

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 Motion

S5M-06648 Sandra White (SNP): Refugee Festival Scotland – That the Parliament congratulates the Refugee Festival Scotland on another successful event, which ran from 20 June to 2 July 2017 across Scotland, including celebrations in George Square in Glasgow for World Refugee Day; understands that the event celebrates the contribution that refugees make to the rich and vibrant communities in Scotland; recognises the welcome offered by local people; notes that the theme for the event was CONNECT, to celebrate people's commonality and encourage communities to connect with each other as neighbours, friends and colleagues; commends the organisers of the festival, which is now in its 17th year, and wishes the event continued success.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-06648>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

EU Citizens in the UK

Alan Brown (SNP): What steps she is taking to reassure non-UK EU citizens resident in the UK about their legal status after the UK leaves the EU. [900127]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): On 26 June, we published and laid in Parliament, and the Prime Minister outlined, a paper that outlines our offer for EU citizens. We want to ensure that they have certainty about the future. We have a fair and serious offer that we are confident will lead to a good agreement with our colleagues and partners across the EU.

Alan Brown: As someone who is married to an EU national, I can assure the Minister that right now EU nationals do not feel any certainty from this Government. Does he agree with the organisations British in Europe and the 3 million that the Prime Minister's offer will severely reduce the rights of EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU? Can he also explain why the Prime Minister made no reference to the far superior, detailed and comprehensive offer set out by the EU on 12 June?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I hope that the hon. Gentleman will join me and colleagues in making it very clear that anyone from the EU who is working and living here at the moment can have confidence about the future. The offer we have made about settled status gives them that certainty. I hope that he will encourage not just his other half but all others on the matter. We ask him to bear it in mind that the offer we have made will mean that anyone from the EU who is settled here will have the same rights as any UK citizen. That is a fair and serious proposal.

Peter Bone (Conservative): Does the Minister agree that the Prime Minister has made a very sensible offer and that this matter could be settled tomorrow if it were not for the EU's intransigence?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend, as ever, makes a very good point. The Prime Minister has made a fair, full and serious offer that gives European citizens, once they have settled status, the same rights as a UK citizen. I am hopeful that we and our partners across the EU will be able to reach an early agreement on that.

Hilary Benn (Labour): The Minister talked about giving confidence to EU citizens. Given that just under 30% of applications currently being made for EU permanent residence cards are being turned down, what assurance can he give the House that the new application process set out in the White Paper will not lead to the same outcome? Will those EU citizens who are refused under that new process be required then to leave the UK?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: What I would say to the right hon. Gentleman is that we outlined just last week in laying the paper that we want to ensure that, when we announce the system next year, it will be a simple, clear system, probably making use of digital technology, so that the 3 million Europeans who are living and working here, contributing fantastically well to our culture and economy, are able to go through that process as swiftly as possible.

Joanna Cherry (SNP): As my hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Alan Brown) has highlighted, it is bizarre that the Prime Minister expects the EU to reciprocate an offer that falls short of the offer that the EU made on 12 June. Can the Minister confirm that the Prime Minister expects the EU to water down its offer? If so, how does he think that will reassure British nationals living abroad, never mind EU nationals living in the UK?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: I will say two things to the hon. and learned Lady. First, just last week, I met one of the Ministers from the Department for Exiting the European Union and representatives of British citizens living abroad to go through with them the position we have taken. Secondly, the Prime Minister is right to ensure that the people who are living in the UK who gain settled status have the

same rights as a UK citizen. I do not think any UK citizen would expect any more or less from the British Government.

Joanna Cherry: The point is that the EU offer would give EU nationals living in the UK and British nationals living abroad more rights than the Prime Minister's offer. One thing the Minister could do to reassure EU nationals living in the UK is to state that access to the national health service will be considered sufficient by the Home Office to fulfil the requirements for comprehensive sickness insurance. That was the cross-party recommendation of the Exiting the European Union Committee in the previous Parliament. What or who is stopping the Home Office from implementing that recommendation now?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: It is the EU that is stopping that, and if the hon. and learned Lady has a proper read through of our proposals, she will see that that is an issue we are looking forward to dealing with as we leave the European Union. It is right that we as the UK Government are saying that people have the same rights as UK citizens.

Afzal Khan (Labour): The Prime Minister's recent remarks on the status of EU nationals were too little, too late. The Government have failed to reassure long-standing EU nationals living here and have failed to prevent the brain drain of much needed staff in high-value industries and academia, and of students. Will the Minister clarify the position of EU students studying in the UK who will be part-way through their courses when we leave the EU?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: ... This offer applies to all EU residents. If they are in this country and want to take settled status, they will be able to do that. That is an offer that will be open to everybody across the European Union, so in that sense it makes no change to the position of students.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-07-03/debates/98BEE0DD-90BF-4D63-B432-1232B37223A8/EUCitizensInTheUK>

Immigration Rules: Agriculture

Helen Whately (Conservative): What discussions [the Minister] has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the effect of immigration rules on the seasonal agricultural workforce. [900125]

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Brandon Lewis): I spoke to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about this issue only last week. I know that he is engaging with the National Farmers Union, and I shall meet NFU representatives and my right hon. Friend shortly to discuss it further.

Helen Whately: Every summer farmers in my constituency require thousands of workers to pick their delicious fruit, but only 705 people in the constituency are unemployed and claiming jobseeker's allowance, so it is very difficult for the farmers to recruit enough workers locally. Will my right hon. Friend consider a permit scheme for seasonal agricultural workers?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My hon. Friend makes a very good point about the excellent fruit that those workers pick in Kent. In terms of quality, it is almost up there with the blackcurrants in Great Yarmouth. While we are still full members of the European Union farmers can benefit from the free movement of labour, but my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I will continue to discuss with the sector what will be done after we leave the EU.

