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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 Debate

European Union Settlement Scheme

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11981&i=108384#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament Debate

Windrush Generation and the Home Office

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-07/debates/A190280C-262D-4B21-B979-2DC07061C70D/WindrushGenerationAndTheHomeOffice>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements

EU Settlement Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1387] ... The changes provide for the full opening of the EU settlement scheme from 30 March 2019 for resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain the UK immigration status which they will require in order to remain here permanently after the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

The Government are also laying before Parliament today two negative procedure statutory instruments: the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Refund, Waiver and Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which provide for no application fee for the scheme as announced by the Prime Minister on 21 January 2019, and the Immigration (European Economic Area Nationals) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, which, in part, make changes associated with the scheme to other secondary legislation.

Protecting EU citizens' rights remains our number one priority. We value the contribution they make to the social, economic and cultural fabric of the UK and we want them to stay. The best way to protect their rights, and those of UK nationals resident in the EU, is for the UK to reach a withdrawal agreement with the EU. However, as a responsible Government we are planning for all scenarios. In response to the proposal put forward by my hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Alberto Costa), my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union has written to the EU about the possibility of a joint UK/EU commitment to preserving the citizens' rights part of the withdrawal agreement in the event the UK withdraws from the EU without a deal. We await their response. The full opening of the EU settlement scheme will enable EU citizens and their family members to secure their UK immigration status whether a deal is reached or not.

In the light of the successful testing of the online application process for the scheme during the private beta test phases from August to December 2018, in which we received and processed more than 30,000 applications, a public beta test phase of the scheme began on 21 January 2019. This phase is open to resident EU citizens (and their EU citizen family members) with a valid passport, and to their non-EU citizen family members with a valid biometric residence card. In this public beta phase, we received more than 120,000 applications by the end of February 2019, enabling us to test the system at a greater scale than previous phases.

By the end of February 2019, more than 105,000 of these applications had been concluded, with 71% granted settled status, the rest granted pre-settled status and none refused. 75% of these applicants received their decision within three days and 80% of those who provided feedback found the online application process easy, or fairly easy, to complete. A report on the public beta test phase will be published after its conclusion on 30 March 2019.

This means that, since the opening of the initial private beta test phase on 28 August 2018, we had, by the end of February 2019, received more than 150,000 applications under the scheme, of which 135,000 (nearly 90%) had already been concluded. Of these concluded cases, 71% were granted settled status, with the rest granted pre-settled status and none refused.

The Government therefore intend to go ahead, as planned, with the full opening of the EU settlement scheme from 30 March 2019. The immigration rules for the scheme contained in the new appendix EU include the following changes to the scope of the scheme:

Resident citizens of the other European Economic Area (EEA) countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and of Switzerland, and their family members, will also be able to apply for UK immigration status under the scheme, in line with the citizens' rights agreements reached with those countries;

EEA and Swiss citizens and certain family members will from 9 April 2019 be able to apply

under the scheme from outside the UK, so that they can obtain status under it, based on their previous residence in the UK, without needing to travel here in order to make an online application;

The scheme will be open to the family members of British citizens who were exercising their free movement rights under EU law before returning to the UK (“Surinder Singh” cases), and to the family members of certain dual British/EU citizens (“Lounes” cases);

The scheme will be open to others lawfully resident in the UK by virtue of a “derivative right” to reside, based on wider EU law. These are “Chen carers” (the primary carer of a self-sufficient EEA citizen child), “Ibrahim and Teixeira” cases (a child of a former EEA citizen worker who is in education in the UK and their primary carer), and “Zambrano carers” (the primary carer of a British citizen child or dependent adult);

Residence in the Crown dependencies (Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man) will be counted as UK residence for the purposes of the scheme, consistent with the wider operation of the common travel area;

EEA and Swiss citizens previously resident in the UK will be able to count as UK residence for the purposes of the scheme time spent on an overseas posting as a Crown servant, as will a partner or child of any nationality accompanying such a person or accompanying a member of HM Forces on an overseas posting. Such EEA and Swiss citizens have made a strong commitment to the UK by serving overseas in this way, or by accompanying someone who is doing so, and this should not disadvantage them under the scheme; and Consistent with the basis on which the scheme will operate in a “no-deal” scenario, provision is made for the “specified date”, by which EEA and Swiss citizens will need to be continuously resident in the UK and certain relevant family relationships will need to be formed, to be 29 March 2019 in that scenario rather than 31 December 2020.

The new appendix EU also includes the following changes to the application process for the scheme:

There will be no application fee under the scheme, as the Prime Minister announced on 21 January 2019;

In certain circumstances, an application under the scheme will be made on a paper application form rather than through the online application process, including in “derivative right” cases where the applicant will need to provide additional information to that generally required under the scheme, and in exceptional circumstances, where provision of a paper application form complements the assisted digital support available for applicants who need help to complete the online application process;

Applicants in the UK will be able to rely on a wider range of documents as proof of their identity and nationality: their valid national identity card for an EEA or Swiss citizen, as well as their valid passport, and their valid passport or biometric residence permit for a non-EEA/Swiss citizen family member, as well as their valid biometric residence card;

There will be scope for applicants to submit their identity document by post to be checked and returned to them quickly, as an alternative, for EEA/Swiss citizens and for non-EEA/Swiss citizens with a biometric residence card, to use the identity verification app or visit one of the locations at which they can be helped to use this (of which there will be at least 50 across the UK by 30 March 2019); and

There will also be scope for the Secretary of State to accept alternative evidence of identity and nationality where the applicant is unable to provide the required document due to circumstances beyond their control or to compelling practical or compassionate reasons.

This statement of changes in immigration rules makes the following other provision associated with the EU settlement scheme:

Consistent with the draft withdrawal agreement with the EU, the new appendix EU (Family permit) provides for a non-EEA/Swiss citizen who is the family member of an EEA/Swiss citizen with status granted under the EU settlement scheme to apply for an entry clearance to join that EEA/Swiss citizen in the UK, or to accompany them here, whether for a short stay or to make an application under the scheme in the UK;

Changes to part 1 and part 9 of the rules to ensure that the grounds for the revocation of an entry clearance granted under appendix EU (Family permit), the refusal or cancellation of leave to enter held by virtue of a person having arrived in the UK with such an entry clearance, and the cancellation or curtailment of leave to enter or remain granted under appendix EU are consistent with the EU law public policy tests for conduct committed before 31 December 2020 (or before 29 March 2019 in a “no-deal” scenario) and with UK suitability provisions for conduct thereafter; and

Enables an application for administrative review of a decision under the scheme to be made outside the UK as well as within the UK, reflecting the scope for overseas applications under the scheme.

The full opening of the EU settlement scheme from 30 March 2019 will provide a straightforward and user-friendly means for resident EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members to remain here permanently. They make a huge contribution to our economy and society and the full opening of the scheme is tangible evidence that we want them to stay.

Further information about the EU settlement scheme is available on gov.uk and was summarised in my 12 February 2019 letter to colleagues. This contained links to a range of further communications material about the scheme which community organisations and others may find helpful, and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-update>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-07/debates/1903079800017/EUSettlementScheme>

Immigration Rules

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1388] ... Entrepreneurs and investors play key roles in creating jobs and driving economic growth and innovation in the UK. The Government are committed to ensuring our immigration system continues to attract individuals from around the globe who will create innovative businesses in the UK and make substantial investments in our economy.

The changes we are introducing today include two new visa routes that enhance the UK’s offer to overseas entrepreneurial talent:

The start-up visa, announced by my right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, in June 2018, will provide for those starting a new business for the first time in the UK.

The Innovator category will be for more experienced business people who have funds to invest in their business.

Both new categories will build on the endorsement model which has proved successful in our graduate entrepreneur and exceptional talent routes. Business experts, rather than the Home Office, will assess applicants’ business ideas for their innovation, viability and scalability, to identify those that will bring the greatest benefits to the UK. These organisations will include business accelerators, seed competitions and Government agencies, as well as higher education providers.

These new routes will replace the existing tier 1 entrepreneur and graduate entrepreneur routes, which have attracted some high-quality businesses, but the tier 1 entrepreneur route also has a long tail of low quality projects which contribute little or nothing to the wider UK economy. We will keep the existing routes open for a transitional period to allow those who are already in them to extend their stay and settle if they meet the existing requirements.

The immigration rules for the new routes are designed to be clearer and easier to read. Endorsement will reduce the evidence which applicants need to submit to the Home Office and provide them with greater certainty. The rules for extensions and settlement are more flexible, recognising there are many ways in which a business may benefit the economy. Accelerated settlement continues to be available for the most successful innovators, and

extensions of stay are provided for those whose businesses fail and who wish to try a new business idea.

