

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Medically Trained and Qualified Refugees (Registration)

Clare Haughey (SNP): ... To ask the Scottish Government how it is supporting medically trained and qualified refugees in Scotland to achieve medical registration and contribute their skills to NHS Scotland. (S5O-02095)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): The Scottish Government is providing funding to the refugee doctors project, which is run by a partnership that is led by the Bridges Programmes. It aims to support refugees who were fully qualified doctors in their home countries to achieve General Medical Council registration and a licence to practise medicine. The new funding provided for this year means that the project has been expanded to include dentists, for the first time. I am delighted to say that 37 doctors have benefited from the project since funding was first provided in April 2017.

Clare Haughey: Will the cabinet secretary take this moment to acknowledge recent analysis that shows that Scotland has stood by its claim to be a sanctuary for people who are fleeing conflict—in particular, the city of Glasgow, which has had the highest intake of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers relative to its population?

Reply from Angela Constance: Recent analysis by the BBC looked at Home Office statistics for refugees and asylum seekers alongside population statistics. I am pleased to quote the article, which stated:

“It appears that Scotland has generally embraced its claim to be a ‘sanctuary’ for those fleeing conflict. Glasgow has taken 63 refugees and asylum seekers per 10,000 in the city—the highest level in any local authority.”

I pay tribute to Glasgow’s knowledge and expertise in supporting refugees and asylum seekers. It has been vital to the collaborative work on our “New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018-2022”. That shared vision and partnership approach to new Scots has supported local authorities the length and breadth of Scotland that have, since 2015, welcomed about 2,200 refugees through the Syrian resettlement programme.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11536&i=104633#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Kate Green (Labour) [143763] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will publish an immigration white paper before the Migration Advisory Committee's final report on the effect on the UK labour market of the UK's exit from the European Union is published.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our first priority in negotiations was to reach a deal on citizens' rights, which we did in December. This gives certainty to those EU citizens living in the UK, and UK nationals living in the EU, that they can continue living their lives broadly as now.

We are considering a range of options for the future immigration system and will set out initial plans later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-14/143763/>

Immigration: Legal Aid Scheme

The following two questions both received the same answer

Laura Pidcock (Labour) [141905] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent assessment he has made of trends in the demand for legal aid for immigration cases.

Laura Pidcock (Labour) [141906] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether he has made a recent assessment of the effect of changes in funding for legal aid on the level of people's access to advice and assistance on immigration issues; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The Government is currently undertaking a post-implementation review of the impact of the legal aid changes made under the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. An assessment of the impact of recent changes to the provision of legal aid for non-asylum immigration cases will be made as part of the review process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-08/141905/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-08/141906/>

Information about the review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/post-implementation-review-of-laspo>

Visas: Families

The following three questions all received the same answer

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [142914] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many employees of universities have applied for visas for their (a) spouses and (b) families in each of the last five years; and how many of those applications have (a) been accepted, (b) been rejected and (c) are still pending.

Visas: Married People

Ben White (Plaid Cymru) [142915] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time is for his Department to process spousal visas.

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [142916] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what compensation his Department provides to people who experience delays with their spousal visa applications.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific data requested is not available. Information on the employer of those individuals sponsoring visa applicants is not collected by the Home Office as it is not required as part of visa application processes.

Published data on visa processing times, including the percentage of visas processed within published service standards, is published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> (then listed by publication date under 'UK Visas & Immigration').

Should a customer wish to seek compensation 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>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-10/142914/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-10/142915/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-10/142916/>

Visas

Ben Lake (Plaid Cymru) [142917] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to UK Visa and Immigration is to process (a) spousal visas and (b) student visas.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes a list of Border, Immigration and Citizenship (BIC) application fees and estimated unit costs which can be reviewed via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691200/Fees_Unit_Cost_Table_-_April_2018.pdf

(a) A spouse can submit a dependant application under a number of different routes depending on the visa category of their spouse/partner. However, if the individual is making an application to join their spouse/partner who is them self settled in the UK, or a British citizen, they would apply via the Route to Settlement category, which is shown on page 4 of the linked table.

(b) The estimated unit costs for both In-UK and overseas student visa applications are shown on page 3 of the linked table.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-10/142917/>

Visas: Health Professions

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [142466] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 May 2018 to Question 140194, for what reasons information on Tier 2 applications by doctors and nurses turned down over the last 12 months is not included in statistics published by his Department.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information requested on specific professions is not held on the statistical databases and could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Statistics on refusals of applications for Tier 2 visas are published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142466/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-01/140194/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Jo Stevens (Labour) [143800] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Department has made an assessment of the effect of the NHS surcharge for non-EEA migrants on the recruitment and retention of non-EEA NHS staff.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [143801] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department will make an estimate the cost of a waiver on the NHS surcharge for non-EEA citizens working in the NHS.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: The Department has not made an assessment of the effect of the National Health Service surcharge for non-European Economic Area (EEA) migrants on the recruitment and retention of non-EEA NHS staff and we have no current plans to make an estimate of the cost of a waiver on the NHS surcharge for non-EEA citizens working in the NHS. Whilst the Government fully recognises the contribution that international professionals make to the United Kingdom and to our health service, it is only right that people who come to the UK for more than six months should contribute to the running of the NHS.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-14/143800/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-14/143801/>

Immigration: Married People

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deidre Brock (SNP) [142476] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when he plans to issue guidance to UK citizens who are living with non-EU spouses in the UK under the Surinder Singh principle on their residence rights after the UK leaves the EU.

British Nationals Abroad: EU Countries

Deidre Brock (SNP) [142477] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate his Department has made of the number of UK citizens with non-EU born spouses who have returned to the UK from another EU Member State under the Surinder Singh principle.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have reached an agreement with the EU on citizens' rights that will protect those EU citizens and their family members who are lawfully resident in the UK by 31 December 2020. We will introduce a new settlement scheme under UK law for EU citizens and their family members to secure their rights under the Withdrawal Agreement.

Although not covered by citizens rights' agreement with the EU, it is our intention

that family members of UK nationals who have exercised their free movement rights in another EU Member State before returning to the UK before 31 December 2020, as per *Surinder Singh* case law, will be eligible to apply for the UK's settlement scheme. We will provide details in advance of the scheme opening on the eligibility of those who benefit from the *Surinder Singh* judgment to apply for the settlement scheme.

Currently, non-EU born spouses of British citizens returning to the UK from another EU member state under the *Surinder Singh* judgment are not required to apply for a right of residence and therefore no estimate of numbers is available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142476/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142477/>

Information about the *Surinder Singh* principle, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/family-permit/surinder-singh>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Caroline Lucas (Green) [143734] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 10 May 2018, HCWS674 on Immigration, if he will make is his policy that information in response to the call for evidence to inform design of the compensation scheme will not (a) be used for the purposes of immigration enforcement and (b) affect access to welfare benefits.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information provided as part of the Call for Evidence will only be used to inform the design options and scope of the compensation scheme. It will not be used for the purposes of immigration enforcement or affect individual's access to welfare benefits.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-14/143734/>

Immigrants: Caribbean

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [142465] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether his Department has allocated additional funding for the Windrush generation taskforce.

Reply from Elizabeth Truss: The Home Office has already established and resourced the Windrush taskforce. This dedicated team is already helping the people affected evidence their right to be here and to access the necessary services. The Home Office is continuing to work through the detail of any other potential costs to the department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142465/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [142440] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the mobile application for the registration of EU nationals for after the UK leaves the EU will be available in languages other than English.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have established user groups to discuss the development of a scheme for EU citizens to apply for settled status. This includes the design of the Rules, guidance and systems; testing them as they are developed; understanding the range of user needs; and our plans for communications about the Scheme to ensure EU citizens understand what they need to do. We are conscious of the need to ensure the application process is straightforward and accessible, including language needs, particularly of vulnerable groups. We will be setting out more detail in the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142440/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [142441] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultations his Department is holding with trade unions to raise awareness among EU nationals in their workplaces of the (a) need and (b) process to apply for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is vital that the over three million non-UK EU citizens and their family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply under the settlement scheme. That is why the Home Office has already launched a national 'stay informed' awareness campaign to set out EU citizens' rights after the UK leaves the EU and to point towards reliable sources of information, including official emails from the government.