Jonathan Edwards (Plaid Cymru): As the Minister knows, agriculture is devolved and stringent immigration rules could have a particular impact on the Welsh food production sector. Does he agree that, if there is to be, regrettably, a Brexit outside the single market, there would need to be a geographical visa system to protect key sectors of the Welsh economy?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are determined to ensure that we have an immigration system that continues to encourage the brightest and the best, and to

ensure that all our sectors are able to flourish and thrive. However, I am not going to predict the outcome, or what we will be doing once we leave the European Union, after those negotiations.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-07-03/debates/C9CD83DF-A41E-48D9-851C-4058AB579B08/ImmigrationRulesAgriculture>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas

The following two questions both received the same answer

Graham Jonevs (Labour) [2237] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of implications for her Department's policy on settlement visa applications of the Supreme Court judgment of February 2017.

Graham Jones (Labour) [2238] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a date has been set for resuming the processing of settlement visa applications following the judgment of the Supreme Court of 22 February 2017.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: A temporary hold on decision-making in respect of some settlement 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.

The settlement 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/2017-06-29/2237/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2238/>

Immigration: Glasgow South

The following three questions all received the same answer

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens in Glasgow South constituency will have to apply for settled status as outlined in Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU, published on 26 June 2017.

Migrant Workers: Glasgow

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens working in the NHS in Glasgow will have to apply for settled status as outlined Safeguarding the position of EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU, published on 26 June 2017.

EU Nationals: Glasgow

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of EU citizens who have immigrated to Glasgow since 29 March 2017.

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.

This is a fair and serious offer, and EU citizens granted settled status 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.

This will be subject to negotiations and a reciprocal deal with the EU.

The Home Office does not hold any data on the numbers of EU citizens in Glasgow who may have to apply for settled status. No estimate has been made of the number of EU citizens who have immigrated to Glasgow since 29 March 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1275/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1276/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1377/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stewart McDonald (SNP) [1376] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of processing settled status claims for EU citizens.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: As with other areas of the immigration system, we aim to keep costs to the taxpayer to a minimum by charging the applicant a fee.

We recognise the cost of the new settled status application will be important for EU citizens, and intend to set fees at a reasonable level. Delivery options will be subject to negotiation with the EU so it is not currently possible to provide an estimate of the cost to the public purse.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1376/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Nigel Evans (Conservative) [1414] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, by what date EU citizens living in the UK will know the cut-off point after which any new EU citizens arriving in the UK may not be given settled status.

Reply from Robin Walker: We want to reach a reciprocal agreement for EU citizens in Britain and UK nationals in Europe as quickly as possible, including on the issue of the specified date.

The specified date is a matter for negotiations with our European partners as part of delivering a reciprocal agreement. We are clear that it should be no earlier than the date we triggered Article 50 (29 March 2017), and no later than the date we leave the EU. To specify a date now, and then risk this changing through the course of negotiations, would lead to further uncertainty for both EU citizens and UK nationals.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1414/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [1460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer of 27 June 2017 to the right hon. Member for Leeds Central, Official Report, column 309, whether EU citizens applying to have a (a) spouse or partner, (b) child over 18-years old, (c) child under 18-years old or (d) parent join them in the UK after the UK has left the EU will be required to meet a minimum income threshold.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), which was laid before Parliament on 26 June, proposes that family members who wish to join an eligible EU citizen after exit will be subject to the same rules as apply to non-EU nationals joining British citizens, or alternatively to the post-exit immigration arrangements for EU citizens who arrive after the specified date, if they are an EU citizen.

It is our intention that all EU citizens living lawfully in the UK before the specified date are covered by the 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.

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.

Further details of the Government's proposals on citizens' rights 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:

<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/2017-06-27/1460/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [2074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications from EU nationals seeking permanent residency in the UK are currently being processed; and how many have been processed in each month since January 2016.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Currently all EEA applications, including those for permanent residency and for other residence documentation under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016, are being considered within the published service standards. Statistics on applications for permanent residence for European Economic Area (EEA) nationals are published quarterly in the Immigration Statistics.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2017>

The Government's policy paper (Cm 9464), which was laid before Parliament on 26 June, sets out our proposals that European Union (EU) citizens who arrive in the UK before the specified date and have five years' continuous residence in the UK will be able to apply for UK settled status.

We will publish further detail on the specifics of the new application process for settled status in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2074/>

Farms: Migrant Workers

John Mann (Labour) [1314] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many foreign workers were brought into the UK to work on farms through Government-approved labour schemes in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017 to date.

Reply from George Eustice: The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) was established to bring foreign workers into the UK to work on farms. SAWS was closed in 2013 when transitional restrictions on nationals of Bulgaria and Romania were lifted, enabling free movement of all EU workers. There were no Government-approved labour schemes in the UK for farm workers in 2016 or in 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1314/>

Mental Health Services: EU Nationals

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [1440] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many non-UK EU nationals were working in mental health services in each NHS trust and clinical commissioning group in each of the last five years.

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. The March 2017 data is the most recent data available, therefore to account for seasonality data is shown as at each March for the previous years requested. Nationals working in mental health services are defined as those working in mental health NHS trusts. Data presented representing the organisational structure at the time. The information is shown in the attached table.

[PQ1440 attached table](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1440/>

Mental Health Services: EU Nationals

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [1441] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many non-UK EU national mental health care workers there were in the NHS in each of the last five years.

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. The March 2017 data is the most recent data available, therefore to account for seasonality data is shown as at each March for the previous years requested. Information does not separately identify mental health care workers. The information in the table below covers all care workers in the area of psychiatry, psychology and learning disability.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): All specified care workers in England who declared their nationality as European Union nationals as at 31 March each specified year, full-time equivalent (FTE).