Parliamentarians and anti-corruption campaigners have expressed concerns about whether the tier 1 Investor route is sufficiently robust against financial crime. There is also more that can be done to increase the benefits of applicants' investments to the UK economy.

We are therefore introducing changes that require investors to provide evidence of the source of any investment funds they have obtained within the last two years—up from 90 days at present. We are requiring UK banks to confirm they have carried out the checks they are required to make before opening an investment account. We are excluding investment in government bonds and tightening the rules around investment in companies. We also intend to require investors to undergo enhanced checks on their financial situations and business histories, carried out by a UK regulated auditor, before making a visa application. We are working with industry to develop this requirement, with a view to introducing it in a future immigration rules change.

Minor changes are being made to the Government stateless leave policy to simplify the route to settlement for those who are genuinely stateless by granting an initial 5 years' limited leave rather than 30 months'. We are also taking steps to protect the integrity of this route and deter abusive applications by making clearer in the rules that someone must show they have tried to obtain a nationality or right of permanent residence in a country they could reasonably expect to be entitled to, before benefitting from stateless leave.

In May last year, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, committed to look again at what we could do to make it easier for family members of Afghan locally engaged staff, who worked for UK forces in Afghanistan, to come here. Minor changes will give effect to this commitment, so those who were part of a family before the local staff member relocated can benefit from the relocation scheme rather than having to apply under family migration rules.

Finally, appendix H of the immigration rules contains a list of countries of low immigration risk whose nationals benefit from a streamlined application process for students. 2018 saw the expansion of visa national countries included in appendix H for the first time, which benefitted tens of thousands of students.

Careful consideration is given to which countries could be added to appendix H, taking into account objective analysis of a range of factors including the volume of students from a country and their tier 4 immigration compliance risk. The latest annual review of appendix H has resulted in the inclusion of Brazil, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Oman, Peru and Tunisia; whilst Argentina, the Maldives, and Trinidad and Tobago are being removed from the list. This will result in approximately 4,500 additional students being able to benefit from appendix H.

The list of countries in appendix H will be kept under review and regularly updated to reflect the fact that countries' risk profiles change over time.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-07/debates/19030798000019/ImmigrationRules>

Right to Rent Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1379] The right to rent scheme was launched to prevent illegal migrants from accessing the private rental sector, and to tackle unscrupulous landlords who exploit vulnerable migrants, sometimes in very poor conditions.

In 2016, a requirement was introduced for landlords and lettings agents in England to take reasonable steps to check that they are renting only to someone who has a right to do so. These checks apply equally to everyone seeking to rent property and there are penalties for landlords who fail to complete them and who are later found to have rented to someone without a right to be in the UK.

The law was and remains absolutely clear that discriminatory treatment on the part of anyone carrying out these checks is unlawful. And the right to rent legislation provides for a code of practice which sets out what landlords are expected to do.

The scheme was trialled in the west midlands. This trial was evaluated in full, with the results published in October 2015. They included 539 responses to online surveys, 12 focus groups, 36 one-to-one interviews, and a mystery shopping exercise involving 332 encounters.

The Home Office evaluation found there was no systemic discrimination on the basis of race.

It is therefore disappointing that, on Friday last week, the right to rent scheme was declared incompatible with the European convention on human rights. The High Court ruled that Parliament's decision to impose right to rent checks is outweighed by the potential for race discrimination by those with the duty to perform the required checks.

We disagree with this finding and the Home Office has been granted permission to appeal all aspects of the judgment.

In the meantime, the provisions passed by this House in 2014 remain in force. There are no immediate changes to the operation of the policy. Landlords and letting agents are still obliged to conduct right to rent checks as required in legislation. They must not discriminate against anyone on the basis of their colour or where they come from.

As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has previously said, we are looking at options for a further evaluation of the operation of the scheme. As part of this, we will look to develop further mechanisms to monitor the operation of the scheme to provide ongoing assurance about its impact.

The Home Secretary has written to the independent adviser on lessons learned from Windrush, Wendy Williams, to draw her attention to the High Court's findings.

The review is identifying the key legislative, policy and operational failures which resulted in members of the Windrush generation becoming entangled in measures designed for illegal immigrants.

The Right to Rent Consultative Panel will meet again next month to look at the operation of the scheme and the guidance provided to landlords and lettings agents.

The Government are committed to tackling discrimination in all its forms and to having an immigration system which provides control, but which is also fair, humane and fully compliant with the law. This includes ensuring illegal migrants, with no right to be in the UK, are not able to access work, benefits and public services.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/19030561000008/RightToRentScheme>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Equality

Drew Hendry (SNP) [193518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessments are undertaken to ensure that decisions to classify immigration cases as complex comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where an application is defined as non-straightforward due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next.

All leave to remain applications that seek to rely upon Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and applications outside of the rules are deemed non-straightforward (or 'complex'). On the introduction of the current Article 8 rules (Appendix FM), in July 2012, a Policy Equality Statement was published demonstrating how these rules complied with the Equality Act 2010.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-20/193518/>

The Policy Equality Statement referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/294067/family-migration-statement.pdf

Migrant Workers: Pay

Steve Double (Conservative) [226159] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the potential effect of the £30,000 salary threshold on NHS and care services; and what plans he has to enable effective recruitment from abroad to meet demand for NHS staff after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Stephen Hammond: My Rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care has regular discussions with the Home Secretary on a range of subjects including the future immigration system and its impact on the health and social care sectors.

The NHS Long Term Plan sets out a vital strategic framework to ensure that over the next ten years the NHS will have the staff it needs so that nurses and doctors have the time they need to care, working in a supportive culture that allows them to provide the expert compassionate care they are committed to providing.

Alongside this, the upcoming Social Care Green Paper will set out the Department's proposals for reform of the sector to put it on a more sustainable future footing. This will include a vision for its workforce and proposals to boost recruitment and retention in the longer term.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226159/>

The NHS Long Term Plan, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

Migrant Workers: Pay

Steve Double (Conservative) [226160] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the consultation on the £30,000 salary threshold will commence; and whether that consultation will take into account the views of employers and recruiters in the health and social care sector.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is committed to developing a future borders and immigration system that will cater for all sectors of the UK, including for those who make a very valuable contribution to our health and social care sector.

The Migration Advisory Committee has recommended that we should retain the existing system of salary thresholds including the minimum £30,000 salary threshold for skilled workers in the future borders and immigration system. Such a threshold is an important mechanism to control who can come here.

As the Government has been clear, we are launching a twelve month engagement process in order to listen to businesses and organisations on what a suitable threshold should be. We will consider the feedback from this process before making a final decision. We are also considering whether jobs recognised in national shortage should attract a lower salary threshold.

Our proposals in the immigration White Paper, the UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System, were accompanied by a full economic appraisal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226160/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

Visas

David Simpson (DUP) [225465] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to prevent people from overstaying the terms of their visa.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All visas are assessed by fully trained Entry Clearance Officers. Every application is considered on its individual merits and in line with UK immigration rules and guidance. The visa is endorsed with the date of expiry.

When someone has no legal right to remain in the UK they should return to their home country. We will help people who wish to leave voluntarily but will enforce the removal of those who refuse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-25/225465/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

John Grogan (Labour) [226041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2019 to Question 213222, whether dual Irish/EU nationals who are also British citizens are eligible to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: British citizens, including those with dual British/Irish or British/EU citizenship, are not eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme. This is because, under Section 1(1) of the Immigration Act 1971, those with a right of abode in the UK (including all British citizens) cannot be granted immigration status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226041/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-28/213222/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration

Jonathan Lord (Conservative) [227101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the recommendation of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants that the Government grant all (a) EEA and (b) Swiss nationals and family members resident in the UK the automatic right to remain.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have considered carefully the introduction of the EU Settlement Scheme and its implications for EEA and Swiss citizens and their family members, including whether we should automatically grant leave to remain. However, this would create ongoing confusion amongst EEA and Swiss citizens, their family members, employers and service providers as to their rights to remain in the UK and access benefits and services.

Requiring EEA and Swiss nationals to apply for and receive a status via the EU Settlement Scheme is key to ensuring life continues smoothly for them in the future. This will become particularly important when we move into the future immigration system as the resident population will need to be able to distinguish themselves

from those who may have different rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-28/227101/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Overseas Students: EEA Nationals

Ian Murray (Labour) [228054] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 28 February 2019 to Question 225480, whether international students would be guaranteed a student visa under the new immigration system once their European Temporary Leave to Remain runs out, provided they pass an additional criminality check, without additional cost or administrative burden.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has been clear that there is no limit on the number of genuine international students who can come to study in the UK and there is no intention to impose one.

