

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Refugees and Human Rights

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-24/debates/EE43CC10-CBFD-4E45-B325-6BD6CD980A5B/RefugeesAndHumanRights>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

UK Border Force

Afzal Khan (Labour) [123657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of establishing a special volunteer force to support Border Force.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is in the process of taking advice on a range of options from other law enforcement bodies such as police forces, which have successfully deployed well-trained, high calibre Special Constables for many years, to examine whether a Special Volunteer force within Border Force

would provide benefits and bolster existing activity. No decision has been made on whether BF specials should proceed to a pilot.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-18/123657/>

Dublin Regulations

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [123452] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which three countries the UK made the largest number outgoing Dublin III regulation requests in 2017, and how many requests were made to each of those countries.

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [123455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many outgoing Dublin III regulation requests under Article 16 Regulation 604/2013 dependent persons clause were made by the UK in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Dublin_statistics_on_countries_responsible_for_asylum_application#Further_Eurostat_information

The Commission has data up to, and including 2016. This shows the UK processed over 6,000 Dublin requests in 2016: over 4,200 outgoing requests to other Member States and almost 1,800 incoming requests. 2017 data is not yet available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123452/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123455/>

UK Visas and Immigration: Scotland

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [123061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of Parliamentary cases received a response within the 20-working day service standard from the UK Visas and Immigration office at Festival Court in Glasgow in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Statistics on UKVI performance in answering written MP written enquiries within 20 working day target are published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

Final quarter statistics for 2017 are due to be published in February 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123061/>

Immigration

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [122712] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of procedural errors occurring in applications for leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration continually reviews its operation to improve performance and accountability. Customer feedback, including complaints, are taken into account to ensure we offer value for money; which includes improving the services we offer, the quality of the decisions we make and the provision of an excellent customer service. When we are informed of errors we work promptly to rectify them.

More widely, we have assurance regimes which aim to increase consistent quality and identify good and weak practice within the department. We utilise three regimes; operational oversight, independent business reviews and third party reviews, in conjunction with the wider Home Office, in order to develop and ensure best practice.

Data on performance against service standard in relation to replies to customer complaints for UKVI, Immigration Enforcement and Border Force can be found at table MP 03 at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/customer-service-operations-data-november-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122712/>

Immigration

The following four questions all received the same answer

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [122717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many IS.96 notices have been incorrectly sent to individuals who have not had their applications for leave to remain refused in each of the last five years.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [122719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what explanations were sent to individuals who were not refused leave to remain but were incorrectly sent IS.96 notices in each of the last five years.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [122720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken by her Department to contact people who were incorrectly sent an IS.96 notice in each of the last five years was.

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [122722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of IS.96 notices that are sent in error.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of IS.96 notices sent in error, and average timescale taken to contact those issued incorrectly, are not recorded in a way which can be reported on without breaching the disproportionate cost threshold.

If an applicant is unhappy with parts or all of the immigration process there is a complaints procedure which is available on the Home Office web site

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/about/complaints-procedure>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122717/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122719/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122720/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122722/>

Immigration

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [123215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to introduce a maximum waiting time for a reply to applications for indefinite leave to remain under the ten-year settlement route.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The current maximum waiting time for a straightforward application for indefinite leave to remain under the ten-year settlement route is six months, there are currently no plans to change this.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123215/>

Immigration

David Lammy (Labour) [123357] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much it costs her Department to process a leave to remain application; how many such applications it has processed in each of the last five years; and how much revenue has been generated from fees for leave to remain applications in each of those years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The cost of processing visa applications varies by application type and these are set out in the published unit costs and fees table, which can be accessed via the link attached:

FY 2017/18:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/606616/Unit_cost_table_2017.pdf

2. The number of Applications for 'Leave To Remain' received/processed are regularly published, refer to links below for latest figures:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-november-2017>

3. The Home Office does not hold the information in the format requested. Income is not differentiated between the various categories in which they are received. Our ledger will not allow us to provide this level of detail.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123357/>

Immigration

David Lammy (Labour) [123358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what impact assessments were carried out ahead of the proposed 22.5 per cent fee increase for leave to remain applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A number of UK Visa and Immigration fees were increased by 22.5% in April 2017. An assessment of the impact of all fee increases implemented then was published as an associated document to the Immigration and Nationality Fees (Regulations) 2017. The relevant information can be found via the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/515/pdfs/uksiod_20170515_en.pdf.

Fee changes for 2018 have not yet been agreed.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123358/>

Visas: Applications

Jack Lopresti (Conservative) [123573] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which criteria are applied by UK Visas and Immigration staff when judging a visa application to be non-straightforward; and what service standards govern the (a) processing of such applications and (b) updating the applicant on the status and progress of their application.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Visa applications are considered to be complex when an Entry Clearance Officer determines that additional information is required in order for a decision to be made.

There are no set standards for processing non-straightforward (identified as complex) by the caseworker. However, if an application is complex and expected to take longer than the standard processing timescale, UKVI will write to the customer within the standard processing time and explain what will happen next. The published information on processing times for visa applications is published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-18/123573/>

Visas: Proof of Identity

Paul Girvan (DUP) [123852] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what penalties her Department is liable for in respect of the loss of people's identification documents relating to visa applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Should a customer wish to seek reimbursement for the costs of replacing a lost document, they are advised to contact UKVI and they will be dealt with on a case by case basis in accordance with the complaints procedure:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/complaints-procedure>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-19/123852/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [123987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the settled status document will be free for EU citizens in the UK with a valid permanent residence document; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens and their family members who are resident in the UK before the date the UK leaves the EU and hold valid permanent residence documents at the time that they apply for settled status will not pay a fee. This will also apply to beneficiaries of the Withdrawal Agreement who hold indefinite leave to enter or remain in the UK.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/123987/>

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [122573] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department are taking to replace the services of overseas qualified doctors that (a) are planning to leave and (b) may leave in the next five years.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: The Government hugely values the contribution of overseas doctors working in the National Health Service.

As of September 2017 there are 3,276 more staff from non-United Kingdom European Union countries working in the NHS than in June 2016.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the NHS is able to meet demand well into the 21st century, and this is why from September 2018, the Government will fund up to 1,500 additional medical training places in England each year. This is in addition to the 6,000 medical school places currently available in England.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122573/>

Immigration: Married People

Ged Killen (Labour Co-op) [123064] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information her Department holds on the proportion of spousal visa applications which failed because the sponsoring spouse is unable to meet the salary and savings thresholds in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information requested is not available in published statistics. Information on the total number of entry clearance visa applications and resolved (i.e. grants, refusals, withdrawn and lapsed) cases, and the proportion of resolved cases that are either granted or refused, in the 'Family: Partner' category is published quarterly. The most recent information can be found in the Home Office publication 'Immigration Statistics, July – September 2017', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, available from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123064/>

Immigration

Ged Killen (Labour (Co-op)) [123214] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has carried out modelling on potential changes in migration numbers caused by the savings and salary thresholds for spousal visa applications being raised or lowered.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The savings and salary thresholds for spousal visa applications are dictated by the minimum income requirement. It was set following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee and considering the Policy Equality Statement published on 13 June 2012. In February 2017, the Supreme Court upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income requirement under the family Immigration Rules, including in terms of equalities impacts and in light of the published Policy Equality Statement.

