

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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

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

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The UK Parliament is in recess until 4 June 2018.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Immigration

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): I have been very clear that the Government deeply regret what has happened to some of the Windrush generation and about our determination to put it right. Both my predecessor as Home Secretary and I have set out to Parliament the immediate steps that we took to assist those in the Windrush generation but were clear that this was simply a precursor for a more formal arrangement.

I have today laid a statutory instrument which will bring into force the "Windrush scheme" which will ensure that members of the Windrush generation, their children born in the UK and who arrived in the UK as minors, and others who have been in the United Kingdom

for a long period of time, will be able to obtain the documents to confirm their status and, in appropriate cases, be able to obtain British citizenship free of charge.

The Windrush scheme, which will be a distinct scheme, will make it easier for those concerned to receive the support they need and to understand what is on offer. Those applying under the scheme will benefit from the services of the taskforce which will help people to navigate the immigration system and continue to take a sympathetic and proactive approach when assisting people in confirming their status.

The new scheme will come into operation next Wednesday, 30 May. Breaching the normal 21 day rule between laying a Statutory Instrument and its commencement is not something I have done lightly and I am very mindful of the need to observe normal parliamentary protocols. However, my judgment is that the imperative to get the new scheme up and running as swiftly as possible requires this course of action. The Immigration Minister has written to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee to explain further our reasoning.

The new scheme will ensure that members of the Windrush generation—Commonwealth citizens who were settled in the UK before 1973—will be able to apply to become British citizens more easily. They will be deemed to have met the normal requirement for knowledge of language and life in the UK and will not be required to attend a citizenship ceremony, unless they want to. There will be no fees to pay.

Commonwealth citizens who were settled before 1973 but who do not wish to become British citizens, those who are not eligible, and citizens of other nationalities who were settled before 1973 will be provided with documents which confirm their right to remain permanently in the UK and to access services. Again, there will be no fees payable.

Children of the Windrush generation who were born in the UK will themselves be British, though in some cases they may want a document to confirm that status. Others will have the right to register as British. We will facilitate that through the taskforce and waive any application fees involved.

We are providing that a child of a member of the Windrush generation who was born abroad and who came to live in the UK before they were 18 and is still here is eligible for a free application for a document confirming their status or, if they wish, a free application for citizenship.

My predecessor undertook to consider the position of those who came to the UK between 1973 and 1988, when immigration and nationality law changed. Unlike the earlier generation, these people should have had documentary evidence of their entitlement to be in the UK but may no longer be able to prove it. Where they are lawfully in the UK, they can apply for the necessary documentation confirming that free of charge. There is already provision in the immigration system for people whose permanent residence status has lapsed, through a prolonged absence from the UK, to resume their residence here, by obtaining a returning resident visa. It is limited to people who have spent most of their lives in the UK. I am adjusting the visa rules to ensure they are interpreted generously in respect of the Windrush generation, who spent a considerable time in the UK and who may have been unaware that they were forfeiting residence here when they left, for example because they considered themselves British. Again, that application will be made available free of charge.

Equally, there are those of the Windrush generation who retired to another country but want to return to the UK temporarily as visitors to see friends and family. I believe we should make a generous offer to them, recognising their special position and relationship with this country and those who qualify can apply for a visit visa free of charge, valid for 10 years.

In my written statement of 10 May, I announced the opening of the call for evidence on compensation. I am pleased to say that there has been a good response with almost 100 responses received to date. In addition, the Home Office has started an active programme of outreach to understand better the experiences of individuals and help inform the design of the compensation scheme. My officials have made contact with a number of community organisations and their representatives, and have attended events

in a number of hon Members' constituencies. This programme will continue and expand in the weeks ahead, working with Martin Forde QC, the independent person that is overseeing the design of the scheme.

All of this is about swiftly putting wrong the injustices that have been done to the Windrush generation. However, it is also fundamentally important that the lessons from this episode are learned for the future, so that this never happens again.

As I made clear to the House on 2 May, I will therefore ensure that a thorough review is conducted of what happened and why, looking particularly at:

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.

I will also be taking steps to ensure that the review is subject to robust independent oversight and challenge. [HCWS722]

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-24/debates/18052441000018/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Lords: Immigration Rules

Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2018

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-23/debates/28DB1ECB-63E4-4C6C-AE44-676EE5B027BA/SpecialImmigrationAppealsCommission\(Procedure\)\(Amendment\)Rules2018](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-23/debates/28DB1ECB-63E4-4C6C-AE44-676EE5B027BA/SpecialImmigrationAppealsCommission(Procedure)(Amendment)Rules2018)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Ian Blackford (SNP): The Windrush scandal has taught us that the UK Government's "hostile environment" policy has targeted those who legally live here; young people who have grown up in the UK and know of nothing else face losing their lawful settled status because they simply cannot afford the paperwork. Home Office fees have increased by 148% since 2014. These children have the right to be here; the UK is their home. I am giving the Prime Minister the opportunity today: will she scrap these fees for young people, as she has done for the Windrush generation?

Reply from the Prime Minister: A minor who has indefinite leave to remain will have access to benefits and entitlements which put them on an equal footing to their British citizen peers, so a grant of British citizenship is not therefore required. Of course specific exemptions from application fees are provided to several groups with limited means, such as stateless people, victims of modern slavery or domestic abuse, asylum applicants and children who are looked after by a local authority. And the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty on local authorities to promote the upbringing of children in need by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs, regardless of their status.

Ian Blackford: That simply is not good enough. We are talking about up to 120,000 young people in this country. We are talking about young people who live here, who have to wait 10 years and pay up to £10,000 to achieve permanent right to remain. It is shocking. The Government are guilty of creating a generation of undocumented citizens without the rights that many of us take for granted. Will the Prime Minister change her policies that target young people, and will she meet me and my hon. Friend the Member for Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East (Stuart C. McDonald) to resolve this issue?

Reply from the Prime Minister: First, the right hon. Gentleman cites a figure that I certainly do not recognise as the cost that he suggests applies for an application for citizenship here in the United Kingdom. I repeat the point that I have made: a

minor who has indefinite leave to remain will have access to the benefits and entitlements that put them on an equal footing to their British citizen peers. A grant of British citizenship is not required in order for someone to access those rights and benefits.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-23/debates/FC0194CA-193D-4DED-8180-C1F05D070688/Engagements#contribution-76E91FFC-F9BF-462B-B0BC-4F37F0A9C3BE>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Crime

David Lammy (Labour) [144782] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reports of immigration crime his Department received from the Department for Work and Pensions in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data is available from 30 September 2012. Since that time records show that the Department for Work and Pensions did not share any intelligence concerning immigration abuse in 2012, they shared it once in 2013, 171 in 2014, 1,377 in 2015, 1,544 in 2016, 1,123 in 2017 and on 262 occasions to date in 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144782/>

Immigration: Crime

David Lammy (Labour) [144783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many communications his Department received from hon. Members and their offices on immigration enforcement hotlines during 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office recorded receipt of information from Members of Parliament on 73 occasions. Of those 12 were received via the online service, 48 by email, 2 by fax, 9 by letter and 2 by telephone.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144783/>

Immigration: Crime

David Lammy (Labour) [144784] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reports of immigration crime his Department received from members of the public in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data is available from 30 September 2012. Since that time members of the public reported to the Home Office 9,003 times in 2012, 54,809 in 2013, 47,317 in 2014, 50,126 in 2015, 45,539 in 2016, 43,356 in 2017 and 15,999 times to date in 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144784/>

Immigration: Crime

David Lammy (Labour) [144785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reports of immigration crime his Department received from HMRC in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Data is available from 30 September 2012. Since that time records show that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs did not share intelligence concerning immigration abuse with the Home Office in 2012 or 2013 and did so subsequently on 41 occasions in 2014, 319 in 2015, 259 in 2016, 151 in 2017 and on 62 occasions to date in 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144785/>

Immigration

Jonathan Reynolds (Labour Co-op) [145330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is to process an immigration application for (a) a Visa and (b) leave to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Published data on visa and leave to remain processing times, is published online at:

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

We continually monitor and review our performance against service standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145330/>

Immigration: Biometrics

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [146255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the average waiting time for the issuing a biometric permit by immigration status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information you have requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office.

The information requested is not available and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by examination of thousands of cases.

However, published information on the number of applications for leave to remain in all categories, as well as data on UK Visa and Immigration performance against service standards for applications made in the UK and from overseas, can be found here:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146255/>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Jo Stevens (Labour) [145345] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Government has plans to charge European Economic Area NHS staff the NHS surcharge after the UK leaves the European Union.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: There are no plans to charge European Economic Area National Health Service staff the NHS surcharge after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union. The Department is working to ensure the best outcome for the health and social care system. All relevant policy teams within the Department are involved with this work and are assessing the implications of the UK leaving the EU on their area. Cost recovery arrangements once the UK has left the EU will be subject to the outcome of this work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145345/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

David Lammy (Labour) [145266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Commonwealth Taskforce will have access the records of (a) HMRC and (b) police records to confirm the status of Windrush generation migrants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The taskforce will use all available evidence provided by the individual and from access to other available sources, including HMRC and police records, to confirm the status of Windrush generation individuals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145266/>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [144377] To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate has been made of the cost to the public purse of the (a) total and (b) additional staffing costs of the Windrush compensation programme.