An EEA national who has been studying in the UK prior to applying for a visa or leave to remain for the purposes of study will be able to do so either under the current Tier 4 route or under the future system. There is no reason they should be unable to obtain such permission provided that they meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules at that time.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-04/228054/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-25/225480/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Jo Stevens (Labour) [226689] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the planned locations are for the ID Document scanners for the EU citizens settlement scheme for users unable to access an Android phone in Wales.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The application process for the EU Settlement Scheme is straightforward and user-friendly, and it is accessible on any smartphone, tablet or computer using internet browsers.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app – which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely, without sending in their passport or national identity card – is publicly available in the Google Play Store.

Applicants who do not have access to a device with a compatible operating system can, if they wish, use a family member or friend's compatible Android device to access the app, and complete the rest of the process on their own device.

Additionally, we currently have 13 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned and verified, if they choose to do so. During the public test phase for the scheme, there has been an identity document scanning location in Caerphilly. We are working with local government bodies across the UK to increase the provision of this service by local authorities.

This is an entirely voluntary test phase and once the EU Settlement Scheme is fully open by 30 March, the app will be optional. Applicants will be able to post their identity document to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly. There will also be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned and verified to provide further options for applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-27/226689/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigrants: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [200563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have participated in the pilots for the EU Settlement scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: 1053 applications were made during Private Beta 1, which proved key elements of the EU Settlement Scheme application process.

Further information on this is found on the PB1 final report:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/752872/181031_PB1_Report_Final.pdf

29,987 applications were made during Private Beta 2, further information on this can be found on the PB2 final report linked below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-private-beta-2>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-10/200563/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [226087] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department has taken to promote the EU Settlement Scheme to EU nationals resident in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: It is vital that the over three million non-UK EU citizens and their family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Official communications throughout 2018 pointed EU citizens towards reliable sources of information. Millions of people have already seen UK government advertising encouraging people to visit GOV.UK for easy to understand information. EU citizens can also sign up for official email updates, over 300,000 people have so far signed up.

We are using all available channels to reach our audiences – like direct marketing, presentations, email updates, toolkits and webinars to name a few. At the end of March, a new national marketing campaign will encourage EU citizens to apply when the Scheme is fully open.

No-one will be left behind which is why we are also working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to make sure we reach everyone.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226087/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Undocumented Migrants: Deportation

Diane Abbott (Labour) [194044] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has taken any action against caseworkers who failed to meet targets for the removal of illegal immigrants; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no targets set for the removal of illegal immigrants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-21/194044/>

Asylum: Applications

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [226040] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the average length of time that an applicant for asylum has to wait for a decision.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data relating to the average length of time an applicant for asylum has to wait for a decision but does publish data on the percentage of asylum applications processed within the previous service standard to decide 98% of straight forward asylum claims within 6 months of the date of claim.

Data on performance against the current published service standard can be found on tabs Asy_10 and Asy_11 of the Asylum Transparency Data November 2018 at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-november-2018>

In the November release of the transparency data, the Home Office are still reporting performance against our previous service standard to decide all straight forward asylum cases within 6 months of the date of claim. The next release of transparency data, scheduled for 28 February 2019, will still contain data on performance and will be labelled under the title of percentage of cases decided within 6 months rather than explicitly referring to the service standard.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226040/>

Asylum: Housing

Vernon Coaker (Labour) [226039] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers live in (a) National Asylum Support Service accommodation and (b) other accommodation.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of asylum seekers and those supported asylum seekers living in asylum accommodation are part of published statistics and can be found at

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226039/>

Detention Centres: Smoking

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [227139] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when the HMPPS no-smoking policy will be extended to cover Immigration Removal Centres.

Reply from Rory Stewart: Since 2007 we have been acting to reduce the exposure of staff and prisoners to the harmful effects of second hand smoke in all prisons controlled by the Ministry of Justice. Immigration Removal Centres (IRC) – including the one (Morton Hall) operated by HMPPS - are managed under Home Office rules and therefore the [HMPPS] Smoke Free Policy Framework does not apply. However, the Home Office had agreed that Morton Hall would adopt the same smoke free process as Ministry of Justice operated open prisons, whereby detainees are able to smoke in the open air in designated smoking areas and are not allowed to smoke inside any building.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-28/227139/>

Detention Centres: Smoking

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [227140] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans his Department has to introduce a no-smoking policy at all UK Immigration Removal Centres.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office takes the safety and security of the immigration removal estate, and the welfare of all people in detention, very seriously.

On 6 February 2018 the Home Office withdrew Detention Services Order 2/2014 and put in place measures to prohibit the practice of smoking inside immigration removal centres. Detainees still have controlled access to outside areas where they may smoke. Support is available to any detainee who wishes to give up smoking and needs help doing so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-28/227140/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL13779] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the difficulty faced by public service providers in differentiating between citizens of other EU countries who have (1) applied for, (2) received, and (3) not applied for settled status; and what steps they will take to prevent discrimination against such citizens by (a) employers, (b) landlords, (c) schools and colleges, (d) the NHS, and (e) providers of other public services, following the UK's departure from the EU, (i) during a transition period, (ii) following a no-deal exit, and (iii) in any circumstance before the deadline for application for settled status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has made clear that the current arrangements for conducting checks on EU nationals, involving the use of national passports and identity cards, will not change before the introduction of the future skills-based immigration system in 2021

The bodies responsible for conducting statutory eligibility checks, including employers, landlords, the NHS and colleges, will not be required to differentiate between citizens of EU countries resident in the UK who have applied for, been granted or have yet to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme during any transitional period, including in the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal. The Government's published White Paper on the UK's future skills-based immigration system states that we will not require employers to undertake retrospective right to work checks on existing employees when the new system is introduced. The Government will ensure the position on the status and eligibility of EU citizens to access work and services during this period is clear in guidance to employers and other bodies. All residents of the UK continue to be protected against unlawful discrimination by the Equality Act 2010 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland, and we will work with the statutory equality bodies to monitor the operation of these arrangements. The Home Office has engaged with a wide range of groups, including UK employers, landlords and financial service providers, on the EU Settlement Scheme and the future skills-based immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-18/HL13779/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL13781] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children in care in England are citizens of other European countries and do not have dual nationality with the UK; and what steps are they taking to ensure that they are granted settled status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This data is not regularly collected by local authorities.

The Home Office has a comprehensive vulnerability strategy and we are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to identify user needs and provide the needed support. Five local authorities participated in the recent Private Beta test phase of the Settlement Scheme and made applications on behalf of some looked after children in their care

Local authorities have been participating in teleconferences to help inform and prepare them for the full opening of the scheme on the 30th of March 2019. In addition, specific guidance is being produced to assist local authorities in making applications on behalf of looked after children and a unique number is available to them to call the Settlement Resolution Centre with access to specialist support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-18/HL13781/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL13782] To ask Her Majesty's Government what monitoring and oversight systems are in place to check the accuracy and reliability of automated checks on applications for settled status by EU citizens in the UK; and in what proportion of cases, in each of the pilot schemes, errors have been found that resulted in the need for the intervention of a person.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Decisions to grant settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme are not automated. The scheme does use some elements of automation to make the application process streamlined and user-friendly. Such processes include the self-verification of identity and checks with existing government data. Each of these checks follow established rules to ensure accuracy and reliability.

There are several reasons why the automated element may need specific intervention by a person other than a system error. Inexact information supplied by an applicant, held by Government departments or their employers would mean a match to their records cannot be made or recorded. We do not make adverse decisions, like a decision to refuse an application for settled status, on the basis of automated decision making.

The scheme is still in the pilot phase and will open fully from 30 March. To date, 79% of applicants have been granted status based on government data without having to submit additional residence information. We do not expect a 100% match rate as those without a tax history and not in receipt of benefits or a state pension will have no matched government records. The Home Office continually monitors all elements of the application process and continually improves them.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-18/HL13782/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL13783] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the failure of any applicant for settled status by EU citizens in the UK to take out comprehensive health insurance will have any impact on the decision whether to grant such status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK has decided, as a matter of domestic policy, that the main requirement for eligibility under the EU Settlement Scheme will be continuous residence in the UK. Those applying under the scheme will not be required to show that they meet all the requirements of current free movement rules, such as any requirement to have held comprehensive sickness insurance or generally to detail the exercise of specific rights (for example, the right to work) under EU law.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-18/HL13783/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: Children

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL13784] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether a person under the age of 18 can apply for settled status in the UK if none of their parents are able or willing to do so, or otherwise.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A child under the age of 18 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme independently of their parents.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-18/HL13784/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL13917] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 14 February (HL Deb, col 1934), what is the minimum necessary documentation required from EU citizens applying for settled status in order to (1) prove residency, and over what period; (2) prove identity; and (3) prove the absence of criminal convictions.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The EU Settlement Scheme provides a simple, streamlined process for resident EU citizens and their family members to obtain the UK immigration status which they will need in order to remain here permanently.