Any future amendment to the minimum income requirement would be subject to thorough equality and impact analysis and a further Policy Equality Statement will be published.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123214/>

Immigration: Appeals

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [123516] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many immigration appeals at tribunal have been successful; and how many of those appeals were within six months, for each of the last three years.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The number of appeals allowed in the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) over the last three years is: 2014/2015 – 26,394; 2015/2016 – 20,539 and 2016/2017 – 23,275.

Timescales from receipt to disposal of an appeal are not routinely broken down by outcome and could not be provided in the time available.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123516/>

Undocumented Migrants

David Lammy (Labour) [123359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the second report of the Home Affairs Committee, Immigration policy: basis for building consensus, published on 15 January 2018, HC 500, what steps her Department plans to take to publish an official analysis of the scale of illegal immigration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is carefully considering the Home Affairs Committee report and will respond in due course

The Government does not currently produce any official estimates of the scale of illegal migration. The Government takes a broad range of activity to prevent migrants from entering the UK illegally and overstaying, tackle the threats associated with immigration offending and to encourage and enforce the removal of illegal migrants.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123359/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/500/500.pdf>

Undocumented Migrants

The following two questions both received the same answer

David Lammy (Labour) [123360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the second report of the Home Affairs Committee, Immigration policy: basis for building consensus, published on 15 January 2018, HC 500, what plans she has to re-evaluate the hostile environments measures.

David Lammy (Labour) [123361] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, with reference to the second report of the Home Affairs Committee, Immigration policy: basis for building consensus, published on 15 January 2018, HC 500, what assessment she has made of the accuracy and effectiveness of hostile environments measures.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government will respond to the Home Affairs Committee report in due course

Successive Governments have introduced legislative and administrative controls on migrants' access to work, benefits and services to prevent immigration offending, including action overseas, at the border and in-country, to detect and remove persons without permission to enter or remain in the UK and to protect taxpayer funded services.

In recent years we have introduced, extended and strengthened the set of "compliant environment" measures; putting in place a range of entitlement controls, including denying or restricting access and through taking systematic, automated action, and working with a range of delivery partners on the consequences of not complying with our laws and rules.

The compliant environment aims to: deter prospective immigration offenders; make it difficult for those unlawfully in the UK to lead a settled life; incentivise voluntary departure; and deter legal migrants from breaching conditions of their immigration leave.

We have no plans to re-evaluate these measures; however, the Government gives careful consideration to reports and recommendations produced by Parliament and the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration on the operation of the immigration system and remains committed to ensuring the accuracy of immigration data shared across Government and with key delivery partners.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123360/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123361/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/500/500.pdf>

Undocumented Migrants

Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op) [124175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the memorandum of understanding on the processing of information requests from the Home Office to NHS Digital for tracing immigration offenders which came into effect on 1 January 2017, what number and proportion of trace requests under that memorandum have been conducted for individuals whom the Home Office had not re-established contact via other centrally held government sources of information; and how many of those requests resulted in (a) apprehension and (b) the resolution of the immigration issue to be addressed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: NHS Digital's data recently published written evidence before the health select committee.

The report can be found here –

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/health-committee/memorandum-of-understanding-on-datasharing-between-nhs-digital-and-the-home-office/written/76672.html>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/124175/>

Undocumented Migrants: Bank Services

David Lammy (Labour) [123362] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the ICIBI annual report 2016 to 2017, published on 13 July

2017, what plans she has to improve the accuracy of the data in her Department's disqualified persons list.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The accuracy of the disqualified person data is subject to rigorous checks by the Home Office before it is shared, with banks and building societies, and a current account will only be reported to the Home Office if there is a clear data match based on the person's name, address and date of birth. In addition, we continue to keep under review any improvements that can be made to the accuracy of the data.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123362/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/631627/ICI-BI-Annual-Report-2016-2017.pdf

Asylum: Disclosure of Information

The following two questions both received the same answer

Afzal Khan (Labour) [123652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many incidents of unauthorised sharing of asylum information there have been in her Department in each year since 2010.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [123653] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much her Department has paid in compensation as a result of its unauthorised sharing of asylum information since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of incidents of unauthorised sharing of asylum information and the amount of compensation paid by the department for unauthorised sharing of asylum information is not held in a format which is reportable.

It is contrary to Home Office policy to disclose information on individual asylum cases.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-18/123652/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-18/123653/>

Asylum: Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [123745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will pause the current asylum accommodation tendering process while an assessment is made of how best to ensure the viability of companies which might bid for such tenders.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All Home Office contracts are tendered in compliance with the EU Procurement Directives and as part of its tendering process an assessment of financial viability is undertaken, which is in line with best practice and Cabinet Office guidance. The assessment is proportionate to the risk of the procurement being undertaken and is completed on each bidder by independent qualified accountants. The outcomes are considered within the normal tendering governance processes. The recommendations of the independent assessment will be considered alongside any other financial intelligence and insights that are held as part of the wider Government Commercial Function.

As the assessment of financial viability is part of the standard procedures undertaken by the Department there is no requirement to pause the current asylum accommodation tendering process.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-19/123745/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [124000] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the contract notice and the current procurement process for her Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract, what steps she is taking to ensure compliance with (a) the Public Contract Regulations 2015 in terms of its article 57 on assessing whether any mandatory and discretionary grounds apply, (b) ss1(3),(6) and (7) Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and (c) s149 Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Procurement process for the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract will be fully compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015). The initial stage of the process, which has just been completed, conforms with the Crown Commercial Service Procurement Policy Note (8/16) dated 9 September 2016, and has used the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) 2016 as the basis to complete the selection stage.

In accordance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, we have undertaken extensive and relevant market and stakeholder consultation during the pre-procurement phase of the procurement. Information derived during this process has informed the design of the service delivery model. This has enabled the Authority to place the Service User, and “relevant areas” at the centre of the new contract. The procurement process for the project is compliant with the Equality Act 2010, it ensures that the services procured under this contract are accessible to, and meet the diverse needs of all users.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/124000/>

Asylum: Housing

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [124001] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Procurement Policy Note: Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) for 2016 applies to the current procurement process for her Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract; and for what reasons the SSQ completion requirement was not expressly specified in its contract notice, published on 18 November 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Procurement process for the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract has recently completed its initial SSQ stage. The process is fully compliant with the Crown Commercial Service Procurement Policy Note (8/16) dated 9 September 2016, and used the Standard Selection Questionnaire (SSQ) 2016 to complete the initial stage (Request For Information) which is referred to at Section v1.3 of the contract notice, published on 18 November 2017.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/124001/>

The Policy Note referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/558531/PP_N_8_16_StandardSQ_Template_v3.pdf

Immigrants: Detainees

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [122927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people aged 18 and under were held in immigration detention centres in each year from 2014 to date.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the number of minors entering and in detention in the UK from 2014, is available in tables dt_02_q and dt_13_q of the detention tables in the latest release of ‘Immigration Statistics, July to September 2017’, available from the Home Office website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662536/detention-jul-sep-2017-tables.ods.

Figures for Q4 2017 will be released on 22 February 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/122927/>

Immigrants: Detainees

The following four questions all received the same answer

Joan Ryan (Labour) [123436] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of replacing the Adults at Risk policy with a framework which prohibits the detention of all victims of torture and other vulnerable people from immigration detention.

Joan Ryan (Labour) [123437] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to improve immigration detention safeguards for victims of torture and other vulnerable people, including people who have suffered from severe physical, psychological or sexual violence; and if she will make a statement.

Torture

Joan Ryan (Labour) [123423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to review the definition of torture used in the Adults At Risk policy.