Further comprehensive communications activity is planned in line with the roll-out of the settlement scheme later this year, including a multi-channel advertising campaign tailored to reach EU citizens. In addition, we have a well-established programme of stakeholder engagement, including businesses and EU citizens' representatives – and will ensure trade unions, regional and employer organisations, associations and trade bodies are fully involved.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142441/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [143621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy that EU citizens who have indefinite leave to remain will have to apply for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens with indefinite leave to remain (ILR) in the UK will not need to apply for UK settled status once the UK has left the European Union (EU). Their incumbent rights and privileges will not be affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

However, where such individuals are also covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, they might find it useful to apply to the EU Exit Settlement Scheme to obtain updated documentation which they can use to demonstrate their rights. There will be no application fee for settled status where an applicant has documentary evidence that they have valid indefinite leave to remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-14/143621/>

Migrant Workers

Stephen Timms (Labour) [142306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance his Department issues to employers on the documentation which must be presented to enable a non-EU citizen to work in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Guidance to employers on conducting Right to Work checks, which includes the documents they may accept as evidence of someone's right to work in the UK, is published at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checks-employers-guide>.

In the event that employees, or prospective employees, are unable to present documentation which is acceptable for the purposes of demonstrating their right to work, the employer may contact the Home Office's Employer Checking Service to confirm if an individual has the right to work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142306/>

Migrant Workers: NHS Trusts

The following two questions both received the same answer

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [143189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many tier 2 visas were awarded to NHS Trusts or other bodies which are registered sponsors in each month from December 2016 until April 2018.

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [143190] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier 2 visas were declined or deferred to NHS Trusts or other bodies which are licensed sponsors in each month from December 2016 until April 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office. The number of Tier 2 visas awarded to licensed sponsors can be found on the Home Office website. Published data on Tier 2 visas can be found in the immigration statistics release.

The available published Tier 2 information relates to outcomes (grants, refusals, withdrawn, lapsed) of visa applications, broken down by visa type (including Tier 2 skilled visas) and is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-11/143189/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-11/143190/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Angus Brendan McNeil (SNP) [142377] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what payments his Department has made to private companies for (a) keeping people in custody and detention and (b) deporting people in relation to immigration cases in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office uses private companies to provide detention facilities for immigration purposes, as well for the provision of escorting and travel services in relation to Removals.

The operating costs for each of these contracts is commercially confidential and public disclosure would prejudice the commercial interests of the Home Office and its suppliers. However, the Home Office publishes payments in excess of £25K on its website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/home-office-spending>

The data available on the link above covers the period up to the end of January 2017. Further transparency spend data will be uploaded to this web address by July 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142377/>

Human Trafficking

Joanna Cherry (SNP) [141352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made on the effect of the modern slavery strategy on preventing human trafficking.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The 2017 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery details the steps the Government has taken to prevent and tackle modern slavery, including through implementation of the Modern Slavery Strategy. The report provides an assessment of performance across a range of indicators and future plans to build on this. The report is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-04/141352/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration Applications

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the assessment of immigration applications by UK Visas and Immigration, given that 40 per cent of immigration appeals heard by the Immigration and Asylum Tribunals in 2016 were granted.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, UKVI is focused on improving the quality of all decision-making. While appeals are allowed for a variety of reasons, and many of the appeals being heard are now fairly historic, we recognise that continued improvement is necessary. That is why investment is being made via a stronger assurance regime, better and more frequent training, strengthened feedback loops, and creating new governance and structures. Additionally, we are working with Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service on reducing the number of outstanding appeals and the time taken through the appeals system.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: I thank the Minister for her response, but this whole scenario shows that we are in a very desperate situation. For instance, I was told by the Minister that, in 2005, 17% of decisions went to appeal. That was 13,221 decisions. By 2016 this had doubled to 40%. That means that 40% of folk were dissatisfied and, on appeal, won. I imagine that, over the past 10 years, we have had perhaps 200,000 successful appeals. Does this situation not undermine confidence in the Government and in the initial decision system of the immigration process? Is it not time that we did something about this? Forty per cent is not something to be played about with. ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... The noble Lord rightly makes a point about the number of appeals increasing. Actually, they went down slightly in the past year, but the number of applications is increasing over time and that is something to be mindful of. He also asked about better decision-making. I have several things to say about that. First, the average age of appeals being determined by the First-tier Tribunal is, according to HMCTS statistics, 50 weeks. That is a considerable length of time. The latest data on win rates is certainly not where we would like it to be.

Appeals are allowed for a variety of reasons. Often it is because new evidence is presented before the tribunal that was not available to the decision-maker at the time. Often, the information is presented very shortly before the hearing and too late for the Home Office to withdraw the case. But one specific reason for the higher rate of allowed appeals is that many cases going through the appeal system are now quite old. The average age of a human rights case is over a year. In that time, often appellants have built up new rights.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, given that we heard on the news last night that over 60 of the Windrush generation may have been wrongly deported, and the recent observation of the UN special rapporteur that shifting from the rhetoric of a hostile environment to one of a compliance environment will have little effect if the underlying legislative framework remains intact, will the Government now review that legislative framework as a matter of urgency?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will refer to the cases that the noble Baroness asked about—63 people who may have been wrongly deported. As the Home Secretary said, the department has been checking records back to 2002, some 16 years ago, when electronic records began, looking at all removals and deportations of Caribbean nationals aged 45-plus. So far, 63 cases have been identified where Caribbean individuals could have entered the UK before 1973. This means that, of the 8,000 total deportation and administrative removal records that came up, so far there is a focus on 63 because something in their record indicates that they could have entered before 1973. Of those, there are 32 foreign national offenders and 31 administrative removals. So it does not mean

that 63 people have been wrongfully removed or deported; it is the number of cases that merit further investigation. But I thank the noble Baroness for bringing that point up.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, there has been much discussion about targets for the number of removals over the past few weeks, which we are all aware of. As the average length of time that these appeals are taking is increasing, is it not the case that we need some targets to reduce the length of time, because people are being left in limbo with their lives are on hold as these are going through?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate is absolutely right to point out what we are endeavouring to do, which is to reduce the amount of time that people spend in limbo, to use a Christian term, while their appeals are heard or indeed while their cases are heard. I thank him for making that point. It is what we are endeavouring to do.

Lord Kirkhope of Harrogate (Conservative): My Lords, is it not correct that, from time to time, we review the criteria that are applied in the appointment of tribunal chairmen and members? Will my noble friend indicate whether that review has taken place recently and what the basic criteria are for appointing the chairs of tribunals?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My noble friend is absolutely right to make the point about the review of tribunal members. I cannot tell him when the last review was, but I certainly will write to him.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, what does the Minister think is the reason for the increasing number of appeals?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think I tried to explain that to the noble Lord, Lord Roberts. It is noticeable that one of the specific reasons for the higher rate of allowed appeals is that many of the cases going through the appeals system are very old. As I said to the noble Lord, Lord Roberts, the average age of a human rights case is over a year, and appellants have often built up new rights over that time.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-16/debates/144B7767-FC74-4F2B-A02A-BE9D03B9DA2B/ImmigrationApplications>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Beecham (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure the safety and well-being of asylum seekers during periods of detention in the prison system and during their removal from the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the dignity and welfare of those in our care is of the utmost importance and we accept only the highest standards from those who manage the detention estate. Detention and removal are essential parts of effective immigration controls and it is vital that they are carried out with dignity and respect. We are working with our new escorting contractor, Mitie Care and Custody, to ensure that appropriate focus is placed on welfare considerations during removal from the UK.

Lord Beecham: My Lords, this Question is prompted by a report from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons, which related that there were 80 staff members on a flight organised by a subsidiary of Capita in which 23 asylum prisoners were being deported, 22 of whom were placed in waist restraints that were neither necessary, proportionate nor reasonable, in the inspector's view. Bad language was used and the only female detainee was forced to use the toilet with the door open. How many more cases of mistreatment of prisoners and asylum seekers by the private companies engaged by the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office to run our prison and asylum services will Her Majesty's Government tolerate before terminating their contracts and taking the service back in-house?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I stress that the Government do not have a dogmatic approach to contractors where private is bad

and public, or in-house, is good. It is important that the companies that we contract with meet the standards that we set when we engage them. A service improvement plan will be issued shortly. All escorts are fully trained in HOMES techniques—that is, the *Home Office Manual for Escorting Safely*—and they undertake regular refresher training courses. For the new contractor, which started on 1 May, we will revisit some of the assessment processes and the use of de-escalation techniques.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, have we forgotten Jimmy Mubenga? The coroner who inquired into his death during his removal recommended that the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice, “rigorously review the approved methods of restraint, and specifically the use of force in overseas removals”, and mentioned, “appropriate techniques and bespoke training packages”.