FTE	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
Specified care workers, non-United Kingdom, European Union nationals	2,525	2,687	2,830	3,000	3,157

Source: NHS Digital, NHS HCHS workforce statistics.

All specified care workers include: Qualified nursing and health visiting staff (Community Psychiatry, Other Psychiatry, Community Learning Disabilities and Other Learning Disabilities). Qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff (STPT) (includes Clinical psychology and Psychotherapy), Support to doctors and nursing staff (includes Community Psychiatry, Other Psychiatry, Community Learning Disabilities and Other Learning Disabilities), Support to ST&T staff (includes Clinical psychology and Psychotherapy)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1441/>

Nurses: Migrant Workers

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [1491] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many non-UK EU national nurses were working in mental health in the NHS in each of the last five years.

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. The March 2017 data is the most recent data available, therefore to account for seasonality data is shown as at each March for the previous years requested. The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS) workforce statistics: Nursing staff in Mental Health by Nationality Group in NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups in England, 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2017, full time equivalent (FTE)

	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
FTE					
Mental health staff, non-United Kingdom, European Union nationals	941	917	955	957	1,004

Source: NHS Digital, Provisional NHS HCHS monthly workforce statistics

Mental Health staff within this table include nurses working within the care settings of Community Psychiatry, Other Psychiatry, Community Learning Disabilities and Other Learning Disabilities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1491/>

Psychiatry: Migrant Workers

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [1492] To ask the Secretary of State for Health, how many non-UK EU psychiatrists were working in the NHS in each of the last five years.

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. The March 2017 data is the most recent data available, therefore to account for seasonality data is shown as at each March for the previous years requested.

The information is shown in the following table.

NHS Hospital & Community Health Service (HCHS) workforce statistics: HCHS Doctors in the Psychiatry Group by Nationality Group in NHS Trusts and CCGs in England, 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2017, full time equivalent (fte)

	Mar-13	Mar-14	Mar-15	Mar-16	Mar-17
FTE					
Psychiatrists, non-UK, EU nationals	804	820	855	854	854

Source: NHS Digital, Provisional NHS Hospital & Community Health Service (HCHS) monthly workforce statistics.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1492/>

UN Convention on the Status of Refugees

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [994] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with other parties to the UN Convention on Refugees on reforming the Convention to improve its response to the global refugee crisis; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and the Home Office regularly discuss refugee issues with our counterparts. We are committed to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it. Across Government, we engage comprehensively with partners on the response to the refugee crisis.

We aim to support refugees as close to their homes as possible, to avoid dangerous journeys and enable returns in due course. We provide development and humanitarian assistance to refugees and the communities which host them. We have pledged £2.46 billion for Syria, our largest ever response to a single humanitarian crisis. Our resettlement programmes are focussed on the most vulnerable; we have committed to resettle 23,000 under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children Resettlement Schemes. We are working with partners, including the UNHCR, on taking forward the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework established by the New York Declaration last September and are fully engaged in the negotiations on a UN Refugee Compact.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-23/994/>

Refugees: Children

The following five questions all received the same answer

Helen Grant (Conservative) [2207] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied refugee children were transferred from France to the UK in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017 under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Helen Grant (Conservative) [2208] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied refugee children were transferred from Greece to the UK in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017 under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Helen Grant (Conservative) [2209] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied refugee children were transferred from Italy to the UK in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017 under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Helen Grant (Conservative) [2210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many staff of her Department were seconded to (a) France, (b) Italy and (c) Greece to facilitate the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Helen Grant (Conservative) [2211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on resuming the transfer of unaccompanied refugee children from France under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France as part of the UK's support for the Calais camp clearance. Over 200 of these children met the criteria for section 67 of the Immigration Act.

On 10 March 2017 the Government published the basis on which future transfers under section 67 will take place, up to the specified number of 480. We are fully committed to delivering section 67 and are working very closely with France, Greece and Italy to agree processes for identifying and transferring further children. We have a Home Office secondee in each of Greece and Italy working on transfers of unaccompanied children under section 67 and the Dublin Regulation, who work with a network of partners including the Member State authorities, British Embassies, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGOs. During the Calais operation, at the invitation of the French government, over 200 Home Office officials were deployed to France to interview children for transfer to the UK. Further data on transfers of unaccompanied children from Europe will be published in due course.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2207/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2208/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2209/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2210/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/2211/>

Refugees: Syria

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [2647] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 3 July 2017, Official Report, WS 23, if the Government will increase the number of refugees to be resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We remain committed to resettling 20,000

vulnerable refugees from Syria by 2020, as announced by the then Prime Minister in 2015. We are on track to deliver this commitment. We will continue to rely on UNHCR to identify and refer the most vulnerable refugees who have fled the Syrian conflict and cannot return to their country of origin, whatever their nationality. Resettlement is only one strand of our efforts in the region, and is complemented by the UK's significant humanitarian aid programme and our diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. We believe this approach is the best way to ensure that the UK's help has the greatest impact for the majority of refugees who remain in the region and their host countries.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-03/2647/>

The Written Statement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-07-03/HCWS23/>

Refugees: Syria

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [2648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 3 July 2017, Official Report, WS 23, whether it is her policy that refugees who are (a) Palestinian and (b) stateless will eligible to be resettled in the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The extended scope of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will make it accessible to the most vulnerable refugees in the MENA region who have fled the Syrian conflict, regardless of their nationality. This may include individuals who are Palestinian and stateless, if they are genuine refugees and cannot seek the protection of their country of origin. We will continue to rely on UNHCR to identify and refer the most vulnerable refugees but will no longer limit the scheme solely to those with Syrian nationality.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-03/2648/>

The Written Statement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-07-03/HCWS23/>

Asylum

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to review the effectiveness of systems of integration for asylum seekers and refugees ensuring that all those granted refugee status have the best possible opportunity for integration.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: We are working towards achieving more integrated communities and creating the conditions for everyone to live and work successfully alongside one another. This includes those who are recognised as refugees or granted Humanitarian Protection.

