



*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** 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 have been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

First Minister's Question Time: Migrant Workers' Pay

Jackie Baillie (Labour): The First Minister will be aware that the workers who have been hired to build the flagship £2.6 billion Beatrice offshore wind farm have included migrants without immigration documents who have been paid a fraction of the minimum wage—some of them have been paid less than £5 an hour.

The Scottish Government believes that green energy is a priority. Will the First Minister act to ensure that green jobs are not exploited jobs, and stop that happening on major infrastructure projects in Scotland?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I unreservedly condemn any employer that exploits workers in that way. I am happy to ask the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity to look into the specific case to which

Jackie Baillie has referred, and to give her their findings once they have had the chance to do so.

It is my expectation as First Minister, and it is the expectation of the Scottish Government, that employers have fair work policies. Over the recess, we announced plans to toughen our approach to fair work as regards our expectations when Government grants are awarded, and in relation to the public procurement system. We will in due course set out more details of those plans to Parliament.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11726&i=106177&c=2119985#ScotParlOR>

First Minister's Question Time: Immigration Policy (Deportation)

Gillian Martin (SNP): The First Minister is aware of the horrific situation in which my constituents David and Carin Connolly find themselves, with Mrs Connolly's application to become a British citizen rejected by the Home Office, despite her husband of 32 years being a British citizen. The couple moved from Zimbabwe via Botswana to be with their son Marcus, who is also a British citizen, and they have lived for 10 years in Inverurie. Mrs Connolly is also the carer of her engineer husband, who is quadriplegic and requires 24-hour care. I have written in support of their case ahead of their appeal tribunal and to the First Minister. What more can we do to support the family and make the case for Mrs Connolly being allowed to remain in Scotland with her family?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I thank Gillian Martin for raising the case. I read the details of Mr and Mrs Connolly's case in the *Daily Record* this morning, and I commend Gillian Martin for taking up the case and for arguing it so strongly.

My heart goes out to Mr and Mrs Connolly, and I hope that they get the opportunity to stay as a family in Scotland. I have complete sympathy for anybody attempting to navigate the increasingly complex and restrictive United Kingdom immigration system. The one-size-fits-all approach imposed by Westminster is arbitrary, and it is very often inhuman, particularly in cases that threaten to rip apart families.

Every day, we literally hear more and more stories of lives across the country being disrupted by those disastrous policies. We want to welcome people to come and live here and contribute to our communities, not to threaten to force them to leave once they settle.

If there is more that the Scottish Government can do to help Gillian Martin argue the case, I am more than happy to look at that and see that we do that. I take the opportunity to wish Mr and Mrs Connolly well, and give them the message that the vast majority of people in Scotland welcome them here and want them to stay in our country.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11726&i=106169#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-25/debates/BD49B0B6-0291-44D9-888A-8F120BDAA4F2/Immigration>

Asylum Seekers: Right to Work

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-24/debates/C6500A4D-CBD7-4BAB-BD23-0D9CA6FF0318/AsylumSeekersRightToWork>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Immigration: DNA Tests

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): ... Many thousands of immigration applications are received every year that involve people applying to come to, or remain in, the UK on the basis of a family relationship with somebody who is already here. If an individual does not have sufficient evidence to show that they are related to someone in the UK, they sometimes choose to take a DNA test to prove the relationship. Officials then consider this evidence as part of their claim. Very often, it will be to the advantage of the applicant because it can establish family relationships beyond doubt where the other available evidence is sometimes insufficient.

The provision of DNA evidence must, however, be entirely voluntary. At the end of June, it was brought to our attention that there were some immigration cases where the provision of DNA evidence had been made a requirement for the issuance of a visa or the granting of leave to remain, and not simply a request. Such demands are unacceptable. I want to take this opportunity to apologise to those affected by this practice. In this context, the law states that the provision of DNA evidence should always be voluntary and never mandatory. My predecessor made that absolutely clear when she brought in changes in 2014.

Once we were made aware of the issue, we immediately commissioned an urgent internal review, which I am publishing today. Copies will be available in the Library. My right hon. Friend the Immigration Minister will also be writing today to the Home Affairs Committee to outline the key points of the review and to provide a copy. The review covered the legal aspects of DNA use, policy and guidance, caseworking practice and correspondence with applicants, as well as oversight arrangements relating to the use of DNA. It outlines a number of areas in which guidance was unclear or wrong. It also outlines areas of operational practice where DNA evidence was improperly required and provides some initial information on the possible scale of the issue. The review makes a number of recommendations about how to address the root causes within the border, immigration and citizenship system that led to this operational practice.

This review is not, however, a conclusion to the work. The numbers and information in the report have been collected at pace and still need to be fully assured and are subject to change. Further work is needed to ascertain the full scope of the issue. Regardless of the number of people affected, one case is still one too many, and I am determined to get to the bottom of how and why in some cases people could be compelled to supply DNA evidence in the first place.

The majority of cases identified so far have been part of Operation Fugal, which, according to the report, started in April 2016 to address patterns of fraud in some specific family and human rights immigration applications. Letters sent as part of that operation incorrectly stated that the applicant must provide DNA evidence and that not providing such information without a reasonable excuse would lead to the application being refused on suitability grounds. It has been reported that 83 applications had been refused at the time the report was written, and seven of those seem to have been refused on suitability grounds due solely to a failure to provide DNA evidence. A further six appear to have been refused on suitability grounds for failure to provide DNA evidence, although that was not the sole reason.

In addition to Operation Fugal, we have identified an improper approach to the use of DNA evidence in two further areas. The first relates to adult dependent relatives of Gurkhas. In January 2015, a scheme was expanded to allow adult dependent children of Gurkhas who were discharged before 1997 to settle in the UK. Published guidance stated that DNA evidence may be required and that applications may be refused if that evidence was not provided without a reasonable excuse within four weeks. That published guidance was wrong and has now been updated. The report suggests that 51 cases were identified where DNA evidence was requested from applicants at their own cost. At the time the report was written, we were aware of four cases from the same

family unit whose application was refused solely because they did not provide DNA evidence. Those decisions have now been corrected.

The second case relates to Afghan nationals. In 2013, applications to resettle in the UK from Afghan nationals who were formerly employed by the UK Government began to be accepted. The terms of the scheme included mandatory DNA testing for family groups, paid for by the UK Government. Current investigations suggest that no one making an application under that scheme was refused because they did not take a DNA test. None the less, mandatory testing should not have been part of the scheme, and that requirement has now been removed.

Let me be clear: across our immigration system, no one should have faced a demand to supply DNA evidence, and no one should have been penalised for not providing it. In particular, I extend my apologies to those Gurkhas and Afghans who have been affected. The two schemes I have described were put in place to help the families of those who have served to keep our country safe, and I am sorry that demands were made of them that never should have been made.

I reassure the House that I am taking action to correct the situation. First, I have given clear instructions that officials must not seek DNA evidence on a mandatory basis in any immigration case. Secondly, I have set up a new taskforce so that anyone who feels that their case may have been influenced in any way by an inappropriate demand for DNA testing can get advice and support. Thirdly, we will be looking to reimburse any individual who has suffered financial loss because we required DNA evidence when we should not have done so. Fourthly, we will continue closely to examine whether this approach might have been taken in any other parts of the immigration system. So far we know that three cohorts have been affected, but we must investigate whether there are any more. I will be asking for independent assurance on everything we do as we establish the facts. Finally, I know that the immigration system is operated by many highly committed people, but we must ensure that the structures and processes they use are fit for the modern world and fit for the new immigration system that we will be bringing in after we leave the European Union.

I will review more broadly our structures and processes to ensure that they deliver a system in a way that is fair and humane. I will now consider what form that review will take, but my starting point is that it would be helpful to have independent oversight. The review will also need to build on the lessons learned from the Wendy Williams review, and I will want Wendy to play a full part in this wider exercise.

When I became Home Secretary, I made clear that I would be prepared to take action to put right any wrongs as and when I became aware of them. Today, I promise the House that I will get to the bottom of what has gone on in relation to DNA evidence, and I will build an immigration system that provides control but that is also fair, humane and fully compliant with the law.

Diane Abbott (Labour): ... We now know from the Home Secretary's statement that the mandatory provision of DNA was neither legal nor fair. He stated that under the law, DNA evidence must always be provided on a voluntary basis. Can he therefore clarify that the demand for DNA evidence was, in itself, illegal, and if so, what legal consequences will follow? Members across the House will no doubt be shocked to learn that among the first victims of this abuse were Gurkhas and Afghans—men and women who put their lives at risk to keep this country safe. Ministers must clarify how long this practice has been taking place, and under what internal Home Office regime it was allowed or encouraged and at what level.

The Home Secretary spoke about reviewing the current structure and processes of our immigration system, which I welcome. He will be aware that the Law Society has said that there are serious flaws in the immigration system, and one indicator of those flaws is the state of appeals. In the last year for which we have records, fully 50% of appeals were upheld, which is an indicator of a system that is internally flawed. Waiting times for immigration appeals have risen by 45%. The Home Secretary talks about independent oversight, but what more effective oversight is there than a system of appeals that is

speedy and that works?

Finally, I remind the Home Secretary that the visa and immigration service faces what will possibly be the biggest single influx of applications in its history when EU nationals who live in the UK seek to settle their status post Brexit. It is a matter of urgency that we put in place processes and structures that can guarantee a speedy, efficient and fair resolution of cases.

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... As I said at the start, this should not have happened, and there should not have been any request in any immigration case, whether family related or not, for mandatory DNA evidence.

The right hon. Lady asked me to make it clear that this is illegal. My understanding is that the Home Office has never had the express power to require anyone to give DNA. It has never had that express power. There have been a number of Acts over time that have referred to this and tried to make it clear. As I mentioned in my statement, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister was, when she was Home Secretary, the first Home Secretary to put it completely beyond doubt by amending an Act—I think a 2007 Act—and then again in 2014 to make it absolutely clear in law. As I say, the Home Office has never had the power to compel anyone to provide DNA evidence. ...