Reply from Elizabeth Truss: As the Home Secretary has set out, the Government is committed to putting right the wrongs experienced by the Windrush generation, and is clear that where people have suffered loss they will be compensated. The Home Office is still working through the detail of what this scheme will look like, including potential costs to the department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144377/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [145331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the commissioning letter to the Migration Advisory Committee of 27 July 2017, whether it remains the Government's policy to wait for that Committee's advice before determining the future long-term immigration rules for EU citizens.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and will set out initial plans in due course. We will build a comprehensive picture of the needs and interests of all parts of the UK and look to develop a system which works for all.

We will ensure that decisions on the long-term arrangements are based on evidence. The commission that we asked the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) to undertake is very much part of this. The MAC is due to report back by September 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145331/>

The letter referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/633321/Commission_to_the_MAC.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146060] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to consult with EU citizens resident in the UK on the new IT system and process for applying for settled status.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations his Department has received from EU citizens resident in the UK on the ease of use of the new IT system and process for applying for settled status.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146062] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to increase awareness among EU citizens resident in the UK of the new process for applying for settled status.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146063] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the new process for applying for settled status for EU citizens resident in the UK is user-friendly for applicants who have English as a second language.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146064] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by what means his Department will convey information to EU citizens resident in the UK on when they need to apply for settled status.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146065] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what testing his Department has undertaken on the new IT system for applying for settled status to ensure that system is fit for purpose for EU citizens resident in the UK.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [146066] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that (a) government departments, (b) organisations and (c) employers are sufficiently (i) prepared for the launch of the new IT system for applying for settled status and (ii) aware of the new process for verifying citizens' documentation in relation to applications for settled status; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme is being designed with users in mind, and we are engaging with stakeholders who represent EU citizens in the UK to discuss and understand their needs. Our regular stakeholder groups include community representatives, employers, the EU27 consulates, and organisations representing vulnerable groups. We are developing a streamlined, user-friendly, digital application system, with multiple service options to meet the needs of a varied customer base, including additional support for the vulnerable. We have launched a targeted communications campaign to maximise awareness and reassure EU citizens of our commitment to protect their rights and entitlements. Activity will increase as we approach the launch of the scheme before the end of this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146060/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146061/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146062/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146063/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146064/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146065/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146066/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [146070] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what target his Department has been set for the processing of applications by non-UK EU citizens for (a) temporary and (b) settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are developing a streamlined, user-friendly, digital application process for the EU Settlement Scheme, which draws on existing government data to minimise the burden on applicants.

As the then-Immigration Minister, my Right Honourable Friend, the Member for Great Yarmouth told the Home Affairs Select Committee on 21 November 2017, our aim is to process standard applications in a couple of weeks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146070/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The following two questions both received the same answer

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [146071] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the Government's policy is on the status of non-UK EU citizens who fail to apply for (a) temporary (b) settled status by 31 December 2020.

Vince Cable (Liberal Democrat) [146072] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what charges are levied on non-UK EU citizens applying for (a) temporary status (b) settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens and their family members who are covered by our agreement with the EU on citizens' rights, and who have not obtained UK immigration status under the settlement scheme by the end of the grace period, 30 June 2021, will technically have no lawful basis to remain in the UK. However, the draft Withdrawal Agreement provides that where there are reasonable compassionate or practical grounds for missing the deadline, those persons will be allowed to submit an application within a reasonable further period of time. A proportionate approach will be taken and cases will be considered on their individual merits.

The application fee for the EU exit settlement scheme will not exceed the cost charged to British citizens for a UK passport. Those who already hold a valid EU permanent residence document or a valid document evidencing their Indefinite Leave to Remain will be able to exchange this for a new settled status free of charge. Full details of the application fee will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146071/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146072/>

Migrant Workers: Scientists

Luciana Berger (Labour Co-op) [145316] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department is making special immigration provisions to enable the recruitment and movement of skilled non-UK European scientists working in (a) academia and (b) industry after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and will set out initial plans in due course. We will build a comprehensive picture of the needs and interests of all parts of the UK and look to develop a system which works for all.

We will ensure that decisions on the long-term arrangements are based on evidence. The commission that we asked the MAC to undertake is very much part of this. The MAC is due to report back by September 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145316/>

Undocumented Migrants: Private Rented Housing

David Lammy (Labour) [144780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been evicted under the provisions of the Immigration Act 2016 or otherwise made homeless as a result of his Department's actions in each of the last eight years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold the information which you have requested. The Home Office does not take eviction action against illegal migrants. The 2016 Act provided new powers of eviction for landlords based upon the tenant's immigration status, however, the Home Office neither requires landlords to evict nor that they should report back to the Home Office.

A full evaluation of the impacts of the Right to Rent scheme, published in October 2015 found no increase in levels of homelessness. The Home Office works closely with local authorities and is not aware of cases presenting as homeless as a consequence of the scheme. In cases where the migrants are vulnerable or face a genuine obstacle to leaving the country, the Home Office can grant permission to rent. In such cases, the landlord has a statutory excuse against any civil penalty.

Refugees: Government Assistance

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [146096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support refugees into education and employment upon their arrival in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government published the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper on 14th March, which includes proposals to work with civil society and others to increase the integration support available to all refugees. The consultation is available online and will close on 5th June.

Adults with refugee status can access education and employment support through mainstream services, and child refugees can access mainstream education in schools, or, if 16-18, with further education providers. Adult refugees are eligible for the same skills funding as any English resident and are not subject to the normal three-year qualifying period. English language tuition is fully funded for refugees who are unemployed and looking for work.

We recognise that there are additional challenges that refugees can face when looking for work. Refugees can access employment support from Jobcentre Plus and we continue to work closely with colleagues in DWP to ensure refugees are aware of, and receive, the support they are entitled to.

We have made additional support available to those whom we resettle under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme, in particular by providing funding for increased English language support: £10m for formal ESOL provision, and some additional funding to provide childcare to facilitate access to classes and to enable better coordination of service provision and sharing of good practice. We have also funded a pilot project to provide additional employment support and are now evaluating what it has delivered. We will be sharing the learning from the pilot with other Government Departments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146096/>

The Strategy Paper referred to above can be read at

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

Refugees: Children

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [144795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to improve the processes for identifying children with rights to family reunion in the UK throughout refugee camps in Europe.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government works closely with other EU Member States to enact the safe transfers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children under the family reunion provisions of the Dublin Regulation, where they have eligible family in the UK. We have liaison officers based in France, Greece and Italy to support the transfer of unaccompanied children to the UK under the Dublin Regulation and section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

The Sandhurst Treaty, signed between the UK and France in January 2018, included measures to strengthen our cooperation with France on the operation of the Dublin Regulation, including shorter timescales for decisions and transfers. Where an unaccompanied child makes an asylum application in France, we will provide a decision to take charge of their claim within 10 working days of the conclusion of engagement with the relevant UK authority. Where we accept responsibility for assessing their asylum claim, we will aim, in cooperation with France, to transfer the child to the UK within 15 working days.

The Government has also announced a £3.6M development fund, which will be used to identify projects that support genuine claims through the Dublin process and ensure that those with no prospect of transferring to the UK are informed of

their options.

The UK also continues our deployments to the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to support their work in providing operational support to frontline Member States dealing with large numbers of migrant arrivals across Europe

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144795/>

Refugees: Children

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [146097] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to improve processes for identifying children in UN-recognised refugee camps beyond Europe who have rights to family reunion in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UNHCR closely monitor the refugee population and are constantly assessing the vulnerability of those registered with them, both inside and outside of refugee camps. This includes the identification of children in need of protection and an assessment of the possible solutions available to them. One of the key priorities of UNHCR is to protect and promote within its capacity the rights of all children falling under its mandate, and UNHCR works with national authorities, international and local organisations to assist, protect and find solutions for displaced children.

Our resettlement schemes provide a safe and legal route to the UK for the most vulnerable refugees who have been referred to us by UNHCR. 'Children and adolescents at risk' is one of UNHCR's seven resettlement submission categories which they use to refer refugees for resettlement under our Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS). Additionally, our Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme (VCRS) targets 'at-risk' children and their family members in the Middle East and North Africa region.

As part of their identification and referrals process, UNHCR will establish whether registered refugees have family members overseas. Family connections in the UK may be taken into account by UNHCR but will not necessarily determine whether a person is referred the UK for resettlement - this is just one of many factors UNHCR considers when assessing a refugee's resettlement need.

If families already resettled in the UK have other family members based in one of the host countries where our resettlement schemes operate and they wish to join their extended family in the UK, there is a process by which UNHCR can be informed of the family connection. Resettled individuals should contact their local authority for more information.

Additionally, our Mandate resettlement scheme is specifically designed to reunite refugees with close family members in the UK, where UNHCR has referred them for resettlement and the family member is able to accommodate them.