On 5 December 2016, Dame Louise Casey published her independent review of how to boost opportunity and integration in isolated and deprived communities. The Government will bring forward plans for tackling these issues in the coming months through a new integration strategy.

Those who are granted refugee status are given access to the labour market and benefits, and are encouraged to access organisations that can assist with integration. Each local authority region has a strategic migration partnership that provides coordination and support services for those organisations working with migrants. The Home Office also provides a dedicated integration loan directly to recognised refugees. The loan is designed to help refugees integrate into UK society by offering financial support towards housing costs, employment and training.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-23/908/>

Asylum: Syria

Edward Leigh (Conservative) [900116] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress the Government has made in placing vulnerable Syrian families in the UK.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The resettlement programme is on track to deliver the commitment to resettle 20,000 vulnerable Syrians by the year 2020. Between the start of October 2015 and the end of March 2017, 7,055 people have been resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme across 235 different local authorities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/900116/>

Human Trafficking

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [1480] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she expects the National Crime Agency's annual strategic assessment of the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking to be published.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The National Crime Agency published the 2017 National Strategic Assessment on the 29th June 2017. This is their annual public analysis of serious and organised crime affecting the UK and includes an assessment of the nature and scale modern slavery and human trafficking.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-27/1480/>

Human Trafficking

David Hanson (Labour) [1712] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the potential loss of access to Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre on tackling human trafficking to the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: In a modern, interconnected world, crime is increasingly international and does not respect borders. The Government is clear that effective cooperation with EU Member States on security, justice and policing in order to tackle serious organised crime will continue to be a top UK priority.

The 2015 National Security Strategy (NSS) confirmed that cybercrime is a top threat to the UK's economic and national security. The UK's future security and prosperity depends on our ability to safeguard the digital information, data and networks at home and abroad. The cyber threats we face continue to grow in scale and sophistication. The Government will continue to invest in law enforcement capabilities to ensure delivery agencies have the capacity to deal with the increasing volume and sophistication of cyber crime.

The Government values the role of Europol and that is why the UK opted-in to the new Europol Regulation, which came into force on 1 May 2017, enabling us to maintain our current access to the agency and benefit from its cooperation and operational advantages until we leave the EU.

The Prime Minister has made clear that one of the twelve objectives for the negotiations ahead will be to establish a new relationship with the European Union that includes practical arrangements on matters of law enforcement cooperation to tackle cross-border crime and to keep our people safe.

We continue to work closely with EU partners and we are examining the options for future cooperation once the UK has left the EU.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-28/1712/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration Centre Detainees: Pay

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review rates of pay for work undertaken by immigration centre detainees.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, paid work is provided in immigration removal centres as a means to meet the recreational and intellectual needs of detainees and to relieve boredom. The work is not compulsory. All policies and processes are kept under review, and an internal review of the rate of pay of detainees is under way.

Baroness Hamwee: My Lords, does the Minister accept the irony of providing menial, albeit voluntary, work—as she says, it is to meet detainees' recreational and intellectual needs and provide relief from boredom—when asylum seekers are not allowed to work at all? Is the rate of £1 an hour for people who have committed no crime something that as a society we can be proud of?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it is important to recognise that immigration detainees have lawfully had their right to work in the UK, if indeed they ever had one, curtailed by virtue of an immigration decision or by the decision to detain them. Therefore, their position regarding pay rights is not the same as for people who are not subject to immigration detention.

Lord Rosser (Labour): My Lords, a freedom of information request to the Home Office in 2014 apparently found that in May that year hundreds of detainees had been paid £45,438 for 44,832 hours of work. If that work were not done by detainees in the immigration centre “volunteering”, as the Government seem to describe it, presumably it would have to be done in total or in part by paid staff of Serco or whoever is running the centre. If the figures I have cited for one month are correct, that suggests that the saving from using detainees at £1 per hour, compared to paying employed staff on the minimum wage, would be in the region of £300,000 a month. Who gets the benefit of this apparently considerable financial saving each month? Is it the Government or the firm running the immigration centre who reap that financial benefit?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it is important to recognise that the work undertaken is entirely voluntary. It is not to supplement the work of the contractors. Contractually, the IRC providers must make a minimum number of opportunities available for detainees to participate voluntarily in this paid activity. As I explained to the noble Baroness, detainees' position regarding pay rights is not the same as for those who are not in detention.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, perhaps I can give the Minister another opportunity to answer the Labour Front Bench question. Can she confirm that most of the immigration centres are run by private companies, in which case, what happens to the additional profit that these companies make from employing inmates at £1 an hour instead of employing someone on at least the minimum wage to do the same tasks?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have to repeat myself: people are not compelled to work; it is entirely voluntary. The money that they are paid is not in line with rates of pay for the non-detention population and therefore is entirely different. The work is not there to prop up these private companies' profits, but they are obliged to make these opportunities available should detainees wish to avail themselves of them.

Baroness Boothroyd (Crossbench): My Lords, the question being asked is: who benefits? That was the original question to which we are all waiting to hear the answer.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Who benefits is the detainee.