The right hon. Lady referred to the broader review of structures and processes. I thank her for welcoming that. ...

... There have, over recent years, been a number of changes to the appeals process which I think make it fairer, but she is right to raise this issue. This is clearly a very important part of the immigration system, making sure it is fair and that people feel they have had the right to make their case properly and the right to have a person take a second independent look at their case. There is work to be done there. ...

Oliver Heald (Conservative): ... does the Home Secretary agree that firm immigration control is important and that providing this sort of evidence is a way for an applicant to have their application dealt with in a speedy way?

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... it should never be mandatory to supply DNA evidence. He is right to point out that where individuals feel it can help their case and want to submit DNA evidence voluntarily we should always be open to that. He is also right to say that in many, many cases it helps individuals to make their application and get exactly what they want.

Patrick Grady (SNP): ... The Scottish National party accepts that from time to time DNA can be a fair and useful tool in processing immigration applications, but it is clear now that it has become dangerously and unethically overused by the Home Office, making life unnecessarily difficult for applicants. We have seen: children who already have British passports being asked for DNA when trying to renew them; other kids being asked for a new test, even though it had already been provided; and, the root of today's statement, people receiving demands for their DNA even though the guidance said that alternative proof was perfectly acceptable. This is another example of the Home Office being out of control and the result of a migration target with which they are still completely obsessed. It is more evidence that the hostile environment lives on.

We welcome the clarity that it is absolutely not and never will be mandatory for DNA testing, and we welcome the apology that has been offered. Will the Home Secretary confirm that it is now policy that acceptance of the relationship by Government for a different purpose, such as child support, will be sufficient for immigration purposes? Is it the case that if the relationship is accepted for one immigration or nationality purpose, it will not subsequently be challenged unless there are exceptional reasons? Is there guidance on how to handle unexpected DNA results? I understand there used to be publicly available guidance about what happened if a DNA test showed that the biological father was not the presumed father. Where is that guidance, and will it be released and updated?

Finally, sometimes DNA can be the only means of proving a relationship in refugee family

applications and Dublin III applications. Such tests used to be funded by the Home Office for family reunion, as many refugee families are destitute. Why not return to that position if the Government are genuinely keen to pursue a humane approach? Of course, they could also do that by adopting the private Member's Bill on family reunion promoted by my hon. Friend the Member for Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Angus Brendan MacNeil).

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... s I said in my statement, more work needs to be done to see how widespread what should not have happened, the mandatory use, was. In many cases, it is voluntary. ... Clearly, where an individual feels it would help their application, I think it is right and proper that the Home Office takes that into account. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): The contents of the Home Secretary's statement are shocking and may have had a devastating impact on families' lives. It would be helpful to know whether everyone affected has been contacted. ...

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... we will be writing to the Select Committee today with further information that will be published for the whole House. ...

To continue reading the very lengthy question and answer session in full see
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-25/debates/F1CFD0C3-3776-401A-98DE-642E62E3869A/ImmigrationDNATests>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions: Immigration

Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op): Two teenage brothers from my constituency, Somer and Areeb, have lived in Glasgow since the youngest was five years old. They are now naturalised Glaswegians, but they live in constant fear of deportation to a country from which they fled in fear of their lives. Their school friends at Springburn Academy rallied to their cause by launching a petition, which has now been signed by more than 90,000 people, and which was recently presented to the Home Office by the school and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. However, that action has been met with callous indifference. When the Leader of the Opposition met the children in August, he was appalled by the lack of compassion shown by the Home Office towards these boys who have been kept in limbo for years. Will the Prime Minister now review the case, and meet the boys to witness at first hand what life is like at the sharp end of this Government's hostile environment?

Reply from the Prime Minister: Every case in relation to people's right to stay here in the United Kingdom is looked at extremely carefully, and I will certainly ensure that the Home Office looks again at this case.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-24/debates/33C297D5-BF19-4837-B54B-213D5E089243/Engagements#contribution-A5364138-7E55-4358-97D7-65EDEDE53C3B>

Prime Minister's Questions: Visas

Patrick Grady (SNP): How does denying, delaying or disrupting visas for Moldovan and African trade commissioners, Palestinian academics, artists at WOMAD and Celtic Connections, or Malawian priests and pupils enhance the Prime Minister's vision of a global Britain? Does the Prime Minister understand that the visa crisis and perceived travel ban serve only to prove that the "hostile environment" lives on, and that Brexit is a small, isolationist retreat from the world stage?[907247]

Reply from the Prime Minister: The reality is far different from the situation the hon. Gentleman has suggested. There is no travel ban. We remain open to business and to people from around the world, and we will continue to be so under the new immigration system—a skills-based immigration system—that we will be introducing when we leave the EU.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-10-24/debates/33C297D5-BF19-4837-B54B-213D5E089243/Engagements#contribution-3C13FDD2-C539-4F83-A09E-A0C3AA2E69C5>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Security

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [180182] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what timeframe has been set by his Department for the completion of security checks for immigration applications; and what steps his Department taken when that timeframe is not met.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Security checks are an important part of the process of considering immigration applications made to the Department.

Different areas complete different checks and have different expected timescales for security such checks to be completed.

The department publish transparency data on the number of applications which are considered within service standards across different immigration routes, and this data is available at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180182/>

UK Visas and Immigration

Ruth Smeeth (Labour) [179265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what length of journey to a reporting centre is deemed to be reasonable by the Home Office.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Individuals subject to reporting can be required to attend the nearest reporting centre or other specified location, including police stations, to their home address.

There is no upper limit to the distance which an individual may be required to travel in order to attend their nearest reporting centre. When deciding reporting conditions the Home Office will give due consideration to the young, elderly and those with medical issues and the potential impact of frequent travel over long distances which is considered to involve in excess of 2 hours' journey time each way.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179265/>

Immigrants: Skilled Workers

Faisal Rashid (Labour) [180306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for indefinite leave to remain were made by Tier 1 migrants in the last 12 months; and how many of those applications were declined.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The specific information you have requested is not currently published.

Information on total refusals and grants by category of settlement (indefinite leave to remain) is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Settlement table se_02_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#settlement>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180306/>

Migrant Workers

Kate Hollern (Labour) [182792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a net reduction in low-skilled immigration on the viability of industries reliant on low-skilled labour.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We commissioned the Migration Advisory Committee to make an economic assessment of the UK's future immigration needs. We have always been clear that the future immigration system will be

based on evidence and we will publish a White Paper setting out plans for the future immigration system later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-23/182792/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Medicine: Research

Ian Murray (Labour) [180160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the medical research sector will be able to recruit talented overseas professions through the immigration system that will be introduced after the UK leaves the EU.

Immigrants: Skilled Workers

Ian Murray (Labour) [180161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to assess the skills of prospective migrants using measures other than their expected salary in reforms to the UK's immigration system; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government will publish a White Paper setting out its plans for the future immigration system later this autumn. We have always been clear that we want decisions about the future immigration system to be based on evidence and we will carefully consider the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations in its recent report before setting out our plans.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180160/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180161/>

Agriculture: Migrant Workers

Jenny Chapman (Labour) [180695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of whether the Government's plans for a skills-based immigration system after the UK leaves the EU will meet the skills requirements of the agri-food sector.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government will publish a White Paper setting out its plans for the future immigration system later this autumn. We have always been clear that we want decisions about the future immigration system to be based on evidence and we will carefully consider the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations in its recent report before setting out our plans.

The Government announced on 6 September its plans to introduce a pilot scheme for the admission of 2,500 workers from outside the EU to help meet seasonal labour needs in the agricultural sector.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-17/180695/>

Social Security Benefits: Immigrants

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [176460] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate her Department has made of the number of benefits claims made by migrants with the right to work in the UK but not in possession of a Biometric Residence Permit in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017.

Reply from Alok Sharma: DWP procedures require non-UK nationals to provide proof of their UK immigration status upon application for an income related benefit. This may be in the form of a Home Office Biometric Residence Permit or a valid passport or visa stamped by the Home Office granting leave to remain and recourse to public funds. Claimants who provide proof of UK immigration status with recourse to claim public funds are eligible to claim DWP income-related benefits on the same basis as UK citizens.

Biometric Residency Permits were introduced by the Home Office in December 2012. As of 31 May 2015 new regulations require non-EEA nationals, seeking permission from overseas to enter the UK for more than six months to apply for a Biometric Residence Permit from the Home Office.

The Department does not centrally collect statistical information categorised by the type of immigration status document provided and the information requested could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-08/176460/>

Health Services: Immigrants

Afzal Khan (Labour) [180308] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Written Ministerial Statement of 11 October 2018 on Immigration Health Surcharge, whether his Department has plans to publish the review of the evidence on the average cost to the NHS of treating surcharge payers.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: The Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2018 was introduced in Parliament on Thursday 11 October 2018 alongside a published impact assessment which is available at the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111172995>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180308/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-10-11/HCWS995/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Helen Hayes (Labour) [182298] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 18 October 2018 to Question 179266 on Health Services: Immigrants, if he will publish the methodology and background data used to calculate the estimate of £470 per surcharge payer per annum.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: The Immigration (Health Charge) (Amendment) Order 2018 was introduced in Parliament on Thursday 11 October 2018 alongside a published impact assessment which is available at the following link:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2018/126/pdfs/ukia_20180126_en.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-22/182298/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179266/>

The Amendment Order referred to above can be read at

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111172995/pdfs/ukdsi_9780111172995_en.pdf

Immigrants: Entry Clearances

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [180715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department has reduced the validity of biometric residence permits issued to people granted indefinite leave to remain from 10 to six years; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under existing EU technical specifications, the UK is required to ensure that all Biometric Residence Permits in circulation after 31 December 2024 meet new EU encryption technology standards.