Our family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection here to reunite with them. The Immigration Rules also provide for extended family members in the UK to sponsor children in serious and compelling circumstances. In addition, there is provision in the policy to grant visas outside the Rules in exceptional circumstances, which caters for family members who otherwise do not qualify under the Rules.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146097/>

Refugees: Palestinians

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [144395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to support Palestinian refugees seeking to enter the UK as a result of recent violence in Gaza.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and are closely monitoring the situation. We are

working closely with UN agencies and others to respond to ongoing needs in Gaza, including supporting up to 1 million Gazans by addressing critical water and sanitation needs through UNICEF. The UK is also a long-term supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which provides basic services to 1.3 million people in Gaza, including basic health care.

There are safe and legal routes for people to come to the UK should they wish to join family members here, work or study. They would need to meet the requirements of the relevant Immigration Rule under which they were applying to qualify for a visa. Details about the criteria and how to apply are available on the GOV.UK website at: <http://www.gov.uk/apply-uk-visa>.

However, there are no specific provisions in the Immigration Rules for people to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum. Those who need international protection should claim in the first safe country they reach or register with mandated UN agencies – that is the fastest route to safety.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144395/>

Asylum: Education

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [144794] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support his Department makes available to ensure that newly arrived asylum seekers placed in initial accommodation have immediate access to the education system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The issue of education provision for children seeking asylum is an important one and the Home Office makes every effort to ensure that families with children who claim asylum support have access to education at the earliest opportunity.

To enable access to education, internal checks are in place to identify applications involving children of school age for priority dispersal from initial accommodation facilities into permanent accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-16/144794/>

Brook House Immigration Removal Centre

Catherine West (Labour) [144373] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on whether any G4S staff at Brook House Immigration Removal Centre received charges for unacceptable use of force against detainees.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Allegations of criminal conduct committed by former G4S employees at Brook House were referred to Sussex Police in September 2017. Criminal investigations, and decisions on whether to instigate criminal proceedings, are matters for the police and Crown Prosecution Service respectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144373/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) [146167] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department makes payments to private companies for (a) each person in custody and detention and (b) each person deported in relation to immigration cases.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department makes payments to private sector companies for the provision of contractually defined services. In the case of immigration detention facilities payment covers a holistic range of services for the operation, management and maintenance of those facilities.

A private sector company is also contracted for a range of services to support the removal of individuals from the UK (including deportation). This includes the staffing short-term holding facilities at ports and reporting centres and the provision of escorting and medical staff to escort individuals to the port of departure or a destination country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-21/146167/>

Deportation

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [145335] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2018 to Question 142442 on Deportation, what information his Department holds on the (a) number of deportation orders that have been in force for more than five years and (b) average length of time taken before a deportation order is executed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Providing the information requested would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost. The Home Office does however routinely publish quarterly statistics on the average length of time taken for a foreign national offender to be deported from the UK. This information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-february-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-17/145335/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-09/142442/>

Deportation

David Lammy (Labour) [146700] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to suspend or discontinue deportation charter flights.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The majority of enforced immigration returns are undertaken using scheduled flights alongside fare-paying passengers. Charter flight operations are an important means to return Foreign National Offenders and others without a right to remain in the UK where there are limited scheduled routes or where there could potentially be more disruptive immigration offenders.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-22/146700/>

Deportation: Migrant Workers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [144295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his officials have raised concerns over potentially wrongful deportation of highly skilled migrants under section 322(5) of the Immigration Act in the last twelve months.

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [144296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when his Department first became aware that some highly skilled migrants could potentially face wrongful deportation under section 322(5) of the Immigration Act.

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [144297] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his ministerial team were made aware of concerns over wrongful deportation of highly skilled migrants under section 322(5) of the Immigration Act on appointment.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules is a long-standing provision which provides that applications for leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain should normally be refused where it would be undesirable for a person to remain in the UK in light of their conduct, character or

associations, or where they represent a threat to national security. Refusal of an application for leave or indefinite leave to remain does not automatically lead to removal or deportation.

It is important that the Government retains the ability to refuse an application where we have identified that migrants have given deliberately false information in order to extend their stay or obtain settlement in the UK. It is not the Government's policy to refuse applications by highly skilled migrants solely due to minor tax errors. Where any discrepancies are identified, applicants are given a right to explain the discrepancy. All such cases are signed off by a manager before refusal grounds are applied.

The Tier 1 (General) category was intended for highly skilled workers applying to work in the UK without requiring a sponsoring employer. The route was closed in April 2011, partly due to evidence of abuse by migrants using the route. Applications for indefinite leave to remain remained open until April 2018, for those who were in the category at the time it closed.

We have refused Tier 1(General) applications under paragraph 322(5) where an applicant's character and conduct call into question their desirability of remaining in the UK. In these cases, refusals have been given where there have been substantial differences – often tens of thousands of pounds – between the earnings used to claim points in an immigration application and an applicant's HMRC records, without a credible explanation from the applicant. We take all available evidence into account before making a decision and each application is considered on its own merits.

As I confirmed to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 8 May, we will carry out a review of these cases to see how many showed clear evidence of deceit, and whether any were refused due to minor errors. So far there is insufficient evidence to suggest there is any systemic problem which may lead to wrongful removals for this group, but this is one area our review will check.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144295/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144296/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-15/144297/>

Slavery: Victims

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [141683] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he has taken to assess the effect of the alignment of subsistence rates provided to victims of modern slavery to those received by asylum seekers; and if he will publish an Equality Impact Assessment on that alignment.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The subsistence rates for victims of modern slavery are provided to cover the essential living needs of potential victims of modern slavery. It is essential that we target support to confirmed victims at the point they need it most. The overall amount of money available for victim support will not fall, but by making these changes more money is being made available to treble the period of "move on" support, which will help people leaving victim support with their transition to other arrangements.

When considering the level of these rates, the essential needs of potential victims were assessed to be comparable to the needs of asylum seekers. This is why the tested and established methodology that has been developed to measure the level of subsistence for asylum seekers will be adopted to measure the level of subsistence for potential victims of modern slavery. Where it has been identified that victims of slavery have needs above those of asylum seekers or have

additional entitlements under the Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings, these needs will continue to be met within the existing Adult Victims of Modern Slavery Care Contract.

Victims will continue to receive dedicated and expert support, which is tailored to their unique needs as victims of modern slavery. This includes access to legal aid, counselling, NHS medical and dental services. This will ensure there is a fair and consistent approach for all individuals receiving similar government support.

We are working closely with The Salvation Army and the Independent Anti Slavery Commissioner to ensure that the implementation of this change is as smooth as possible, and the Equalities Impact Assessment will be published when the process for the implementation of the alignment is announced.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-08/141683/>

Slavery

Frank Field (Labour) [141698] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2018 to Question 129973 on Slavery, how many people issued with positive conclusive grounds decisions (a) received a holding letter confirming a determination is on hold, (b) continue to be supported by the adult victim care contract and (c) had support from the adult victim care contract suspended since his Department published its interim guidance.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Court of Appeal issued a judgment in the case of (PK (Ghana) v SSHD) on 13 February 2018. We are considering the implications of the judgment.

As we do so, interim guidance has been issued to caseworkers to put on hold any refusals of discretionary leave to remain (DL) decisions for confirmed victims of modern slavery. Grants of discretionary leave are continuing. This guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/interim-operation-guidance-discretionary-leave-for-victims-of-modern-slavery>

In line with standard practice, support providers under the Victim Care Contract can seek an extension of support for confirmed victims who are awaiting a discretionary leave decision.

We are not aware of any individuals in support whose DL decision is on hold where continuing support has not been requested by the support provider.

The Home Office does not publish data on how many such determinations are on hold.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-08/141698/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-27/129973/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7725] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the intended purpose of powers granted to the Home Office under paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration Rules to deny indefinite leave to remain applications; and whether minor tax errors on a indefinite leave to remain application warrant the use of said powers.

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7726] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to reassess the use of paragraph 322(5) of the Immigration

Rules by the Home Office on indefinite leave to remain cases denied due to tax errors.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not the Government's policy to refuse applications solely due to minor tax errors. Where these are identified, applicants are given a right to explain any discrepancy. Any such case is signed off by a manager before refusal grounds are applied.

We have refused applications where there are substantial differences – often tens of thousands of pounds – between the earnings used to claim points in an immigration application and an applicant's HMRC records, without a credible explanation from the applicant. We take all available evidence into account before making a decision. Paragraph 322(5) is used where the evidence shows that an applicant's character and conduct is such that their application should be refused. As the Immigration Minister advised the Home Affairs Select Committee on 8 May, we will carry out a review of these cases to see how many showed clear evidence of deceit, and how many were minor errors.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-09/HL7725/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-09/HL7726/>

Visas: Married People

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL7834] To ask Her Majesty's Government why an applicant for a spouse extension visa may not apply more than 28 days before the expiry of their current visa when the standard processing time for such extensions for someone resident in the UK is eight weeks; and what advice they give to applicants if they need to make international travel after their visa has expired but before their renewal visa has been granted.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The requirement to submit a spouse extension application no earlier than 28 days before the expiry of existing leave is advisory, not mandatory. However, an application submitted earlier may result in a shortfall in the applicant's qualifying period when they later apply for settlement.