Lord Elton (Conservative): My Lords, can my noble friend kindly tell us, if the volunteers did not volunteer, would the work be done and, if so, by whom?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, if the volunteers did not volunteer, there would be no problem. The fact is that they want to do this work, and therefore work is provided for them.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): Surely they want to do the work because it is the only way they can get any money. In the leaked document, it was suggested that £1 an hour seems high. On what criteria does the Home Office believe that £1 is high pay for an hour of a person's labour?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will repeat it again: this money is not a wage as the ordinary working population would see it. It is being reviewed, as I am sure that the noble Baroness knows, and that review will report at the end of the year.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, is the Minister really satisfied that the recipients are not allowed to work for 12 months? After that time of boredom, I imagine that they would volunteer for anything. I have asked this question a thousand times: is it not time that the Government reduced that period to, say, six months or nothing? Also, the payment of £36.95 a week has been in place for at least six years. Is it not time that the Government looked again at the whole situation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, while someone is claiming asylum, they are not a citizen of this country, and it is through this process that it is determined whether they can stay in this country or need to be removed. The detention process is part of this. Detention is not done on a routine basis; it is the last resort.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-07-04/debates/401FC5D3-ED0D-4EDB-B850-370FE376412B/ImmigrationCentreDetaineesPay>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Visa application process

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL193] Her Majesty's Government how notifications of the refusal of (1) visas, and (2) deportations, are served; and whether, for those purposes, there is routine use of mail that is not recorded in any way.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: UKVI uses commercial partners to manage the visa application process. The decision to refuse a visa is recorded on our case working system, Proviso, a separate record is created when the decision is dispatched. Individuals have access to an online tracking service through the commercial partner which informs them when a decision has been made on their visa application and is available for collection or delivery. The Visa Application Centre is not privy to the justification to issue or refuse a visa. The primary method of service of any visa decision, whether issue or refusal, is via the Visa Application Centre unless they have requested another route, such as a courier service. There is no routine use of mail that is not recorded in any manner.

The service of a deportation decision is dependent on the location of the individual on which the decision is being served. Where the individual is detained in prison or an immigration removal centre, the deportation decision is served directly on the individual by officials in the prison or immigration removal centre. Where the individual is not detained a deportation decision is sent by recorded delivery to the individuals last notified address and a copy sent to their legal representative. The Home Office records the service of deportation decisions electronically on the case information database.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-27/HL193/>

Press Releases

Refugees of all nationalities fleeing Syria are now eligible for resettlement in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/refugees-of-all-nationalities-fleeing-syria-are-now-eligible-for-resettlement-in-the-uk>

New Publications

Grenfell Tower immigration cases (guidance on handling cases involving survivors and other individuals directly affected by the fire)

<http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2017-0407/GrenfellfireguidancefinalGOVUk.pdf>

Understanding public attitudes towards refugees and migrants

<https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/11600.pdf>

European Asylum Support Office Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2016

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Annual-Report-2016.pdf>

News

Post-study work visas are dead, declares London

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-04/scotland/post-study-work-visas-are-dead-declares-london-g069b7zs9>

Non-Syrians can come to UK as part of refugee programme, says Rudd

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/03/non-syrians-uk-refugee-programme-amber-rudd-unhcr>

Home Office opens door to more Iraqi, Palestinian and Kurdish refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-04/news/home-office-opens-door-to-more-iraqi-palestinian-and-kurdish-refugees-jkrmpj96p>

Changes to VPR humanitarian scheme welcomed

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3233_changes_to_vpr_humanitarian_scheme_welcomed

Police force that failed murdered refugee 'showed racial bias in the way they dealt with him'

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/07/05/police-force-failed-murdered-refugee-showed-racial-bias-way/>

100 staff escort detainees on flight back to Jamaica

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-08/news/100-staff-escort-detainees-on-flight-back-to-jamaica-w0rndjp5l>

Europe migrant crisis: EU blamed for 'soaring' death toll

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-40515054>

Abuse claim mother faces deportation

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-40522080>

Theresa May urged to prevent deportation of Livingston family over FGM fears

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15391806.Theresa_May_urged_to_prevent_deportation_of_Livingston_family_over_FGM_fears/

Theresa May urged to prevent deportation of family over FGM fears

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/politics/uk-politics/463202/theresa-may-urged-to-prevent-deportation-of-family-over-fgm-fears/>

Deportation of girl 'will lead to FGM', warns Livingston MP

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-06/scotland/deportation-of-girl-will-lead-to-fgm-warns-livingston-mp-hplr6nr5x>

All newborns will be given a hepatitis B jab after health watchdog says 96% of cases are among immigrants

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-4678522/ALL-newborns-given-hepatitis-B-jab.html>

Church of England baptises hundreds of asylum seekers... letting them claim fear of persecution at home means they should stay here

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4676238/Church-England-baptises-hundreds-asylum-seekers.html>

Migrant communities are partly to blame for an 'astonishing' rise in the demand for harmful Christian exorcisms in Britain, think tank says

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4668190/Migrant-communities-partly-blame-rise-exorcisms.html>

Coroner calls for changes to treatment of child refugees after death of teenager

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/05/coroner-calls-for-changes-to-treatment-of-child-refugees-after-death-of-teenager>

A moment that changed me: becoming godmother to a refugee's baby

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jul/07/moment-that-changed-me-godmother-refugee-baby>

People thought I was mad to offer my spare room to a homeless stranger

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-04/times2/people-thought-i-was-mad-to-offer-my-spare-room-to-a-homeless-stranger-shls0p6c6>

Lack of enforcement is frustrating, says former immigration judge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-06/law/lack-of-enforcement-is-frustrating-says-former-immigration-judge-997d57nlw>

Refugee Festival Scotland 2017. We did it!