Therefore, anyone with indefinite leave to remain, issued with a BRP after 31 December 2014 is issued with a shorter validity Permit to ensure it can be replaced with a new document, free of charge, in time for the deadline. As the UK will have left the EU by this point, we are also considering how best to document

migrants' immigration status in the future border and immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-17/180715/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Royston Smith (Conservative) [179253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department plans to subsidise costs of short-term visas for students wishing to study in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and we plan to publish a White Paper later in the autumn.

The Government strongly wishes to continue to attract international students to study in the UK. We recognise that they enhance our educational institutions both financially and culturally; they enrich the experience of domestic students; and they become important ambassadors for the United Kingdom in later life.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published its report on the impact of international students in the UK in September 2018. The Government welcomes this report and thanks the MAC for their work. The report makes it clear that international students offer positive economic benefit to the UK and offers a number of policy recommendations. We are considering this report as we develop proposals for the future system

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179253/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739089/Impact_intl_students_report_published_v1.1.pdf

Visas: Overseas Students

Royston Smith (Conservative) [180251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to replicate the provisions of Tier 2 visa requirements for EU students studying in the UK after the UK has left the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and we will publish a White Paper later in the autumn.

The independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published its report on the impact of international students in the UK in September 2018. The Government welcomes this report and thanks the MAC for their work. The report makes it clear that international students offer a positive economic benefit to the UK and offers a number of policy recommendations. We will be considering this report carefully and engaging widely as we develop proposals for the future system which will be implemented from 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180251/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739089/Impact_intl_students_report_published_v1.1.pdf

Visas: Overseas Students

Royston Smith (Conservative) [180252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing short-term visas for students from EU countries studying in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is considering a range of options for the future immigration system and we plan to publish a White Paper later in the autumn.

The Migration Advisory Committee recently published its report on the impact of

international students in the UK. The report makes it clear that international students, including short-term students, offer positive economic benefit to the UK and offers a number of policy recommendations. The Government is carefully considering the recommendations and will be setting out its full response in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180252/>

Visas: Overseas Students

Jo Stevens (Labour) [182844] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many student study visas were refused in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on the number of study entry clearance visas granted, and refused, is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1 table vi_01_q, latest edition at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018/list-of-tables#visas>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-23/182844/>

Deportation: Windrush Generation

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [181229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on the number of people scheduled for removal to Nigeria and Ghana on 28 March 2017 who were eligible for assistance under the Windrush scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There were 60 people scheduled for removal to Nigeria and Ghana on a returns charter flight planned for 28 March 2017.

Any individual who believes they are protected under the provisions of the 1971 Immigration Act is able to contact the Windrush Taskforce, who will help to identify their current status. Information on the Windrush Taskforce is readily available on the Home Office website. None of the individuals have contacted the Taskforce.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181229/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Hilary Benn (Labour) [180101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been received from EU nationals for settled status; and how many of those applications (a) have been granted, (b) have been refused and (c) are awaiting a decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As set out in my Written Statement on the EU Settlement Scheme on 11 October (HCWS997), I have written to the Rt Hon Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford, the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, with our early findings from the initial private beta phase and placed a copy of that letter in the Library.

We will continue to monitor findings and will publish a full report with our findings once this first phase, which runs until later this month, has been completed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180101/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-10-11/HCWS997/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Steve Double (Conservative) [180247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to engage with employers and

community leaders in (a) Cornwall and (b) the South West on the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Ministers and officials have been engaging with people, communities and businesses across the whole of the UK since the Referendum. This is an absolutely essential part of the Government's exit approach and is in addition to the four stakeholder groups on the EU Settlement Scheme which meet monthly.

Engagement on the EU Settlement Scheme in the South West, to date, has taken place in Plymouth, Exeter, Bristol and Yeovil. The Government is committed to visiting all nations and regions of the UK, including Cornwall, as part of its engagement programme. This programme is ongoing and will continue beyond the UK leaving the European Union, on 29th March 2019. As part of the draft Withdrawal Agreement with the EU, EU citizens resident in the UK have until 30 June 2021 to apply for their status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180247/>

Immigrants: EEA Nationals

Steve Double (Conservative) [180248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the recommendations made by the Migration Advisory Committee in their recent report EEA migration in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government will publish a White Paper setting out its plans for the future immigration system later this autumn. We have always been clear that we want decisions about the future immigration system to be based on evidence and we will carefully consider the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendations in its recent report before setting out our plans .

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180248/>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [181310] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to collect data on how many of the estimated 3.8 million EU nationals living in the UK will still be without valid immigration status when the EU Settlement Scheme closes in June 2021.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will monitor the intake to the EU Settlement Scheme relative to the estimated size of the UK-resident population of EU citizens, including to inform our strategy for communications to encourage applications under the scheme by the 30 June 2021 deadline set out in the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181310/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [182184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Oral contribution of 21 June 2018 by the Minister for Immigration on the EU Settlement Scheme, Official Report, column 508, what provisions he plans to put in place for victims of trafficking and modern slavery to help them prove their residency in order to obtain Settled Status.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [182185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Oral contribution of 21 June 2018 by the Minister for Immigration on the EU Settlement Scheme, Official Report, column 508, what steps he is taking to ensure that victims of trafficking and modern slavery can prove their identity in order to obtain Settled Status.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [182186] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Oral Statement of 21 June 2018 by the Minister for Immigration on the EU Settlement Scheme, Official Report, column 508, if he will waive the application fee for (a) any victim and (b) any dependent of trafficking or modern slavery with a positive reasonable grounds or conclusive grounds decision when applying for settled status.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As set out in the Statement of Intent published on 21 June 2018, the EU Settlement Scheme will adopt a flexible approach to evidence of both identity and residence.

The published caseworker guidance includes a broad range of evidence that caseworkers can accept to establish the applicant's claimed period of residence in the UK. This includes confirmation from another Government department or agency, such as the National Crime Agency which oversees the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking and modern slavery.

The Home Office will also accept alternative evidence of identity and nationality where the applicant is unable to obtain or produce the required document due to circumstances beyond their control or due to compelling practical or compassionate reasons. This could include where passports or national identity cards have been confiscated by organised criminal gangs involved in trafficking.

Furthermore, arrangements are being developed for a range of support to be offered by the Home Office and third parties such as community groups and charities. These include direct support arrangements to assist vulnerable individuals throughout the application process, through tailored telephone advice and support, attendance at one of our assisted digital centres, or where necessary, officials visiting the individual at home.

With regard to application fees, there are currently no plans to waive fees for victims of trafficking and modern slavery, unless the victim is a child in local authority care. The application fee has been set below the cost of a UK passport and applicants have until 30 June 2021 to make the necessary arrangements to enable them to apply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-22/182184/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-22/182185/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-22/182186/>

The oral contribution and statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-06-21/debates/F9399B0C-6967-4F2C-BF14-FCD3F4DEBC4A/EUSettlementScheme>

The Statement of Intent referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718237/EU_Settlement_Scheme_SOI_June_2018.pdf

Asylum

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [181328] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that local authorities are empowered and funded to support asylum seekers and newly recognised refugees.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office provides asylum seekers and their dependants who would otherwise be destitute with free furnished accommodation (rent and utility free) and a weekly cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs. They also have access to free NHS healthcare and education for their dependent children.

Newly recognised refugees are able to apply for mainstream benefits and

assistance from their local authority to find housing, and they also have full and unrestricted access to the labour market.

We are working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that newly recognised refugees are provided with assistance to apply for any benefit to which they are entitled before their Home Office support comes to an end.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181328/>

Asylum: Iran

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [181546] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claims his Department has dealt with from asylum seekers from Iran over the last five years; and how many of those claims were (a) accepted and (b) refused.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data on the number of applications and initial decisions (including the number of grants and refusals), broken down by nationality, in the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* publication. The latest figures, up until June 2018, are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-19/181546/>

Refugees: Greater London

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [181331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding his Department has provided to support newly-recognised refugees in London when they have moved out of asylum dispersal accommodation in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Newly recognised refugees have immediate access to the labour market and can access a range of mainstream services, including social welfare benefits, healthcare, and English language tuition.

Funding for these services is provided by the relevant Departments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181331/>

Asylum: Greater London

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [181334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are living in London as at October 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-july-to-september-2017/list-of-tables#asylum>

This does not include those asylum seekers who are accommodated with friends and family, and who are not in receipt of support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181334/>

Asylum: Greater London

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [181335] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of asylum seekers registered to attend English for Speakers of Other Languages classes in London (a) six months and (b) 12 months after arriving in the UK in each of the last three years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Department of Education funds English language provision through the Adult Education Budget. This is allocated to local

providers to use in line with local needs.

Government does not centrally hold data on the number of asylum seekers accessing English language provision in different regions by date of arrival.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181335/>

Asylum: Children

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [179213] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the 794 unaccompanied refugee children who were granted asylum in the UK in 2017 have made applications for family reunion.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is currently no provision in the Immigration Rules for children with refugee status in the UK to sponsor family members to join them. Allowing children to sponsor parents would create further incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK to sponsor relatives. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

The Government believes the best interests of children are reflected in remaining with their families, claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach that is the fastest route to safety and relying on resettlement schemes to travel safely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179213/>

Asylum: Children

Afzal Khan (Labour) [181311] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that minors in Calais with family in the UK are able to access family reunification procedures.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We continue to meet our commitments under the Dublin Regulation to ensure unaccompanied children with qualifying family in the UK can be transferred to the UK from Europe to have their asylum claim assessed as quickly as possible.