The Minister just mentioned training but it does not sound as though it has taken. In this case, the Chief Inspector of Prisons said: “What we found was pre-emptive and excessive use of restraints that was indicative of poor operational practice and inadequate management”.

Will things change?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness will appreciate that I will not talk about individual cases, but she is absolutely right that the dignity and welfare of all people in our care is of utmost importance. Physical force should be used only after a thorough risk assessment and in consideration of each individual’s personal circumstances. Restraints should be removed at the earliest opportunity. Home Office contractors, including escorting staff, are expected to behave in a professional, calm and measured way at all times. The Home Office uses all reports resulting from use of force monitoring reviews to ensure that techniques are used proportionately, are justified and are used for the minimum period required. As I told the noble Lord, Lord Beecham, a review of dynamic risk assessment processes and the use of de-escalation techniques will be undertaken by the Home Office and the new escorting provider.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister accept that there is a much wider issue here? The ability to remove immigration offenders, including failed asylum seekers, is vital to the credibility of the entire immigration system. None of that excuses some of the behaviour in the report, as referred to by the noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, but let us keep our eye on the ball. There is a wider issue here, but we need to clean up the actual mechanics.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The report in question focuses on third country removal charter flights, but the noble Lord is nevertheless absolutely right that while people should be treated properly and humanely, with risk taken proportionately, we have to ensure immigration removal for those who should not be here.

Lord Harris of Haringey (Labour): The noble Baroness told us in answer to the question from the noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, that there is an automatic reporting system when force is used. In the cases that have come to light from Her Majesty’s inspectorate, how many of those reports of force being used were received by the department and was the force considered proportionate by the department? What does the Home Office do when it receives these reports?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord will know that the report was produced just today. On the proportionate use of force, I have recognised that use of de-escalation techniques will be reviewed. That will be undertaken by the Home Office and the new provider. I do not have the numbers before me but I can certainly ask and get them to the noble Lord.

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, Her Majesty’s inspector’s report says: “Clearly, some senior-level intervention is required to ensure that the situation is rectified without delay”.

Who is the most senior person in the Home Office dealing with this? What criteria have been laid down for the new provider, which will be signed off by that senior person, to ensure that this can never happen again?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord is absolutely right to point out that this sort of thing should never happen again. I assume the most senior member is the most senior management person within the detention estate who organises these things. I do not have that sort of detail before me. I hope the noble Lord will appreciate that I have had very short notice of this Question. I am not trying to avoid his question. I will get back to him in writing.

Lord Marlesford (Conservative): My Lords, that exchange of questions illustrates perfectly the point I want to make. This is yet another example of the incompetence of the Home Office in not being able properly to supervise the performance and activities of its subcontractors. This is not a major management problem. If the Home Office really cannot manage that then truly, as a noble Lord who is a former Home Secretary said, it is not fit for purpose. What is it going to do about it?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I just explained that a service improvement plan will be released very shortly. We always have to learn from events such as this and make sure that we improve our processes and treat people properly.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, what arrangements are there so that when someone is deported to another country they will be welcomed or at least have some sort of support when they get to their new destination?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It might be helpful to the noble Lord if I say that the individuals we are referring to in the report are third country removal individuals on charter flights back to countries in Europe. These people are from all over the world. They came to Europe using the Dublin regulations but they have found themselves here. I do not think that the question that the noble Lord asks is particularly relevant to this situation.

The Lord Bishop of Durham: My Lords, would the Minister agree that this case supports why we need to develop alternatives to detention as a matter of priority?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate is absolutely right that detention is used only when all other methods of removal have failed. Detention should be used rarely, not commonly. It is not used where someone willingly leaves the country.

Lord Berkeley (Labour): My Lords, given the questionable reputation of the Home Office on these issues going back many years, many of us would question whether its review of procedures that the Minister mentioned will be independent. Would it not be better if a more independent body did these reviews, maybe including Her Majesty's inspectorate?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: That is a very apposite question. In fact, we will work with HMIP to scrutinise, first, what happened and, secondly, how things can be improved.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-15/debates/B3EDC83C-F6B5-4B1D-A9FE-41792077C3DC/AsylumSeekers>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Legal Aid Scheme: Immigration

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7535] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reinstate legal aid for those seeking to challenge their immigration status; and what safeguards they will put in place to prevent wrongful prosecutions by the Home Office.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: Early legal advice is available for all legal cases within the scope of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act

2012 (LASPO), subject to means and merits tests.

Legal aid remains available for individuals seeking advice on claiming asylum or challenging their detention under immigration powers. This includes applications and appeals against asylum decisions, and judicial review of certain immigration issues, subject to the applicant passing the statutory means and merits tests.

The changes made to LASPO are currently being reviewed as part of a post-implementation review. This will include the changes made to the scope of early legal advice and legal representation. The results of this review will be published later this year.

The Home Office are putting in place a dedicated Windrush case-working team which will help those affected through the system. The Home Office is ensuring that the process will not require anyone to seek legal advice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-02/HL7535/>

Immigration

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench) [HL7540] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of (1) married couples, and (2) civil partners, that might be separated as a result of Brexit.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The agreement we have reached with the EU on citizens' rights protects those EU citizens and their family members, including spouses and civil partners, exercising free movement rights in the UK before the end of the implementation period on 31 December 2020.

During the implementation period, family members will be able to join EU citizens on current EU law terms. After the implementation period, close family members will be able to join an EU citizen covered by the Withdrawal Agreement, where their relationship existed before 31 December 2020 and continues to exist when they wish to join the EU citizen in the UK. Close family members includes spouses, civil partners and durable partners.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-02/HL7540/>

Visas: Married People

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL7315] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time for processing spouse extension visa applications.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The latest information on processing cases by case type is published in the Home Office's in-country Migration Transparency data.

Please see link below, the data required can be found in Tab InC_02

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-february-2018>

and see also attached.

The data does not differentiate between initial spouse leave to remain applications and extensions.

[In Country Migration Transparency Data :Tab InC_02](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-26/HL7315/>

Visas: Married People

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL7316] To ask Her Majesty's Government why no premium service interviews are available for applicants for spouse extension visas.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Premium Service Centre Network offers a range of appointments each week including spouse extension visas. Availability is regularly monitored so that the range of visa appointments which are offered can be adjusted as required.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-26/HL7316/>

Immigration: Commonwealth

Lord Livermore (Labour) [HL7413] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the net contribution to the UK economy of immigrants from the Commonwealth or its predecessor dominions and colonies, in each year since 1948.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: No such estimate has been made.

We value the contribution the Windrush generation have made to the United Kingdom. They were invited to come immediately after the second world war and in the decades that followed to help us to build modern Britain. No formal estimate has been made of the net contribution to the UK economy, but the Government is in no doubt about the debt of gratitude that this country owes to them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-30/HL7413/>

Immigration: Caribbean

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7186] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they have taken to facilitate the provision of compensation for people who suffered due to the Windrush immigration issue.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The former Home Secretary announced to Parliament on 23 April 2018 that where people have suffered loss they will be compensated. The Home Office will set up a new scheme to deliver this, which will be run by an independent person.

The Home Office has launched a Call for Evidence which is an opportunity for those who have been affected, and their families, to tell us what happened, how it has affected them and what they believe the compensation scheme needs to address.

Further information on the findings of the Call for evidence will be published in the coming weeks and will be used to inform the design options and scope of a compensation scheme

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-23/HL7186/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretary-statement-on-the-windrush-generation>

The call for evidence referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-call-for-evidence>

Immigration: Caribbean

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7474] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reassure members of the Windrush generation about the legality of their immigration status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I would not want anyone from the Windrush generation who has made their life in the UK to feel unwelcome or to be in any doubt of their right to remain here.