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/blogs/3234_refugee_festival_scotland_2017_we_did_it

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-06639 Angus MacDonald (SNP): Eid in the Park Second Successful Year – That the Parliament congratulates the Falkirk Muslim Forum on its second successful Eid in the Park, supported by Tesco, which was held on 1 July 2017 in Callendar Park in Falkirk; notes that the purpose of the Falkirk Muslim Forum, which consists of Al Masaar, Falkirk Islamic Centre, Falkirk Central Mosque, Falkirk Muslim Community Club 55 and Over and the Rainbow Muslim Women's Group, is to act on behalf of Muslim people to promote community relations and be a unifying influence in the promotion of multiculturalism throughout the Falkirk district and surrounding areas; commends the organisers of Eid in the Park for putting on another fantastic event, which was well attended by the public and gave people an opportunity to take part and learn about the

Islamic faith; notes that working together across key stakeholders, including Falkirk Council, Falkirk Community Trust, CVS Falkirk, Police Scotland and the Falkirk Muslim Forum, contributed to the overall success of the event; recognises the event for celebrating Scotland's diverse communities by bringing together all parts of its multicultural society to support each another in what it considers is an unpredictable time, and looks forward to further Eid in the Park events in the future.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-06639>

New Publication

The Missing Muslims: Unlocking British Muslim Potential for the Benefit of All

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/newcitizens/pages/1261/attachments/original/1499106471/Missing_Muslims_Report_-_Electronic_copy.pdf?1499106471

News

Edinburgh Muslim community: We want people to understand us

<http://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/edinburgh-muslim-community-we-want-people-to-understand-us-1-4498218>

British-born imams 'would help integration'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-03/news/british-born-imams-would-help-integration-kvmwsfgdd>

TOP

Equality

News

This is why UK Black Pride matters

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/pride-lgbt-black-pride-otherness-fetishisation-gay-rights-racism-uk-a7830451.html>

Why we need more black and minority ethnic magistrates

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2017/jul/04/black-minority-ethnic-magistrates-diversity-bench>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Hate crime

S5W-09777 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities on 13 June 2017 (Official Report, c. 12), whether it will provide an update on what progress it is making in fulfilling the cabinet secretary's commitment to (a) engage with stakeholders on the prevention of online hatred and misogyny, (b) engage with

stakeholders to ensure that the term “hate crime” applies to an event from the perspective of both the victim and the perpetrator, (c) build dialogue on the understanding of links between prejudice and hate crime, (d) review the effectiveness of third party reporting, including what action it will use to improve the effectiveness, (e) better protect people who experience hate crime on public transport, (f) implement the action plan on disability to address the underreporting of disability hate crime, (g) develop firmer definitions of “hate crime” and “prejudice” and (h) adopt the international definition for anti-Semitism, including when this will be adopted; which agencies will be included in the multi-agency delivery group to take forward the advisory group’s recommendations and when it will publish its refreshed approach to anti-bullying.

Reply from Angela Constance: We are committed to doing all that we can to prevent and eradicate hate crime and prejudice, and build community cohesion. As set out in my statement on 13 June and in our response to the Independent Advisory Group, the Scottish Government will now take forward an ambitious programme of work in response to their recommendations.

The actions we have set out will be implemented between now and 2020 when we will publish an update on progress. We are currently in the process of establishing the multi-agency delivery group which, amongst other things, will look at how we address barriers to reporting, consider issues around online abuse and how we use the definition of anti-Semitism adopted on 16 June to inform our work in this area. We will continue to implement our disability action plan and take forward the development of a hate crime charter for public transport in partnership with disabled people’s organisations. We will also publish our refreshed National Approach to anti-bullying later in 2017.

Link to the Scottish Government's response to the Report of the Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime, Prejudice and Community Cohesion:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/06/1336>

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-09777>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11003&i=100547&c=2008181#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Antisemitism

... **Theresa Villiers (Conservative):** Will the Minister set out what the Government are doing to tackle anti-Semitism on campus, where the activities of hard-line groups often create an intolerant and intimidatory atmosphere for Jewish students?

Reply from Sarah Newton: My right hon. Friend is absolutely right to raise the issue of anti-Semitism. There is no room at all in our society for hatred of anyone based on their faith, race or ideology. The Government have put a safeguarding responsibility on universities and schools to make sure that they protect young people from being exposed to vile hatred and radicalisation.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-07-03/debates/1E1D5BB9-5A7F-499C-807F-08C292734930/Extremism#contribution-8E82D5FB-7C84-4198-915E-79A1AA000EA6>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Angela Crawley (SNP) [1979] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will undertake a review into the causes of the change in hate crimes recorded in England and Wales in the month after the EU referendum.

Reply from Sarah Newton: Following the EU referendum last year, we saw a spike in reported racially and religiously aggravated hate crime offences. However, the number of offences declined throughout August and at the end of the month the number of offences was similar to pre-referendum levels.

In response to this spike, the Government took a number of steps to provide assurances to communities, including EU citizens residing in the UK. The Government also made it clear that we will not tolerate hate crime and that we actively work to tackle it.

In July 2016, we published the Hate Crime Action Plan, "Action Against Hate", which sets out a range of actions aimed at tackling all forms of hate crime. This includes identifying and challenging attitudes and beliefs underlying hate crime, responding to hate crime and supporting communities, and improving understanding of hate crime through improved reporting.

Improvements in recording by the police, a greater awareness of hate crime and improved willingness of victims to come forward may also have led to the increase in reporting.

Hate crime levels continue to be monitored, with government working closely with police and local organisations to provide reassurance to areas affected by hate crime.

