Regime

6. **Kate Green (Labour):** What assessment he has made of the effect of the aggravated offences regime on the level of successful prosecutions for hate crime. [900098]

7. **Imran Hussain (Labour):** What assessment he has made of the effect of the aggravated offences regime on the level of successful prosecutions for hate crime. [900099]

9. **Melanie Onn (Labour):** What assessment he has made of the effect of the aggravated offences regime on the level of successful prosecutions for hate crime. [900102]

The Solicitor General (Robert Buckland): The Crown Prosecution Service has taken a number of steps to improve its prosecution of all strands of this type of crime, including the aggravated offences, and that includes the delivery of vital face-to-face training. Its hard work in this area has resulted in significant increases in the use of sentencing uplifts in all strands of hate crime.

Kate Green: In 2014, the Law Commission proposed that disability hate crime should be given parity with other hate crimes in relation to aggravated offences and to so-called stirring-up offences. In November 2016 in a debate in Westminster Hall, the Solicitor General said that the Government were reviewing that report. Will he update the House on when the Government will make a decision, as it is of great importance to disabled people?

The Solicitor General: The hon. Lady knows that I have had a long-standing interest in disability hate crime. The Government are particularly interested in the strand of work conducted by the previous Home Affairs Committee. We are looking to its successor Committee to carry on that work. We want this House to play its part in the response to the Law Commission recommendations, and we very much hope that, as soon as possible, we can craft a suitable response to get the law right.

Imran Hussain: As has been stated, the Law Commission has previously called on the Government to review hate crime legislation. Will the Government bring forward

proposals for the review to ensure that the legislation is effective and sufficiently broad in scope?

The Solicitor General: The hon. Gentleman is right to press the Government on those issues. My concerns are twofold: first, we need to get the existing law properly used and enforced by way of training and the actual use of it by the police and the Crown Prosecution Service; and, secondly, we need to get the response to the Law Commission recommendations right. I want to ensure that this House passes laws that are properly enforced. Too often in the past, we have been too quick to pass laws that have then failed the expectations of those who deserve protection. He is right that we will be looking at that as soon as possible.

Melanie Onn: Reports of hate crime rose by 57% following Brexit. CPS staffing budgets have more than halved since 2010. Is the Attorney General therefore confident that the CPS is adequately resourced to deal effectively with these reports and ensure that victims of hate crime do indeed get justice?

Reply from the Solicitor General: I can reassure the hon. Lady that the trends in relation to the prosecution of hate crime continue to increase, particularly with regard to racially and religiously aggravated hate crimes. The increase in the past year was 1.9%, which means that more than 13,000 cases are now being prosecuted. That is reflected across the piece when it comes to homophobic crime and disability hate crime. There is no bar at all to the CPS's pursuing these cases and marking society's condemnation of this sort of criminal activity.

Chris Davies (Conservative): Will my hon. and learned Friend tell the House what action the Government are taking to prevent the spread of hate crime via social media?

Reply from the Solicitor General: My hon. Friend makes a very important point. May I reiterate that the law shows no distinction whatsoever between hate crimes that are committed offline and those that are committed online? Just because somebody hides behind a pseudonym and pursues hate online does not mean that the police and the CPS will not track them down and prosecute them, as we have seen notably in cases involving several Members of this House, who have been the victims of appalling hate crime. ...

Nusrat Ghani (Conservative): I am not quite sure how to follow that. Will my right hon. and learned Friend join me in recognising the great work that is done by Tell MAMA and Hope not Hate, who build the confidence in those who suffer hate crime to report it?

Reply from the Solicitor General: I am grateful to my hon. Friend. Tell MAMA and other organisations play an important part by working closely with the CPS and police to inform the process and help people to report crime. Often people will go to a third party before coming to the police, but that is an acceptable way to report crime because it means that more crimes can be prosecuted.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-06-29/debates/730EDDA1-91B5-488D-AF1E-0BC2A89C5C85/HateCrimeAggravatedOffencesRegime>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime: Convictions

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime resulted in convictions in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office holds and publishes data on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales. Data on the number of these crimes that result in a conviction are not held by the Home Office. Convictions data are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

The most recently published data on hate crime by the Home Office is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>

This Government is committed to tackling hate crime. The UK has a strong

legislative framework to tackle hate crime. We are working across Government with police, (including National Community Tensions Team), the Crown Prosecution Service and community partners to send out a clear message that hate crime will not be tolerated and we will vigorously pursue and prosecute those who commit these crimes.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/428/>

Hate Crime

John Mann (Labour) [831] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential implications for the funding of anti-hate crime projects of the UK leaving the EU.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Government takes all hate crime seriously and published a Hate Crime Action Plan in July 2016 which sets out a comprehensive programme of work to drive forward action against hate crime.