Joan Ryan (Labour) [123433] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to hold discussions on the review of its Adults at Risk policy with (a) Freedom from Torture, (b) Medical Justice and (c) Survivors Speak OUT.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The adults at risk in immigration detention policy came into force in September 2016 and was part of the Government's response to Stephen Shaw's review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention. It is based on a case by case assessment of the appropriateness of detention for each individual, depending on the nature and evidence of vulnerability available in their particular case. It involves a balancing of vulnerability considerations against immigration factors (how soon removal is due to take place, public protection concerns, and compliance with immigration law). If an individual is identified as being at risk in the terms of the policy, they will be detained (or their detention continued) only when the immigration factors outweigh the evidence of risk.

As such, the policy strengthens the existing presumption against detention. It does not, however, represent an automatic exclusion from immigration detention for any group of vulnerable, or potentially vulnerable, individuals and the Government has no plans to put in place a framework which fully prohibits the detention of any group of individuals.

Victims of sexual or gender based violence already fall explicitly within the scope of the policy. Individuals who have suffered severe physical or psychological violence are not explicitly referenced, but it is highly likely that such individuals would in any case fall within its scope in that they would meet one of the other indicators of risk set out in the policy (for example, suffering from a mental health condition or impairment, or suffering from a serious physical health condition, or suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, or having been a victim of torture).

Following the High Court judgment on 10 October 2017 in the case of Medical Justice and Others v the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Government has been considering how it can best address the Court's findings in relation to the statutory guidance in respect of the adults at risk in immigration detention policy. This includes consideration of the definition of torture that should apply in the policy. On 16 January 2018, Home Office officials wrote to a range of non-governmental organisations, including Medical Justice and Freedom from Torture, to propose a series of meetings in order to elicit their views as part of the process for developing statutory amendments.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123436/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123437/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123423/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-17/123433/>

Immigrants: Detainees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Afzal Khan (Labour) [123754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce a proactive screening process to identify people brought to immigration detention centres who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence or otherwise recognised as vulnerable under the Adults at Risk policy.

Asylum: Detainees

Afzal Khan (Labour) [123798] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to introduce a proactive screening process to identify before they are detained asylum seekers who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence or otherwise recognised as vulnerable under the Adults at Risk policy.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In response to the Stephen Shaw review the Government has introduced a range of measures to identify and safeguard vulnerable people liable to be detained for immigration purposes

The adults at risk in immigration detention policy, which came into force on 12 September 2016 has introduced a case-by-case evidence-based assessment of the appropriateness of detention for any individual, including victims of sexual or gender based violence, who is considered vulnerable, balanced against the immigration control considerations that apply in their case.

The policy is supported by the cross-cutting Detention Gatekeeper, which assesses vulnerability and provides challenge to decisions about who enters immigration detention, and scrutinises prospects and speed of removal.

The Detention Centre Rules 2001 (Statutory Instrument) and published Home Office guidance provide additional safeguards including individuals being offered a physical and mental examination within 24 hours of admission to detention, a requirement for immigration removal centre doctors to report to the Home Office any special illness or conditions (including torture) that might affect an individual remaining in detention and processes for staff to follow when there has been a change to the physical or mental health of a detainee, or a change in the nature or severity of their identified vulnerability, that may impact on the decision to detain.

There are no plans to introduce additional proactive screening processes to identify people before or during immigration detention who are survivors of sexual and gender-based violence or otherwise recognised as vulnerable under the Adults at Risk policy.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-19/123754/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-19/123798/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Ruth George (Labour) [123978] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration detentions took place in the (a) north of England, (b) North West, (c) East Midlands and (d) West Midlands in (i) 2016 and (ii) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our published detention data is available at the

following link:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017-data-tables

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/123978/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Ruth George (Labour) [123980] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the maximum detention time in reporting centre holding rooms in the immigration estate was in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the length of detention for individuals held in reporting centre holding rooms is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Reporting centre holding rooms are not open overnight and the length of length of time in detention for individuals held in these locations would not usually exceed twelve hours, although there may be occasional short extensions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/123980/>

Deportation

Louise Haigh (Labour) [122955] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people assigned for deportation have (a) sustained injuries or (b) died (i) immediately before boarding or (ii) onboard deportation flights leaving the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There have been no deaths over the last five years of people being removed under escort on a flight from the UK.

Published Immigration Enforcement transparency data shows that there were 7,678 attempted escorted removals in 2015, 8,175 in 2016 and 3,873 in 2017 up to 30 June (quarter 2). It can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#immigration-enforcement>.

Information on the timing of any injury (whether immediately before boarding or on-board) and the type of escorted removal (whether scheduled or Home Office charter flight) is not readily available from central records and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost through a manual search of individual case files.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/122955/>

Deportation

Louise Haigh (Labour) [124168] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2018 to Question 122955, on Deportation, how many detainees have sustained injuries during attempted escorted removals in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Published Immigration Enforcement transparency data can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#immigration-enforcement>.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/124168/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/122955/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Sharkey (Liberal Democrat) [HL4614] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the headline figures for net immigration into the UK for each of the last ten years; and what is the margin of error in thousands in each case.

Lord Sharkey (Liberal Democrat) [HL4615] To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms are used to calculate annual net immigration into the UK; what is the level of confidence in these figures; what attempts are being made to improve their accuracy; and by when they expect any improvements will be made.

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

... The Office for National Statistics (ONS) released the latest estimates (for the year ending June 2017) of Long-Term International Migration (LTIM) on 30 November 2017¹. Table 1 shows the immigration, emigration and net migration estimates for years ending June 2007 to June 2017 and the confidence intervals associated with these estimates. Confidence intervals (CI) are commonly used as indicators of the reliability of estimates. For example, net long-term international migration to the UK was estimated to be 230,000 in year ending (YE) June 2017 with a CI of +/- 42,000. This means that in 95 out of 100 times we expect the true number to be within the range 272,000 and 188,000.

Table 1: UK Immigration, emigration and net migration, YE June 2007 to YE June 2017

	Immigration	+/-CI	Emmigration	+/-CI	Net Migration	+/-CI
2007	595	39	387	33	+ 287	:
2008	571	38	375	38	+ 267	:
2009	563	37	397	28	+ 205	:
2010	582	30	347	21	+ 244	:
2011	589	30	342	19	+ 263	:
2012	517	26	349	22	+ 167	34
2013	502	29	320	19	+ 182	34
2014	574	31	320	22	+ 254	38
2015	639	34	303	20	+ 336	39
2016	652	34	316	21	+ 336	40
2017 ^p	572	35	342	23	+ 230	42

Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS), Home Office, Central Statistics Office (CSO) Ireland, Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

Notes: Totals may not sum due to rounding. "p" – provisional,

":" – Not available,

"0~" – Rounds to zero.

This table uses 95% confidence intervals (CI) to indicate the robustness of each estimate.

Estimates of LTIM to and from the UK are produced by ONS primarily based on data from the International Passenger Survey (IPS), with adjustments made for asylum seekers, people whose intentions change with regard to their length of stay, and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) data on migration to and from Northern Ireland, based on GP registrations. LTIM estimates are based on the United Nations definition of a long-term international migrant, that is, someone who changes their country of usual residence for a period of one year or more. Further detail on the methodology related to international migration is available via the ONS website².

ONS continually reviews and improves the quality of our statistics to ensure that public debate is wellinformed. We recently worked with the Home Office using their Exit Checks data to better understand how many non-EU students departed

the UK after their initial period of leave to study and published our findings on 24 August 2017³. During 2018 we will continue to examine Exit Checks for other groups of migrants who are on work or family visas.