We are working closely with French authorities and non-governmental organisations in France to support the identification and transfer of eligible children under Dublin. We have allocated a £3.6 million Dublin development fund, as part of the Sandhurst Treaty signed between the UK and France in January 2018, to identify projects to support eligible claims through the asylum process and ensure those who are ineligible for transfer to the UK are informed of their options.

The Treaty also includes a commitment to reduce timescales for decisions and transfers under Dublin. A UK asylum liaison officer has been deployed to France to support the process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181311/>

Asylum: Children

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [182235] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have arrived to the UK under the Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We remain fully committed to delivering our commitment to transfer the specified number of 480 children under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and are working very closely with participating States, to deliver the scheme in line with their national laws.

Over 220 children are already in the UK. We will not provide a running commentary on numbers and will publish the details once all children are in the UK.

We are working very closely with participating States and partners to deliver the scheme in line with their national laws. Relocation of children to the UK is also dependent on the availability of appropriate local authority care placements. The Sandhurst Treaty, signed between the UK and France in January 2018, includes a number of measures to strengthen our cooperation on unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This includes a £3.6m development fund to identify projects to support transfers of eligible children under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 and the Dublin III Regulation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-22/182235/>

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [180826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions he plans to make in the new asylum accommodation contracts to ensure that pregnant women and new mothers have access to adequate maternity care and advice.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under the new asylum accommodation contracts, Providers will be contractually required to take account of the needs of all those that they accommodate, including expectant mothers.

The contract will also ensure that standardised health checks are undertaken whilst Service Users are accommodated in Initial Accommodation and Providers will also be contractually responsible for securing GP registrations for Service Users. This service, where necessary, will include facilitating and providing assistance to attend medical appointments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-17/180826/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [180296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the criteria used by (a) UK Visas and Immigration and (b) providers of asylum accommodation to assess the vulnerability of tenants.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005 provide that in considering whether to provide support under Section 95 and 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to asylum seekers or their family members, account must be taken of their special needs if they are vulnerable. The Regulations define a vulnerable person as:

- A minor
- A disabled person
- An elderly person
- A pregnant woman
- A person who has been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence;
- A person who has had an individual evaluation of his situation that confirms he/she has special needs.

Accommodation providers are also contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate. The definition of vulnerability in the contracts is the same as the one set out in the 2005 Regulations.

The particular circumstances of other supported asylum seekers and their dependants who may have other particular vulnerabilities are also carefully considered, for example because they have care needs or health problems that require a need for a specific type of accommodation or accommodation in a particular location. Further details regarding these policies can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-requests-policy>
<https://horizon.fcgs.gsi.gov.uk/file-wrapper/asylum-seekers-care-needs>

<https://horizon.fcgs.gsi.gov.uk/file-wrapper/healthcare-needs-and-pregnancy-dispersal-guidance>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180296/>

Asylum: Housing

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [180297] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what processes are in place to ensure that (a) service users and (b) advocates of service users are able to challenge refusals to relocate them to a different property under the new (i) Asylum Accommodation and Support and Advice and (ii) Issue Reporting and Eligibility Support contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Under the new Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts, Service Users or their advocates will continue to be able to make relocation requests directly to the Home Office.

The new Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Provider will also be required to assist Service Users with applications to move accommodation. In the event of a refusal, the Service User and/or those representing will be able to submit further representations and evidence to support a relocation request.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180297/>

Asylum: Housing

Helen Hayes (Labour) [180827] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions will be in the new asylum accommodation contracts to ensure accommodation is safe for young children and infants before families are placed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The new contracts will require accommodation providers to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

The contracts will also include provision for childcare equipment, including cots, high chairs, sterilisation equipment and child safety gates where necessary.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-17/180827/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [181327] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to (a) ensure that the new asylum seeker accommodation contracts will deliver accommodation of a good standard and (b) support people to make a successful transition from asylum-seeking to refugee status.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour)[181330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provisions will be in the new asylum accommodation contracts to ensure that successful asylum applicants do not become destitute when they leave dispersal accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The new arrangements for asylum accommodation and support contracts have been designed to improve the overall service by providing a more accessible and easy to navigate system which ensures the safety, security and welfare of service users and their host communities.

Accommodation Providers will continue to be required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation that complies with the Decent Homes Standard in addition to standards outlined in relevant national or local housing legislation.

Providers will also have a contractual duty to notify the local authority of the potential need to provide housing where a person in that accommodation is granted refugee status, including any other information about the refugee's needs

that the Local Authority will need to help them provide accommodation before their support ceases.

These services will be delivered alongside other existing cross government initiatives to improve the transfer of information with Local Authorities including the Post Grant Appointments Service and the Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Offices (LAASLO) pilot that aim to secure better outcomes for refugees within their move on period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181327/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181330/>

Asylum: Housing

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [181329] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to support local authorities during the transition to new asylum accommodation contracts.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As activity to tender and procure the new asylum accommodation and support contracts comes to a conclusion, there will be a significant increase in our engagement with partners and stakeholders to plan and execute the transition to the services.

Work to plan for the mobilisation and transition has been underway for some time and is supported by dedicated central and regional teams who will engage on a local basis with all strategic stakeholders including Local Authorities, these plans will include the establishment of regional working groups and formal joint engagement boards to ensure all parties are involved and able to understand and support the appointed providers' solution.

The new asylum accommodation and support contracts will also be underpinned by collaborative principles that require Providers to develop close working relationships with stakeholders to support the effective coordination of local services delivery and help secure the safety and welfare of service users.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181329/>

Human Trafficking

Kate Green (Labour) [180185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) positive and (b) negative Conclusive Grounds decisions were made to potential victims of human trafficking after referral to the National Referral Mechanism and the 45 day reflection period in each quarter of 2017.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Data on National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decisions is published every quarter by the National Crime Agency. The quarterly reports for 2017 can be found here:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2017-nrm-statistics>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180185/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Human Trafficking

Lyn Brown (Labour) [179172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful referrals have been made to the National Referral Mechanism in each of the past five years.

Lyn Brown (Labour) [179173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people referred to the National Referral Mechanism were (a) males over 18, (b) males over 18 who are British residents, (c) males over 18 who go on to get a positive

decision, (d) females over 18, (e) females over 18 who are British residents, (f) females over 18 who go on to get a positive decision, (g) males under 18, (h) males under 18 who are British residents, (i) males under 18 who go on to get a positive decision, (j) females under 18 in total, (k) females under 18 who are British residents and (l) females under 18 who go on to get a positive decision in each of the last five years.

Human Trafficking: Gangs

Lyn Brown (Labour) [179174] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many referrals have been made to the National Referral Mechanism due to gang involvement in each of the last five years.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: There is no data available on the number of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals made due to gang involvement. Data on the outcome of referrals for the last five years as well as the nationality, age and gender of those referred is publicly available on the National Crime Agency (NCA) website:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2017-nrm-statistics/884-nrm-annual-report-2017>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179172/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179173/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179174/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Standards

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [182689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism received a reasonable grounds decision within five working days, and what the timeframe was for the remainder of the referrals in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [182690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of referrals to the National Referral Mechanism received a conclusive grounds decision during the 45-day recovery and reflection period; and what the timeframe was for decisions to be made on the remainder of referrals in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The National Crime Agency (NCA) is responsible for publishing National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data and does so on a quarterly basis. The NCA does not publish data about the timescales for reaching reasonable grounds or conclusive grounds decisions. No NRM decisions are made during a potential victim's 45 day reflection and recovery period.

Published data on the referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is available via the following link:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>.

Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749346/2018_UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery.pdf

which was published on 18 October 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-23/182689/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-23/182690/>

Human Trafficking: Undocumented Workers

Mike Amesbury (Labour) [181302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment his Department has made of the ability of UK Border Force to identify and punish people who regularly exploit and traffick illegal workers into the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is committed to protecting the vulnerable. At the primary checkpoint, Border Force Officers have the unique advantage of being the first point of contact with UK authorities for many vulnerable children and adults as well as the criminals who traffic them.

All Border Force staff receive training in how to spot indicators of modern slavery for both victims and traffickers. In addition to this specialist safeguarding teams with enhanced skills provide advice to colleagues on this area of work.

Intelligence-led operations to disrupt traffickers and protect victims is the key to Border Force's response to the threat of Modern Slavery. Through the Modern Slavery Threat Group, Border Force work alongside UKVI, IE and other law enforcement agencies to identify and disrupt modern slavery offenders."

If a suspected trafficker is encountered by Border Force staff this is referred to colleagues in Immigration Enforcement, NCA or the police for further investigation and prosecution.

The responsibility for investigation and prosecution does not sit with Border Force.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-18/181302/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Lyn Brown (Labour) [179176] To ask the Attorney General, what the Government's policy is on the bringing of criminal charges against children who (a) are awaiting a National Referral Mechanism decision and (b) have a National Referral Mechanism decision, where the charges concerned are linked to the exploitation in relation to which the referral was made; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Buckland: No criminal charges can be brought for any offence unless they satisfy the two stage test contained in the Code for Crown Prosecutors: there must be sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction and a prosecution must be in the public interest.

Where a child is awaiting a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) decision, a prosecutor may at that stage decide not to bring a prosecution if there is other independent evidence of their trafficked status and if the offence is not so serious as to require a prosecution. If there is no other independent evidence of their trafficked status, the prosecutor will await the NRM decision and re-review the evidence in light of the decision. If the case is awaiting hearing at court, an adjournment will be requested until the NRM decision has been made.

Where a child has an NRM decision in their favour, a prosecutor will consider this to be persuasive evidence of their trafficked status and will not bring a prosecution unless there is other strong evidence to the contrary and the offence is so serious as to require prosecution.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179176/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Victims

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [182687] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the nationalities were of victims in receipt of positive conclusive grounds decisions made through the National Referral Mechanism; and what the nationalities were of those people who were under the age of 18 in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [182688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what the nationalities were of victims in receipt of negative conclusive grounds decisions made through the National Referral Mechanism; and what the nationalities were of those people who were under the age of 18 in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The National Crime Agency (NCA) is responsible for publishing National Referral Mechanism (NRM) data and does so on a quarterly basis.