Continuity of UK residence for settled or pre-settled status will be established, where possible, by automated checks of employment and benefits records, if the applicant chooses to provide their National Insurance number. This will minimise the extent to which applicants need to provide documentary evidence of residence. Where they do, a wide range of documents can be used, as set out in the guidance at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-uk-residence>

The applicant can prove their identity remotely through the identity verification app which has been developed for the scheme and which can also be accessed at what will be a wide range of locations across the UK. From the full opening of the scheme by 30 March 2019, they will also be able to post their identity document to the Home Office to have this checked and returned to them as soon as possible.

In respect of criminality, applicants aged 18 or over are required to provide information about previous criminal convictions in the UK and overseas, and are only required to declare past criminal convictions which appear in their criminal record in accordance with the law of the State of conviction at the time of the application. All applications are subject to a check against the Police National Computer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13917/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL13918] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will be providing (1) a live helpline, and (2) an email address, for EU applicants for settled status in the UK to contact for support with their application.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is streamlined, user-friendly and accessible to all prospective applicants. There is a broad range of support in place including the Settlement Resolution Centre (SRC) which provides assistance to applicants who need additional information or support about the scheme. If an applicant has a question they can call the Settlement Resolution Centre or complete the standard email template available on GOV.UK which is then sent to a central inbox within the Settlement Resolution Centre.

The SRC is open from Monday to Friday between 8am and 8pm, excluding public holidays, and on Saturday and Sunday between 9.30am and 4.30pm. We will have up to 300 SRC staff in place when the scheme launches by the 30 March.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13918/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

Immigration: EU Nationals

The Earl of Clancarty (Crossbench) [HL13919] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of whether EU self-employed workers are experiencing particular difficulties in applying for settled status in the UK; and if so, what they are.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is putting in place measures to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is streamlined, user-friendly and accessible to all prospective applicants. Applicants will only need to complete three key steps - prove their identity, show that they live in the UK, and declare any criminal convictions. Where an applicant provides a National Insurance Number, we will conduct an automated check of residence based on tax and certain benefit records.

The checks with HMRC caters for those who are self-employed and where a self-assessment is submitted with a profit, this counts as a year's residence. However, the tax year for self-assessment is up to a year behind a person's potential residence. For instance, the tax return for the financial year 2017/ 2018 is completed in January 2019. This means there will be no data to confirm residence for the current tax year but applicants can upload supplementary evidence to fill in any gaps in the data.

We will accept a range of documents as evidence and the documents can be submitted digitally through the online application form.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13919/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families?step-by-step-nav=0c79b832-75de-4854-8154-d62774a8dfb8>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Controlling Migration Fund

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13831] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the £1.75 million allocated to the Controlling Migration Fund has been distributed to local authorities to help refugees find permanent housing.

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13832] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many local authorities have received funding from the Controlling Migration Fund to help refugees find permanent housing.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has awarded £1.75 million from the Controlling Migration Fund to support 35 new Local Authority Asylum Support Liaison Officer (LAASLO) pilots. These will operate across 19 local authority areas with some of the highest numbers of asylum seekers, and will offer tailored support to newly recognised refugees. This will include working closely with other agencies during the 28-day move-on period, to secure accommodation for new refugees following a successful asylum decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-19/HL13831/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-19/HL13832/>

Housing: Refugees

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13833] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they provide for permanent housing for refugees after the 28 day move-on period from Government-supported accommodation has ended.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no funding for permanent housing for refugees after the 28 day move on period has passed, however, after being granted asylum a refugee is able to claim mainstream benefits which includes housing benefit.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-19/HL13833/>

Social Rented Housing: Refugees

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13900] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the quality of social housing used for refugees.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Successful asylum seekers who are granted refugee status are eligible to be allocated social housing. Where they apply for social housing, they will have their housing needs considered on the same basis as other eligible applicants in accordance with the local authority's housing allocation scheme.

The Regulator of Social Housing's standards

(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-standards>) include a requirement for tenants' homes to meet the government's Decent Homes Standard. In the Social

Housing Green Paper, we asked whether the Decent Homes Standard should be reviewed. We also invited views on whether new safety measures introduced in to the private rented sector should apply in the social rented sector. We expect to set out the government's response to the Green Paper in Spring 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13900/>

Housing: Asylum

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13901] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the adequacy of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and its operation in regard to (1) asylum accommodation, and (2) refugees who are homeless.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The Homelessness Reduction Act is the most ambitious reform to homelessness legislation in decades and placed new duties on local housing authorities to take reasonable steps to try to prevent and relieve a person's homelessness. Acting earlier and for a broader range of people means more people will get the help they need before they face a homelessness crisis. We have committed to reviewing the implementation of the Act, including the resourcing of it and how it is working in practice for a wide group of people, by March 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13901/>

Housing: Asylum

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13902] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many private companies run government-supported accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: UKVI currently discharges their statutory duty to provide destitute asylum seeker accommodation and transport via a suite of COMPASS contracts with three providers: G4S in the North East, Yorkshire & Humberside and the Midlands; Serco in the North West, Scotland and Northern Ireland and Clearsprings Ready Homes in London, the South and Wales.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13902/>

Housing: Asylum

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13903] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers live in government-supported accommodation which has been deemed substandard.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has a rigorous contract compliance regime in place to ensure that the required performance standards expected of all providers, as defined in the contracts, are met. Home Office inspections have found that accommodation generally meets the required standards and where defects are identified they are resolved within the timescales set out in the contract. Where Providers have failed to meet these contractual service standards sanctions have been imposed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13903/>

Sleeping Rough: Asylum

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13835] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) refugees, and (2) asylum seekers were included in their most recent rough sleeping statistics.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The annual single night snapshot of

Rough Sleeping in Autumn 2018 was published on January 31 2019 at the link (attached) below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2018>.

This includes figures from all English local authority annual rough sleeping snapshots since 2010. Where appropriate, local authorities do capture some demographic information on those they identify sleeping rough including on gender, age and high level nationality (UK, Non-UK EU and Non-EU). This does not include refugee or asylum seeker status.

However, this does not mean that we are not focused on these cohorts, and all those who are vulnerable and sleeping rough. London's CHAIN data, which provides information on the individuals seen sleeping rough by outreach teams in London throughout the year does contain this information in order to better understand each individuals unique circumstances. Their latest data can be found at the link below.

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>.

This Government is committed to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping. No one should ever have to sleep rough. That is why last summer we published the cross-government Rough Sleeping Strategy which sets out an ambitious £100 million package to help people who sleep rough now, but also puts in place the structures that will end rough sleeping once and for all. Already, this has provided over 1,750 new bed spaces and 500 staff. In all, the Government has now committed over £1.2 billion to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the spending review period.

[Rough Sleeping Autumn 2018](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-19/HL13835/>

Homelessness: Asylum

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13836] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many homeless people and rough sleepers were (1) refugees, and (2) asylum seekers in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016, (e) 2017, and (f) 2018.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: The number of households accepted as statutorily homeless, in England, who have been granted refugee status are provided in the table below. 2018 data is not yet available.

We do not hold the specific breakdowns requested for asylum seekers or rough sleepers.

Year	Total number of households accepted as statutorily homeless and granted refugee status (England)
2013	690
2014	790
2015	1,000
2016	1,080
2017	1,350

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-19/HL13836/>

Asylum: Housing

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL13950] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether there is overcrowding in government-supported accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To ensure overcrowding does not

happen accommodation providers must comply with national and local housing regulations including those regarding room sharing. The accommodation contracts set out who may share a room, which includes allowing room sharing for couples, unrelated adults of the same sex and related children depending on their genders and ages.

Providers are contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate and an assessment is made on a case-by-case basis depending on the specific needs of the individual. All of our properties are inspected by the providers on a monthly basis, in addition to regular inspections carried out by Home Office officials. Where there are licensing requirements, local authorities also conduct inspections.