In September 2017 ONS held a Population and Public Policy Forum, at which we set out an ambitious programme of work to develop migration statistics using the powers available under the Digital Economy Act (2017). We published a timetable to improve migration statistics which will ensure that in 2019 we have a richer set of statistics. These will provide insight not just on net migration flows but more detail on how long migrants have been here, which areas of the country they are in and the impact on society, economy and at a local level. Along the way we will publish insights from these data to ensure that the public and policy-makers have the best information we can provide as major decisions are taken in this important policy area. A National Statistical blog is available which provides an overview of this forum and the detailed timeline of planned work to 2019⁴

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/november2017>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/topicspecificmethodology>

³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/whats happeningwithinternationalstudentmigration/2017-08-24>

⁴ <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2017/09/22/ons-forum-new-era-for-migration-statistics/>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-10/HL4614/>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-10/HL4615/>

Migrant Workers

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL4710] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they plan to address reported concerns among business leaders that the current net migration target risks leaving the UK labour market short of critical skills.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is clear that the UK is open for business. We recognise that the UK benefits from immigration, but not uncontrolled immigration. Reducing net migration is not incompatible with continuing to attract international talent to come here to study and work here. There are a range of options for the future immigration system and it is important that we understand the impacts on the different sectors of the economy and the labour market. We will ensure that decisions on the long-term system are based on evidence.

On 27 July 2017, we commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to gather evidence on patterns of EU migration and the role of migration in the wider economy. The MAC will advise on the economic and social impacts of the UK's exit from the EU and also on how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy. It will report in September 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-15/HL4710/>

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL4769] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made on the UK's reliance on EU workers, and the effects of Brexit on industries that rely on these workers.

Reply from Lord Callanan: We have been clear that following our exit from the

EU, we will continue to welcome those with the skills, drive and expertise to make a positive contribution. We are also committed to avoiding labour shortages in key sectors.

The Government has commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to gather evidence on patterns of EU migration and the role of migration in the wider economy, ahead of our exit from the EU. The MAC will build on the significant analysis already underway in government, but we want the MAC's credible, independent advice to inform our decisions on our future immigration arrangements.

The MAC commission provide a clear channel for business and other employers to express their views, and their findings will be used to inform decisions about the post EU exit immigration arrangements.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-16/HL4769/>

Undocumented Migrants: Bank Services

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL4667] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many names are on the Home Office's list of disqualified persons which is shared with Cifas for the purposes of implementation of the responsibilities of banks and building societies under the Immigration Act 2016 to check existing current accounts and inform the Home Office if an account holder is a disqualified person.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Immigration Act 2016 bank account measures only apply to disqualified persons. These are known illegal migrants who are liable for removal or deportation from the UK, and the Secretary of State for the Home Department considers that they should be denied access to banking services. The Home Office does not comment on numbers on the disqualified persons list as it is subject to change based on immigration status.

The 2016 Act measures came into force on 30 October. As detailed in secondary legislation regulations, banks and building societies are legally required to conduct their first immigration check on all existing personal current accounts in the first calendar quarter of 2018. Under these measures, banks and building societies will be obliged to report any matches to the Home Office.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-15/HL4667/>

Children in Care: Refugees

Baroness Stroud (Conservative) [HL4855] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied refugee children were transferred to local authority care under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 in each quarter of 2017; what were the countries of origin of those children; and how many unaccompanied refugee children transferred to local authority care in this way (1) are still in local authority care, (2) have aged out of the care system, (3) have subsequently been reunited with family, or (4) have gone missing.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In 2016, we transferred over 900 unaccompanied children to the UK from Europe, including more than 750 from France. On 30 November, the Government published data on the numbers of children transferred to the UK from the Calais camp clearance. The data can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transfers-of-children-to-the-uk-from-the-calais-operation-november-2017>

We are fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and are working very closely with Member States, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and NGO partners to identify and transfer children to the UK in line with each individual Member State's national laws. Over 220 children are already here and

transfers are ongoing.

The Home Office publishes a range of data on asylum claims from unaccompanied children which can be found at the following link. This data relates to all unaccompanied children who have claimed asylum in the UK and does not provide a breakdown depending on the child's method of entry.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4855/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Stroud (Conservative) [HL4856] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied refugee children have been brought to the UK under the Dublin III Regulation in each quarter of 2017; and what were the countries of origin of those children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Asylum_quarterly_report.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4856/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Stroud (Conservative) [HL4857] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average waiting time from submission of application to arrival in the UK for unaccompanied refugee children whose asylum applications are lodged in (1) France, and (2) Greece.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing EU agreement to determine responsibility for examining an asylum application. It does not cover those who have been determined as refugees. We are committed to ensuring transfers take place quickly. As per the Regulation, Member States are obliged to transfer individuals as soon as possible, and at least within 6 months of accepting the transfer.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4857/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4847] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they intend to put in place better to track displaced children across Europe.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Unless they are on UK territory, migrant children remain the responsibility and under the jurisdiction of the European Member State in which they are present. The Government notes the European Commission's proposal from 2016 on a new Eurodac Regulation. Eurodac is the EU fingerprint database of asylum seekers and certain illegal migrants. This is entirely subject to negotiations, but it is interesting to see the Commission's proposal to reduce the age of stored fingerprints for children from 14 years, to six years of age. As noted in the Government's Explanatory Memorandum in 2016 on this proposal, we welcome this proposed change as it may help improve monitoring migrant children on the move.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4847/>

Asylum

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4845] To ask Her Majesty's Government what efforts are being made to organise safe routes for asylum seekers, avoiding dangerous sea crossings.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We operate four resettlement schemes, working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide safe and legal routes to the UK for the most vulnerable refugees: Gateway, Mandate, the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme and the Vulnerable Children's Resettlement scheme.

The UK supports the principle that those in need of international protection should claim in the first safe country they arrive. The UK Government has committed more than £2.46 billion in response to the conflict in Syria. We have also allocated more than £100 million assistance in response to the Mediterranean migration crisis, mostly within Europe. The Prime Minister announced a further £75 million for the Central Mediterranean migration fund in July 2017

We have a comprehensive framework for refugees and their families to be safely reunited in the UK. Our family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection here to reunite with them. The Immigration Rules also provide for relatives with protection in the UK to sponsor children in serious and compelling circumstances. This policy is designed to provide a safe and legal route for close, dependent family members to join their refugee family in the UK, avoiding the need for them to make dangerous journeys to seek protection.

The UK continues to actively support the UN negotiations on the Migration and Refugee Compacts; our aim is to ensure these focus on supporting refugees and migrants closer to home, preventing dangerous journeys, tackling smuggling, as well as encouraging more resettlement globally.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4845/>

Asylum: Fees and Charges

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4848] To ask Her Majesty's Government what application fees, if any, give potential asylum seekers more rapid progress through the UK's asylum process.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are no fees for asylum applications and no provision to pay for an expedited service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4848/>

Health Services: Asylum

Baroness Taylor of Bolton [HL4859] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to recover the cost of NHS treatment from failed asylum seekers.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: Some groups of failed asylum seekers are exempt from charge for National Health Service secondary care under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015, as amended.

In situations where charges do apply to overseas visitors for NHS secondary care, including where the person is a failed asylum seeker, providers of that care must make and recover charges from the person liable where this is possible.