We are currently assessing the impact of exiting the European Union on projects across Government, including any joint initiatives that we have with the European Union on hate crime.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-22/831/>

Hate Crime

Paul Flynn (Labour) [941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of hate crime have been reported in the last 12 months.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The Home Office collects and publishes statistics on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police on an annual basis. In 2015/16, the most recently published data, the police recorded 62,518 hate crimes in England and Wales. The statistical bulletin, which includes data for earlier years, can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2015-to-2016>

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

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-23/941/>

Football: Racial Discrimination

John Mann (Labour) [828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 25 January 2017 to Question 60970, whether there have been more (a) racist incidents and (b) banning orders than those referred to for 1 July 2015 to 10 July 2016.

Nick Hurd: The Home Office annually publishes statistics on football-related arrests and banning orders connected with regulated international and domestic football matches involving English and Welsh clubs and the national teams.

The football-related arrests and banning orders, England and Wales: season 2015 to 2016 is the most recent publication on this area. The statistics stated in answer of 25 January 2017 to Question 60970 are the most up to date statistics the Home Office holds. This publication can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/football-related-arrests-and-banning-orders-england-and-wales-season-2015-to-2016>

The Home Office intends to publish figures on football-related arrests and banning orders, England and Wales: season 2016 to 2017 later this year.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-22/828/>

Press Releases

£20 million to advance equality and tackle discrimination

<https://news.gov.scot/news/gbp-20-million-to-advance-equality-and-tackle-discrimination>

Local adoption case gives rise to race discrimination concerns

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/local-adoption-case-gives-rise-race-discrimination-concerns>

News

Locals condemn anti-Muslim graffiti found outside shop in Scotland

<https://tellmamauk.org/locals-condemn-anti-muslim-graffiti-found-outside-shop-in-scotland/>

Stop and search is not used fairly, most young BAME people believe

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/jun/29/stop-and-search-not-used-fairly-young-bame-people-believe>

'Racist mob' injured woman in Oxford's Florence Park at Eid

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-40411297>

Children seeking counselling after being branded 'terrorists'

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/458110/children-seeking-counselling-after-being-branded-terrorists/>

Muslim children as young as nine branded terrorists in wake of recent terror attacks, reveals Childline

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nine-year-old-children-terrorists-race-faith-hate-bullying-childline-manchester-arena-terror-attack-a7810051.html>

Muslim man 'knocked unconscious as his Yorkshire home was spray-painted with Katie Hopkins tweets'

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-man-unconscious-katie-hopkins-tweets-yorkshire-home-spray-painted-huddersfield-a7809031.html>

Death threats and hate mail for mosque near site of van attack

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/460519/death-threats-and-hate-mail-for-mosque-near-site-of-van-attack/>

New charter to tackle hate crime on Edinburgh public transport

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/our-region/edinburgh/new-charter-to-tackle-hate-crime-on-edinburgh-public-transport-1-4488166>

'Racist mob knocks a woman unconscious' while people are flung to the ground in a fight at a park in Oxford that a local charity has claimed was racially motivated

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4656584/Racist-mob-knocks-woman-unconscious-Oxford-park.html>

Hate charges over 'pork mosque attack' in Sherwood

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-40473300>

Man jailed for hitting Muslim woman in the face with bacon

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/man-muslim-woman-bacon-face-hit-enfield-alex-chivvers-waltham-cross-hertford-road-highbur-corner-a7816051.html>

Man filmed slapping Muslim teenager with bacon in street as he shouts 'Isil scum'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/30/man-filmed-slapping-muslim-teenager-bacon-street-shouts-isil/>

Racist who slapped Muslim teenager with bacon is jailed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-30/news/racist-who-slapped-muslim-teenager-with-bacon-is-jailed-nv7qigjts>

Thug who rammed packet of bacon into Muslim teen's face as he shouted that she was 'Isil scum' while his friend filmed it is jailed for six months

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4653826/Racist-thug-hit-Muslim-teen-packet-bacon.html>

Facebook rules do not protect black children from hate crime

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/facebook-rules-do-not-protect-black-children-from-hate-crime-fldkp6qtb>

Acid attack on Muslim cousins being treated as hate crime

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/acid-attack-resham-khan-jameel-muhktar-treated-hate-crime-metropolitan-police-john-tomlin-east-a7817776.html>

Muslim man who was attacked with acid wants to know why it's not labelled a terror attack

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/muslim-man-acid-attack-victim-why-not-terror-attack-east-london-jameel-muhktar-resham-khan-21st-a7816331.html>

East London acid attack: When Muslims are the victims, we refuse to call it terrorism

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/east-london-acid-attack-terrorism-islamophobia-a7817466.html>

Man left with life threatening injuries after acid attack says he believes assault was racially motivated

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/30/man-left-life-threatening-injuries-acid-attack-says-believes/>