The statement of requirements showing the requirements for accommodation sizes and room sharing can be found at

<https://data.gov.uk/data/contracts-finder-archive/contract/503107/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-21/HL13950/>

Press Release

Changes to the Immigration Rules

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-the-immigration-rules--3>

New Publications

Stay in the UK after it leaves the EU ('settled status'): step by step

<https://www.gov.uk/eusetledstatus>

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding renewal of immigration concession for Syrian nationals.

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0287/Carolien_Nokes_to_HASC_Chair-Syrian_Nationals_Immigration.pdf

Equality Act 2010: paragraph 17(4) of schedule 3 to the Equality Act 2010: Ministerial authorisation: Equality (Syria) Authorisation 2019

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0287/Ministerial_authorisation-Equality_Syria_Authorisation_2019.pdf

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Kate Green MP regarding issues raised during the Committee Stage of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill 2017-19: family removals, DHSC review of NHS charging regulations

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0306/correspondence_from_the_Minister_for_Immigration_to_Kate_Green_MP.pdf

Windrush generation and the Home Office

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmpublic/1518/1518.pdf>

English Channel Migrant Boat Crossings

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2019-0029/LLN-2019-0029.pdf>

Supreme Court judgement about a claim to asylum on grounds of torture

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2017-0124-press-summary.pdf>

From Pillar to Post: Destitution among people refused asylum in Scotland
[http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/8406/From Pillar to Post.pdf](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/8406/From_Pillar_to_Post.pdf)

News

Home Office to amend registration rules for vulnerable EU citizens
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/06/home-office-amend-registration-rules-vulnerable-eu-citizens-charity-threat-judicial-review>

Female EU citizens in UK fear post-Brexit discrimination as system is confused by maiden names
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/eu-citizens-uk-brexit-maiden-names-a8812956.html>

UK court ruling raises hopes of asylum for torture survivors
<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/mar/06/uk-supreme-court-ruling-asylum-torture-survivors>

Asylum seekers in Glasgow 'could be cleared to work in six months'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-47454523>

Taskforce calls for right to work
http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3416_taskforce_calls_for_right_to_work

Asylum seekers could be given right to work in Glasgow
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/asylum-seekers-could-be-given-right-to-work-in-glasgow-1-4883451>

Glasgow refugees in line for a job
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-06/scotland/glasgow-refugees-in-line-for-a-job-l66v98t8j>

Relax rules on asylum seekers working in UK, say leading artists
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/05/relax-rules-asylum-seekers-working-uk-says-letter>

Asylum seekers should be allowed to work sooner
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/05/asylum-seekers-should-be-allowed-to-work-sooner>

Scotland Brexit: Concern over 'crass' student visa plans
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47495066>

Visa proposals will not work, Tory MSPs warn May
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-08/scotland/visa-proposals-will-not-work-in-scotland-tories-tell-no-10-vklrcl6lz>

DUP did not sanction 'immigration control' leaflet
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-47468281>

Windrush scandal: MPs say Home Office complacent over failings
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47464910>

MPs condemn Home Office over new Windrush failings

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/06/home-office-woefully-complacent-despite-windrush-scandal-reveals-mps-public-accounts-committee-report>

Commonwealth veterans face UK visa fees and deportation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/08/commonwealth-veterans-face-uk-visa-fees-and-deportation>

'Right to rent' scheme causes landlords to discriminate, rules High Court

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2019/03/05/right-to-rent-scheme-causes-landlords-to-discriminate-rules-high-court/>

Crossing Divides: Has the UK changed its mind on immigration?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47428515>

Refugee charities call for urgent action to tackle asylum destitution in Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3415_refugee_charities_call_for_urgent_action_to_tackle_asylum_destitution_in_scotland

Refugees face shocking levels of destitution

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/refugees-face-shocking-levels-of-destitution>

Call for human rights strategy to help asylum seekers

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/call-for-human-rights-strategy-to-help-asylum-seekers-1-4883150>

Migrants stormed cross Channel ferry to hide in funnel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-04/news/migrants-stormed-crosschannel-ferry-to-hide-in-funnel-bl5zzhs68>

Home Office apologise to Scots soldier after teen daughter denied visa to live in Scotland

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/home-office-apologise-scots-soldier-14092599>

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Growing up mixed race

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/stories-47418905/i-m-from-more-cultures-than-you>

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Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group

Chris Law (SNP) [227125] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions

HMRC has had with the Government Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group in the last 12 months.

Reply from Mel Stride: There were no discussions between HMRC and the Government Race Disparity Audit Advisory Group in the last 12 months. Annually, HMRC publishes details of the diversity of its workforce, including ethnicity, in compliance with the public sector equality duties of the Equality Act 2010. The most recent report was published on GOV.UK on 31 January 2019 for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

HMRC works closely with the Cabinet Office, particularly in tracking progress in increasing the proportion of BAME colleagues at Senior Civil Service level. HMRC's wider work on race is well-established, with a staff Network, a bespoke talent programme for BAME staff, and an active Diversity Champion who is a member of the HMRC Executive Board.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-28/227125/>

The HMRC diversity report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmrc-compliance-with-public-sector-equality-duties-2017-to-2018/part-2-section-2-the-diversity-of-our-workforce-in-key-areas>

Homophobia: Minority Groups

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [226624] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle homophobic bullying within ethnic minority communities.

Reply from Anne Milton: Intolerance and bullying has no place in our society and no one should live in fear of bullying on the basis of their sexuality.

As part of our commitments in the government's Hate Crime Action Plan and Integrated Communities Action Plan, the department is taking forward a number of measures to help the sector prevent and tackle prejudice and bullying, and promote tolerance. This includes continuing to support schools in their requirement to promote our shared values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs.

All schools must have a behaviour policy that includes measures to prevent bullying, and all schools must comply with the requirements of the Equality Act. The department recently published the Respectful Schools Communities toolkit; a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. In addition to this, the department is providing over £2.8 million of funding, between September 2016 and March 2020, to 4 anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying, along with a project to report bullying online.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-27/226624/>

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

The Integrated Communities Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Universities: BAME Women in Leadership Positions

Baroness Falkener of Margravine (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to increase the number of black and minority ethnic women in leadership positions in Russell group universities in England.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, equality and diversity in higher education is a priority for this Government. On 11 October 2018, the Prime Minister set out her expectation that more must be done to create a workforce representative of British society today. As part of the race disparity audit, the Government have asked higher education providers to tackle ethnic disparities in their workforce, using tools such as the race equality charter and the race at work charter.

Baroness Falkener of Margravine: I thank the noble Viscount for that very helpful reply and I unequivocally uphold university autonomy and independence. He knows, however, that the latest data shows that of 19,000 UK university professors, only 25 are black women. This is reflected across senior roles in the Russell group. Does he accept that institutions receiving those public funds must go beyond the race equality charter and uphold race equality law? In the absence of a regulator for this aspect of HE, will he look at collaborating with the Higher Education Funding Councils to see whether we can get more accurate data on what is holding back recruitment, retention and promotion in this sector?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: ... I acknowledge that the figures are of concern; that is why, in addition to the October announcement I just mentioned, on 1 February the Government announced measures to tackle ethnic disparities in higher education, specifically in recruitment and progression opportunities for ethnic minority academics. The noble Baroness may know that Karen Blackett is the Government's race at work champion. She will be working at institutions, including universities, to address inequality by taking practical steps, such as introducing apprenticeships and offering mentorships.

Lord Garel-Jones (Conservative): Does my noble friend agree that universities are independent institutions and that that independence is an important ingredient in creating the prestige that British universities enjoy globally? Consequently, does he agree that universities should not have a responsibility to deploy effective recruitment procedures?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: My Lords, there is a balance. I thank my noble friend for making that point because this House took through autonomy for institutions during the passage of the Higher Education and Research Act, so that autonomy is important. On the other hand, the Office for Students has a statutory duty to protect the academic freedom of English higher education providers, so while it has its duty to put some pressure on the universities, equally, universities must be allowed to make decisions themselves as to who they employ and how much they are paid.

Lord Watson of Invergowrie (Labour): My Lords, the dearth of black, Asian and minority ethnic people, particularly women, in senior positions in Russell group universities, is shocking but not surprising. Surely it is a symptom of so few BAME students having been to those universities over the years; academics who were themselves at Russell group universities tend to dominate senior positions there. They should adopt appointments policies that deal with underrepresentation in the short term. I welcome the Minister referring this matter to Karen Blackett to look at, but have attempts by leading universities to widen student participation not proved inadequate? Should the Minister now advise the Office for Students, as the regulator, to put greater pressure on Russell group universities to make sure that their admissions policies are fit for purpose?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The Question is mainly focused on staff

and the workforce. There is more to be done to create a workforce that represents British society today, particularly in universities. It is important that universities, as the noble Lord alluded to, set up a pipeline to encourage BME students to come in, go on to do research and then become academics. That is a genuine focus of this Government.