Where a clinician considers the need of the overseas visitor to be non-urgent in that treatment can safely wait until the person returns to their home country, payment must be received in advance of the provision of the treatment.

Immediately necessary treatment or urgent treatment, which clinicians assess as being unable to wait the person's return to their home country, will not be withheld pending payment. It is a matter for the provider of NHS secondary care services what measures it takes to recover costs from overseas visitors that have received services to which they are not entitled free of charge, which might include

agreeing a repayment plan with the patient or writing the debt off as unrecoverable.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-17/HL4859/>

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4699] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Immigration Removal Orders were executed in (1) 2005, (2) 2010, (3) 2012, and (4) 2015.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold the information you have requested in a reportable format. The Government publishes Immigration Statistics which details the number of enforced removals by year. This can be found at:

Removals and Voluntary Departures data tables Immigration Statistics October – December 2015

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2015-data-tables>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-15/HL4699/>

Deportation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL4702] To ask Her Majesty's Government what financial and other assistance they give to those due to be removed on immigration grounds during the seven day period when those individuals are allowed to appeal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office provides accommodation and support to migrants only in specific circumstances during the appeal period. These are for asylum seekers under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 if they do not have adequate accommodation or the means of obtaining it, and some persons granted immigration bail if they are subject to a residence condition, are unable to support themselves at the specified address and exceptional circumstances apply. The Home Office also provides assistance and advice to facilitate voluntary returns.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-01-15/HL4702/>

UK Parliament Petition

Family re-unification for refugee children

Philippa Whitford (SNP): ... I rise to present this petition on family reunification for child refugees on behalf of St Patrick's Primary and Symington Primary, which, as UN rights-respecting schools, have been considering the experience of children driven from their homes by war.

After watching the film "Paddington", about a refugee from Peru, the children drew the most precious things they would put in their little suitcases, particularly family photographs. They have written luggage labels asking that refugee children be reunited in this country not just with parents, but with grandparents, aunts and uncles. Tiny suitcases and labels may not be the image of today's child refugees, but in the run-up to Holocaust Memorial Day, they remind us all of the 10,000 children saved from Nazi Germany by the Kindertransport.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to extend the current definition of family relation to unaccompanied child refugees entering the United Kingdom.

Following is the full text of the petition:

[The petition of residents of the United Kingdom, Declares that the government must do more to protect the rights of refugee children, in particular their right to protection and to be reunited with their family in the United Kingdom; and further that it is vital that the law is altered to recognised the broader range of individuals as family, and that in addition to parents, children's siblings, aunts, uncles and grandparents are also acknowledged as family members. The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to extend the current definition of family relation to unaccompanied child refugees entering the United Kingdom. ...

[P002100]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-24/debates/18012435000309/FamilyRe-UnificationForRefugeeChildrenStPatricksPrimaryTroonAndSymingtonPrimary>

Press Releases

An asylum seeker may not be subjected to a psychological test in order to determine his sexual orientation

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2018-01/cp180008en.pdf>

Integration of migrants: Commission presents toolkit to help Member States make the best use of EU funds

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-364_en.htm

Learning from the Holocaust to address today's refugee situation

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2018/learning-holocaust-address-todays-refugee-situation>

Amid Crisis of Solidarity, Deputy Secretary-General Urges Faith-Based Groups to Use 'Your Moral Voice' in Support of Dignity for Refugees, Migrants

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/dsgsm1123.doc.htm>

New Publications

Asylum Statistics

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01403/SN01403.pdf>

Right to Remain Toolkit

<https://www.righttoremain.org.uk/toolkit/index.html>

Toolkit on the Use of EU Funds for the Integration of People with a Migrant Background

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/guides/2018/toolkit-on-the-use-of-eu-funds-for-the-integration-of-people-with-a-migrant-background

News

Doctors blocked by Home Office from taking up vital NHS jobs

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/jan/23/doctors-blocked-by-home-office-from-taking-up-vital-nhs-jobs>

Restrictive post-Brexit immigration 'seriously damaging' to universities

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15899121.Restrictive_post_Brexit_immigration_seriously_damaging_to_universities/

Deal with France 'could bring hundreds more child refugees to UK'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/26/deal-france-hundreds-child-refugees-uk>

Rush to Calais after Theresa May's promise on asylum claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-27/news/rush-to-calais-after-theresa-may-s-promise-on-asylum-claims-70j5kwpk2>

UK Home Office tells stateless man: go home

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/22/uk-home-office-tells-stateless-man-go-home>

MPs urge Home Office to rethink statelessness procedure

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/23/mps-urge-home-office-to-rethink-statelessness-procedure>

Migrant women are being scared away from the NHS because the Home Office is taking data from patient records

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-nhs-patient-record-data-migrant-women-health-care-abortion-a8180906.html>

Number of EU nationals being detained at immigration removal centres increases fivefold since Conservatives came into power

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-nationals-immigration-detention-removal-centres-fivefold-increase-figures-conservatives-brexit-a8180286.html>

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Community Relations

News

As anti-extremism chief, I hear my critics – but I'll listen to victims too

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jan/26/extremism-victims-sara-khan-study>

St Stephen's head likened to Hitler as activists step up attack on hijab-ban school

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/st-stephens-head-likened-to-hitler-as-activists-step-up-attack-on-hijab-ban-school-6gjfnth8x>

Black Men Walking: a hilly hike through 500 years of black British history

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2018/jan/23/black-men-walking-royal-exchange-manchester-testament>

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Universal Periodic Review

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11314&i=102965&c=2056894#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Christianity

Jeffrey Donaldson (DUP) [122593] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps have been taken by the Government in response to the recommendation in paragraph 6.2.4 of the Council of Europe Resolution 2036 (2015) on enabling Christians to fully participate in public life.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: Britain has a proud tradition of religious tolerance, within the law. The Government is committed to creating a strong and integrated society in which hatred and prejudice are not tolerated and in which all people are free to express their religious identity and live without fear of harassment and crime.

The Government is committed to ensuring that people are protected against discrimination because of religion or belief, and that they are able to exercise the right to hold and manifest their beliefs in a reasonable manner. We support people's right to conduct their lives in accordance with the Christian faith (as well as other faiths and beliefs) providing this does not unlawfully interfere with the rights of others.

More generally, the Government greatly values the vital role that Christian organisations – and individual Christians - have in our society and the participation they have in national life, inspiring a great number of people to get involved in public service and providing help to those in need, as well as acting as a moral beacon. Our Christian heritage is something that we can all be proud of.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122593/>

The Council of Europe Resolution referred to above can be read at

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/xref/xref-xml2html-en.asp?fileid=21549&lang=en>

News

Record number of ethnic minority students applying to university, figures show

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/education/15896312.Record_number_of_ethnic_minority_students_applying_to_university_figures_show/

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Holocaust Educational Trust

6. **Adam Tomkins (Conservative):** To ask the Scottish Government what support it is giving to the Holocaust Educational Trust. (S5O-01699)

Reply from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills (John Swinney): We must never forget the Holocaust and the people who continue to suffer because of genocide and intolerance, racism and bigotry.

Since 2009, the Scottish Government has provided the Holocaust Education Trust with funding for the lessons from Auschwitz project. The funding began in 2009 with £214,000 per year and has since risen to £296,000 per year in 2017-18. That is a total of £2.25 million over the period. That illustrates the Government's commitment to providing opportunities for Scotland's young people to develop as responsible citizens, which is a key element of our curriculum. To date, the project has reached more than 68 per cent of Scotland's schools, with 3,200 Scottish

students having participated in it along with more than 500 teachers.