Places of worship ask for anti-hate crime funding

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/460921/places-of-worship-ask-for-anti-hate-crime-funding/>

Council refuses to back down after Sikh couple denied chance to adopt white child

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jun/27/council-berkshire-refusal-british-sikh-couple-adopt-white-child-sandeep-reena-mander>

Sikh couple 'told they could not adopt because only white babies were available'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/27/sikh-couple-told-could-not-adopt-white-babies-available/>

Sikh couple told they were wrong culture to adopt a white child

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-06-27/news/sikh-couple-told-they-were-wrong-culture-to-adopt-a-white-child-skmbq3db3>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

UK Government/DUP deal

<https://news.gov.scot/news/uk-governmentdup-deal>

Increasing organ and tissue donation

<https://news.gov.scot/news/increasing-organ-and-tissue-donation>

New Publication

Scottish Parliament Annual Report 2016-17

<http://www.parliament.scot/Annualreportsandaccounts/SP-Annual-Report-2016-17-single-page.pdf>

News

Nicola Sturgeon puts Scottish independence referendum bill on hold

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-40415457>

Nicola Sturgeon 'resets' indyref2 plans

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-resets-indyref2-plans-1-4487869>

Scottish independence: Nicola Sturgeon postpones second union vote until after Brexit

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15374662.Nicola_Sturgeon_postpones_second_Scottish_independence_vote_until_after_Brexit/?ref=mrb&lp=13

Scots ministers escalate dispute over Tory-DUP deal funds

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-40419849>

Nicola Sturgeon to formally dispute DUP/ Conservative deal

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-to-formally-dispute-dup-conservative-deal-1-4487833>

DUP deal row: Scottish Government threatens formal dispute warning

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15375321.Scottish_Government_threatens_formal_dispute_warning_in_DUP_deal_row/?ref=mrb&lp=3

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Buildings: Security

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of security at places of worship.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The government has made available to all crowded places, including places of worship, detailed on-line guidance to help locations understand their own protective security needs and to identify proportionate

measures that they can take to reduce their vulnerability while remaining welcoming to worshippers. Many places of worship have also received bespoke security advice from specially trained police advisors.

The places of worship security funding scheme was launched in July 2016 as one of the key actions in the Hate Crime Action Plan to help protect places of worship against hate crime by providing protective security measures, such as CCTV cameras, locks or fencing to places of worship.

On the 22 June we announced an additional £1m will be made available for the protection of places of worship, this will further enable assessments of the adequacy of security available at places of worship. Details of how to apply for this funding will be published shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/426/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-06-22/debates/D00D2537-BD22-4E4D-8E65-FE170E02848A/TerrorAttacks#contribution-0C3A539A-9FB7-4EEC-AD30-26DCF76A37FE>

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether other mosques have been awarded funding in addition to those announced in 2016 under the scheme for security funding for places of worship.

Reply from Sarah Newton: To date a total of 55 bids have been received for the second year, 25 of which have been from mosques. An independent advisory panel consisting of faith representatives, police and security advisors will meet on 3 July to consider the bids and recommend to the Home Office which bids to take forward.

On the 22 June we announced an additional £1m will be made available for the protection of places of worship. Details of how to apply for this funding will be published shortly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/427/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-06-22/debates/D00D2537-BD22-4E4D-8E65-FE170E02848A/TerrorAttacks#contribution-0C3A539A-9FB7-4EEC-AD30-26DCF76A37FE>

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Paula Sherriff (Labour) [429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many places of worship chosen to benefit from the scheme for security funding for places of worship have had the work relating to that security completed; and what assessment her Department has made of the level of improvement in their security.

Sarah Newton: The first year of the scheme closed on 4 October 2016. 59 places of worship have been approved funding and security works have been completed on 53.

Improvements in the security of places of worship were implemented following a full assessment by a Crime Prevention Design Adviser (CPDA) who makes an assessment of the physical vulnerabilities of the site. The Home Office Security Advisor has undertaken a number of spot-checks to ensure works have been completed to a satisfactory standard.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-21/429/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Violence in the name of religion

Baroness Afshar (Crossbench) [HL45] Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the attack outside the Muslim Welfare House, near Finsbury Park mosque, what measures they are taking to prevent further violence in the name of religion.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Violence of any kind is abhorrent and the Government will do what is necessary to ensure the safety of its citizens and protect national security. The Government is taking action against all forms of terrorism and extremism, including the major threat from Islamist violent extremism. Our response includes the Counter Extremism strategy, the new Commission for Countering Extremism, and the hate crime action plan.