Lord Laming (Crossbench): My Lords, is it not in the interests of universities to ensure they are attractive to a range of young people who have the ability to benefit from universities, irrespective of their colour, background or religion? Therefore, is it not in the interests of universities to ensure that they are seen as a welcoming place for people of a different colour or background, and make sure they have a range of academic staff who reflect that range of interests?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord makes a good point. It is important that, wherever universities are based, they reflect the area they are in and, equally, adopt the policies that the noble Lord has mentioned. There is more work to be done and universities know this. Pressure is being put on them by the Office for Students.

Lord Grocott (Labour): My Lords, the Russell group is referred to in the Question and is frequently the object of discussion in higher education policy generally, and much referred to by the Government as well. Can the Minister tell the House what characteristics are required for universities to be members of the Russell group? I understand that it is a self-selected group, but maybe I am wrong. Could he also explain how the views of the Russell group differ from those of other groupings of universities in the sector?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: It is a good question from the noble Lord. I asked that very question, about what the definitions are for those universities that are part of the Russell group and for the rest of the universities in the UK—and there is not one. I acknowledge, however, the point the House has made: of the total academic staff at Russell group universities for 2017 to 2018, 11% were male professors and 3% were female professors. There is more work to be done to put pressure on the Russell group universities.

Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I declare an interest as a former Russell group university teacher. Is the problem, particularly for women and women from ethnic minorities, not undergraduate recruitment, but getting through the graduate student and post-doc stage? Would the Government, in collaboration with HEFCE, look at adequate funding for people through that difficult process, as well as informal discrimination against young women as opposed to young men, which I certainly saw as a graduate student supervisor from time to time?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: The noble Lord is right. It is not so much for HEFCE now, but there should be collaboration between the Office for Students, Universities UK, UCU and other bodies, working together to make progress in this area.

Lord West of Spithead (Labour): My Lords, I declare an interest as a former chancellor of a non-Russell group university. Further to my noble friend's point, is there a difference between the people employed within the non-Russell group and those in the Russell group? Is there actually a difference or is this a problem across all universities?

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: I think it is a problem across all universities. There are figures that I could spend ages going into, but it is a problem across all universities and more work needs to be done, as I have said.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-07/debates/3B62D742-341B-49FD-94AC-B50616A5DCE9/UniversitiesBAMEWomenInLeadershipPositions>

The announcements referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-series-of-measures-to-tackle-barriers-facing-ethnic-minorities-in-the-workplace>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-must-do-more-to-tackle-ethnic-disparity>

The Race Disparity Audit, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/686071/Revised_RDA_report_March_2018.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Police: Equality

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL13939] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to help promote diversity and ethnic minority representation in UK police forces.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is a greater proportion of black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) officers than ever before, however the Government has been clear that there is more for forces to do.

The Government established the College of Policing as the professional body for policing. The College has delivered a major programme of work to address the recruitment, retention and progression of officers from BAME and other under-represented groups in policing including: capturing what works; publishing positive action advice; and reviewing the initial recruitment processes. A pilot of a new assessment centre for police officer recruits is now underway, led by the Metropolitan Police, and an evaluation is expected to be published by the College of Policing in autumn 2019.

Building on the foundations laid by the College, the National Police Chief's Council published its first Diversity, Equality and Inclusion strategy in October 2018.

Ministers are in regular dialogue with policing partners about increasing police workforce diversity. The Home Secretary chaired a Race Diversity Roundtable with policing leaders in October 2018, following which he wrote to Police and Crime Commissioners, the College of Policing, Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services and chief constables, urging a whole system approach to driving improvements in diversity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-20/HL13939/>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/documents/edhr/2018/NPCC%20Diversity%20Equality%20Inclusion%20Strategy%20May%202018.pdf>

Press Releases

Education Secretary speaks to leaders of diversity network

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-speaks-to-leaders-of-diversity-network>

Employers fear using positive action to close disability, ethnicity and gender pay gaps

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/employers-fear-using-positive-action-close-disability-ethnicity-and-gender-pay-gaps>

Equality study reveals lack of diversity among Scottish councillors

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-study-reveals-lack-diversity-among-scottish-councillors>

Diversity of candidates and elected officials in Great Britain

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/diversity-candidates-and-elected-officials-great-britain>

New Publications

BAME into leadership – Scotland’s public sector

<http://anassarwar.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/BAME-stats-Scotland.pdf>

Barriers to participation in standing for election to local government in Scotland

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-125-political-participation-barriers-participation-scotland.docx>

Diversity of candidates and elected officials in Great Britain

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-124-political-participation-diversity-candidates-great-britain.docx>

Exploring positive action as a tool to address under-representation in apprenticeships

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/research-report-123-positive-action-apprenticeships.pdf>

Unemployment by ethnic background

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Equality Impact Assessments

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06591/SN06591.pdf>

News

Scotland's traveller sites still failing standards

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47454668>

Councils failing travellers with “subhuman” sites

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/councils-failing-travellers-with-subhuman-sites>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Football (Sectarianism and Violence)

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what new measures it is considering to address sectarianism and violent behaviour associated with football. (S5T-01532)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): Our preferred solution has always been that football steps up to address this long-standing problem with meaningful solutions. It is important for football to demonstrate leadership on the issue but, if action is not taken, we firmly reserve the right to act

to rid our national game of this vile cancer. I believe that the vast majority of supporters are frustrated that a small minority are bringing our game into disrepute and frustrated at the lack of action by the football authorities and clubs.

Although we would prefer football to take action, we are considering a range of options, including the role of strict liability and the licensing of football stadiums. I would welcome contributions from across the chamber on how we can work together to address the issue.

I understand that the independent review of football policing, which was commissioned by Police Scotland, will be published tomorrow, 6 March. We will, of course, carefully consider its findings.

Liam McArthur: Last week, Deputy Chief Constable Will Kerr, who served in Northern Ireland for three decades, said that he was surprised at the level of disorder and the fact that “the consistently thuggish behaviour of a very small number of fans is considered normal.”

Days earlier, the Kilmarnock manager Steve Clarke, after quoting abuse that was thrown in his direction, asked: “where are we living? The dark ages?”

The cabinet secretary rightly says that the vast majority of decent fans are disgusted by the actions of so-called supporters who behave in that way, but does he agree that fans are now looking to the authorities, including Parliament, to step up the efforts to combat such behaviour?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I agree with everything that Liam McArthur has said, and I welcome the powerful remarks from DCC Will Kerr. There was also a very powerful quote from PFA Scotland’s chief executive, Fraser Wishart, who said:

“The football pitch is a player’s place of work and it is not unreasonable for a player, like any other employee, to be able to work with the knowledge that their workplace is indeed a safe environment, free from violence and discrimination and that their health and safety is not at risk.”

I will carefully consider Police Scotland’s report when it is published tomorrow, and I will, of course, be open to suggestions from members across the chamber. However, it is for the football authorities to step up to their responsibilities—frankly, they have not done so thus far. As I have said, if they do not step up, we will consider a full range of options, including strict liability, licensing, civil football banning orders and the many other options that are on the table.

Liam McArthur: I thank the cabinet secretary for that response, and I certainly echo the sentiments that were expressed by Fraser Wishart.

Two years ago, Dr Duncan Morrow’s report on sectarianism said that although “football was only one part of the jigsaw of sectarianism ... The continuing reluctance of the football authorities to demonstrate serious commitment on this issue, means that strict liability must remain a real and present option.”

What is the cabinet secretary’s assessment of how co-operative and constructive football clubs have been in the period since? Does he agree that there should be a cross-party approach to looking at escalating penalties including, for example, the closing of sections of grounds in more serious cases?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Joe FitzPatrick and I met representatives from the Scottish Professional Football League and the Scottish Football Association before the worst of the behaviour that we have seen in recent weeks, and we pressed them on tackling unacceptable conduct. Although the words were warm, we are yet to see demonstrable action in that regard. I repeat what I have said in my previous two answers: we would prefer the clubs to step up but, if they do not, we reserve the right to act.

The final question that Liam McArthur asked is very valid. When we explore the full range of options, we should do so with as much consensus in the chamber as possible. As I said, a number of options are on the table, including strict liability,

licensing and civil football banning orders.