We have identified influential faith leaders in key cities throughout the UK and Caribbean community groups who will cascade our messages to the Windrush generation. We will identify 10-15 outreach community ambassadors who will carry out this activity. This will include churches, community events and local businesses, in around 400 African Caribbean touch points in five key cities including: London, Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham and Bristol.

Individuals can contact the dedicated Home Office taskforce to help the Windrush Generation and other long-term residents to evidence their right to be in the UK

and to access the necessary services and benefits. They can contact the Home Office, by telephone on 0800 678 1925 or by emailing commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7474/>

Immigration

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7475] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that Home Office immigration services are fit for purpose following the Windrush scandal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: What happened with the Windrush cohort should not have happened. We value the contribution made by Commonwealth citizens who have made a life in the UK and would not want anyone to feel unwelcome or to be in any doubt of their right to remain here.

To ensure that events of this nature do not happen again, the Home Secretary has announced that we will bring independent oversight and challenge to an internal lessons learned review already underway in my department.

The review will seek to draw out how members of the Windrush generation came to be entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants; why that was not spotted sooner; and whether the right corrective measures are now in place. The review will take into account the experiences of those involved and wider reflections on Home Office culture as a whole.

The Home Secretary has asked for the review to aim to complete its work before summer recess.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7475/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7188] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that EU citizens looking for UK residency rights do not experience the same failures faced by Windrush immigrants.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All EU citizens lawfully here when the UK exits the EU will have the opportunity to regularise their status to remain in the country by applying for settled status.

The Home Office is developing a new scheme for settled status from scratch. The application system will be simplified, user-friendly and draw on existing Government data to minimise the burden on applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-23/HL7188/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative) [HL7569] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK registration system for EU citizens resident in the UK will be available in all EU languages.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have established user groups to discuss the development of the Scheme. This includes the design of the Rules, guidance and systems; testing them as they are developed; understanding the range of user needs; and our plans for communications about the Scheme to ensure EU citizens understand what they need to do.

We are conscious of the need to ensure the application process is straightforward and accessible, including language needs, particularly of vulnerable groups.

That is why we have set up an additional user group of organisations that support the vulnerable and that represent EU citizens to obtain their views on how vulnerable groups can be supported through the application process.

We will be setting out more detail in the coming months.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative) [HL7629] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the UK registration system for EU citizens resident in the UK will be promoted through a comprehensive advertising campaign, including on TV.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is vital that the over three million non-UK EU citizens and their family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply under the settlement scheme. That is why the Home Office has already launched a national 'stay informed' awareness campaign to set out EU citizens' rights after the UK leaves the EU and to point towards reliable sources of information, including official emails from the government.

Further comprehensive communications activity is planned in line with the roll-out of the settlement scheme later this year, including a multi-channel advertising campaign tailored to reach EU citizens. In addition, we have a well-established programme of stakeholder engagement, including businesses and EU citizens' representatives.

Migrant Workers: EU Nationals

Lord Pendry (Labour) [HL7570] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of EU nationals working in the travel and hospitality sectors of the UK economy.

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) compiles labour market statistics for people in employment by industry and by nationality from the Annual Population Survey (APS), a household survey of people in the UK. People are classified to industry groups and nationality based on responses given during survey interview. ONS classifies people to industry groups in line with the Standard Industrial Classification 2007 (SIC2007). We have defined the travel and hospitality sectors to include industries covering accommodation for visitors, food and beverage servicing activities, passenger transport, vehicle hire and travel agencies.

For the period January 2017 to December 2017, the latest period available, the total number of EU nationals, including UK nationals, working in the travel and hospitality sectors was 2,141,000. Of these, 1,853,000 were UK nationals, with the remaining 288,000 nationals of other EU countries.

As with any sample survey, APS estimates are subject to a certain level of uncertainty. ...

Deportation

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour) [HL7363] To ask Her Majesty's Government what were the Home Office's annual targets for the removal of illegal migrants for each year since 2010; and how many people were removed because of inadequate documentation in each of those years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Department's approach is set out in Sir Philip Rutnam's letter to the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP, dated 14 May 2018 that my Rt Hon Friend the Minister of State for Immigration deposited in the House Library.

We are currently prioritising Caribbean Nationals. The Home Office has been checking records back to 2002 when electronic records began, looking at all

removals and deportations of Caribbean nationals aged 45 plus. So far there have been 63 cases identified where Caribbean individuals could have entered the UK before 1973. This means of the total 8000 total deportation and administrative removal records that came up, so far there is a focus on 63, there is something in their record that indicates they could have entered before 1973. Of these, there are 32 Foreign National Offenders and 31 administrative removals.

We are now reviewing each of these cases carefully in more depth - including bringing paper files out of storage if necessary - to determine whether anyone who was protected under the 1971 Act was removed or deported unlawfully. This work will be independently assured. This does not mean that 63 people have been wrongfully removed or deported. It is the number of cases which merit further investigation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-27/HL7363/>

The letter referred to above is not yet available online

Deportation: Families

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7292] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children were deported with parents who had failed to be granted asylum in (1) 2016, and (2) 2017.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Immigration Enforcement Transparency data can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data> which provides data on Family Returns by type of return. The data requested is not available in the format requested.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-25/HL7292/>

Deportation: Commonwealth

Lord Moonie (Labour) [HL7330] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria, if any, were set for the award of any bonuses or other incentives to staff in the Home Office to identify candidates for deportation to Commonwealth countries.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Department has not created and does not have bonuses or other incentives in relation to deportations or removals to Commonwealth countries.

No central policy ties to a specific target.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-26/HL7330/>

Deportation: Caribbean

Lord Toberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7472] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to reassure members of the Windrush generation that they will not be deported.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I recognise the concerns of some people in the Windrush generation and I would not want anyone who has made their life in the UK to feel unwelcome or to be in any doubt of their right to remain here. The Home Office has put additional safeguards in place to ensure that no-one from the Windrush Generation will be subject to enforcement action, regardless of whether they have documentation or not.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7472/>

Deportation: Jamaica

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7369] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the reasons for the proposed deportation of Yvonne Williams to Jamaica; and what

assessment they have made of the public interest in preventing the separation of closely related persons.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There are currently no plans to remove Yvonne Williams and her case is still under consideration. The United Kingdom has a long and proud history of granting asylum to those who genuinely need our protection, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention. Each claim is carefully considered on its individual merits

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-04-27/HL7369/>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Windrush Inquiry

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/windrush-children/oral/82932.html>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Stewart C. McDonald (SNP) (1262) Fees for registering children as British citizens –

That this House believes that tens of thousands of children born and living in the UK and entitled to register as British citizens under the British Nationality Act 1981 are nevertheless undocumented and therefore unable to access public services, social security, private rented accommodation, the labour market and many other benefits of citizenship; further believes that some will simply be unaware of the requirement to register and many others will not have the means to afford the fee of over £1,000 charged by the Home Office; notes that the estimated cost of processing such applications is only £372; believes that no child should be prevented from taking up their entitlement to British citizenship simply because of cost; calls for the fee for applications to be reduced to no higher than the cost of processing, for exemptions for children in local authority care, and for fee waivers for children who cannot afford to pay any fee at all; and further calls for steps to be taken to raise awareness of the need to register the right of these children to British nationality.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1262>

Press Releases

Heightened awareness of trafficking

<https://news.gov.scot/news/heightened-awareness-of-trafficking>

Sopra Steria has been awarded a new UKVI contract

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sopra-steria-has-been-awarded-a-new-ukvi-contract>

A Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/708506/Call-to-Action-May-2018.pdf

Over 31 000 unaccompanied minors among asylum seekers registered in the EU in 2017

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-18-3807_en.htm

New Publications

Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at Port of Dover Short Term Holding Facility for reporting Year 2017

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-1ocod6bqky0vo/uploads/2018/05/Dover-2017.pdf>

Annual Report for Immigration Removal Centre The Verne for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-1ocod6bqky0vo/uploads/2018/05/The-Verne-2017-AR.pdf>

Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at North and Midlands Independent Monitoring Board for Short Term Holding Facilities for reporting Year (1 January to 31 December 2017)