Published data on the referrals to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is available via the following link:

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>. The 2017 Annual Report of NRM statistics includes data on the outcomes of NRM decisions by nationality for referrals made in 2017, at Annex G. Further information is also available in the 2018 UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/749346/2018_UK_Annual_Report_on_Modern_Slavery.pdf which was published on 18 October 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-23/182687/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-23/182688/>

Deportation: Human Trafficking

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [179211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many suspected victims of human trafficking have been deported after being referred by the police to UK Visas and Immigration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The figures for the number of suspected victims of trafficking or modern slavery referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) are published by the National Crime Agency. The NRM is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking or modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support. In 2017, 5145 potential victims of trafficking were referred to the NRM, of which 1384 were referred by the police. For 2018 (up to the end June) there has been 3289 referrals into the NRM, of which 995 were via the police.

In order to understand how many of those referrals by the police were subsequently deported (or removed) we would need to extract the biodata from the NRM systems and cross-match it with the Case Information Database (CID).

This data is not currently available at this time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179211/>

Deportation: Human Trafficking

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [179212] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what protection is provided to victims of human trafficking to enable them to report trafficking to the police without fear of deportation.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: All potential victims of modern slavery who receive a positive 'reasonable grounds' decision through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) are entitled to a comprehensive package of support for a minimum of 45 days, regardless of their immigration status. This includes access to safe house accommodation, support, and medical care including counselling as required.

Those confirmed to be victims through the NRM may be granted a period of leave to remain in the UK if they are helping the police with an inquiry, pursuing compensation, or their personal circumstances merit a grant of leave. Moreover, individuals can apply for asylum if they have a genuine fear of return to their

country of origin. All asylum applications are looked at on a case-by-case basis, with caseworkers giving careful consideration to the circumstances of each individual. No one who is found to be at risk of persecution or serious harm in their country of origin will be returned there

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179212/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Child Citizenship Fees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on children of the £1,012 fee to apply to register their entitlement to British citizenship.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, the Home Office duty to have regard to a child's best interest is considered when developing immigration and nationality fees policy, and is met through the waivers and exceptions in place. This position is reviewed in the policy equality statements that accompany each year's fee charges. The Home Office will consider representations made on child citizenship fees in this year's fees review.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, I thank the Minister, but no child rights impact assessment has been published. How can the Government meet their duty under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to give primary consideration to the best interests of the child when they fail to provide that assessment of the "huge" registration fee, to quote the Home Secretary? It effectively denies children born in this country their statutory right to citizenship, thereby undermining their sense of security, identity and belonging, and potentially creating a new Windrush generation.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, we understand the need that children and young people have to establish a secure status for their future when they have been in the UK for most of their lives. The published impact assessment considers the overall impact of immigration and nationality fee changes and estimates the overall costs and benefits to the UK economy. It assesses the impact of fee changes not on the individual applicant, but rather on the UK as a whole. Given the large number of fees included, results are presented at an aggregated level.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, on Thursday, in response to a question from the noble Lord, Lord Harris of Haringey, the noble Baroness said, "the Government believe that it is right for those who use and benefit directly from the UK immigration system to make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs"—[Official Report, 18/10/18; col. 564.]

I understand that of the £1,012 fee that is the subject of this Question, £372 represents the administrative cost. Is the £640 profit—almost two-thirds—"appropriate", to use the noble Baroness's term, or are the rights of the child under international law trumped by Home Office profit?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, this is not about Home Office profit. ...

No, my Lords, it is not, because we have to take a whole-system approach to fees, immigration and citizenship. I totally take on board that compelling points have been persuasively made in both Houses, including in our June debate. I have sought a commitment that the Home Office will look at the issue of charges. It genuinely understands why these points are being made and the importance attached to them, and will consider them as part of its annual review of immigration and nationality fees.

The Lord Bishop of Ely: My Lords, has the Minister been in contact with the many school leaders who say that there are issues not only around identity, but around the

economic harm done to children through food insecurity and their basic needs not being met? I wonder whether, even ahead of the review, an undertaking might be given to waive fees for the poorest children, particularly those who are looked after.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: The right reverend Prelate has made an important point. Of course the Home Office uses fee waivers in compassionate cases and will take compelling financial circumstances into consideration.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): Why are the individual circumstances of people on whom this fee has a great impact not taken into account? Surely that is a very simple question.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, people's individual circumstances are looked at and taken into account where necessary and appropriate.

Lord Dubs (Labour): My Lords, the Minister used the expression "whole-system approach" in answer to a question asking why the Home Office was making a profit out of these children. I am puzzled by what that term means. Could she explain? To me it is complete gobbledegook.

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, it is not gobbledegook because any changes to the charging structure have financial consequences that the Home Office must consider alongside other pressures. It is important to look at where the charges impact. Where fees are set above costs, the additional income is used to help fund and maintain the function of an effective wider immigration system. ...

If I may, I will give two examples. Fees for EEA nationals have been set below cost to reflect the agreements in place with the EU. Fees for short-term visas, our largest volume application route, reflect the importance to our economy of visitors to the UK.

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour): My Lords, the Minister has missed the entire point of this Question—that these children are already UK citizens and are just trying to regularise their position to get the paperwork that they need. I gather that the Government are making a profit of around 800% out of these applications. Does she really think it is fair to charge that amount of money to children who are already UK citizens?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: My Lords, I understand the Question, as does the Home Office, and I believe that I have answered the questions that have been put to me. It is understandable that children have to pay higher fees. The principle of charging above the cost for children to register as British citizens has been in place for more than a decade and has been approved by Parliament. We are reviewing all our fees and will look at the regulations in March 2019. I understand that those regulations will come before the House before they can take effect.

Lord Russell of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, the Minister will be painfully aware of the sentiments of a lot of people in this House on this subject, including a great many people sitting on the Benches behind her, as was evident in June. In the light of that, we are grateful that the Chief Inspector of Immigration is undertaking a review. Can the Minister give an indication of when that review will be complete and what options the Government are considering to mitigate this very unfortunate situation?

Reply from Baroness Manzoor: As I said, any changes will need to be set in new secondary legislation before they can come into effect, and the next planned date for new immigration fee legislation is March 2019.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-23/debates/B354EE36-28BB-45ED-A6EA-9846CC39594D/ChildCitizenshipFees>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Lords/2018-10-18/debates/C9F9A57F-4773-4A2F-95CF-C6FD86386314/UKVisasAndImmigrationCustomerCharges>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

National Insurance: Foreign Nationals

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts (Conservative) [HL10728] To ask Her Majesty's Government which five countries had the most overseas nationals being allocated National Insurance numbers in each of the last three years for which records are available.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: The available information on the five countries with the most overseas nationals being allocated National insurance numbers can be found within our published statistics National Insurance Number Allocations to Adult Overseas Nationals entering the UK. The latest available information is up to June 2018

Below is a table of allocated NINOs per country for the top 5 countries for the last three calendar and financial years. Taken from the published stats

Calendar Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
2015	Romania 169,888	Poland 111,270	Italy 58,653	Spain 50,028	Bulgaria 39,189
2016	Romania 189,023	Poland 93,372	Italy 62,984	Spain 47,741	Bulgaria 42,342
2017	Romania 154,014	Poland 61,821	Italy 50,880	Bulgaria 38,744	Spain 35,642
Financial Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
2015/16	Romania 179,242	Poland 108,672	Italy 57,293	Spain 48,498	Bulgaria 39,643
2016/17	Romania 181,882	Poland 83,589	Italy 61,751	Spain 44,075	Bulgaria 42,052
2017/18	Romania 147,956	Poland 58,370	Italy 47,887	Bulgaria 37,223	Spain 34,599

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-10-16/HL10728/>

UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights

Detention of Windrush generation: evidence session

https://www.parliament.uk/documents/joint-committees/human-rights/correspondence/2017-19/Transcript_Win.pdf

UK Parliament House of Commons Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into Modern Slavery: evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/modern-slavery/oral/92065.html>

Press Releases

Securing the status of EU citizens

<https://news.gov.scot/news/securing-the-status-of-eu-citizens>

Supreme Court ruling about whether it is reasonable for a parent to be deported if this would have an “unduly harsh” effect on his or her child

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2016-0107-press-summary.pdf>

UN expert calls on Security Council to address trafficking as human rights issue

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23787&LangID=E>

New Publications

Internal review of the government’s policy on requirements to provide DNA in visa and asylum cases

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/751251/DNA-REVIEW-Richard-Alcock.odt

National Transfer Scheme Protocol for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750913/NTS-Protocol-Final-October-2018.pdf

News

Scottish and Welsh ministers call for EU settlement pilot to include relatives

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17047240.scottish-and-welsh-ministers-call-for-eu-settlement-pilot-to-include-relatives/>

Theresa May promises to 'look again' at case of two 'naturalised Glaswegian' asylum-seekers, fearing deportation

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17005219.theresa-may-promises-to-look-again-at-case-of-two-naturalised-glaswegian-asylum-seekers-fearing-deportation/>

Theresa May to 'look again' at case of Glasgow family facing deportation to Pakistan

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/theresa-look-again-case-glasgow-13475818>

Prime Minister orders Home Office review of asylum case

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

Home secretary apologises for immigrant DNA tests

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45979359>

Sajid Javid apologises to immigration applicants forced to give DNA samples

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/25/sajid-javid-apologises-to-migrants-forced-to-give-dna-samples>

Home Office admits people were wrongly denied UK status after refusing to provide DNA evidence