The immigration rules allow us to add no more than 28 days to the standard grant of leave to remain to account for the days lost upon submission. Applicants are advised when applying not to make any non-urgent international travel arrangements until their passports or travel documents are returned to them, followed by their Biometric Residence Permit if their application is successful.

Applicants can request the urgent withdrawal of their application for international travel. They would then have to apply for entry clearance from overseas to return to the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-14/HL7834/>

Immigration: Caribbean

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7729] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effect of Windrush immigration failures on the pensions of those affected by those failures; and whether they will take this into consideration when considering the level of compensation that affected individuals will receive.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is clear that where the Windrush generation have suffered loss, they will be compensated and the Home Office is setting up a new scheme to deliver this, which will be overseen by an Independent Person.

As a first stage, 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.

The information supplied as part of the Call for Evidence 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/2018-05-09/HL7729/>

The call for evidence referred to above can be read at

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

Refugees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7799] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 8 May (HL7459), how many Liaison Officers they have in (1) Italy, and (2) Greece; and how many experts and interpreters the European Asylum Support Office and the European Commission have sent to the Greek islands.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK (Home Office) has deployed two Liaison Officers to Greece and one Liaison Officer to Italy. The UK also continues our long-running specialist deployments to the EU Commission and EASO to support their work in Greece (UK officers included in numbers stated in the below reports).

The number of experts and interpreters deployed to Greek islands by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) is available in their annual report. The most recent annual report was published in September 2017 and covers 2016 and can be found here: <https://www.easo.europa.eu/easo-annual-report>. In 2016 there were 543 experts deployed in Greece. EASO also deployed interpreters/cultural mediators to conduct its operations. Published figures for 2017 are not available yet.

In terms of European Commission staff in Greece, this can be found in the European Commission's Annual Activity Report on DG Migration and Home Affairs. The most recent report covers 2016 and can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/annual-activity-report-2016-migration-and-home-affairs_en

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-11/HL7799/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7459/>

Asylum

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7772] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the reported working practices in the office of the Next Generation Casework project requiring staff to meet targets or face disciplinary action, in relation to the handling of asylum cases.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has plans to reduce the number of outstanding undecided asylum claims. Part of this included the creation of a new team in Bootle which has been established to help tackle older cases in the asylum system. This team has been designed to establish and roll out best practice in the management of older cases.

Across the business, fully trained asylum decision makers are expected to carry out five interviews or decisions a week. Staff who are not meeting this will be offered support and more training as part a personal improvement plan.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-10/HL7772/>

Asylum: Vietnam

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7773] To ask Her Majesty's Government what

assessment they have made of the reported incident of a Home Office caseworker using a Lonely Planet guide to determine how safe it would be for an asylum applicant to return to Ho Chi Minh City.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All claims for asylum are considered on their individual merits in line with Home Office guidance, and where people establish a genuine need for protection, or a well founded fear of persecution, refugee status will be granted.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-10/HL7773/>

Deportation: Caribbean

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7470] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Windrush generation have been deported.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has been checking around 8,000 records of removals and deportations dating back to 2002 to determine whether there have been any wrongful removals or deportations of Caribbean nationals who arrived before 1973.

Of these 63 cases have been identified where the individual could have entered the UK before 1973. This is split between 32 Foreign National Offender deportations 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/2018-05-01/HL7470/>

Deportation: Caribbean

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7471] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of the Windrush generation are in the process of being deported.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is reviewing the cases of criminal offenders who may have arrived before 1 January 1973. No deportation action will be taken against these individuals until these checks are completed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-01/HL7471/>

Press Releases

Non-British population of Scotland continues to increase

<https://news.gov.scot/news/non-british-population-of-scotland-continues-to-increase>

Immigration Statistics, year ending March 2018

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710242/immigration-statistics-mar-2018snr.pdf

Home Secretary launches Windrush scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-launches-windrush-scheme>

Realistic solutions must form basis of Global Compact for migration – UN conference

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/05/1010302>

New Publications

Population by Country of Birth and Nationality, Scotland, 2017

Report

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/population-estimates/pop-cob-17/pop-cob-nat-17-publication.pdf>

Infographic

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/nrs-visual/pop-cob-17/pop-cob-nat-17-info.pdf>

User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/709108/user-guide-immigration-statistics.pdf

UK population by country of birth and nationality: 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/ukpopulationbycountryofbirthandnationality/2017/pdf>

Overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

Summary of latest immigration statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year>

Why do people come to the UK? (1) To visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-1-to-visit>

Why do people come to the UK? (2) To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-2-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? (3) To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-3-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? (4) For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-4-for-family-reasons>

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

How many people continue their stay in the UK?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-march-2018/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Short-term international migration for England and Wales: year ending June 2016

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/shortterminternationalmigrationannualreport/yearendingjune2016/pdf>

Windrush scheme casework guidance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710566/Windrush-Scheme-Casework-Guidance-v1.0EXT.PDF

News

Number of EU nationals in Scotland continues to rise

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/number-of-eu-nationals-in-scotland-continues-to-rise-1-4744749>

Aberdeen is Scottish city with the highest proportion of foreigners

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-25/scotland/aberdeen-is-scottish-city-with-the-highest-proportion-of-foreigners-dnh2k6w6g>

Scotland 'must double migrants to save economy'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/scotland-must-double-migrants-to-save-economy-vv2w3nbb2>

Ruth Davidson 'angry' at Windrush scandal

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-44203599>

Ian Blackford seeks meeting with May over 'shocking' plight of thousands of undocumented citizens

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16245748.Blackford_seeks_meeting_with_May_over_shocking_plight_of_undocumented_citizens/

Government reveals more than 5,000 potential Windrush cases – but says anyone rejected has no right to appeal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-windrush-immigration-cases-5000-scandal-a8367021.html>

Number of Windrush cases passes 5,000

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/25/number-of-windrush-cases-passes-5000-mark>

Windrush citizenship applications to be fast-tracked and free

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/24/windrush-citizenship-applications-fast-tracked-free-home-office-internal-review-scandal>

Former immigration detainees can seek public inquiry over abuse claims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/22/former-immigration-detainees-public-inquiry-abuse-claims-brook-house-gatwick>

Brook House: High Court rules immigration detainees abused by G4S staff can seek public inquiry

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/brook-house-detention-centre-g4s-abuse-immigration-public-inquiry-home-office-a8363606.html>

Refugees to be given right to vote in Scotland under new plans

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16245625.Refugees_to_be_given_right_to_vote_in_Scotland_under_new_plans/?ref=mr&lp=13

Doctors call for post-Brexit immigration 'clarity'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-44214798>

Three in five Britons support a 'hostile environment' for illegal immigrants, poll shows

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/05/26/three-five-britons-support-hostile-environment-illegal-immigrants/>

Britain's wealth was built on black backs. Windrush is a scandal of forgetting

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/22/windrush-scandal-forgetting-black-britons-like-me-british-history>

Windrush women

<http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-44196127>

Windrush at 70: portraits of a generation – in pictures

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/24/windrush-at-70-portraits-generation-harry-jacobs-in-pictures>

Windrush scandal: 'I had no roof over my head, no money'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/25/windrush-scandal-i-had-no-roof-over-my-head-no-money>

Scottish Government seeking to extend right to vote

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3311_scottish_government_seeking_to_extend_right_to_vote

Refugee chef funds Syrian children's hospital from his pop-up restaurant

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-23/world/refugee-chef-funds-syrian-children-s-hospital-from-his-pop-up-restaurant-zcj2dfm>

Ex-mayor of Ipswich denied citizenship after almost 40 years in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/23/ex-mayor-of-ipswich-inga-lockington-denied-citizenship-after-almost-40-years-in-uk>

'It's like a death sentence': ex-NHS worker billed £4,388 for treatment

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/may/23/go-die-not-interested-windrush-citizen-feels-neglected-by-britain>

'It's devastating what they are doing to me' Charity worker's dreams in tatters as he battles to stay in Scotland

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/its-devastating-what-doing-me-12604441>

Former Carillion worker faces deportation under Home Office's 'hostile' regulations following firm's collapse

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/carillion-collapse-hamza-idris-deport-uk-home-office-regulations-london-visa-a8362431.html>

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Schools

Lord Murphy of Torfaen (Labour) [HL7698] To ask Her Majesty's Government what research they have conducted on school twinning programmes and their progress in improving community cohesion and religious understanding.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: We want children and young people to have a greater awareness and experience of meeting those from backgrounds different to their own.

The Department for Education and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government are jointly providing funding of over £700,000 for a programme run by the Schools Linking Network. The programme provides sustained opportunities for children and young people from different communities to meet, build new relationships, work together and contribute to the wider community.