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-1ocod6bqky0vo/uploads/2018/05/North-and-Midlands-2017.pdf>

UK Detention Centres Factsheet

<https://corporatewatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/CW-detention-centres-factsheet-2018.pdf>

Waiting in the dark: how the asylum system dehumanises, disempowers and damages

<https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Waiting-in-the-Dark-A4-16-May-2018.pdf>

Auditors identify challenges to integration of migrants in EU

https://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/INBriefing_paper_Integration_migrants/INBriefing_paper_Integration_migrants_EN.pdf

News

Sadiq Khan: UK citizenship fees leave children in limbo

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/14/uk-citizenship-fees-leave-children-in-limbo-says-sadiq-khan>

6,000 await deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-18/news/6-000-await-deportation-70nb00fbq>

Asylum seekers left homeless by failure in Home Office IT

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-19/scotland/asylum-seekers-left-homeless-by-failure-in-home-office-it-3wtmf0z6m>

1,600 IT workers and engineers denied UK visas

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-44113324>

Home Office accused of 'shambolic incompetence' over skilled migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/15/home-office-skilled-migrants-caroline-nokes-immigration>

Home Office faces pressure over deportation of highly skilled migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/20/home-office-faces-pressure-over-deportation-of-highly-skilled-migrants-paragraph-322>

Eastern European workers head home over Brexit fears

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-16/news/eastern-european-workers-head-home-over-brexite-fears-lv5klzvf1>

Windrush migrants still sleeping rough one month after minister's promise

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/21/windrush-migrants-still-sleeping-rough-one-month-after-ministers-promise>

Immigration enforcers 'will not use Windrush taskforce information'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/14/immigration-enforcers-will-not-use-windrush-taskforce-information>

Windrush: Sixty-three people may have been wrongly removed

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-44131136>

63 Windrush migrants deported from the UK, Javid admits

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/63-windrush-migrants-deported-from-the-uk-javid-admits-1-4739848>

Windrush errors may have led to at least 63 removals, admits Sajid Javid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-16/news/windrush-errors-may-have-led-to-at-least-63-removals-admits-sajid-javid-f3dqgn7fl>

Windrush row: 63 people could have been wrongly removed, says Javid

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/15/windrush-row-63-people-could-have-been-wrongly-removed-says-javid>

Windrush cases just 'tip of iceberg' of immigration failings, report warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/17/home-office-dehumanises-asylum-seekers-says-report>

Victims of crime being handed over to immigration enforcement

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/14/victims-crime-handed-over-police-immigration-enforcement>

Home Office suspends immigration checks on UK bank accounts

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/17/home-office-suspends-immigration-checks-on-uk-bank-accounts>

EU rough sleepers win damages for illegal deportations

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-44093868>

Complaint filed against charity over removal of EU rough sleepers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/14/st-mungos-homelessness-charity-complaint-filed-over-unlawful-removal-eu-rough-sleepers>

Labour pledges to shut two migrant detention centres

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/labour-pledges-to-shut-two-migrant-detention-centres-23qrhww36>

Labour plans to close immigration detention centres and scrap 'hostile environment' policy

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/05/16/labour-plans-close-immigration-detention-centres-scrap-hostile/>

Labour would close down Yarl's Wood and end government's 'hostile environment' policy, says Diane Abbott

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/yarls-wood-immigration-diane-abbot-detention-centre-hostile-environment-theresa-may-a8353846.html>

Foreign students: Home Office axe 'unusable' survey

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-44153654>

Home Office-sponsored survey on foreign students is withdrawn

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/may/18/home-office-sponsored-survey-on-foreign-students-is-withdrawn>

Home office advisors pull 'racist' student survey

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/05/18/home-office-advisors-pull-racist-student-survey/>

Home office advisers scrap 'racist' survey assessing impact of international students

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racist-survey-international-students-unethical-home-office-migration-advisory-committee-a8357176.html>

Immigration advisers abandon 'racist' student survey

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-18/news/immigration-advisers-abandon-racist-student-survey-qn2w9sr8z>

Home Secretary to investigate decision to deny Kirk minister British citizenship

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2018/home_secretary_to_investigate_decision_to_deny_minister_citizenship

Former refugee Magid Magid takes up Sheffield Lord Mayor post

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-44144705>

Sheffield's lord mayor might be a 'zaddy' but he's serious about change

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/21/sheffield-lord-mayor-magid>

Windrush: Man left 'broken' after immigration detention

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-44143458>

Windrush victim blames racism at Home Office

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/windrush-victim-blames-racism-at-home-office-zwpmh5rqm>

Race was big factor in deportation scandal, Windrush citizens say

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/16/race-was-big-factor-in-deportation-scandal-windrush-citizens-say>

Windrush man says he wouldn't have been wrongly detained if it weren't for his race

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-detention-racism-home-office-immigration-human-rights-a8355571.html>

Footage emerges of 'distressing' home visit by immigration officers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/16/footage-emerges-of-distressing-home-visit-by-immigration-officers>

Immigration has been good for Britain. It's time to bust the myths

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/17/immigration-good-for-britain-bust-myths-austerity>

A life 'completely destroyed' by one paragraph of immigration law

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/20/a-life-completely-destroyed-by-one-paragraph-322-immigration-law>

How a champion boxer got caught in Britain's immigration dragnet

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2018/may/17/champion-boxer-caught-in-britains-immigration-drag-net-kelvin-bilal-fawaz-operation-nexus>

Home Office grants visa to student in U-turn after 'distressing' visit

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/16/home-office-grants-visa-to-student-in-u-turn-after-distressing-home-visit>

Scots 'more likely' to report people trafficking

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-44184736>

Refugee gardeners vie with Chelsea

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/refugee-gardeners-vie-with-chelsea-33flr7d3x>

There's a remarkable change in the air – our hostility to migrants is on the retreat

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/19/is-brex-it-britain-turning-liberal-as-hostility-to-migration-beings-to-collapse>

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Community Relations

News

Supporting Muslim colleagues during Ramadan

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/supporting-muslim-colleagues-during-ramadan>

Celebrating our mixed-race identity

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/celebrating_our_mixed_race_identity

Cultural appropriation: Sometimes it's so blatant it smacks us in the face, other times it can be a total minefield

https://www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads/cultural-appropriation-term-prom-dress-political-correctness-blackface-performance-costume-a8356526.html

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Equality

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Gypsy Travellers (Rights)

John Finnie (Green): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that public bodies respect the rights of Gypsy Travellers. (S5O-02099)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities (Angela Constance): Scottish ministers expect public bodies to respect the rights of all the communities that they serve, and to be responsive to the needs of those communities in providing high-quality public services. Public bodies also have legal duties to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and

foster good relations. That includes Gypsy Travellers, who are protected as an ethnic group in Scotland.

John Finnie: The cabinet secretary will be familiar with the definition, which refers to people “who consider the travelling lifestyle part of their ethnic identity.”

I have read the ministerial working group’s extensive list of the matters that it intends to cover. I accept that the list does not seek to be exhaustive ... Will the cabinet secretary engage with Gypsy Travellers on traditional stopping-over places, many of which have been sealed up, and encourage landowners, including local authorities and other public bodies, to open up the sites again in order to reinforce the value that we place on the travelling lifestyle?

Reply from Angela Constance: The Scottish Government recognises the rights of the Gypsy Traveller community to a travelling lifestyle that is part of their way of life, tradition and history. I am, together with the Minister for Local Government and Housing, pursuing the issue of halting stops on traditional routes. There are a host of other issues to do with sites and access to other services that need to be resolved to support the right of the Traveller community to their travelling heritage.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11536&i=104637#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Race Disparity Audit

S5W-16443 Adam Tomkins (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will (a) provide a list of stakeholders that it consulted in relation to the UK Government’s Race Disparity Audit; set out concerns raised by them regarding the audit and confirm whether any were in favour of Scotland participating in the audit.

Reply from Angela Constance: Stakeholders whose views were considered in relation to the UK Government’s Race Disparity Audit included BEMIS - Empowering Scotland Ethnic & Cultural Minority Communities, Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Organisations, Coalition for Racial Equality & Rights, Equality & Human Rights Commission and a number of academics.