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-status-dna-evidence-sajid-javid-government-conservative-a8600961.html>

Sajid Javid apologises after discovering 130 migrants were forced to take DNA tests

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/10/25/sajid-javid-apologises-discovering-130-migrants-forced-take/>

Javid apologises for migrant DNA tests

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-26/news/javid-apologises-for-migrant-dna-tests-kd2l9h5dg>

EU citizens in Britain to be granted voting rights in UK elections

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/eu-citizens-in-britain-to-be-granted-voting-rights-in-uk-elections-976p27ck8>

Asylum seekers' social media can be checked if they claim persecution because they are gay

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-social-media-can-be-checked-if-they-claim-persecution-because-they-are-gay-72vxkg72f>

Labour would relax work rules for asylum seekers, says Abbott

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/24/reduce-restrictions-on-asylum-seekers-right-to-work-says-tory-mp-caroline-selman>

Giving asylum seekers the right to work can rebuild lives

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-24/news/giving-asylum-seekers-the-right-to-work-can-rebuild-lives-2qmspk3z6>

UK's science reputation 'at risk if academic visa issues not resolved'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/22/uk-science-reputation-at-risk-if-foreign-academics-visa-issues-not-resolved>

Number of EU applicants to UK medical schools falls to lowest point in decade, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/students-university-medicine-health-brexit-latest-undergraduate-ucas-admissions-a8601121.html>

Migrants building £2.6bn windfarm paid fraction of minimum wage

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/21/migrants-building-beatrice-windfarm-paid-fraction-of-minimum-wage>

Doctor is refused entry into Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/doctor-is-refused-entry-into-britain-h0wv365xv>

Home Office U-turn over Syrian journalist welcomed

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/27/home-office-in-u-turn-over-syrian-journalist-humam-husari-barred-from-uk-rory-peck-award>

Slavery victim trafficked to UK aged three and subject to decades of sexual abuse told to 'go home', MPs hear

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/modern-slavery-victim-trafficked-to-uk-at-age-of-three-and-subject-to-decades-of-sexual-exploitation-a8598141.html>

The right of appeal against refusal of a residence card: the latest developments

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2018/10/24/the-right-of-appeal-against-refusal-of-a-residence-card-the-latest-developments/>

Nicola Sturgeon slams heartless Home Office planning to deport paralysed man's wife of 32-years out Scotland

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/nicola-sturgeon-slams-immigration-system-13481712>

Student granted UK visa after media uproar

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-45939552>

Protesters blockade street to prevent immigration officers detaining local shop owner

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/protest-against-immigration-officers-raid-home-office-bristol-a8602816.html>

Convicted former UBS trader faces imminent deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/oct/24/convicted-former-ubs-trader-kweku-adoboli-faces-imminent-deportation>

TOP

Community Relations

Press Release

Justice Secretary pays tribute to Scotland's Jewish communities

<https://blogs.gov.scot/justice-safety/2018/10/28/justice-secretary-pays-tribute-to-scotlands-jewish-communities/>

News

A third of Britons would stop their children visiting mosque

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/a-third-of-britons-would-stop-their-children-visiting-mosque-2xv57c0pp>

Edinburgh 'must admit slavery role'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/edinburgh-must-admit-slavery-role-q2g306p8h>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Primary Health Care: Ethnic Groups

Kate Green (Labour) [180186] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps the NHS plans to take to tackle barriers to access to primary care for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in the long term plan for the NHS.

Reply from Steve Brine: NHS England is working on tools for access to primary care for patients and carers, which is aimed at the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities as well as other identified groups. NHS England will be involving members of these communities in this work to create information that helps patients, carers and front line social care and voluntary and community sector staff understand access to primary medical services. Once published, there will be targeted engagement to ensure the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are aware of the tool, and how to use it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-16/180186/>

Press Releases

Britain in danger of becoming a two-speed society

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/britain-danger-becoming-two-speed-society>

Is Scotland Fairer? 2018 report launched

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/scotland-fairer-2018-report-launched>

Banning the niqab violated two Muslim women's freedom of religion - UN experts on French court ruling

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23750&LangID=E>

New Publications

Is Scotland Fairer?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/is-britain-fairer-2018-is-scotland-fairer.pdf>

Is Britain Fairer?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/is-britain-fairer-2018-pre-lay.pdf>

Is Wales Fairer?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/is-britain-fairer-2018-is-wales-fairer.pdf>

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2017–18

http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1807/shrc_annual_report_2018_vfinal.pdf

Improving Gypsy/Travellers' sites - landlords' compliance with minimum site standards

<https://www.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Improving%20Gypsy%20Travellers%27%20sites%20-%20landlords%27%20compliance%20with%20minimum%20s....pdf>

News

'Shocking' inequality remains in Scotland, finds study

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17000114.shocking-inequality-remains-in-scotland-finds-study/?ref=mr&lp=3>

Brown ballet shoes to be made for the first time in the UK in move hailed 'historic' for diversity

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/26/brown-ballet-shoes-made-first-time-uk-move-hailed-historic-diversity/>

[TOP](#)

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

One Scotland Campaign

S5W-19228 Jeremy Balfour (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the language used in the One Scotland campaign posters

regarding religious hate crime risks undermining the campaign and alienating all faiths and could lead to people of any faith feeling hated.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: Any form of hate crime or prejudice is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The campaign aims to encourage witnesses to report hate crime using a series of letters addressed to perpetrators describing the experience of victims, stating that 'your hate has no home here'. It is not targeting those of faith.

The campaign has been developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including faith organisations.

Hate crime has hugely damaging effects on victims, their families and communities and we all must play our part to challenge it.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-19228>

The poster referred to above can be read at

<http://staging.onescotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Dear-bigots.pdf>

The full set of One Scotland Campaign posters can be read at

<https://onescotland.org/campaigns/hate-crime-campaign/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Jo Stevens (Labour) [180795] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of trends in the level of reported hate crime since January 2015; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office holds hate crime data for all police forces in England and Wales on an annual basis. The number of hate crimes recorded by the police has increased by 79% between 2014/15 and 2017/18, from 52,465 to 98,098 offences. This increase is thought to be driven by general improvements by the police in how they record crime, better identification of hate crimes, willingness of victims to come forward, and a genuine increase in these offences around certain events such as the EU Referendum and the terrorist attacks in 2017.

Better recording is an important part of how to tackle hate crime and support victims. However, it should be seen in the context of the latest data from the independent Crime Survey for England and Wales which shows there has been a downward trend in hate crime incidence with hate crime falling by 40% over the last decade.

On 16 October 2018 the Government published 'Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime: 'two years on'' - a refresh of the 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan, which includes an update on action so far and new commitments in relation to increasing the reporting and recording of hate crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-17/180795/>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Hate Crime: Internet

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [179215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to tackle online hate crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The newly published Hate Crime Action Plan refresh sets out the Government's plan to tackle hate crime, including how we will address online hate crime. These include the publication – by the Home Office

and Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) – of a White Paper that sets out proposals for future legislation around online harms, including hate crime. We will be supporting the upcoming review of hate crime legislation by the Law Commission, along with their current review of online abusive communications.

We are also working directly with social media companies to support their efforts; engaging internationally to strengthen our approach; and funding the National Police Chiefs' Council for the National Online Hate Crime Hub, which uses specially trained staff to investigate and action reports.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-15/179215/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Hate Crime: Internet

Lucy Powell (Labour Co-op) [180738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on the online platforms that hate crime offences have been perpetrated on.

Victoria Atkins: The Home Office does not collect this information centrally. However, the most recent assessment of the evidence is available on GOV.UK:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748140/hate-crime-a-thematic-review-of-the-current-evidence-oct2018-horr102.pdf.

A joint Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and Home Office White Paper will be published this winter, which will set out a range of legislative and non-legislative measures detailing how we will tackle online harms. Potential areas where we will consider legislating include transparency reporting to outline the response and prevalence of harms, including hate crime, on online platforms.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-17/180738/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Freedom of Religion or Belief

Baroness Northover (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, has the Minister noted the 40% increase in religious hate crimes in the United Kingdom between 2017 and 2018? In that context, does he feel it appropriate that Tommy Robinson was entertained in the Lords by a Member of this House?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: On the second point, I do not think that it is right. We need to take a long hard look at ourselves as a House, and I am sure that the House authorities have been alerted to the presence of the said individual. The views he expresses are not just appalling for the community he targets—we are all, rightly, appalled. It is important that we review our procedures to ensure that individuals such as Tommy Robinson do not enter the heart of democracy. I am minded, however, to defer that to the House authorities.

On the important issue of rising religious hatred and hate crime, I think we all stand united against it. We have seen an increase in anti-Semitism. I have spoken out very strongly on that, and I think that I represent many in this House in speaking out, whether it is against anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Muslim hatred or any form of religious hate crime. Regrettably and tragically, there are people in our society who target us—those who have spoken out—for that very reason. It is important that we unite against this and that a clear and unequivocal statement comes from this House, from the Houses of Parliament and from the

country as a whole, to those who seek to divide us: “We are united against you, and we will defeat you”.

Baroness Bryan of Partick (Labour): Does the Minister agree that each and every one of us in this House shares the responsibility to ensure good racial and interfaith relationships, and that this House has a specific responsibility to ensure that its own estates are not used in that way?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: I am sure, as I said earlier to the noble Baroness, Lady Northover, that the House authorities have taken note. I also agree, however, with the premise of the noble Baroness that each of us has a responsibility. We need to raise the bar: no longer should it be about tolerance; it is about respect and understanding, and that is what we should be promoting.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-24/debates/295F225D-8176-496C-ACE3-220A02B45423/FreedomOfReligionOrBelief#contribution-F7AD2717-9086-4A5F-9069-9C7D6A2CA6EC>

Welsh Assembly Oral Answers

Racism and Hate Crime

Joyce Watson (Labour): Could we have a statement on the rise of racism and hate crime in Wales since 2016? And I'm sure that you'd like to share with me the absolute disgust about the incident that happened on a Ryanair flight at the weekend and say that there is no place for this sort of behaviour, certainly across the world, but more specifically here in Wales.