This follows the National Foundation for Educational Research report published by the department in 2011 (attached) which showed that schools linking can have a positive impact on many aspects of pupils' skills, attitudes, perceptions and behaviours. An evaluation strategy for the current programme is in place and we will ensure we learn from its results to develop our approach to school linking.

[Schools Linking Network Final Report](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-09/HL7698/>

Church Schools

Lord Murphy of Torfaen (Labour) [HL7699] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the contribution of church schools to community cohesion.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: Church schools are an important part of our diverse education system, play a key role in their local communities and many have mixed intakes. The 2017 School Census shows that in secondary Church of England and Catholic state-funded schools 32.4% and 37.6% of pupils are from non-White ethnic backgrounds, respectively. This is compared to 29.2% in non-faith schools. In primary Church of England and Catholic state-funded schools 22.1% and 39.8% of pupils are from non-white ethnic backgrounds respectively, compared to 34.7% in non-faith schools. There are good examples of church schools participating in linking activities with schools from different faiths or no faith. We aim to work closely with the religious bodies, which oversee church schools to build on their excellent work so far.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-09/HL7699/>

News

Ethnically mixed schools lessen hostility

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-44196646>

The young Welsh Muslim women gaining confidence

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-44195275>

Heritage of Scotland's travelling community celebrated

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/heritage-of-scotland-s-travelling-community-celebrated-1-4745057>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Debate

Scotland's Gypsy Traveller Community

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11553&i=104797#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

BAME Communities: Stop and Search

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-23/debates/AF056653-2F63-4BDD-A210-3FE7B5444AF9/BAMECommunitiesStopAndSearch>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Education: Ethnic Groups

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [143228] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to tackle the attainment gap among BAME students.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Our education policies are intended to ensure that all young people, whatever their background or circumstances, have the opportunity to reach their potential.

There is no single picture of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) attainment, but rather substantial variation between different groups.

Students from some BAME groups attain at or above the national average for all pupils at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. This includes pupils of Chinese, Indian, Mixed White and Asian, Irish, Bangladeshi, Mixed White and Black African, and Black African origin. Attainment for Pakistani, Mixed White and Black Caribbean pupils, whilst still below the national average, has increased at a faster rate than for other groups over the last four years, and consequently attainment gaps have narrowed.

Teachers and school leaders are best placed to understand and respond to the specific needs of their pupils and increase opportunity and attainment for all their pupils, including particular barriers faced by BAME pupils. We have, therefore, focused our efforts on creating an environment whereby teachers and leaders have the autonomy to do the best for their pupils, backed by robust accountability and funding.

Given the clear influence of economic circumstance on pupil attainment, we have continued to provide schools with additional funding through the pupil premium to support their disadvantaged pupils. BAME pupils disproportionately benefit from the pupil premium.

The data that we gather on the educational outcomes of children and young people from BAME groups will continue to be published on the Cabinet Office's 'Ethnicity Facts and Figures' website

(<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/>). This website publishes, in one place, data from across government on how outcomes from public services vary for people of different ethnicities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-05-11/143228/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Pupils: Travellers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Murphy of Torfaen (Labour) [HL7696] To ask Her Majesty's Government what strategies are in place to improve school attainment performance of Gypsy, Traveller and Roma pupils from early years onwards.

Education and Training: Travellers

Lord Murphy of Torfaen (Labour) [HL7766] To ask Her Majesty's Government what strategies are in place to improve access for Gypsy, Traveller and Roma young people to (1) further education, (2) higher education, and (3) apprenticeships.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: Children from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are able to take advantage of early years education provision. Since 2013, over half a million of the country's most disadvantaged two year olds, including those from Gypsy Roma and Traveller populations, have benefitted from 15 hours of free early education a week, and can continue this early education with 15 hours of free early education at ages 3 and 4. In the recently published strategy 'Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential' a copy of which is available in the Library of the House of Lords, an ambition was laid out to close the word gap backed by over £100 million of investment. Once a child is at school the Pupil Premium is provided, an additional funding provision that continues with nearly £2.5 billion this year alone, to help schools improve the progress and attainment of their disadvantaged pupils. High proportions of Gypsy Roma and Traveller pupils are eligible for and benefit from this support.

The department also provides a number of financial support programmes for economically disadvantaged 16 to 19 year olds to help with the costs associated with staying in post 16 education such as travel and course equipment.

The department is taking action to ensure that high quality apprenticeships are accessible to all. The Apprenticeships Diversity Champions Network and recently launched partnership with five major cities in England, aim to drive up apprenticeships among underrepresented groups.

In Higher Education, providers will now be required to publish application data broken down by ethnicity and those charging higher fees will be required to agree Access and Participation Plans. The plans will set out measures to support the access and successful participation for disadvantaged and under-represented groups, including those from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

In January 2018 the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller stakeholder group was established to inform policy development to raise the attainment and participation of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils at all stages of education. In March 2018 a review of exclusions was launched, exploring why certain pupil groups, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils, are over-represented in exclusions statistics. The department continues to collaborate 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 addition as part of the Careers Strategy, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller youth will be included as a target group for a pilot testing ways of providing guidance on routes into careers to vulnerable groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-09/HL7696/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-10/HL7766/>

New Publications

Improving Gypsy/Traveller Sites – Guidance on minimum sites standards, and site tenants’ core rights and responsibilities: Progress Report

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535542.pdf>

Council of Europe’s Anti-racism Commission (ECRI) revised standards for Equality Bodies

<http://hudoc.ecri.coe.int/eng?i=REC-02rev-2018-006-ENG>

News

MI6 launches drive to recruit more women and ethnic minorities

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16249462.MI6_launches_drive_to_recruit_more_women_and_ethnic_minorities/

Five charts that tell the story of diversity in UK universities

<http://www.bbc.com/news/education-44226434>

Black students are right to want to see black therapists

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/21/identity-matters-black-students-black-therapists-cambridge-university>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Racism

S5W-16550 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 Scotland has a higher rate of murders that were known or suspected to have a racist element than the rest of the UK.

Reply from Angela Constance: Racism is completely unacceptable and we are committed to tackling it.

Racist incidents and racist hate crime have shown a downwards trend in Scotland in recent times, with racially motivated homicides being rare (in 2016-17, there were two victims of homicide that were reported to have had a racial motivation, representing 3 per cent of all victims in the latest year). The total number of homicides has fallen by 47% in the past ten years with racially motivated homicides accounting for just 1.1% of the overall figure.

One incident is too many though and we are resolved to do everything that it takes to ensure that Scotland is a place where there is zero tolerance of prejudice or bigotry in any form. That’s why our Race Equality Action Plan: A Fairer Scotland for All was published in December and includes over 120 actions which we will take over the lifetime of this Parliament to tackle racism and to improve the

lives of minority ethnic communities in Scotland. This includes work to tackle hate crime and prejudice, and build greater community cohesion.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16550>

The report referred to above is not available online.

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528746.pdf>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16487 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what responsibilities (a) schools and (b) education authorities have regarding bullying incidents (i) on and (b) off school property where the victim and perpetrator are pupils at that school.

Reply from John Swinney: Children and young people should feel happy, safe, respected and included in their learning environment and all staff must be proactive in promoting positive relationships and behaviour in the classroom, playground, and wider learning community.

In November 2017 we published 'Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People' which provides support and advice to schools and local authorities and all those working with children and young people to address incidents of bullying. The focus of the guidance is on prevention and early intervention, to understand and act on the reasons for the behaviour behind any incident of bullying.

All schools should develop and implement an anti-bullying policy, which should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. 'Respect for All' provides guidance on what should be included within an Anti-bullying policy, which should as a guiding principle demonstrate a clear commitment to develop a respectful, equitable and inclusive culture and ethos within a school.

respect me , Scotland's anti-bullying service, will continue to provide direct support to local authorities, youth groups and all those working with children and young people, to build confidence and capacity to address bullying effectively aligned to 'Respect for All' This engagement includes Independent and faith-based schools.

A priority for this service will continue to promote a preventative and inclusive approach to addressing bullying through partnership working.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16487>

"Respect for All", referred to above, can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527674.pdf>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16488 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it defines prejudice-based bullying in its work to tackle bullying in schools.

Reply from John Swinney: We published 'Respect for all : The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People' in November 2017 which includes a definition of prejudice-based bullying.

Prejudice-based bullying is when bullying behaviour is motivated by prejudice based on an individual's actual or perceived identify; it can be based on a characteristics unique to a child's or young person's identify or circumstance.

Bullying behaviour may be a result of prejudice that relates to perceived or actual differences. This can lead to behaviour and language that could manifest into racism, sexism, homophobia, biphobia or transphobia or prejudice and discrimination towards disability or faith.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16488>

“Respect for All”, referred to above, can be read at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527674.pdf>

Schools: racial assault

S5W-16489 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that victims of sexualised racial assault in schools are assisted in reporting this as a crime.

Reply from John Swinney: The safety of children and young people in schools is of paramount importance, everyone who works in a school has a duty of care to ensure the welfare of all pupils.

Child protection is vitally important and the Scottish Government agrees that everyone working in schools should clearly understand their child protection responsibilities.