Concerns raised were in three broad areas: the lack of applicability of the new system to meet Scottish needs (the Equality Evidence Strategy and the reporting regime in the 2012 Regulations address this); the ultimate use to which the data might be put and associated questions around ownership; and the additional resources which would be required to ensure data compatibility with the new system, which would detract from our own work on evidence gathering as well as from public authorities’ delivery of the public sector equality duty.

There was a range of views among stakeholders about participation in the Audit. On balance, having considered a number of factors including the concerns above, the decision was taken not to participate.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16443>

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Evidence session: Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11531&i=104598#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Owner Occupation: Ethnic Groups

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [142446] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,

Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to promote home ownership among BAME communities.

Reply from Heather Wheeler: The Government has made clear that this should be a country that works for everyone, ensuring the housing market works for all parts of our community. The recent race disparity audit has shown only 41 per cent of ethnic minority households are homeowners, compared to 68 per cent of White British households. We are undertaking further research to understand the underlying issues and work to provide solutions to help increase homeownership among BAME communities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142446/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL7446] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the benefits of BME service user-led groups to the mental health system; and what proposals they have made to guarantee continued funding for such groups.

Reply from Lord O'Shaughnessy: The Department and NHS England are committed to working collaboratively with service users, ensuring mental health services are fit for purpose and meet the needs of individuals from a variety of backgrounds, including black, Asian and minority ethnicities.

Programmes such as *Up My Street*, three projects to improve young black men's resilience in Birmingham, highlight the potential benefits to mental wellbeing through participation in community-focused activities, in turn helping to tackle high levels of diagnosed severe mental illness.

Co-production is a core principle of NHS England, and a copy of *A Co-production Model: Five values and seven steps to make this happen in reality* is attached. In responding to the recommendations of the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health*, a Mental Health Black Voices Network has been established to provide feedback on programmes including the design of a mental health community forensic model. Additional funding to support transformation of secure services totals £94 million over the period from 2017/18 to 2020/21.

The Department commissioned an Independent Review of the Mental Health Act to address concerns surrounding the disproportionate number of people from black, Asian and minority ethnicities detained under the Act. An interim report was published on 1 May 2018, and a copy of *The independent review of the Mental Health Act: Interim report* is attached. Work to date has included focus groups with service users and carers to consider issues affecting black, Asian and minority ethnicities, and engagement will continue over the coming months to address known gaps in evidence around best practice models for these communities.

[A Co-production Model](#)

[Independent Review of the Mental Health Act](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7446/>

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL7490] To ask Her Majesty's Government, following the Race Disparity Audit's finding that pupils from Gypsy, Roma, or Irish Traveller backgrounds have the lowest educational attainment out of all ethnic groups in the UK, whether they intend to re-introduce funding for Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The department welcomes the work of third sector groups in developing and promoting Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History

Month and we are supportive of schools' involvement. Schools have an important role to play in celebrating the history and culture of all their pupils and are best placed to decide whether to participate in specific events.

The government is committed to ensuring that all pupils, regardless of background, can reach their full potential. Through the pupil premium we continue to provide additional annual funding of nearly £2.5 billion. This will help schools improve the progress and attainment of their disadvantaged pupils. High proportions of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils are eligible for and will benefit from this support.

The department continues to work with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government on their 2018/19 pilot programme to improve the social integration of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. In March 2018, we launched a review of exclusions which will explore why certain pupil groups, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, are over-represented in exclusions statistics. In addition, as part of the Careers Strategy, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller youth will be a target group for a pilot testing ways of providing careers guidance to vulnerable groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7490/>

Press Release

First ever EU People of African Descent Week honours contributions of Europe's Black populations

<http://www.enar-eu.org/First-ever-EU-People-of-African-Descent-Week-honours-contributions-of-Europe-s>

New Publications

Unemployment by ethnic background

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06385/SN06385.pdf>

Gypsies and Travellers

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8083/CBP-8083.pdf>

Promoting fair and efficient policing for Roma, Sinti and Travellers in the EU: One step forward to end Antigypsyism

http://www.enar-eu.org/IMG/pdf/2018_brief_roma_week_final-2.pdf

News

Should BAME be ditched as a term for black, Asian and minority ethnic people?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43831279>

Police searches of Muslims 'not unfair'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-20/news/police-searches-of-muslims-not-unfair-fmk55hbbg>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Racism

S5W-16551 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the finding in the report, No Problem Here: Understanding Racism in Scotland, that black and minority ethnic applicants for large public sector organisations in Scotland had a 1.1% chance of being appointed, compared with 8.1% for white applicants.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Creating diverse workforces and inclusive workplaces that harness the talents of everyone is crucial to support continuous improvement in Scotland's public services.

Public authorities are subject to a comprehensive set of equality requirements, as set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended). Those requirements include action to improve the delivery of policies and services as well as increasing the diversity of their workforce. Each public authority produces reports on progress with delivery at regular intervals and those reports are regulated by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

As part of the Scottish Government's own equality outcomes as a public sector employer it has committed to increasing the diversity of its workforce to be reflective of Scottish society by 2025.

The Scottish Government, through our Race Equality Action Plan published in December 2017, has committed to a number of actions we will take over this Parliamentary session to drive positive change for minority ethnic communities in Scotland. These include engaging with a wide range of public sector employers in a discussion about what positive actions we can take to improve employment and progression for minority ethnic communities; and publishing a public appointments action plan detailing specific actions on research and positive action steps, in partnership with the Commissioner for Ethical Standards in Public Life in Scotland, race equality and other relevant intermediary organisations.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16551>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Protected Characteristics: Caste

Bob Blackman (Conservative): When the Government plan to respond to the consultation on caste as a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010. [905377]

Reply from the Minister for Women and Equalities (Penny Mordaunt): Our public consultation on how best to ensure that there is appropriate and proportionate legal protection against caste discrimination ran for six months last year. We received more than 16,000 responses, which demonstrates how important this matter is to some groups and communities, and we will respond in due course.

Bob Blackman: I welcome my right hon. Friend to her post. She is the third Minister for Women and Equalities since the consultation closed, and I have no doubt that she is going to wade through those 16,000 responses, which will overwhelmingly be in favour of caste being removed as a protected characteristic. Will she agree to meet me so that I can brief her on the feelings of the community on this matter?

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: I understand my hon. Friend's frustration. He has really championed this issue for a long time. I have already agreed to meet him, and I am very happy to do so, but I can reassure him that previous holders of this post have already briefed me and that this matter is receiving my immediate attention.

Kate Green (Labour): The Minister will be aware that the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 requires the Government to amend the Equality Act 2010 to provide for caste as an aspect of race discrimination, and that case law will not be sufficient to do that. In addition to meeting those who advocate removing caste altogether from the legislation, will she also meet the all-party parliamentary group for Dalits, so that we can explain why the will of Parliament must be followed?

Reply from Penny Mordaunt: I will be happy to do that, and I would like to do it swiftly. I want to ensure that we take absolutely the right decision. The responses to the consultation were heavily weighted towards one outcome, but I want to know the case law and all the arguments before we take any decision.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-17/debates/803296A3-7DB4-4064-847C-8E5F03007B27/ProtectedCharacteristicsCaste>

Topical Questions: Women and Equalities

Colin Clark (Conservative): What measures is the Minister taking to tackle the rise of anti-Semitism? [905395]

Reply from Victoria Atkins: I thank my hon. Friend for his question; it is an extremely important and pertinent one. The number of anti-Semitic incidents in the UK is both unacceptable and, frankly, frightening for anyone of a Jewish background or disposition. We should all do what we can to tackle it. Our relationship with the Jewish community has been built on the solid work of the cross-Government working group on tackling anti-Semitism, which ensures that any issues are brought forward quickly and are dealt with. The Government are providing more than £13.4 million to ensure the security of Jewish faith schools, synagogues and communal buildings, following the concerns raised by the Jewish community. I wish that we did not have to spend that money, but we do, and we are.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-17/debates/5D0C3DE3-E9CC-4407-BDD0-DAB92E2A1555/TopicalQuestions#contribution-C3FE6ED4-FC5B-4E0A-ACDE-6739B1D03145>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7484] To ask Her Majesty's Government when the UK (1) signed, and (2) ratified, the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The UK signed the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 11 October 1966 and ratified it on 7 March 1969.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7484/>