Adam Tomkins: The Holocaust Educational Trust plays a leading role in promoting Holocaust memorial day, which is on Saturday and on which Bill Kidd has a question in First Minister's questions in a few moments. Holocaust memorial day falls on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, which the Deputy First Minister visited with Scottish schoolchildren recently.

It was my honour to open our Parliament's annual Holocaust memorial day debate earlier this month, which this year focused on the theme of the power of words. Will the Scottish Government stand with me and with every member of this Parliament who spoke in that debate in pledging to remember the unique horror of the Holocaust and thanking the Holocaust Educational Trust for its invaluable work in ensuring that we will never forget?

John Swinney: I agree unreservedly with the remarks that Mr Tomkins made in his question. The events of the Holocaust must be forgotten by nobody, and as we look at the troubled and uncertain world in which we live today, there is even more requirement for people to be reminded of the horror of the Holocaust.

As Mr Tomkins said, I accompanied Scottish school pupils to Auschwitz-Birkenau in November. Despite my having extensively studied that period of modern history, nothing prepared me for what I witnessed. The experience for our young people, of whom I was enormously proud—they were much younger than me but were able to handle with great dignity, care and understanding the events of that trip—indicated to me that the investment that we make in the work of the Holocaust Educational Trust is vital to ensuring that we sustain among our young people that understanding and their appreciation of those terrible events.

The First Minister represented the Government at a Holocaust memorial day event last night in the city of Glasgow, which was run by our schools and was another fine tribute to the excellence that exists within Scottish education, and to the deep understanding of the significance and horror of the events that Mr Tomkins raises in Parliament today.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11325&i=103051#ScotParlOR>

Holocaust Memorial Day

7. **Bill Kidd (SNP):** To ask the First Minister how the Scottish Government is marking Holocaust memorial day. (S5F-01972)

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): We must never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and other genocides around the world, which are a stark reminder of the inhumanity and violence that bigotry and intolerance can wreak if left unchallenged. Last night, I was honoured to speak at this year's national event to mark international Holocaust memorial day, which took place at Glasgow Caledonian University. I commend Interfaith Scotland and the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for their excellent work in organising that event. I know that members across the chamber will be marking the day in different ways. We must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder in challenging hatred and promoting a world where everyone lives with fundamental human dignity.

Bill Kidd: I thank the First Minister for that answer and acknowledge the support that the Scottish Government gives to the Holocaust Educational Trust. I will also thank, if he does not mind my doing so, the Presiding Officer for his support of the Holocaust Educational Trust in Parliament this week.

I stated earlier that the Deputy First Minister was deeply affected by his recent visit to Auschwitz with 200 Scottish school pupils. Colleagues from across the chamber have been moved by their visits to Srebrenica and to other sites of genocide and persecution across the world. Such terrible atrocities remind us of man's inhumanity to man, but those who have been lost to us will never be forgotten. Will the Government continue to support projects in our schools that give Scotland's young people the chance to remember, learn and play their part in consigning intolerance and genocide to the history books forever?

The First Minister: As the Deputy First Minister said just before First Minister's questions, the role of education is vital and can never be overstated. Last night, I listened again to a very impressive young woman who was part of the programme of schools visits to Auschwitz. I have heard the testimony of many of those young people who have visited and it never fails to have an impact and to move me deeply.

I have not yet had an opportunity to visit Auschwitz—the Deputy First Minister visited recently—but I hope to do so in the future. Around 18 months ago, I took the opportunity to visit Srebrenica. I knew a lot about the Bosnian genocide in theory, but it was not until I visited the site and the memorial and talked to people who had been affected—some of the bereaved and survivors—that I felt the true impact. I know that other members have had similar experiences. It will live with me for the rest of my life.

With every year that passes, since the second world war in particular, it becomes more important that remembrance continues: we must ensure that the next generation never forgets. That is why Holocaust memorial day and all the events around it are so important. This year's theme is the power of words. We have been reminded today that we can all learn lessons about that. Words have great power, so we should all be careful how we choose them.

At the very end of today's First Minister's questions, notwithstanding all the many things that divide us as a Parliament, a country and a society, we should come together to remember the power of our common humanity. This is Holocaust memorial week, but today is also the day on which we celebrate the birthday of our national bard. It is appropriate that those things are in such close proximity, because in many ways, Robert Burns personified that humanity in saying:

“That Man to Man, the world o'er,
Shall brothers be for a' that.”

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11325&i=103064#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-10103 Jackson Carlaw (Conservative): Chelsea FC Challenges Anti-Semitism – That the Parliament notes Chelsea FC's new initiative against the scourge of anti-Semitism; understands that the long-term initiative will officially launch on 31 January 2018 as part of the team's inclusion work through the Chelsea Foundation's campaign, Building Bridges; welcomes that the news that it will be working with valued organisations, such as the Holocaust Educational Trust and the Community Security Trust, and considers that such positive action from football clubs can do much to educate people about and prevent the bigotry of anti-Semitism.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-10103>

Scottish Parliament Time for Reflection

Catherine Bough (Royal High School, Edinburgh): ... Last year we took part in the Holocaust Educational Trust's lessons from Auschwitz project with 200 students from across Scotland. As part of the project we visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, where 1.1 million Jews were murdered.

I still struggle to put into words my feelings from that visit. We saw children's shoes and a jumble of prosthetic limbs, taken from the most vulnerable upon their arrival at the camp, and the small concrete path alongside the tracks, marking the spot where families were torn apart.

At the end of the day, we gathered at the end of those tracks. Rabbi Garson, who had

been with us all day, led a commemorative service, at which he sang a Jewish prayer for the dead. Here was a Jewish Rabbi singing in Hebrew in a place where more than 1 million of his people had been murdered. I felt so empowered by the beauty of his ultimate act of defiance. It felt like a statement to say that there are still Jewish communities in Europe and that we should remember them. Our final action that day was each to light a candle to commemorate those whose lives were lost. It was beautiful.

Ben Petrie (Royal High School, Edinburgh): One of the main things that I took from the visit was the importance of not viewing the perpetrators simply as monsters. What the Nazis did was incomprehensible in many ways, but we must remember that the Holocaust was committed by ordinary people. Failing to acknowledge their humanity is too easy. The perpetrators had the power to choose.

This year's theme for Holocaust memorial day is the power of words. Today I ask everyone to consider what happens when we stand by, not using our words, and when we do not call out anti-Semitism, racism and hatred. I have learned about the Holocaust and what happened when people failed to use their voice. When people stay silent, hate can flourish.

We have had a unique opportunity through the lessons from Auschwitz project and, in turn, we have had our perspective changed forever. As Holocaust survivors become less able to share their testimony, it is the duty of the trust's ambassadors around Scotland to ensure that the Holocaust is remembered and to spread the invaluable lessons that we have learned. If we can encourage people to speak out, perhaps we will see a future where anti-Semitism and prejudice will never again lead to such atrocities.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11320&i=102997&c=2057348#ScotParIOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [122385] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of hate crimes that have been reported to police in each of the last five years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office collects information on the number of hate crimes recorded by the police, by monitored strand. The latest statistics are published in the 'Hate crime, England and Wales, 2016 to 2017' statistical bulletin, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2016-to-2017>

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/2018-01-12/122385/>

Universities: Hate Crime

Paul Masterton (Conservative) [123656] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many instances of (a) antisemitism, (b) homophobia and (c) islamophobia on university campuses have been reported to his Department in each of the past 12 months.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: The Department for Education does not hold this information, however my department and this government takes all forms of hate crime extremely seriously. There is no place in our society – including within

higher education – for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism. In September 2015, the government asked Universities UK (UUK) to set up a Harassment Taskforce to consider what more can be done to address harassment and hate crime on campus. The taskforce's report, 'Changing the Culture', published in October 2016, recommended a zero-tolerance approach to harassment and hate crime.