All those working with children and young people should have a clear understanding of what bullying is and the importance of children’s rights and child protection. All people working with children and young people should be very clear on what action to take if they feel that a crime may have been committed. In each and every case a crime is suspected, Police Scotland should be contacted.

We are working with schools, local authorities and Police Scotland to ensure that children and young people have the ability to report a crime. The work of Police Scotland’s Campus Officers has been invaluable in this regard.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16489>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16490 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what responsibility education authorities have in training (a) teachers and (b) education administrators regarding (i) prejudiced-based bullying, (ii) sexualised racial assault and (iii) potential hate crimes.

John Swinney: As part of local authorities’ role to support the implementation of positive relationship and behaviour approaches there is a need to ensure that all staff have access to high-quality Career–Long Professional Learning to help improve outcomes for children and young people. All teachers must demonstrate the behaviours set out in the Standard for Registration. This requires teachers to consistently implement a school’s positive behaviour policy including:

- implementing strategies for understanding and preventing bullying;
- managing pupil behaviour in and around the school, in a fair, sensitive and informed manner; and
- recognising and taking action when a learner’s behaviour may signify distress and the need for further support.

It also requires that teachers:

- have an understanding of the legal and professional aspects of a teacher’s position of trust in relation to learners and how these affect his/her daily responsibilities;
- have a secure working knowledge and detailed understanding of their contractual, pastoral and legal responsibilities as teachers.

The Professional Standards are managed by the General Teaching Council for Scotland and are currently being reviewed. This review provides an opportunity to consider whether commitments in this area require to be strengthened and the Scottish Government will ensure that GTCS considers this recommendation in taking forward this work.

To support local authorities and schools, the Scottish Government has fully funded respect me, Scotland’s anti-bullying service to provide direct support to build confidence and capacity to address all types of bullying, including prejudice-based bullying effectively. respect me provide specific anti-bullying training for anyone who works with children and young people.

All those working with children and young people should have a clear understanding of what bullying is and the importance of children's rights and child protection. All people working with children and young people should be very clear on what action to take if they feel that a crime may have been committed. In each and every case a crime is suspected, Police Scotland should be contacted.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16490>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16491 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government which third-sector organisations were represented on its advisory council for its anti-bullying strategy, and whether any have a specific remit of advocating for discriminated persons.

Reply from John Swinney: The working group that informed the development of 'Respect for All' included LGBT Youth Scotland; Stonewall Scotland; and ENABLE. All of these organisations have a specific remit for advocating for discriminated persons.

LGBT Youth Scotland and Stonewall Scotland advocate for equality for LGBTI pupils, ENABLE is a member led charity that supports people who have learning disabilities and their families.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16491>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16492 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to incorporate a legal definition of prejudiced-based bullying in Scots law and, if so, how this is being progressed.

Reply from John Swinney: There is no legal definition of bullying in Scotland and there are currently no plans to define bullying including prejudice-based bullying in law.

The Equality Act 2010 places an obligation on schools and other public authorities to ensure that bullying by pupils that is related to a protected characteristic is treated with the same level of seriousness as any other form of bullying and that anti-bullying and other relevant policies are assessed against the public sector equality duty.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16492>

Young people: bullying

S5W-16493 Linda Fabiani: To ask the Scottish Government what consultation was carried out during the development phase of Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People.

Reply from John Swinney: The development of 'Respect for All' was informed by a number of engagement sessions with children and young people; parents and carers; and, practitioners. Questionnaires were also issued to children and young people, and parents and carers.

In addition, in November 2016, I agreed to pause the publication of 'Respect of All' to enable further engagement with the Equality and Human Rights Committee, as part of their investigation into Bullying in Schools.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16493>

"Respect for All", referred to above, can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527674.pdf>

Prejudice-based bullying

S5W-16494 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how its description

of prejudice-based bullying in its strategy Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People compares with the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

John Swinney: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People, "Respect for All", is underpinned by the values of fairness, respect, equality and inclusion to ensure that children and young people feel safe and secure and are able to build strong and positive relationships. The guidance is clear that all types of prejudice-based bullying should be treated with equal importance. 'Respect for All' is underpinned by the Equality Act 2010 and provides a description of each of the protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010 –Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil partnership, Race, Religion or belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation. Respect for All does not include Pregnancy and maternity within the list of prejudice-based bullying. 'Respect for All' also includes additional characteristics which may lead to bullying that are not included in the Equality Act 2010: Additional Support Needs, Asylum seekers and refugees, Body image and physical appearance, Gypsy / Travellers, Intersectionality, Looked after children and young people, Sectarianism, Socio-economic prejudice, Young carers.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16494>

"Respect for All", referred to above, can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527674.pdf>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16495 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that education authorities meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to work to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation, (b) advance equality of opportunity and (c) foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, in relation to bullying.

Reply from John Swinney: Bullying of any form is entirely unacceptable and we must challenge and address all types of bullying behaviour in schools. We want all children and young people to learn tolerance, respect, equality and good citizenship to address and prevent prejudice.

Education authorities are covered by the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended), which sets out a number specific duties for public authorities, including: publishing equality outcomes, assessing policies and practices against the requirements of the public sector equality duty; publishing employee information; and reporting on the mainstreaming of equality throughout the organisation.

Education authorities publish regular reports, either in their own right or as part of a local authority, on the work they are doing to deliver the public sector equality duty. Regulation of the Equality Act 2010, including the 2012 Regulations, is carried out by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Education Scotland is responsible for inspecting all schools in Scotland (local authority and independent) against the same quality indicators as part of assessing How Good is Your school (HGIOS4).

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16495>

"How Good is Your School", referred to above, can be read at
https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/Frameworks_SelfEvaluation/FRWK2_NIHeditHGIOS/FRWK2_HGIOS4.pdf

Schools: Prejudice-based bullying

S5W-16496 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that prejudice-based bullying is recorded and monitored by education authorities.

Reply from John Swinney: Monitoring of bullying incidents is essential and helps organisations identify recurring patterns thereby ensuring early intervention and appropriate support.

Following the publication of 'Respect for All' we have been working closely with local authority representatives, teacher and parent organisations and key stakeholder bodies to develop a universal and consistent approach to recording and monitoring incidents of bullying in schools.

The implementation of the universal approach to recording and monitoring will continue to be overseen by the Working Group on Recording and Monitoring of Bullying in Schools to ensure consistency in use and to improve outcomes for children and young people.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16496>

Schools: Prejudice-based bullying

S5W-16497 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how (a) it and (b) education authorities ensure that the collection and analysis of data relating to prejudice-based bullying is robust for each school.

Reply from John Swinney: We acknowledge that the existing system for recording and monitoring needs to change. The Short Life Working Group on Recording and Monitoring of Bullying Incidents in Schools was convened in December 2017 to recommend improvements to SEEMiS which will inform the implementation of universal approach to record and monitor incidents in schools.

SEEMiS is the national school management system which allows schools to record incidents of bullying through it's Bullying and Equalities application.

As part of the introduction of a universal approach the Short Life Working Group are developing an evaluation process to ensure that schools are recording appropriately.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16497>

Prejudice-based bullying

S5W-16498 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on collecting national data regarding prejudice-based bullying, instead of collecting this on a local basis.

Reply from John Swinney: We recognise that monitoring of bullying incidents is essential and helps organisations identify recurring patterns thereby ensuring early intervention and support. In addition, the data can help identify numeric trends, specific issues around equality and diversity and other relevant data/patterns which may help schools and local authorities to address bullying incidents efficiently.

That is why we believe that collection of data is more appropriate at the local authority and school level.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16498>

Schools: Prejudice-based bullying

S5W-16499 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether it issues guidance to education authorities regarding using data gathered from local recording and monitoring of prejudice-based bullying to inform policy development and practice.

Reply from John Swinney: It is crucial that anti-bullying approaches focus on prevention and early intervention and that at the centre of this is the recognition of children's rights.

Education Scotland, with local authorities, has a role to play to support the implementation of positive relationship and behaviour approaches and embed

children's rights.

We have issued guidance for local authorities within 'Respect for All', which set out the importance of recording and monitoring bullying incidents to ensure that an appropriate response had taken place. Recording of incidents also allowed for the identification of trends or themes emerging and where improvements could be made to support the wellbeing of pupils.

The Short Life Working Group on Recording and Monitoring of Bullying in Schools will also provide further guidance to local authorities and schools later this year in support of the universal approach to recording and monitoring that is being introduced.

respect me is also available to assist education authorities develop appropriate responses to help children and young people within their schools. "respect me" has at its heart, a rights based approach. This is reinforced through its training programmes with practitioners, emphasising the message that bullying is a breach of children's rights.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16499>

"Respect for All", referred to above, can be read at
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00527674.pdf>

Schools: bullying

S5W-16500 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what structures and processes it will put in place to ensure that the longer-term recommendations of the Short Life Working Group on Recording and Monitoring Bullying in Schools are progressed.