News

Glasgow Central MP Alison Thewliss warns on threat of 'toxic' racism from Brexit

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-20/scotland/glasgow-central-mp-alison-thewliss-warns-on-threat-of-toxic-racism-from-brexit-2c5p6659f>

University racism 'complacency' warning

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-44125777>

Universities need to tackle racism head-on, not deny it exists

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/16/universities-racism-racist-incidents-bad-pr-black-students>

It's time for universities to make race equality a priority

<https://www.theguardian.com/higher-education-network/2018/may/16/its-time-for-universities-to-make-race-equality-a-priority>

Cheerleaders face funding cut after racist sing-along

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/cheerleaders-face-funding-cut-after-racist-sing-along-8tqs7ss2p>

The 'hipster fascists' who anti-racism campaigners say are breathing new life into the far right

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-20/news/the-hipster-fascists-breathing-new-life-into-the-british-far-right-6hvtmq63k>

Let's not confuse anti-Muslim hate with Islamophobia

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-14/comment/let-s-not-confuse-anti-muslim-hate-with-islamophobia-85977vgcg>

Islamophobia is real. Stop the obsession with semantics

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/15/islamophobia-semantics-word>

Police probe allegations of anti-Semitic abuse at top state school

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16230427.Police_probe_allegations_of_anti-Semitic_abuse_at_top_state_school/

Former British soldier jailed for antisemitic speech where he incited supporters to 'free England from Jewish control'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jeremy-bedford-turner-race-hate-speech-antimsemitism-british-soldier-england-jewish-control-a8352561.html>

Far right antisemite convicted after calling for his "soldiers" to liberate the UK from Jews

<https://cst.org.uk/news/latest-news/2018/05/15/far-right-antisemite-convicted-after-calling-for-his-soldiers-to-liberate-the-uk-from-jews>

O2 apologises for racist hate mail sent with Sim cards

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-44109371>

Rangers striker Michael O'Halloran targeted with vile sectarian abuse after Catholic church visit

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/rangers-striker-michael-ohalloran-targeted-12544705>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Funeral and wedding celebrants

S5W-16397 Gail Ross (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has for the introduction of regulation in relation to the practice of celebrants performing funerals and weddings.

Reply from Angela Constance: There are no plans to regulate celebrants performing funerals. In relation to marriage and civil partnership, the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Act 2014 amended the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004. As a result, the Scottish Ministers have powers to lay down qualifying requirements for religious and belief bodies solemnising marriage and registering civil partnership to meet. These powers have not yet been used but the Scottish Government did issue an initial discussion paper in 2014 <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00459045.pdf> Before laying down any qualifying requirements, the Scottish Government would need to carry out further consultation with religious and belief bodies, local authority registrars and other interested organisations.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16397>

Press Releases

UK Government must respect the will of Parliament – Minister

<https://news.gov.scot/news/uk-government-must-respect-the-will-of-parliament-minister>

Respecting Parliament’s view on EU Withdrawal Bill

<https://news.gov.scot/news/respecting-parliaments-view-on-eu-withdrawal-bill>

More people to get funeral cost support

<https://news.gov.scot/news/more-people-to-get-funeral-cost-support>

Ramadan message from the First Minister

<https://firstminister.gov.scot/ramadan-message-from-the-first-minister/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

British Nationals Abroad: Forced Marriage

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL7574] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their policy on payment of emergency loans to British victims of forced marriage overseas.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not funded to provide financial assistance to British nationals overseas, but can provide emergency loans on a discretionary basis, in very exceptional circumstances. The FCO can provide an emergency loan to assist victims of forced marriage, where there are no alternative sources of funding. Emergency loans can be used to fund the reasonable costs relating to repatriation to the UK. The Government recognises the risks that victims of forced marriage can face and the challenges that they may encounter on the return to the UK. This is why emergency loans are offered to assist British nationals in these circumstances.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-03/HL7574/>

Press Release

Foreign Secretary’s Ramadan message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretarys-ramadan-message--6>

New Publications

National Democracy Week

Events Pack

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fiz8v0txl4sdyt3/AADqYGp2vCqGG2NIHeg1xNe-a?dl=0>

Nomination forms for the Democracy Awards 2018

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701580/Nomination_for_a_National_Democracy_Week_Award_2_.docx

Easy read nomination form

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701581/Easy_Read_Nomination_for_a_National_Democracy_Week_Award_1_.docx

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Other News

Lack of FGM convictions 'shows UK law is flawed'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-20/news/lack-of-fgm-convictions-shows-uk-law-is-flawed-k7mq37m6v>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

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>

Scottish Parliament debate.

Motion agreed:

That the Parliament notes the legislative consent memorandums on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill lodged by the Scottish Government on 12 September 2017 and 26 April 2018, and the reports of the Finance and Constitution Committee of 9 January and 10 May 2018, and, because of clause 15 (formerly 11) and schedule 3, which constrain the legislative and executive competence of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government, does not consent to the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, and calls on both the UK and Scottish governments to convene cross-party talks in an attempt to broker an agreed way forward.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11533&i=104614#ScotParlOR>

House of Lords amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0212/18212.pdf>

Bill as amended on Report

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0102/18102.pdf>

Explanatory Notes on Lords amendments

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0212/en/hcb212-en.pdf>

Third Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-16/debates/98F7DF3F-ACE5-42E4-9FF6-F2BB1027EFA5/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-16/debates/98F7DF3F-ACE5-42E4-9FF6-F2BB1027EFA5/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2018-05-10/debates/FB3711FE-AE33-4857-B2A4-B8B4758903F7/ModernSlavery\(VictimSupport\)B%E2%80%8EIII\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2018-05-10/debates/FB3711FE-AE33-4857-B2A4-B8B4758903F7/ModernSlavery(VictimSupport)B%E2%80%8EIII(HL))

Bill as revised in the House of Lords

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0211/180211.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0211/en/180211_ens.pdf

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!**

Police and Fire Reform Act (closing date 24 May 2018)

http://www.parliament.scot/2012_Act_call_for_evidence.pdf

Integrated Communities Strategy green paper (closing date 5 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

**** An immigration system that works for science and innovation** (closing date 6 June 2018)

<https://tinyurl.com/yayrwgcy>

Windrush compensation (closing date 8 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/windrush-compensation-call-for-evidence>

Welsh Government: Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and asylum seeker plan

(closing date 25 June 2018)

<https://beta.gov.wales/nation-sanctuary-refugee-and-asylum-seeker-plan>

Measures to further improve the effectiveness of the fight against illegal content online

(closing date 25 June 2018)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-measures-further-improve-effectiveness-fight-against-illegal-content-online_en

Protection of Vulnerable Groups and the Disclosure of Criminal Information

(closing date 18 July 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/disclosure-scotland/protection-of-vulnerable/>

**** Funeral Expense Assistance Regulations** (closing date 23 August 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/funeral-expense-assistance/>

Antisemitism: Survey of European Jews (closing date not stated)

<http://www.eurojews.eu/>

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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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Year of Young People**

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed.

Year of Young People 2018 celebrates everything that makes Scotland's young people

incredible. As a nation proud of our young people, the Year of Young People puts the spotlight on the contributions and achievements of eight to 26 year olds, while giving them a stronger voice on issues that matter to them, and aims to inspire Scotland through its young people, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contribution to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally and on a global-stage.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoyyp-grant-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoyyp-application-form.docx>

**** Scotland's Winter Festivals, and St Andrew's Fair Saturday**

There is no closing date – the fund will remain open until all money has been distributed. Scotland's Winter Festivals aim to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay, and Burns celebrations, boosting Scotland's key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile. Our diverse ethnic and cultural minority communities are key elements of Scotland's past, present and future so we want to ensure that your story, history, and narrative plays a full part in Scotland's Winter Festivals.

BEMIS Scotland, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, is providing grants of between £250 and £1,000 for constituted charitable and non-profit organisations, and community groups.

For full information see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/swf-2018-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/swf-2018-application-form.docx>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

Working with Interpreters

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!***

Hospitality – Lessons from Refugees.