On 27 July 2017 UUK published a directory of case studies detailing the innovative projects universities have developed to address the taskforce's recommendations. These include Goldsmith's hate crime reporting centre (case study 11) which is a joint initiative with the local authority in Lewisham and the Metropolitan Police, which provides students and staff with a safe space to report incidents. These are published on UUK's website:

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/changing-the-culture-case-studies.aspx>. In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for England has provided £1.8 million for projects to improve responses to hate crime and online harassment on campus.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England is currently working with UUK to test the sector's response to the taskforce's recommendations and the full results will be published in spring 2018.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-18/123656/>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

Universities: Antisemitism

Ian Paisley (DUP) [123060] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle anti-semitism on university campuses.

Reply from Sam Gyimah: This government takes anti-Semitism extremely seriously. There is no place in our society - including within higher education – for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism, including anti-Semitism.

Higher education providers are autonomous organisations, independent from government. They have a clear responsibility to provide a safe and inclusive environment.

In September 2015, the government asked Universities UK (UUK) to set up a Harassment Taskforce to consider what more can be done to address harassment and hate crime on campus, including antisemitism. The taskforce's report, 'Changing the Culture', published in October 2016, recommended a zero-tolerance approach to harassment and hate crime.

On 27 July 2017, UUK published a directory of case studies detailing the innovative projects universities have developed to address the taskforce's recommendations. These include Goldsmith's hate crime reporting centre (case study 11) which is a joint initiative with the local authority in Lewisham and the Metropolitan Police, which provides students and staff with a safe space to report incidents. These are published on UUK's website:

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/changing-the-culture-case-studies.aspx>. In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) has provided £1.8 million for projects to improve responses to hate crime and online harassment on campus.

HEFCE is currently working with UUK to test the sector's response to the Taskforce's recommendations and the results of this will be published early this year.

On the 16 January, the government announced a partnership between the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and the Department for

Education. These departments are providing £144,261 of joint funding for a new programme to support universities in tackling antisemitism on campus. The programme will be delivered by the Holocaust Educational Trust and will involve 200 students and university leaders from across the country visiting the former Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Upon their return, they will take part in a seminar, which will deal explicitly with campus issues and how to identify and tackle antisemitism.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123060/>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

Internet: Bullying

Anna Turley (Labour Co-op) [123945] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of the Royal Foundation's National Action Plan to Tackle Cyberbullying, published on 16 November 2017, to tackle on-line (a) Islamophobia, (b) homophobia and (c) antisemitism.

Reply from Margot James: The Royal Foundation has played a key role bringing together technology companies with those working hard to protect children, in order to help create industry-driven initiatives and encourage the companies to take their social responsibility seriously.

The Royal Foundation's National Action Plan tackles cyberbullying which can include islamophobia, homophobia and antisemitism. In our Internet Safety Strategy, we consulted on introducing a code of practice, which will build on the Royal Foundation's work. As set out in the Digital Economy Act 2017, the code will address all forms of bullying, insulting, intimidating and humiliating behaviour by setting out guidance for social media providers about what they should do in relation to conduct on their platforms.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-22/123945/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

http://www.royalfoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Action-Plan_17115-1.pdf

Antisemitism

Ian Paisley (DUP) [123016] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of antisemitism and Holocaust denial; and what steps his Department is taking to tackle antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: We work closely with the Community Security Trust, the Police and the Home Office to tackle antisemitic incidents, which have no place in our communities.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government hosts the Antisemitism Working Group which brings together community representatives and officials from across Government to ensure a coordinated response to antisemitism, whether at home, abroad or online.

The UK was also the first country in the world to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of Antisemitism which is a useful tool in understanding how Antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st century.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-16/123016/>

Religious Freedom

Jeffrey Donaldson (DUP) [122597] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Local Government, what steps have been taken by the Government in response to the recommendation in paragraph 6.6 of the Council of Europe Resolution 2036 (2015) on combatting and preventing cases of violence, discrimination and intolerance and on carrying out effective investigations in order to avoid any sense of impunity among the perpetrators.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government takes all forms of hate crime seriously including hate crime perpetrated against Christians. 'Action against Hate' the UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime specifically mentions anti-Christian Hate Crime and the work we are doing to prevent attacks against all places of worship including churches. We are supporting work through the police online reporting mechanism True Vision to encourage victims of anti-Christian hate crime to report incidents to the police. We would expect all incidents of hate crime to be investigated effectively and perpetrators brought to justice. We also support a number of projects in schools including the Anne Frank Trust which use Anne's diary to educate young people about all forms of prejudice and intolerance.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-15/122597/>

The Council of Europe Resolution referred to above can be read at
<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/xref/xref-xml2html-en.asp?fileid=21549&lang=en>

Press Release

Holocaust Memorial Day

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/holocaust-memorial-day-2/>

We must never forget diplomats who rescued Jews from Nazis: article by Boris Johnson

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/we-must-never-forget-diplomats-who-rescued-jews-from-nazis-article-by-boris-johnson>

'We are all at risk' when humanity's values are abandoned; UN honours memory of Holocaust victims

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58488#.Wm4nl5P1WnY>

Message by President Jean-Claude Juncker on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day 2018

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-18-393_en.htm

Learning from the Holocaust to address today's refugee situation

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2018/learning-holocaust-address-todays-refugee-situation>

Ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, OSCE officials call for increased commemoration efforts, as part of commitment to addressing anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/368191>

New Publication

Holocaust Memorial Days: An overview of remembrance and education in the OSCE region

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/hmd2018?download=true>

News

Football Act repeal bid passes first Holyrood vote

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-42804642>

Scottish Government faces historic defeat over anti-sectarian football law

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15898348.Scottish_Government_faces_historic_defeat_over_anti_sectarian_football_law/?ref=mr&lp=2

Why MSPs should back James Kelly's bid to repeal offensive behaviour at football Act

http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/15898604.Herald_View_Why_MSPs_should_back_James_Kelly_s_bid_to_repeal_offensive_behaviour_at_football_Act/

MSPs vote in favour of repealing controversial Football Act

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/msps-vote-in-favour-of-repealing-controversial-football-act-1-4672525>

Holyrood votes to repeal controversial Offensive Behaviour at Football Act in landmark defeat for the SNP

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/holyrood-votes-repeal-controversial-offensive-11914782>

Vote to scrap football law a 'sad day for Scotland', MSPs told

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/scotland/587467/vote-to-scrap-football-law-a-sad-day-for-scotland-msps-told/>

Labour to develop new anti-sectarian strategy for Scotland

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15902485.Labour_to_develop_new_anti_sectarian_strategy_for_Scotland/

Sick SDL exploit death of homeless veteran to stage racist rallies against Sturgeon

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15902466.First_Minister_Nicola_Sturgeon_targeted_by_Scottish_Defence_League/?ref=mr&lp=6