Although we do not intend to conduct a formal review of the cause of the spike following the referendum, we continue to look into underlying reasons for hate crime through engagement with stakeholders and local community groups.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-29/1979/>

The Hate Crime Action Plan referred to above can be read at

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

Antisemitism

Paul Masterton (Conservative) [1554] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what steps he is taking to tackle anti-Semitism.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The UK is the first country in Europe to adopt formally the International Holocaust Memorial Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. The definition, although legally non-binding, is an important tool enabling criminal justice agencies and other public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century. In December 2016 we published a progress report on our efforts to tackle anti-Semitism which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/anti-semitism-update>

The cross-government working group to tackle anti-Semitism ensures that we are alive to any new issues and concerns the Jewish community might have and that we can respond quickly.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-28/1554/>

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Rachael Maskell (Labour) [917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set out those places of worship which will be able to access grants through the places of worship: security funding scheme.

Reply from Sarah Newton: The second round of the current places of worship funding scheme closed on 29 May 2017. Places of worship able to access grant funding under the current scheme include temples, mosques, gurdwaras and churches. The scheme excludes the Jewish community who are funded under a separate scheme.

On the 22 June the Home Secretary announced that an additional £1m will be made available for the protection of vulnerable faith institutions. Details of how to

apply for this additional funding are available on www.gov.uk
<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-23/917/>

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

Rachael Maskell (Labour) [918] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the maximum grant will be for individual places of worship under the places of worship: security funding scheme.

Reply from Sarah Newton: There is no upper limit on individual grants within the existing places of worship funding scheme.

On the 22 June the Home Secretary announced an additional £1 million worth of funding for vulnerable faith institutions. Details of how to apply for this additional funding are available on www.gov.uk but there will be no upper limit on individual grants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-23/918/>

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>

Students: Religion

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [1726] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance has been published on supporting religious minorities studying at university.

Reply from Joseph Johnson: Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have responsibilities to support their students, ensuring that they do not face harassment, abuse or violence. They are expected to comply with their legal duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The Government published general guidance on the Equality Act 2010 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>). Specific guidance for HEIs is produced by the Equality Challenge Unit (ECU) which supports equality and diversity for staff and students in HEIs across the UK. Their publications include guidance on the implications for HEIs of the Equality Act 2010 which is available online (www.ecu.ac.uk/guidance-resources/equality-legislation/) and guidance on supporting the practice and expression of religion and belief amongst staff and students

(<http://www.ecu.ac.uk/guidance-resources/inclusive-environment/providing-support/religion-belief/>).

In September 2015 the Government asked Universities UK (UUK) to set up a Harassment Taskforce, composed of university leaders, student representatives and academic experts, to consider what more can be done to address harassment on campus, including on the basis of religion and belief. The taskforce published its report, 'Changing the Culture', on 21 October 2016 which makes clear recommendations about steps universities can take to ensure an effective and tailored response to hate crime or harassment based on an individual's religious belief and recommends that institutions adopt a zero-tolerance approach.

(<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2016/changing-the-culture.pdf#search=taskforce>).

The Higher Education and Research Act (2017) enables, for the first time, an alternative student finance product to be offered. This would be equivalent to a

student loan but will be consistent with the principles of Islamic finance, and should help support equality of opportunity.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-28/1726/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2016/changing-the-culture.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Hate speech

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL47] Her Majesty's Government whether they differentiate between (1) those who criticise a religion, and (2) those who insult its adherents, in their guidance, policies and other literature on hate speech; and if so, how.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: A crime that is motivated by hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity can be classed as a hate crime. Our hate crime laws recognise everyone's right to believe and practice their chosen religion, free from targeted abuse. This same right extends to those who have no religion and those targeted for intra-religious hostility.

The guidance to the application of our laws is covered in the Hate Crime Operational Guidance (attached) issued by the College of Policing in 2014 (http://report-it.org.uk/files/hate_crime_operational_guidance.pdf) which guides the police on the application of our laws.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has issued advice to prosecutors which is available at http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/p_to_r/racist_and_religious_crime
[Hate Crime guidance](#)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL47/>

Press Releases

It's not cool to be cruel' – MSPs bid to tackle 'too prevalent' bullying

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/105617.aspx>

Man jailed for 'terrifying' hate crime attack

http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/man-jailed-for-terrifying-hate-crim/

New Publication

It is not Cool to be Cruel: Prejudice based bullying and harassment of children and young people in schools

http://www.parliament.scot/S5_Equal_Opps/Inquiries/EHRiC_5th_Report_2017_SP_Paper_185.pdf

News

Government urged to agree formal definition of anti-Muslim prejudice to tackle discrimination

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/islamophobia-anti-muslim-prejudice-definition-discrimination-government-prevent-dominic-grieve-a7820486.html>

Report highlights 'gut-wrenching' bullying in Scottish schools

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-40506234>

Racist and anti-gay bullying is on the rise in Scottish schools

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/15393793.Racist_and_anti_gay_bullyin_g_is_on_the_rise_in_Scottish_schools/

Brexit vote sees highest spike in religious and racial hate crimes ever recorded

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racist-hate-crimes-surge-to-record-high-after-brexit-vote-new-figures-reveal-a7829551.html>

The latest inspiring Tory report on Muslims says we deserve attention because it can stop us becoming terrorists

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/muslim-potential-report-islam-britain-dominic-grieve-islamophobia-terrorism-a7820851.html>

Racism in schools isn't just part of the grim past – it's hiding in plain sight

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jul/07/racism-schools-bame-pupils-teachers>

Attacks on Muslims are acts of terrorism and shouldn't be given excuses, London mosque chairman says

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslim-attacks-terrorism-lone-attacker-mental-health-problems-excuses-finsbury-park-mosque-chairman-a7828641.html>

Former SNP councillor to stand trial over 'abusive' text messages to Muslim party activist

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/former-snp-councillor-stand-trial-10757831>

Former councillor pleads not guilty to sending Islamophobic texts

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/dundee/464579/former-councillor-pleads-not-guilty-to-sending-islamophobic-texts/>