James Dornan (SNP): The cabinet secretary will be aware that I have been a vocal critic of sectarianism that is associated with any football club or wider society for a number of years. He will also be aware that I am proposing a member's bill on strict liability, which could include the use of the licensing system. The cabinet secretary clearly agrees that it would be preferable for the clubs and football authorities to bring in strict liability themselves. However, if they do not, surely a member's bill or some other mechanism would give Parliament the power to put pressure on football clubs and would be a cross-party way of working to achieve that.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: ... I commend James Dornan for the work that he has done on strict liability and on the wider issue of sectarianism through the cross-party group. He has been a constructive voice on that matter, and he is absolutely right. Strict liability remains on the table and we will explore the legal possibilities in that regard. We will keep a close eye on the work that James Dornan is doing.

We will also look extensively at the powers that are in our hands, such as those on licensing, which is one option. Every stadium that has a capacity of 10,000 or more spectators is required to hold a safety licence. If Parliament were minded to do so, we could look at the authorising regime for such licences. For example, in England there is the Sports Grounds Safety Authority, which is the overarching body that looks into stadium licensing. Together with the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, I am looking at whether we should create a similar body in Scotland, alongside the appropriate sanctions, such as closing down sections of grounds or whole stadiums if that is in the best interests of public safety.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): Sectarianism is a blight on our national game. I associate myself with the cabinet secretary's remarks in that regard and I would be pleased to accept his offer to work closely with him on the issue. Do the measures that are being considered by the Scottish Government involve greater use of stadium bans for individuals who are engaging in such abusive behaviour? How closely are the football clubs working with the cabinet secretary on the issue?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: As I mentioned in my previous answer, Joe FitzPatrick and I have been working closely on the issue. We have met the SPFL and the SFA, and we will meet individual clubs if we receive a request to do so; between us, we have arranged a number of such meetings. I know that a minority of clubs are interested in civil football banning orders. The member will know about football banning orders, and the chief constable of Police Scotland's role in those, but some clubs would like to have the power to apply for football banning orders. I will listen to the arguments with an open mind—I have not come to a conclusion yet.

On the member's other point, I do not doubt for a minute that we all have a shared interest in stamping out sectarianism in the game. It brings shame on us as a country and shame on the clubs that we support. Therefore, it will be important, and an imperative part of my role, that we take the entire Parliament with us on whichever option we decide on. I therefore look forward to discussions with Liam Kerr and other members across the chamber.

James Kelly (Labour): I caution the cabinet secretary against the attitude, which has been adopted by some commentators, that views football supporters with disdain, when only a small minority are responsible for such incidents. Does he agree that tackling bigotry and hatred needs a wider, more considered discussion and that it should not be viewed solely through the lens of a football match? I agree that football clubs and authorities must do more, but does the cabinet secretary accept that any football-specific initiatives need consensus and widespread support, and that rushed, knee-jerk reactions are not the answer?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I will say a few things to James Kelly. The first is that

we will continue to do what we have been doing to tackle the wider sectarianism in society, but let us not have our heads in the sand and ignore what has been happening in football, not only in recent weeks. I know that James Kelly is a football supporter—in fact he and I support the same club—so he knows that it has been going on not just for years but for decades. I would have thought that, as the poster boy for the repeal of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, Mr Kelly might have come to the chamber today with a little bit of humility, given that a number of stakeholders told us that repealing the act would embolden the unacceptable conduct that we have heard about today.

Mr Kelly is right that we do not need just words—we need action. I note that, when the act was repealed, he said that he would bring forward a plan “fit for 2018”. We have not yet seen that plan, but if Mr Kelly and other have constructive ideas, I ask them to bring them to the chamber. There is a society-wide issue, but let us not ignore the fact that there is a problem with sectarianism and unacceptable conduct in and around football that we must tackle, as well as the wider issue.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11976&i=108290#ScotParlOR>

Duncan Morrow's report, referred to above, can be read at

<http://tinyurl.com/y5vltt7n>

Press Release

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Antisemitism in the Labour Party: our response to complaints

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/antisemitism-labour-party-our-response-complaints>

News: Islamophobia in the Conservative and Labour Parties

Scottish Labour ‘fails on Islamophobia’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-07/scotland/scottish-labour-fails-on-islamophobia-fj9nb20nz>

Andrea Leadsom urged to apologise for Islamophobia response

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-parliaments-47495727>

Andrea Leadsom under fire for suggesting Foreign Office should help define Islamophobia in Britain

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/andrea-leadsom-islamophobia-commons-debate-foreign-office-a8812521.html>

Tories are prejudiced against Islam, says council candidate

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/06/conservatives-prejudiced-against-islam-council-candidate>

Crisis? What crisis? Senior Tories shrug off Islamophobia warning

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/06/crisis-what-crisis-senior-tories-shrug-off-islamophobia-warning>

Tories suspend 14 members over alleged Islamophobia

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/05/tories-suspend-14-members-over-alleged-islamophobia>

Tory activists attacked Islam on site backing Jacob Rees-Mogg

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-06/news/tory-activists-attacked-islam-on-site-backing-jacob-rees-mogg-qff5t3g8s>

Theresa May's 'head in sand' over Tory Islamophobia, says Warsi

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47454993>

Nadhim Zahawi: I faced racism from Tory party activist

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-47473222/nadhim-zahawi-i-faced-racism-from-tory-party-activist>

Conservative Party Islamophobia clams: James Cleverly

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-47455569/conservative-party-islamophobia-clams-james-cleverly>

Tory councillors in East Staffordshire quit over Islamophobia row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47472902>

Conservatives suspend 14 members amid Islamophobia claims

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/conservatives-suspend-14-members-amid-islamophobia-claims-1-4883882>

Tory peer calls for inquiry into Islamophobia within her own party

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/tory-peer-calls-inquiry-islamophobia-14093063>

News: Antisemitism in the Labour Party

Labour's elected representatives to attend diversity training following anti-Semitism row

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17489836.labours-elected-representatives-to-attend-diversity-training-following-anti-semitism-row/>

Richard Leonard: Labour struggling with tide of bigotry complaints

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17486631.richard-leonard-labour-struggling-with-tide-of-bigotry-complaints/>

Scottish Labour rejects proposals for anti-semitism debate at conference

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-labour-rejects-proposals-for-anti-semitism-debate-at-conference-1-4885968>

Scottish Labour leader admits party struggling to cope with tide of antisemitism complaints

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/08/scottish-labour-leader-admits-party-struggling-cope-tide-antisemitism/>

Bid to tackle antisemitism thwarted by Labour chiefs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-06/scotland/bid-to-tackle-antisemitism-thwarted-by-labour-chiefs-jvfxmj37t>

Anti-Semitism row: Labour peers say response is a political failure

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47499551>

Anti-Semitism: Labour could face human rights probe

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47482048>

Equality and Human Rights Commission launches Labour 'discrimination' probe

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17483426.equality-and-human-rights-commission-launches-labour-discrimination-probe/>

Labour's 'Jewish problem' goes from bad to worse, as the Human Rights Commission steps in

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17489812.iain-macwhirter-labours-jewish-problem-goes-from-bad-to-worse-as-the-human-rights-commission-steps-in/>

Equalities watchdog considering antisemitism case against Labour

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/equalities-watchdog-considering-antisemitism-case-against-labour-1-4885022>

Labour faces formal inquiry over handling of anti-Semitism amid claims it breached equalities law

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/07/labour-faces-formal-inquiry-handling-anti-semitism-amid-claims/>

Labour antisemitism: equalities watchdog opens investigation

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/07/labour-antisemitism-equalities-watchdog-opens-investigation>

Labour antisemitism: Equality watchdog threatens enforcement action over 'unlawful discrimination' in party

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-antisemitism-ehrc-equality-human-rights-corbyn-a8811721.html>

Corbyn ally calls for EHRC to be scrapped

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-08/news/labour-faces-official-investigation-over-antisemitism-claims-wb22r25jf>

How the investigation could play out

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-07/news/q-a-the-human-rights-investigation-into-labour-antisemitism-8z8jjq2n8>

How did Labour go from being the party of equality to being probed for institutional racism?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/07/did-labour-go-party-equality-probed-institutional-racism/>

Grassroots rebellion in Scottish Labour over lack of anti-semitism debate at conference

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/grassroots-rebellion-in-scottish-labour-over-lack-of-anti-semitism-debate-at-conference-1-4885025>

Labour general secretary fails to placate angry MPs over antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/04/labour-general-secretary-fails-to-placate-mps-over-antisemitism>

Anti-Semitism: Labour faces possible human rights probe

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47482048>

Labour must not silence anti-semitism and Brexit concerns

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/labour-must-not-silence-anti-semitism-and-brexit-concerns-leader-comment-1-4884794>