Inside the Scottish Defence League - the far-right group's racist agenda exposed

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15902465.Inside_the_sad_deluded_world_of_the_far_right_Scottish_Defence_League/?ref=mr&lp=7

Anger as Labour selects one BME candidate in marginal seats

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/jan/23/labour-selects-just-one-bme-candidate-in-marginal-seats>

Sectarian fight being undermined by cash cuts, claim Labour

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/sectarian-fight-being-undermined-by-cash-cuts-claim-labour-1-4668986>

Admiral insurance denies 'racism' allegations by The Sun

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-42795981>

Doreen Lawrence: if stab victims were white, MPs would care more

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/26/doreen-lawrence-if-stab-victims-were-white-mps-would-care-more>

Finsbury Park: Man 'wanted to kill Muslims in van attack'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42778184>

Driver accused of ploughing van into Muslim crowd allegedly told police 'At least I had a proper go'

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/driver-accused-killing-man-after-11895866>

Imam tells of saving 'Finsbury Park mosque attacker, Darren Osborne,' from angry crowd

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-01-25/news/imam-mohammed-mahmoud-protected-finsbury-park-mosque-attacker-darren-osborne-from-worshippers-fzvscgj9f>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Encouraging blood donation

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/encouraging-blood-donation/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Topical Questions: Justice

T8. Matthew Offord (Conservative): Islamic and Jewish religious traditions insist that bodies be buried as soon as possible after death, so does the Minister agree with me that it is reprehensible for the north London coroner, Mary Hassell, independently to insist on a policy in which "no death will be prioritised in any way over any other because of the religion of the deceased or family"? [903481]

Phillip Lee: ... I am aware of the situation, having met representatives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Muslim burial representatives in October 2016. Coroners are independent of the Government, but I do recognise that there are some sensitivities around this issue and that there have been some difficulties in communication between the coroner and certain parties. That is why I would be very happy to meet my hon. Friend and, indeed, those representatives again in the Department.

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-23/debates/D99155F5-016E-4004-BF7A-B368F87287FF/TopicalQuestions#contribution-FC52C09F-EA58-4BB0-A542-F6B74673EA31>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Forced Marriage

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [123776] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many cases were referred to the Forced Marriage Unit in (a) 2012, (b) 2013, (c) 2014, (d) 2015 and (e) 2016; how many of those cases were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service in each of those years.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: The UK is a world leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our dedicated Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) leading efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. The FMU gives advice or support through its public helpline or by email. In 2012, this amounted to 1,485 cases related to a possible forced marriage; 1,302 cases in 2013; 1,267 cases in 2014; 1,220 cases in 2015; and 1,428 cases in 2016. The FMU public

statistics are published annually here:

www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage#statistics-on-forced-marriage-collected-by-fmu. The FMU works closely with UK statutory agencies such as the police and social services, but does not refer cases directly to the Crown Prosecution Service.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-19/123776/>

News

Campaigner Sara Khan to lead new counter-extremism body

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-42807560>

Campaigner Sara Khan appointed by Government to lead anti-extremism drive

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/news/uk-world/586728/campaigner-sara-khan-appointed-by-government-to-lead-anti-extremism-drive/>

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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>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/2018/1/22/Domestic-Abuse--Scotland--Bill--Consideration-prior-to-Stage-3/SB%2018-03.pdf>

Revised Explanatory Notes

<http://www.parliament.scot/Domestic%20Abuse%20Scotland%20Bill/SPBill08AENS052018.pdf>

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

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

Stage 1 Debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11325&i=103079#ScotParlOR>

Motion agreed

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11325&i=103081&c=2058651#ScotParlOR>

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>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

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

EVEL (English Votes for English Laws) Memorandum

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0005/EU-Withdrawal-bill-EVEL-memorandum-committee-and-report-stage.pdf>

Joint Committee on Human Rights report: Legislative Scrutiny: The EU (Withdrawal) Bill: A Right by Right Analysis

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/774/774.pdf>

Scottish Parliament debate on the Legislative Consent Motion Interim Report to the Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11320&i=103010&c=2057606#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Finance and Constitution Committee: European Union (Withdrawal) Bill LCM - Interim Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/FCC/2018/1/9/European-Union--Withdrawal--Bill-LCM---Interim-Report/FCCS052018R1.pdf>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

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

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>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Modernising the EU's common visa policy (closing date 2 February 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/modernising-eus-common-visa-policy_en

EU funds in the area of migration (closing date 8 March 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/eu-funds-area-migration_en

Electoral Reform (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

**** Human Rights** (closing date 16 March 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106453.aspx>

A Connected Scotland: Tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger communities (closing date 27 April 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530204.pdf>

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.

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Discrimination Law in 2018: The authoritative review of the most dynamic area of employment law

29 January 2018 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to provide an update on discrimination in relation to employment law. For information see

<http://tinyurl.com/y6vxwcbb> or contact Ross Mathers 0141 228 5919 /

equalityactscotland@equalityhumanrights.com

**** this week!**

Working with Interpreters

31 January 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

8 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. Reduced rates

available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** this week!**

Hate Crime and 3rd party reporting advisory panel

1 February 2018 in Glasgow (10.30-12.30)

West of Scotland Regional Equality Council are setting up an advisory panel to challenge issues and barriers around under-reporting of hate crime, and 3rd party reporting. For information see https://scojec.org/memo/files/17-18_wsrec.pdf or contact Rabeea rqureshi@wsrec.co.uk / 0141 337 6626.

New Scots: Refugees and VPRS Resettlement

6 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

19 April 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/it93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Rape Crisis Scotland training information evening

7 February 2018 in Glasgow (6.30-8.30)

Rape Crisis Scotland is looking for self-identified women to volunteer on the national helpline supporting survivors of sexual violence.

Rape Crisis Scotland information evening for people who would like to benefit from a supportive atmosphere, excellent training, and personal and professional development. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9vbgotf> or contact Mridul Wadhwa 0141 3314188 / volunteer@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

8 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuu> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Introduction to Policing Programme**

Four day course: 18 February, 4, March, and 10 March 2018 in Edinburgh; 24 February 2018 in Tulliallan

Police Scotland course for people from minority ethnic communities to provide an insight into being a police officer. Includes input from specialist departments, fitness test, and an opportunity to visit the unique training facility at Tulliallan. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/18ii_ps.jpg or contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

20 February 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explain fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and we will explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

20 February 2018 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

27 February 2018 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Age Assessment Awareness

21 February 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

The Age assessment process is used to establish the approximate age of an unaccompanied young person who may have been trafficked or otherwise separated from their families, so that their Rights and entitlements can be fulfilled. This Scottish Refugee Council course provides social workers and other relevant staff with an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Supporting Those Affected by Forced Marriage

21 February 2018 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid workshop to demystify forced marriage and help those attending to gain the knowledge they need to provide appropriate support to those affected. For information contact 0131 226 6606 / info@womensaid.scot or see <http://womensaid.scot/training-event/supporting-affected-forced-marriage/>

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

1 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Immigration Act 2016: "The Hostile Environment" basics

13 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training for people providing services to or working with immigrants need 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 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

20 March 2018 in Perth (9.30-12.30)

20 March 2018 in Perth (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/> or contact 0141 353 2220 / home@positiveactionh.org

Refugee Rights to Housing

21 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to identify the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, learn how to identify their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations

towards them. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging Hard to Reach Groups

28 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

('earlybird' deadline (for reduced fee) is 3 February 2018)

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> (full programme now available on the conference website) or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

Refugee Community Sponsorship

24 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.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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