And the facts are simple, that, since the referendum vote, the figures of race crime and hate crime have shot through the roof. Police figures obtained through a freedom of information request show that incidents surged by 23 per cent, Gwent being the biggest area that was affected, with a rise of 77 per cent—that's a 77 per cent rise in incidents from the previous year. That's an unparalleled rise during the time that these records have been kept. Now, those incidents reported in the past year included a Muslim woman being dragged along the pavement by her hijab, two Polish men being attacked in the street, resulting in the death of one of them, a Muslim man and woman being squirted with acid, leaving them with life-changing injuries—these are the most despicable crimes and they have been fuelled by racism and hatred towards the other. There is no area whatsoever in the UK that hasn't escaped these crimes, even those areas where they have voted very strongly to stay in the EU. And there were—76 per cent of incidents were restricted to verbal abuse; 14 per cent of cases involved threat of actual or physical violence. ...

In terms of hate crime, 40 per cent of them are in terms of religion and over 50 per cent of them are against Muslim people, and just less than that against Jewish people. So, there's a real need, I feel, for us to take hold of this. I raise it now, because the police are bracing themselves for much more of the same and higher levels of incidents once we leave the EU.

Leader of the House and Chief Whip (Julie James): Well, Joyce Watson highlights a very worrying set of figures and trends and some of the specific instances that we've all been absolutely horrified to know are happening. I do think there's a small ray of hope in that the number of reported hate crimes is rising, and we feel very strongly that that means that there's more faith in the system so that reporting the crime will actually have some desired outcome. I do want, as I always say, Llywydd, on these occasions, to encourage people who experience any kind of crime to come forward so that we are aware and action can be taken. It's very much our top priority to encourage that they come forward and to ensure that people feel satisfied with how their case is handled once they have come forward. From all of our statistics, we're making very good progress in that regard. We do have a good model in the national hate crime report and

support centre, run by Victim Support, who work alongside a network of dedicated staff and the four police forces in Wales. The centre plays a vital role, as I know Joyce Watson knows, in supporting victims of hate crime in Wales, and I've provided funding for the service until 2020. But she's quite right—there's much more that can still be done. This year, we have made £5,000 available to each of the four police and crime commissioners in Wales and Victim Support Cymru to support them in a range of activities to promote hate crime awareness during hate crime awareness week 2018. I was delighted to speak at that last week. I would very much welcome a cross-party debate on the rise of reported hate crime and would very much welcome that initiative coming from the back benches.

<http://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/5359#C129203>

Information about the incident referred to above can be read at

<https://tellmamauk.org/rpitiful-response-from-ryanair-staff-shows-that-staff-need-training-in-dealing-with-racism/>

European Parliament Resolution

Rise of neo-fascist violence in Europe

The European Parliament ...

1. Strongly condemns and deplors the terrorist attacks, murders, psychological violence, violent physical attacks and marches by neo-fascist and neo-Nazi organisations that have taken place in various EU Member States;
2. Is deeply concerned at the increasing normalisation of fascism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in the European Union, and is troubled by reports in some Member States of collusion between political leaders, political parties and law enforcement with neo-fascists and neo-Nazis;
3. Is especially worried about the neo-fascist violence affecting society as a whole and targeting particular minorities such as black Europeans/people of African descent, Jews, Muslims, Roma, third-country nationals, LGBTI people and persons with disabilities;
4. Strongly condemns all violent attacks by neo-fascist groups against politicians and members of political parties as reported in some Member States ...
5. Is deeply concerned by the impunity with which neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups operate in some Member States ...
6. Acknowledges the worrying trend of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups using social media and the internet to organise and strategise across the European Union; ...
8. Recalls that the fascist ideology and intolerance are always associated with an attack on democracy itself;
9. Calls on the Member States to strongly condemn and sanction hate crime, hate speech and scapegoating by politicians and public officials at all levels and on all types of media, as they directly normalise and reinforce hatred and violence in society;
10. Calls on the Member States to take further measures to prevent, condemn and counter hate speech and hate crime;
11. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and social media companies to counteract the spread of racism, fascism and xenophobia on the internet, in cooperation with the relevant civil society organisations at a national and international level;
12. Calls on the Member States to investigate and prosecute hate crimes and to share best practices for identifying and investigating hate crimes, including those motivated specifically by the various forms of xenophobia;
13. Calls on the Member States to envisage and provide for adequate support for the victims of racist or xenophobic crimes and hate crimes, and the protection of all witnesses against the perpetrators;
14. Calls on the Member States to set up anti-hate crime units in police forces; calls on police forces to ensure that their personnel do not engage in any form of racist, xenophobic or discriminatory act, and that any such act committed is investigated and

those responsible brought to justice;

15. Calls on the Commission to launch a call for civil society organisations to monitor and report hate speech and hate crime in the Member States;

16. Supports, commends and calls for the protection of community groups and civil society organisations that fight against fascism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;

17. Calls for consolidated EU anti-discrimination legislation ...

23. Calls on the Member States to provide mandatory, human rights-based and service-oriented in-service training to law enforcement officers and officials in the judicial system at all levels;

24. Calls on the Member States to focus on prevention through education, awareness-raising and the exchange of best practices;

25. Calls on the Member States and national sports federations, in particular football clubs, to counteract the scourge of racism, fascism and xenophobia in stadiums and in the sports culture ...

26. Encourages the Member States to provide training to those working in public broadcasting and the media to raise their awareness about the challenges and discrimination faced by the victims of neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups; ...

28. Emphasises that an awareness of history is one of the preconditions for preventing such crimes from occurring in the future and plays an important role in educating the younger generations;

29. Calls on the Member States to condemn and counteract all forms of Holocaust denial, including the trivialisation and minimalisation of the crimes of the Nazis and their collaborators; points out that the truth about the Holocaust must not be trivialised by political and media discourses;

30. Calls for a common culture of remembrance that rejects the fascist crimes of the past; is deeply worried that the younger generations in Europe and elsewhere feel less and less concerned about the history of fascism, and hence risk becoming indifferent to new threats;

31. Encourages the Member States to promote education through mainstream culture on the diversity of our society and on our common history, including the atrocities of World War II, such as the Holocaust, and the systematic dehumanisation of its victims over a number of years; ...

To read the full text see

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0428+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Press Release

European Parliament demands ban on neo-fascist and neo-Nazi groups in the EU

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20181018IPR16527/parliament-demands-ban-on-neo-fascist-and-neo-nazi-groups-in-the-eu>

New Publications

Equality Impact Assessment Record on National Approach to Anti-bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People

<https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00542351.pdf>

Briefing: Race Relations Act 1968: 50th Anniversary

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2018-0109/LLN-2018-0109.pdf>

News

John Bercow brands Tommy Robinson 'loathsome, obnoxious, repellent'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/john-bercow-brands-tommy-robinson-loathsome-obnoxious-repellent-1-4819296>

Tommy Robinson: Contempt case referred to attorney general

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-45951152>

Edinburgh councillor summoned to showdown meeting over Humza Yousaf tweet

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/edinburgh-fife-lothians/edinburgh-councillor-summoned-to-showdown-meeting-over-humza-yousaf-tweet-1-4820250>

Calls for SNP to suspend Glasgow councillor accused of shouting sectarian remarks

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17104462.calls-for-snp-to-suspend-glasgow-councillor-accused-of-shouting-sectarian-remarks/?ref=mr&lp=3>

SNP councillor Russell Robertson appears in court on sectarian slur rap

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/snp-council-appears-court-sectarian-13486856>

Shocking moment Sainsbury's shopper screams 'you don't belong here' at black security guard in racist rant

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/shocking-moment-sainsburys-shopper-screams-13458465>

Anti-racism event has to move venue after threats

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-24/scotland/anti-racism-event-has-to-move-venue-after-threats-6qpss5m3q>

Woman 'shocked and depressed' by racist attack on Ryanair flight

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/oct/22/passenger-filmed-racist-tirade-on-ryanair-flight-to-show-world>

Senior police officer called Somali cleaner 'n***' and threatened to smash him against wall, hearing told**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-racist-met-officer-cleaner-n-word-toilet-wall-glen-lloyd-hate-crime-diversity-murder-a8596136.html>

Antonio Rudiger: 'If you tolerate abuse I'm sorry, you are not my friend'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/sport/antonio-rudiger-if-you-tolerate-abuse-im-sorry-you-are-not-my-friend-rw0rdrijm3>

Francesca Carpos: Musician fired for note saying violinists were 'gypos'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/francesca-carpos-musician-fired-for-note-saying-violinists-were-gypos-2chptv235>

Woman 'brutally punched' for speaking Spanish in racist attack on London Overground train

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/woman-punched-racist-attack-london-overground-speaking-spanish-tfl-police-a8604436.html>

Sainsbury's shopper tells black security guard 'you don't belong here' in racist tirade

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/sainsburys-racist-video-security-guard-abuse-london-a8595506.html>

Three men charged after pedestrians hit by car outside mosque in London
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/car-hits-pedestrians-mosque-london-charged-case-al-majlis-al-hussaini-islamic-centre-a8600796.html>

We're on a slippery slope over hate speech
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/comment/we-re-on-a-slippery-slope-over-hate-speech-9qn02c2q6>

Ryanair racist may get away with calling elderly woman 'ugly black bastard' on flight, MP says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ryanair-racist-video-flight-passenger-boycott-black-white-police-a8595351.html>