Reply from John Swinney: We recognise that it is important that the universal approach to recording and monitoring incidents of bullying in schools is implemented with as much support available to schools as possible. Members of the Short Life Working Group have agreed to continue to meet to oversee implementation and to ensure that it is making a difference to children and young people and is meeting the needs of all school staff.

We are proposing to establish an Operational Support group who will be available to assist schools and local authorities as the new approach is implemented.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16500>

Schools: racial assault

S5W-16501 Linda Fabiani (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government whether instances of (a) racial and (b) sexualised racial assault in schools are recorded centrally.

Reply from John Swinney: The Scottish Government does not collect data on instances of racial and sexualised racial assault in schools. The Short Life Working Group on Recording and Monitoring Bullying in Schools will recommend improvements to SEEMiS to enable the recording of incidents of racial bullying at a local level.

If an assault has taken place then schools must record this through their Child Protection procedures and liaise with Police Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-16501>

UK Parliament Debate

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-05-24/debates/B2B8FC6E-7F7F-4BFC-8C7A-107F94D1B9FB/AhmadiyyaMuslimCommunity>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7864] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ongoing UN investigation on discrimination and racism in the UK by UN Special Rapporteur on discrimination Tendayi Achiume.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance visited the United Kingdom from 30 April to 11 May.

As part of our commitment to universal human rights and the rules-based international system, the United Kingdom offers a standing invitation to all UN Special Rapporteurs to review the situation in the United Kingdom relating to their mandates, and encourages other UN Member States to do the same. The Government will respond to the Special Rapporteur's country visit findings, conclusions and recommendations when these are presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-05-14/HL7864/>

Press Release

Improved anti-bullying measures

<https://news.gov.scot/news/improved-anti-bullying-measures>

New Publication

Persecution of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2018-0129/CDP-2018-0129.pdf>

News

Ruth Davidson urged to root out racists in Scottish Conservative party

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/ruth-davidson-warned-root-out-12603961>

Ken Livingstone quits Labour after antisemitism claims

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/may/21/ken-livingstone-quits-labour-after-antisemitism-claims>

Ken Livingstone resigns from the Labour Party amid anti-Semitism allegations

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/05/21/ken-livingstone-resigns-labour-party-amid-anti-semitism-allegations/>

Ken Livingstone resigns from Labour to 'end antisemitism row'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ken-livingstone-resigns-from-labour-to-end-antisemitism-row-vr6dvc9pz>

Police Scotland's first hijab-wearing officer targeted by racist trolls

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/police-scotland-s-first-hijab-wearing-officer-targeted-by-racist-trolls-1-4743322>

Met Police use more force against black people, figures suggest

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-44214748>

Alison Chabloz: Woman who posted antisemitic song about Auschwitz 'theme park' found guilty by court

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/auschwitz-song-nazis-alison-chabloz-antisemitic-jewish-theme-park-london-forum-a8369751.html>

Antisemitic singer Alison Chabloz guilty of hate crime

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/antisemitic-singer-alison-chabloz-guilty-of-hate-crime-8xft86dgg>

Poster boy for banned neo-Nazi group jailed

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/poster-boy-banned-neo-nazi-group-jailed>

Wayne Bell jailed for neo-Nazi group social media posts

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-44226859>

Nottingham Trent law student admits making racist chants that left woman too afraid to go out

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-25/news/nottingham-trent-law-student-joe-tivnan-admits-making-racist-chants-that-left-woman-too-afraid-to-go-out-3p0fmx8mn>

Teenage girl stabbed in the back refused treatment from doctor because he was black

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/teenage-girl-stabbed-back-refused-12575465>

Kendrick Lamar is right about white fans rapping. The N-word is off limits

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/23/kendrick-lamar-white-rap-fans-n-word-off-limits>

Celtic star Nir Bitton slams trolls bombarding him with abuse because he is Israeli

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/celtic-star-nir-bitton-slams-12578936>

TOP

Scottish Sustainable Growth Commission

New Publication

Report of the Sustainable Growth Commission: Scotland – the new case for optimism: A strategy for inter-generational economic renaissance

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5afc0bbb79392ced8b73dbf/t/5b07d7ce1ae6cf2a4178f587/1527240672975/SGC_Full_Report.pdf

News

What's in the SNP's growth commission report?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-44237956>

Growth commission: What was in the 354-page report

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/growth-commission-what-was-in-the-354-page-report-vg6p5hk78>

SNP Growth Commission report: Five key points

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-growth-commission-report-five-key-points-1-4744915>

Independent Scotland can rise above Brexit-style row, report insists

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16251712.Independent_Scotland_can_rise_above_Brexit-style_row_report_insists/

Jim Sillars: Growth Commission has depth, detail and intellectual rigour

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16251317.Jim_Sillars_Growth_Commission_has_depth_detail_and_intellectual_rigour/

Alistair Carmichael: Growth Commission is all about the economy and that's why it is still a 'No'

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16251728.Alistair_Carmichael_Growth_Commission_is_all_about_the_economy_and_that_s_why_it_is_still_a_No/

SNP Growth Commission report: 'Enough grandstanding' say opposition parties

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-growth-commission-report-enough-grandstanding-say-opposition-parties-1-4745099>

Nicola Sturgeon challenged over tough spending restrictions in SNP independence blueprint

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/05/25/nicola-sturgeon-challenged-tough-spending-restrictions-snp-independence/>

Growth commission: New plan faces tough reception as Sturgeon puts it to members

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/growth-commission-new-plan-faces-tough-reception-as-sturgeon-puts-it-to-members-bsdhz7fdc>

Candid independence report raises prospect of a difficult first decade

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-05-25/scotland/candid-scottish-independence-report-raises-prospect-of-a-difficult-first-decade-2r2wxhdnz>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Understanding victims' experiences

<https://news.gov.scot/news/understanding-victims-experiences>

New Publications

Democracy Matters

Overview of how decisions about public services are taken

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535753.pdf>

Holding a conversation in your community

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535754.pdf>

Facilitating a good community conversation

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00535755.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Sharia Law

Baroness Cox (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the report of the independent review of the application of sharia law in England and Wales, published on 1 February.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, the Government are grateful for the independent review team's analysis and comprehensive report. The review found evidence of a range of practices across sharia councils, including women being forced to make concessions to gain a divorce. This is not acceptable. The Government responded to the review's recommendations in a Written Ministerial Statement on 1 February 2018 and in the *Integrated Communities Strategy*.

Baroness Cox: My Lords, I thank the Minister for her sympathetic reply and welcome the Government's response to the sharia law review, which reflects the measures in my Private Member's Bill which would require all religious marriages to be legally registered, thereby eradicating the vulnerability of Muslim women in the application of sharia law in this country, whereby a man can divorce his wife merely by saying "I divorce you" three times, and there is widespread polygamy, causing great unhappiness. One Muslim lady told me, "I feel betrayed by Britain. I came here to get away from this, and it's worse here than in the country from which I came". Therefore, I ask the Minister whether Her Majesty's Government will make it a priority to respond urgently with appropriate legislation, because many Muslim women are suffering in this country in ways which would make our suffragettes turn in their graves.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: I share the concerns of the noble Baroness and those raised in the review that some couples may marry in a way that does not give them the legal protections available to others in a civilly registered marriage. We have committed to explore the legal and practical challenges relating to marriage reform, and the Ministry of Justice will be taking this work forward.

Baroness Donaghy (Labour): My Lords, in my experience, at the heart of conciliation, arbitration and mediation, consent is crucial. There are now widespread concerns regarding the nature of consent given prior to sharia council hearings. Women may be pressured by their families into going to these councils and may lack knowledge of both the English language and their rights under English law. Does the Minister agree that this is an issue of equal rights for women? May I press her on how the Government will ensure the rights of Muslim women and ensure that the rule of law is upheld?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: I entirely agree with the noble Baroness. As I have already stated, the Government are taking this issue very seriously and we will be undertaking further work to look at how sharia councils and sharia law work. People can abide by sharia principles if they wish. Individuals are free to go to their priest, imam or any other faith leader, but we want to ensure that these actions do not conflict with the law and people are not left vulnerable and discriminated against.

Lord Elton (Conservative): In assessing the scale of this problem, do Her Majesty's Government take into account the, I believe, considerable number of people living in closed communities who are under severe pressure, social and otherwise, not to tarnish a family's honour by going to British law and who may not even speak the English language? They are not likely to show on the radar or to give evidence to inquiries. This problem seems to me bigger and more urgent than Her Majesty's Government are giving it credit for.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, the review that was undertaken recognised that there was an issue and made three recommendations: one was to look at marriage law reform; the second was on raising awareness; the third was to look at regulating sharia councils. I say to my noble friend that other women

who go to sharia law have a need to go there because they feel it is necessary. At the same time, we have to raise much more awareness about them going to have their marriage registered civilly.

Baroness Flather (Crossbench): My Lords, I have spoken on this subject at every opportunity in your Lordships' House. It is really appalling that we have an Equality and Human Rights Commission, but Muslim women have no equality and no human rights. It is really time to get into this issue properly. We have to look at the whole question of sharia. All the scholars have accepted that sharia discriminates against women not just in marriage or divorce but in every respect. A man can get a divorce by walking in ...