Ex-SNP councillor faces trial for 'sending racist text messages'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ex-snp-councillor-faces-trial-for-sending-racist-text-messages-gcft6w02f>

Man who ripped off woman's veil while shouting "You f*ing stupid Muslim" is jailed**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/man-peter-scotter-muslim-woman-veil-ripped-off-newcastle-crown-court-sentence-brexit-result-a7822286.html>

Brexit 'race card' linked to attack on niqab-wearing Muslim woman

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/03/brexit-race-card-linked-to-attack-on-niqab-wearing-muslim-woman>

Britain's housing crisis is racist - we need to talk about it

<https://www.theguardian.com/housing-network/2017/jul/06/britain-housing-crisis-racist-bme-homelessness>

Police more likely to search black people and Gypsies

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15387852.Police_more_likely_to_search_black_people_and_Gypsies/?ref=mrb&lp=7

Charity calls on Orange Order to "educate" its members as row over Famine Song video grows

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15390106.Charity_calls_on_Orange_Order_to_educate_its_members_as_row_over_Famine_Song_video_grows/?ref=mrb&lp=4

Is there institutional racism in mental health care?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-40495539>

'It was pure racism': the family of Bijan Ebrahimi on their fight for answers

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/05/it-was-pure-racism-the-family-of-bijan-ebrahimi-on-their-fight-for-answers>

Murdered refugee Bijan Ebrahimi let down by police 'race bias'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-05/news/murdered-refugee-bijan-ebrahimi-let-down-by-police-race-bias-5x5n23gjs>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Social Services: Finance

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [1727] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what guidance has been published to ensure that local authorities offer financial support to specialist care providers that cater for the religious and cultural needs of their clients.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The department has published no such guidance. Local authorities are best placed to understand the needs of their communities and to commission services in a way which is most effective for those communities.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-28/1727/>

Social Services: Minority Groups

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [2457] To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, if he will make it his policy to create a centrally-held funding source to local authorities who provide care and support to people from religious minorities requiring care from specialist providers.

Reply from Marcus Jones: The Government periodically assesses resourcing requirements for local government as part of each Spending Review. It is for local authorities to best determine how to meet the needs of their communities which would include how best to commission specialist provision if necessary.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-07-03/2457/>

Islam: Marriage

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [1647] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will assess the merits of requiring Imams carrying out the Islamic marriage ceremony to ensure that a civil ceremony has already taken place.

Reply from Dominic Raab: The Government acknowledges concerns raised about marriage ceremonies that do not give rise to legal rights, and is committed to careful consideration of the issue. That is one of the reasons why the Prime Minister, in her previous role as Home Secretary, launched the independent Sharia review in May last year. These concerns are central to the review, and the Government is considering the issue in light of the report by Dame Louise Casey on opportunity and integration, published in December.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-06-28/1647/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Government Guidance

Baroness Afshar (Crossbench) [HL46] Her Majesty's Government what guidance they have issued to government departments, local authorities and other public bodies and agencies to avoid referring to British citizens by their creed, race or colour other than in contexts in which it is strictly necessary to do so.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Government has issued no such guidance and has no plans to do so.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2017-06-21/HL46/>

New Publication

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Annual Report 2016/17

<http://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB30015>

News

Home Office hosts joint summit on 'acid attacks'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-hosts-joint-summit-on-acid-attacks>

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New Publications

TELL MAMA Community Security Bulletin for Mosques

English

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Security-Bulletin-26062017.pdf>

Urdu

https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Security-Bulletin-26062017_Urdu.pdf

Arabic

https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Security-Bulletin-26062017_Arabic.pdf

Turkish

https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Security-Bulletin-26062017_Turkish.pdf

Data collection in the field of ethnicity: Analysis and comparative review of equality data collection practices in the European Union

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=45791

Legal framework and practice in the EU Member States: Analysis and comparative review of equality data collection practices in the European Union

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=45792

**Equality data indicators: Methodological approach Overview per EU Member State
Technical annex: Analysis and comparative review of equality data collection practices in the European Union**

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=45793

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Other News

Fundraising Preference Service launch

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/news/fundraising-preference-service-launch-6th-july>

Campaign Bootcamp: scholarships

Scholarships available for Campaign Bootcamp to encourage and support people who are underrepresented or undervalued in the world of activism, including working class people, people of colour, women, gender variant folk, LGBTQ people, disabled people, refugees and migrants, survivors, parents and carers. For information see

<https://www.campaignbootcamp.org/blog/2016/6/21/bme-outside-of-london-scholarship-spotlight>

FGM: More than 5,000 new cases in England

<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-40491311>

Thousands more cases of female mutilation recorded in Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2017-07-05/news/thousands-more-cases-of-female-mutilation-recorded-in-britain-8l892qnc9>

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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>

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

**** Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0028/18028.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-07-03/debates/07FB0872-4F27-496E-B539-4C3C1EF7456E/ChildrenAct1989\(Amendment\)\(FemaleGenitalMutilation\)Bill\(HL\)](http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-07-03/debates/07FB0872-4F27-496E-B539-4C3C1EF7456E/ChildrenAct1989(Amendment)(FemaleGenitalMutilation)Bill(HL))

**** EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill**

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

Bill as introduced

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0038/18038.pdf>

First Reading, House of Lords

[http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-07-06/debates/BFF8558C-9A18-46DF-A6B8-8CBE1C2ABBF9/EEANationals\(IndefiniteLeaveToRemain\)Bill\(HL\)](http://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2017-07-06/debates/BFF8558C-9A18-46DF-A6B8-8CBE1C2ABBF9/EEANationals(IndefiniteLeaveToRemain)Bill(HL))

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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/>

**** Note that the closing date for this consultation has been extended from 18 July 2017**

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

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

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

**** closes 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>

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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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