Ryanair racism row: Police speak to man filmed abusing black woman on flight
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ryanair-racist-rant-video-david-mesher-delsie-gayle-essex-police-barcelona-london-stansted-a8600086.html>

Ryanair passenger filmed racially abusing woman on flight is identified by police
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/23/ryanair-passenger-filmed-racially-abusing-woman-flight-identified/>

Ryanair 'racist' disowned by friends and family as police arrive at his house
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/24/ryanair-racist-disowned-friends-family-police-arrive-house/>

Ryanair racism: Flight rant man says he is 'not a racist'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-45988890>

Ryanair racist incident: man apologises and claims he is not racist
<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/oct/26/ryanair-racist-incident-woman-rejects-apology-from-passenger>

Ryanair passenger denies he is racist after tirade at elderly woman
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-26/news/ryanair-passenger-denies-he-is-racist-after-tirade-at-elderly-woman-07kbmqtbh>

Racist tirade 'mishandled' by Ryanair
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-22/news/racist-tirade-mishandled-by-ryanair-gs5qmpntr>

Ryanair did not help me, race abuse victim says
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-10-23/news/ryanair-did-not-help-me-race-abuse-victim-says-s3rh3cblw>

I have been racially abused, and no one intervened. The Ryanair story shows why people should act
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/oct/22/i-have-been-racially-abused-no-one-intervened-ryanair-story-shows-why-they-should>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

Analysing responses to 'A Connected Scotland' – the Scottish Government's draft strategy to tackle social isolation and loneliness

<https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00542279.pdf>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation

Keith Vaz (Labour) [178462] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many cases of female genital mutilation have been recorded by the NHS in the last three years.

Reply from Matt Hancock: The following table shows from April 2015 to March 2018, 16,265 individuals have been recorded, where female genital mutilation (FGM) was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. Each patient is only counted once, no matter how many attendances they had during the year. Individuals, newly recorded and total attendances by quarter, April 2015 to March 2018, England

Year ¹	Number		
	Individuals ²	Newly Recorded ³	Total attendances
2015/16	6,185	6,185	9,335
2016/17	6,640	5,585	9,500
2017/18	6,195	4,495	9,490
Total	16,265	16,265	28,325

Source: NHS Digital

Notes:

1. Figures are based on the latest state of the database – records can be added, removed or amended after the year end. As such, published figures may not match previously published figures.
2. Individuals refers to all patients in the reporting period where FGM was identified or a procedure for FGM was undertaken. Each patient is only counted once, no matter how many attendances they had during the year.
3. Newly Recorded refers to an individual's first appearance in the FGM dataset. Newly recorded does not necessarily mean that the attendance is the woman or girl's first attendance for FGM.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-12/178462/>

Female Genital Mutilation: Arrests and Prosecutions

Keith Vaz (Labour) [178461] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been (a) arrested and (b) prosecuted for offences relating to female genital mutilation in the most recent period for which data is available.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a crime and it is child abuse. The Government is clear that we will not tolerate a practice that can cause extreme and lifelong suffering to women and girls.

The Home Office does not collate information on arrests and prosecutions centrally. Information on FGM referrals from the police to the Crown Prosecution

Service (CPS) from 2010-18 is available in the CPS's Violence Against Women and Girls Report. To date, there have been no convictions for FGM.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a number of measures to help overcome the barriers to prosecution, including: a new mandatory reporting duty for known cases of FGM in under-18s; extended extra-territorial jurisdiction over FGM offences committed abroad; lifelong anonymity for victims; FGM Protection Orders (FGMPOs), and a new offence of failure to protect a girl from the risk of FGM. To date, 248 FGMPOs have been made to protect victims and those at risk.

In addition, the police and CPS have put in place joint FGM investigation and prosecution protocols. Border Force, the police and other agencies regularly carry out joint operations at the border to raise awareness of practices such as FGM. Earlier this month, the Home Office launched an FGM communications campaign which seeks to prevent FGM by changing attitudes among affected communities. The campaign also highlights that FGM is a crime and encourages communities to report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-10-12/178461/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Chris Stephens (SNP) (1733) Launch of the Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign Scotland – That this House notes the launch of the Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign Scotland by the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society (SABS) to raise awareness about the importance of encouraging Muslim men and women to donate blood in Scotland; recognises community engagement work being done by SABS with mosques and local organisations to encourage increased blood donation in the Muslim community; congratulates Shabir Beg, Chairman of SABS, Jennifer Wilson, Head of Donor Marketing and Engagement at Scottish Blood Transfusion Service, Mary Morgan, Director of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service and NHS National Services Scotland on a successful Imam Hussain Blood Donation Campaign promotion event with the boxer Kash Farooq in Glasgow; and wishes them well in their campaign.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1733>

New Publications

Multi-agency statutory guidance on female genital mutilation (updated)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/746560/6-1914-HO-Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_MASTER_V7_-_FINAL_-_Amended081018.pdf

Letter from the Department of Health and Social Care to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in relation to the England and Wales Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<https://www.bod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Government-letter-on-organ-donation.pdf>

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Other News

Political Shadowing Scheme

<https://www.crer.scot/political-shadowing-scheme>

Tory Syed Kamall apology after socialism 'Nazis' remark

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-45965177>

Two convicted of running illegal school

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-45959283>

Pair who ran illegal school in Southall are found guilty in first conviction of its kind

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/pair-who-ran-illegal-school-in-southall-are-found-guilty-in-first-conviction-of-its-kind-35hvbbh57>

School which taught that only Muslims were saved on Noah's Ark is first to be fined for opening illegally

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/10/24/school-taught-muslims-saved-noahs-ark-becomes-first-prosecuted/>

Duchess of Sussex in Powerlist of top 100 black people in Britain

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/23/duchess-of-sussex-meghan-markle-in-top-100-on-powerlist-of-black-britons>

Campaign to remember the Muslim heroes of the First World War

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/10/28/campaign-remember-muslim-heroes-first-world-war/>

Criminal fine for discussion of Mohamed's wives did not interfere with freedom of expression – Strasbourg

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2018/10/26/criminal-fine-for-discussion-of-mohameds-wives-did-not-interfere-with-freedom-of-expression-strasbourg/>

The full judgement can be read at

<http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-187188>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

**** Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

Briefing

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnp.azureedge.net/published/2018/10/23/Vulnerable-Witnesses-Criminal-Evidence---Scotland--Bill/SB%2018-68.pdf>

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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-26/debates/DDE17518-575B-47AB-A011-30FD17E0BFFC/ChildrenAct1989\(Amendment\)\(FemaleGenitalMutilation\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-10-26/debates/DDE17518-575B-47AB-A011-30FD17E0BFFC/ChildrenAct1989(Amendment)(FemaleGenitalMutilation)Bill(HL))

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

Online Forums Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Historic Environment Scotland draft Corporate Plan (closing date 2 November 2018)

<https://tinyurl.com/y8b6tpeu>

EU settlement scheme (closing date 5 November 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/immigration-detention-phase-2-launch-17-19/>

Draft Statutory Guidance on Funeral Costs (closing date 8 November 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/statutory-guidance-on-funeral-costs/>

Windrush: lessons learned review (closing date extended to 16 November 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-lessons-learned-review/windrush-lessons-learned-review>

Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 23 November 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/109902.aspx>

The future of civil partnership in Scotland (closing date 21 December 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/family-law/the-future-of-civil-partnership-in-scotland/>

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Bill (closing date 4 January 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/violence-against-women-team/female-genital-mutilation/>

Ethnicity pay reporting (closing date 11 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747546/ethnicity-pay-reporting-consultation.pdf

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities.

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

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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.

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week**

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Glasgow Workshop

30 October 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

Through an exploration of the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2019: *Torn from home*, this Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop will provide you with practical help, advice and free resources to enable you to create a meaningful Holocaust Memorial Day activity of your own. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ybnwysxc>

**** this week**

Tackling Prejudice and Building Connected Communities

31 October 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-3.30)

Conference organised by Bemis, Police Scotland, and the Scottish Government to discuss how effectively to challenge hate and prejudice through collaborative working. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y7qqfh8z>

**** this week**

Upping Our Game: Can Communities Take the Lead?

Politics as Though People and Planet Matter

3 and 4 November 2018 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Scottish Communities CAN and Ethnic Minority Environmental Network course to discuss a fresh way to look at how we do politics, including place planning; community empowerment; alternative decision making models. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9ydb7s6>

Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

7 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; how to respond to misunderstandings or offence; and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information and to book see <https://tinyurl.com/y8eyezz2>

Bullying – It's never acceptable

8 November 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

28 November 2018 in Inverness (9.30-4.30)

RespectMe training on bullying behaviours and practical strategies which can be used to address bullying behaviour wherever it occurs. For information see <https://actiononprejudice.info/events/bullying-never-acceptable-multiple-dates-locations/>

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/>

Mainstreaming Anti-Sectarianism in Equalities Toolkit

15 November 2018 in Glasgow (1.00-4.30)

WSREC training for public / third sector organisations, students and individuals interested in unravelling the meaning of sectarianism as an 'equalities' issue and its impact on the wellbeing, safety and opportunities of those affected, and on society as a whole. For information and to book for 13 Sept see <https://tinyurl.com/ydh74vrg>, for 4 Oct see <https://tinyurl.com/y9muw7pm>, and for 15 Nov see <https://tinyurl.com/y7cmj54e>. Other venues may be available by request – for information contact kperezp@wsrec.co.uk

Ethnic Minority Impact Awards 2018

23 November 2018 in Glasgow (6.00-11.00pm)

CEMVO Ethnic Minority Impact Awards recognise individuals or organisations that have contributed to Scottish society or made a difference to their community locally or nationally. For information see <https://www.cemvoscotland.org.uk/event/ethnic-minority-impact-awards-2018/>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

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

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

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

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>



*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) <https://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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