23 May 2018 in Edinburgh (6.30-8.45)

Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace lecture by Prof Alison Phipps. Over the past two years there has been a rapid increase in the civic organisation of the welcome to refugees worldwide. In many cases it has been clear that civil society has led where politics has lagged far behind. For information see <http://eicsp.org/events/event-details/556-an-evening-with-prof-alison-hipps-23-may-2018/> or contact Neil Walker mesp2018@hotmail.com / 0131 331 4469.

**** this week!**

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

Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator

30 May 2018 in Peterhead (1.15-4.00)

13 June 2018 in Stirling (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2018 in Edinburgh (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2018 in Motherwell (1.15-4.00)

3 October 2018 in Oban (9.45-12.30)

Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and ask questions. Topics will include the role of the charity trustee, and guidance on safeguarding. For information and to book see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator>

**** Interfaith Dialogue and Service in the Community**

1 June 2018 in Dunfermline (7.00-9.00)

Speakers and displays to share how faith makes a difference in the community, and demonstrate support for one another in shared love, caring, compassion, respect, and integration. For information contact fifeinterfaith@live.co.uk / 01383 850 091.

**** Scottish Refugee Festival**

15-24 June 2018

Refugee Festival Scotland celebrates the contribution refugees make to life in Scotland – the food and drink, music and poetry, dance, visual art and ideas that people bring with them when they seek safety in Scotland. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/>

**** Are Refugee Languages Welcome? The Critical Role of Refugee Languages in Integration**

15 June 2018 in Edinburgh (1.00-3.00)

Refugee languages are not an obstacle to integration; instead they provide continuity amidst upheaval and disruption, whilst playing a supporting role in English learning. Bilingualism Matters presents expert talks by high-profile researchers and testimonials from young refugee learners, followed by a round-table discussion with local community organisers and ESOL providers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yavd967n>

**** Young Writers' Society of Glasgow Presents: Challenging Xenophobia through Stories and Art with Young People in Glasgow**

16-19 June 2018 in Glasgow

Community event including an exhibition and workshops to showcase the process and the art-work created by local children and young people between the ages of 7 and 17. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yazlvk9m>

**** Refugee Cycle**

16 June 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Join UNESCO for a physical and mental journey around the themes of migration. No ordinary guided bike ride! Participants will cycle a pre-determined route in small groups, accompanied by experienced ride leaders. At regular intervals along the route there will be informative performances and activities by the UNESCO RILA Artists in Residence

and their partners. Central themes are (forced) migration, community building and hospitality. Basic bike riding skills needed, but free bikes available on site. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/refugee-cycle/>

**** Young and Boundaryless? Youth cultures and migrant integration in Scotland and Europe since the 1950s**

16 June 2018 in Glasgow (11.00-1.00)

Interactive discussion led by Glasgow and Bangor Universities around youth cultures and migrant integration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7pjzfhv>

**** Refugee Festival Scotland Opening Day**

16 June 2018 in Glasgow (12.00-4.00)

Join Scottish Refugee Council for an opening celebration to mark the beginning of Refugee Festival Scotland 2018! For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycq8g3p9>

**** Charlie's Promise: An Afternoon with author Annemarie Allan**

17 June 2018 in Stirling (2.00-4.30)

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, and Scottish Book Trust author reading event with Annemarie Allan who will read from her new children's novel Charlie's Promise. Followed by a discussion surrounding the themes of the book, "the need for humanity in our approach to people who have lost their homes, their families, their countries, and come looking for sanctuary." (John Fulton), and a writing workshop. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycqz9vve>

**** Museum Without a Home**

18-22 June 2018 in Glasgow

Oxfam Scotland and Amnesty International exhibition promoting solidarity with migrants. The exhibition has travelled the world, and exhibits real objects that were donated to people in need of protection, to comfort them and help make the difficulties of daily life more manageable. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8pxy9ox>

**** On the Border of Art and Teaching in the Multilingual World**

18 June 2018 in Glasgow (9.45-4.00)

Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities Cohort Development Fund Programme workshop to explore how art-based methods are and can be used as research tools and as pedagogy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybqgdapu>

**** Modern Apprenticeships: Supporting Refugees and New Scots into Employment**

18 June 2018 in Glasgow (11.00-1.00)

Skills Development Scotland event including workshops on the services provided to support the employment and education of refugees and New Scots. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8pdh8l7>

**** Breaking Down Borders through Children's Books**

18 June 2018 in Glasgow (4.00-5.00)

University of Glasgow School of Education interactive workshop exploring texts related to migration and human rights, ranging from historical journeys through to multicultural books telling tales of migration from around the world. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7robz39>

**** Secure borders, Endangered lives. An International Perspective**

19 June 2018 in Glasgow (5.00-7.00)

University of Glasgow panel discussion to discuss the effects of border securitization, and its consequences on children, young people, and refugees more generally. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ya6swyd9>

**** World Refugee Day Unesco: Rila Lecture – Refugee Integration Through Languages and the Arts**

20 June 2018 in Glasgow (4.00-6.00)

This lecture mines the contested concept of integration for its history, variation and substance. It considers the important work of law and social policy in developing frameworks and duties for integration, especially with regard to the work of *New Scots Integration Strategy, Scotland*. It then moves to examine the place of concepts of integration in conflict transformation, international relations and trauma healing. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y889lyso>

**** New Scots Museum Display**

22 June 2018 onwards in Glasgow

New permanent museum display looking at the lives of a group of refugees and asylum seekers in Glasgow. The display and a new interpretative film is the culmination of a year long engagement programme between the St Mungo Museum and groups of refugees from different religious, ethnic and cultural background living in Glasgow over the past 20 years. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9oafuxe>

**** Celebrate Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month**

22 June 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30)

Invitation to share the culture, history and contemporary life of Gypsy/Roma/Traveller communities, including a presentation from founding members of the Roma Nation Movement, panel discussion, and performance of *Crystal's Vardo*. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/celebrate-gypsy-roma-traveller-history-month/>

**** Strangers? – Just Friends We Have Not Met Yet**

22 June 2018 in Glasgow (4.00-7.00)

Religious Society of Friends creative workshops and get-together on themes of asylum and sanctuary. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ycplp2gu>

**** Untangling Threads**

23 June 2018 in Dingwall (11.00-3.00)

Adults from refugee and immigrant families create a new piece of collaborative art, with the support of Common Threads Sewing Group, and local community artist Lizzie MacDougall. At the same time the children of those participating will work on their own mini masterpieces, with the help of young volunteers from Inverness and the Black Isle. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7lxhflz>

**** The Hate Crime in our Communities**

23 June 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-6.00)

Africa Future activities for asylum seekers, refugees and the local area. They hope to try to change negative perceptions of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the community. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7wvsvx2>

Tackling Hate Speech in a Youth Setting

21 June 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

17 July 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland training to equip those working in a youth setting with appropriate tools for tackling hate speech, explore issues relating to cultural and religious diversity, learn how to recognise hate speech, and how to manage the situation when it occurs. For information contact Jamie Spurway Jamie@interfaithscotland.org / 07921 439 952

Organising for Power

29 June to 1 July 2018 in Fife

10 to 12 August 2018 in Fife

14 to 16 September – venue tba

Training weekends for those tackling the root causes of xenophobia and racism and promoting the rights of migrants/refugees/ asylum seeking people in Scotland to learn how to have a bigger impact and plan campaigns that win. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb8usv6h> or contact o4p@tripodtraining.org

**** Talking to Young People about Equality**

6 September 2018 in Kirkcaldy (6.00-9.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities, and Youth 1st workshop to help youth workers begin a dialogue about equality with young people, and to understand that good knowledge of equality and inclusion will improve their employability. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yceyr6at>

Culture - Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training

12-13 September 2018 in Glasgow (9.00-4.30)

Two day training to address diversity and discrimination issues related to religion and belief and increase skills in order to help create a more inclusive diverse environment For information contact Farkhanda Chaudhry 0141 577 8454 / 07950 008 859 / Farkhanda.Chaudhry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Black History Month

October 2018

Call for submissions to the programme: deadline 16 July 2018

Black History Month aims to raise awareness of the positive role that Black / Minority Ethnic men and women have played in shaping Scotland's history. To submit an event for the 2018 programme complete the form at <https://tinyurl.com/y9zd8xxj> and return it to zandra@crer.org.uk

**** Scottish Interfaith Week**

11-18 November 2018

Scottish Interfaith Week provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity. For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/>

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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