We are also reviewing our Counter Terrorism strategy to ensure we have all the powers and measures we need to keep our communities safe. In 2015, the Chancellor announced that cross-government spending on Counter-Terrorism would be increased by 30% - increasing CT spending from the protected £11.7bn over five years to £15.1bn over the same period. We have dedicated funding to help protect places of worship who have been subject or vulnerable to a hate crime.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL45/>

Counter Extremism Strategy

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL81] Her Majesty's Government what action they are taking to promote freedom of religion and belief as part of (1) their Counter-Extremism Strategy, and (2) the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government works to protect and promote pluralistic values – including freedom of religion and belief - through its Counter-Extremism Strategy. Faith communities are crucial to tackling hatred and intolerance. Through our 'Building a Stronger Britain Together' programme we are supporting partners across the country to challenge extremism – including faith groups.

Protecting freedom of religion and belief is also central to the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and cuts across two of the four pillars of the UN Global CT Strategy: addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

The new Commission for Countering Extremism will also support our faith communities in stamping out extremism and promoting our fundamental values.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL81/>

Department for Education

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL17] Her Majesty's Government how many Muslim schools, including madrassas, there are in England; how they monitor teaching in those schools; and whether they intend to legislate to require all teaching in such schools to be conducted in English.

Reply from Lord Bates: In England there are 27 publicly-funded schools (i.e. local authority maintained schools and academies, including free schools) having a designated religious character as Muslim; and 148 independent schools registered as having a religious ethos of Muslim or Islam, or having a designated religious character of Muslim or Islam (or both). The Department for Education does not regulate madrassahs or other out-of-school education settings and does not hold a complete record their numbers.

The quality of teaching in Muslim schools in England is inspected by Ofsted or

one of the independent inspectorates approved by the Secretary of State. All publicly funded schools must teach English to pupils up to the age of 16. English is both a subject in its own right and the medium for teaching in the vast majority of circumstances. The statutory independent school standards require that pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills. While independent schools are not required to teach in the medium of English, the standards require that where they do not, lessons in written and spoken English are provided.

The Department has no plans to legislate further to require schools to teach in the medium of English. The Department launched a call for evidence setting out proposals for a new system for regulating out-of-school education settings providing intensive education, but this did not suggest that they should be required to teach in English.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL17/>

Press Release

PM statement on Confidence and Supply Agreement with the DUP

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-statement-on-confidence-and-supply-agreement-with-the-dup>

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New Publication

Website: Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel

<https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

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Other News

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel launch website

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news/scottish-fundraising-standards-panel-launch-website>

Religious affiliation in Scotland 'declines sharply'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-40467084>

Six out of ten Scots have rejected organised religion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/six-out-of-ten-scots-have-rejected-organised-religion-08g9798fs>

Mothers 'an unseen force' in 'honour' abuse

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bradford-west-yorkshire-40367910>

Border Force raise awareness of illegal female genital mutilation at Edinburgh Airport

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/health/border-force-raise-awareness-of-illegal-female-genital-mutilation-at-edinburgh-airport-1-4490946>

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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 sessions

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11027&i=100762#ScotParlOR>
and

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11039&i=100834#ScotParlOR>

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

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

Call for evidence

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/105570.aspx>

Bills in Progress UK Parliament

**** Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0017/18017.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-28/debates/6B1507B0-25AA-46B3-9FF3-123E67CB333F/ImmigrationControl\(GrossHumanRightsAbuses\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-28/debates/6B1507B0-25AA-46B3-9FF3-123E67CB333F/ImmigrationControl(GrossHumanRightsAbuses)Bill(HL))

**** Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0004/18004.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-26/debates/4A04242D-D399-4CEE-9311-1DCBDC6BA28A/ModernSlavery\(VictimSupport\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-26/debates/4A04242D-D399-4CEE-9311-1DCBDC6BA28A/ModernSlavery(VictimSupport)Bill(HL))

**** Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0012/18012.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-27/debates/2CC98499-E4DD-44CA-8EA9-1A299FE6DCC1/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-06-27/debates/2CC98499-E4DD-44CA-8EA9-1A299FE6DCC1/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

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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>

** **Patient care in the NHS** (closing date 9 August 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/105447.aspx>

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

** **Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill** (closing date 18 August 2017)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/105570.aspx>

Implications of the Article 50 withdrawal process: Negotiations for Scotland

(closing date 18 August 2017)

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/bNSXXQq6LIUOr/>

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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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

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>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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

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

**** Festival of Politics**

19-21 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh

<http://festivalofpolitics.scot/>

**** Black History Month 2017**

19 October 2017 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (6.00-7.30)

Festival of Politics event to discuss Scotland’s role and the legacy of slavery and colonialism in the acknowledgement of an uncomfortable history. For information see <http://festivalofpolitics.scot/events/black-history-month-2017/>

**** Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Workshop**

25 October 2017 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop to provide practical help and advice on how to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity. Includes information about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides, as well as challenges, such as hate crime, facing the UK today. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/ydegrweb> or contact Rhys Prosser enquiries@hmd.org.uk

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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/>

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

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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