My question is: when are the Government going to take the issue properly, not just piecemeal with a bit here and a bit there? The issue is really with the whole of sharia application, which should never have been allowed in this country.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, the Government do take this issue very seriously, and that is why we undertook a review. The review's findings were put in place on 1 February and a Ministerial Statement was made. However, we must ensure that reform of marriage is not done in a piecemeal fashion because it is a complex area of legislation. We are looking at that area carefully and, as I said, within the communities we are putting much greater effort into working with other organisations such as advice centres, voluntary organisations and NGOs to raise much greater awareness so that these issues can be tackled.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the report says that, "those proposing a ban on sharia councils provide no counter proposal or any solution for anyone seeking a religious divorce ... We consider the closure of sharia councils is not a viable option". Do the Government agree?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: Sharia councils provide a service for some of the women who need to go to them, but they are not a viable solution in terms of equality for those women. We are therefore trying to raise awareness among sharia councils and the women who go to them—90% of the work done by those councils in fact regards divorce. Raising awareness will ensure that sharia councils themselves ensure that they are signposting correctly for those women.

Baroness Corston (Labour): My Lords, as I understand it, the provisions of sharia law are that an allegation of rape can be heard only if the act is witnessed by two men. Given that this is almost never the case, how on earth can an allegation of rape be successful under sharia law?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, UK law has primacy and sharia law does not. The Government take that view very strongly. Where there have been cases of rape, as the noble Baroness has mentioned, sharia councils must ensure that they signpost correctly the legal remedies that are available. I hasten to add that, at the end of the day, we must ensure that the women themselves are aware of what their rights are in the UK.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-24/debates/2A29E13B-AF77-4292-B938-5065C812EFAB/ShariaLaw>

The Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678473/6.4152_HO_CPFGR_Report_into_Sharia_Law_in_the_UK_PRINT.pdf

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-02-01/debates/18020149000008/FaithPractices>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

Forced Marriage

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they

are taking to ensure that the Commonwealth Communiqué's commitment to eradicate forced marriage is realised, and to assess its inter-relationship with forced conversion. ...

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Lord Bates): The UK was instrumental in ensuring the inclusion of child, early and forced marriage in the Commonwealth communiqué. We deliver our commitments through the Forced Marriage Unit and through our work to end child marriage in developing countries. While there are highly publicised instances of forced marriage and forced conversion, we do not have evidence that this is prevalent at scale. Where it happens, it is context-specific.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, I thank my noble friend for his Answer but, according to the Aurat Foundation, 1,000 Hindu and Christian women and girls are abducted, forcibly converted and married off in Pakistan every year. In India, there are similar allegations of Muslim girls being forcibly converted to Hinduism and married off. Of course, this has also been a feature of Boko Haram's tactics. Despite the last four communiqués making reference to early, child and forced marriage, none has addressed investigating the interrelationship with forced religious conversion. As chair of the Commonwealth for the next two years, will Her Majesty's Government commission the necessary research to understand this complex relationship and investigate potential solutions?

Reply from Lord Bates: I am grateful for my noble friend's question and I pay tribute to her work with the Commonwealth Initiative for Freedom of Religion and Belief, which has had a significant impact. I draw attention to the very substantial measures on freedom of religion and belief—led by my noble friend Lord Ahmad—that we have already announced, such as a £12 million fund through Aid Connect to look specifically at this. On the specific instance of Pakistan that the noble Baroness mentioned, one of the things that we were clear about in Pakistan's UN review last year was the importance of protecting minority rights and the possible need for an independent commission on such rights. We are doing significant things but we have to be clear that this is not only about the communiqué. The Commonwealth charter talks about the importance of, "tolerance, respect, understanding, moderation and religious freedom which are essential to the development of free and democratic societies".

That is why we will continue to hold other states to account and seek to live up to that.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, child marriage is a global issue. I do not know whether the Minister knows this, but I was very surprised to learn that over 200,000 girls under the age of 16 have got married in the United States where, in many states, it is still legal. In the Commonwealth, records show that 8.8 million girls have been forcibly married in this way. What progress has been made to eliminate this very harmful practice which, as the Minister said, breaches the rights of these girls? During the CHOGM conference, what further promotion was made of the Kigali Declaration?

Reply from Lord Bates: We have a major programme which is accelerating action against child and early forced marriage. We have been leaders in this area and put significant resource into it, and it has been engaging. We need to remind people not about the need for new declarations and new initiatives but of the fact that, 70 years ago, this matter was in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Article 16.2 states that there must be consent between the spouses. We just need to hold people to what they have already signed up to.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, given that the noble Lord, Lord Bates, said in answer to the noble Baroness, Lady Berridge, that there was not compelling evidence, will he undertake at least to look at the Aurat Foundation's evidence of 1,000 forced conversions every year and other evidence from Pakistan that suggests that between 20 and 30 women from Hindu backgrounds are forcibly converted every single month? In citing, as he has done, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, will he point Commonwealth countries to Article 18, which states quite emphatically that everyone has the right to believe, not to believe or to change their

beliefs and that no one should be forcibly converted?

Reply from Lord Bates: That is why we are doing so much in this area. We have done work through the Magna Carta Fund at the Foreign Office; we have new work coming on stream now. This is a fundamental area. Why are we doing it? It is simply because inclusive societies tend to be the most peaceful. Societies which empower and protect women tend to be the most prosperous. If you are in development, that is what you want to happen.

Lord Collins of Highbury (Labour): My Lords, I agree with the noble Baroness on translating the communiqué into action. One thing that can be done is to support the Commonwealth Office for Civil and Criminal Justice Reform. That would mean member countries translating commitments in the charter into legislative changes, so that people's rights can be protected. What are the Government doing to ensure that the Commonwealth Secretariat receives support for expanding that work?

Reply from Lord Bates: Clearly, it is a very important stream of work. The responsibility for implementing what has been signed up to by member states in the communiqué of course lies with the member states, but it is also right that we should be involved in the ways that I have outlined, through the various programmes and initiatives, to support countries to build more inclusive societies. We will continue to do that.

Lord Suri (Conservative): My Lords, as the UK is taking over the chairmanship of the Commonwealth for the next two years, and given the success of the Forced Marriage Unit, will my noble friend the Minister commit to sharing this model with Commonwealth countries where the level of forced marriages is particularly high?

Reply from Lord Bates: I often think that we need a certain degree of humility in this. We have been wrestling with the issue of forced marriage within our own communities here in the UK. There was a significant conviction in Birmingham just a couple of days ago, with someone sentenced to four and a half years in prison. If we engage with people at all levels, both at home and abroad, we can try to give young people the opportunities that we seek for them so that they might realise their full potential.

Baroness Barker (Liberal Democrat): Will the NCA be enabled with the resources to spread the intelligence that it has gathered in this country to its counterparts in Commonwealth countries?

Reply from Lord Bates: I presume that the noble Baroness is referring to the Forced Marriage Unit. That is an interesting point. The unit is situated in the Home Office but works jointly with the Foreign Office. I am not sure whether that happens. I will look into it and perhaps I may respond to the noble Baroness in writing.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-24/debates/3FC46DAB-E7D5-4FDD-B8A9-05510A2534F3/ForcedMarriage>

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New Publication

Scottish Charity Survey 2018

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3156/2018-05-17-scottish-charities-survey-general-public.pdf>

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Other News

National Youth Volunteering Design Team

Young Scot have teamed up with ProjectScotland and the Scottish Government to work with a National Design Team of 25 young people from around the country to look at how we can change volunteering for the better.

All young people aged 14-25 who live in Scotland are invited to apply to join the National Design Team. You will need to commit to the project for six months - from June to December 2018. Over these six months you will be asked to attend 3 residential events and 3 one-day events, and will sometimes be given tasks to do outside of these events. The events will be held all around Scotland, so although you will need to travel to some others should be nearer to you. For more information, and to apply, see <http://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90078141/National-Youth-Volunteering-Design-Team-Application> or contact codesign@young.scot / 0131 313 2488

Mother found guilty of forcing her daughter into marriage

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/west-midlands/news/mother-found-guilty-forcing-her-daughter-marriage>

Forced marriage: Mum guilty of making daughter wed older man

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-44211541>

Mum caged by UK court after duping daughter into forced marriage in Pakistan

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/mum-caged-uk-court-after-12578569>

Mother convicted of tricking daughter into forced marriage abroad in legal first

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/05/22/mother-convicted-tricking-daughter-forced-marriage-abroad-legal/>

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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>

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>

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

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

Report Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-24/debates/C34CDE0E-BDC6-4F56-9DCB-A9DCA4683B04/Refugees\(FamilyReunion\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-05-24/debates/C34CDE0E-BDC6-4F56-9DCB-A9DCA4683B04/Refugees(FamilyReunion)Bill(HL))

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

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/yoy-p-grant-guidelines.pdf> and to apply see <http://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/yoy-p-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!**

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>

**** this week!**

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/y7wvsx2>

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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