Seumas Milne and Corbyn aide blocked anti-semitism suspensions

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/seamus-milne-and-corbyn-aide-blocked-anti-semitism-suspensions-f7c3zjc0j>

John McDonnell admits Labour's problem with antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-04/news/john-mcdonnell-admits-labour-s-problem-with-antisemitism-t8vb6dnqj>

Jeremy Corbyn criticised by his peers over 'embarrassing' and 'humiliating' failure on anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/08/jeremy-corbyn-criticised-peers-embarrassing-humiliating-failure/>

Labour officials 'minimised' accusations of anti-Semitism against party activist

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/09/labour-officials-minimised-accusations-anti-semitism-against/>

Jewish Labour MP accuses Jeremy Corbyn's 'inner circle' of 'political interference' in handling of party anti-Semitism cases

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/05/jewish-labour-mp-accuses-jeremy-corbyns-inner-circle-of-political/>

Antisemitism: failure to censure activist mocks Labour's 'zero-tolerance' stance

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/mar/09/antisemitism-labour-failure-over-activist-facebook-posts>

Police to investigate two anti-Semitic letters sent to former Labour MP

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/03/police-investigate-two-anti-semitic-letters-sent-former-labour/>

Labour anti-Semitism row: Falconer under pressure to reject job

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47458111>

Lord Falconer to scrutinise old Labour emails over antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-05/news/lord-falconer-to-scrutinise-old-labour-emails-over-antisemitism-cq6z30hzb>

Labour anti-Semitism row: Hodge claims Corbyn 'misled' her

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47451023>

Labour anti-Semitism row: Hodge claims Corbyn 'misled' her

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47451023>

Labour anti-Semitism: Tom Watson told to let party boss handle it

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-47434792>

Tom Watson and John McDonnell at loggerheads over Labour handling of anti-Semitism
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/tom-watson-and-john-mcdonnell-at-loggerheads-over-labour-handling-of-anti-semitism-1-4882636>

Anti-Semitism row: Chris Williamson suspension unfair - Labour group
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-47453711>

Mansfield Labour mayoral candidate suspended in anti-Semitism probe
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-47503473>

Labour suspends candidate in new antisemitism row
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-09/news/labour-suspends-candidate-in-new-antisemitism-row-mwbljm5dr>

News: Other Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Amber Rudd apologises over 'coloured woman' comment
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47488047>

Amber Rudd calls Diane Abbott a 'coloured woman' during BBC radio interview
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/amber-rudd-diane-abbott-coloured-woman-racism-bbc-jeremy-vine-a8812251.html>

Amber Rudd apologises after calling Diane Abbott 'coloured'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-08/news/amber-rudd-calls-diane-abbott-coloured-in-radio-interview-about-online-abuse-n082m8qnb>

Amber Rudd says sorry to Diane Abbott for calling her 'coloured'
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/07/amber-rudd-apologises-to-diane-abbott-for-calling-her-coloured>

Why I refuse to join the outrage bandwagon against Amber Rudd's 'coloured woman' gaffe
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/07/amber-rudds-coloured-comment-clumsy-need-calm-stop-spoiling/>

To fix its problems now, Labour must face the racism in its past
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/08/labour-party-racism-truth-past?CMP=share_btn_tw

Tory chairman accused of repeatedly ignoring racism complaints
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/07/tory-chairman-accused-of-repeatedly-ignoring-racism-complaints-brandon-lewis>

Black advisers claim they were 'targeted' by Met Police
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-47462633>

Cricklewood Islamic Centre: Man who drove at worshippers jailed
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-47470918>

Martin Stokes: Racist who drove into worshippers at mosque is jailed for five years
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-07/news/martin-stokes-racist-who-drove-into-worshippers-at-mosque-is-jailed-for-five-years-m8dvbr8ng>

Far right 'infiltrating children's charities with anti-Islam agenda'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/05/far-right-infiltrating-childrens-charities-with-anti-islam-agenda>

For 2,000 years we've linked Jews to money. It's why antisemitism is so ingrained

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/09/jews-money-antisemitism-judas-shylock-capitalism>

Lecturer who called violinists 'gypos' awarded £180,000 after tribunal finds she was wrongly sacked

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/francesca-carpos-young-tribunal-royal-academy-music-violin-a8814351.html>

Music lecturer wrongly sacked for 'gypo' violinists memo

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-08/news/music-lecturer-wrongly-sacked-for-gypo-violinists-memo-g6wr7hbkg>

BBC Scotland drops Nazi dog salute man after outcry

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17473773.bbc-scotland-drops-nazi-dog-salute-man-after-outcry/>

BBC Scotland cancels show with Nazi pug criminal after furious backlash

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/bbc-scotland-cancels-show-with-nazi-pug-criminal-after-furious-backlash-1-4882522>

BBC Scotland drop 'Nazi salute dog' job from new discussion show after public backlash

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/bbc-scotland-drop-nazi-salute-14081982>

BBC Scotland drops shows featuring maker of dog Nazi salute video

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2019/mar/03/bbc-scotland-drops-shows-featuring-maker-of-dog-nazi-salute-video>

Mark Meechan: BBC ditches 'Nazi' blogger from show

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-04/scotland/mark-meechan-bbc-ditches-nazi-blogger-from-show-2kcsb9j99>

National Action accused says group's 'humour lost on people'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-47455190>

Neo-Nazi group believed to be operating in Aberdeen

<https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/fp/news/local/neo-nazi-group-believed-to-be-operating-in-aberdeen1/>

Is anti-Irish racism still a problem? You can bank on it

<https://discoversociety.org/2019/03/06/is-anti-irish-racism-still-a-problem-you-can-bank-on-it/>

Humza Yousaf: Scottish football clubs must tackle 'vile cancer' of sectarianism

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-scottish-football-clubs-must-tackle-vile-cancer-of-sectarianism-1-4883895>

Ministers warn of club crackdown over sectarianism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17473038.ministers-warn-of-club-crackdown-over-sectarianism/>

Old Firm face 'closed door' matches threat to beat sectarianism

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/old-firm-face-closed-door-matches-threat-to-beat-sectarianism-1-4882552>

Celtic join Rangers in blasting Irvine Welsh over 'tired and absurd' bigotry remarks

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/sport/football/football-news/celtic-join-rangers-blasting-irvine-14089946>

John Barnes interview: 'Banning people from stadiums will not stop racist behaviour'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/john-barnes-racism-in-football-campaign-kick-it-out-show-racism-the-red-card-a8814251.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Joint statement by the First Ministers of Scotland and Wales – EU Exit Debate

<https://www.gov.scot/news/joint-statement-by-the-first-ministers-of-scotland-and-wales-eu-exit-debate/>

News

Brexit: Scottish and Welsh parliaments pass joint motion

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-47447176>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the risk of female genital mutilation for girls in the United Kingdom and internationally.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

My Lords, FGM is child abuse, and the Government are clear that we will not tolerate this appalling crime. We have strengthened the law on FGM and were pleased to see the first UK conviction earlier this year. We are also helping communities around the world to end this harmful practice once and for all.

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington: My Lords, I am delighted that my noble friend confirms that FGM is indeed child abuse. Would she also agree that the excuse of cultural practice is no reason for cutting young girls, either in the UK or anywhere else around the world?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I totally agree with my noble friend. Cultural practice is often used interchangeably with religious reasons. In fact, the practice of FGM has nothing to do with religion. If cultural practice is harmful to

children—and this practice is terribly harmful to girls, not only when it is done but throughout their whole lives—then we will look to end it.

Lord Morris of Aberavon (Labour): My Lords, as a criminal lawyer, I am fully aware of the problems of successful prosecutions, particularly when there are family interests, but the fact that there has been only one successful prosecution must mean that something is deeply flawed in investigating or prosecuting. Will the Minister convey to the Attorney-General my request that he considers inviting the inspectorates of police and CPS for their views?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: What I think the noble and learned Lord is pointing out is that, actually, this is quite a hidden crime. It has various protections, if you like, with family members and doctors not willing to come forward. Although we have had only one prosecution, we have at least had that one and we now need to work from there. We have had a lot of campaigns in local communities to highlight the fact that this is an illegal practice and should not be going on in communities.

Baroness Burt of Solihull (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, would not a simple and effective step be to make the responsibility for ensuring that children are being effectively taught about the dangers and illegality of FGM part of Ofsted's responsibilities? I met with Nadhim Zahawi and Karma Nirvana last summer and Mr Zahawi seemed enthusiastic about the idea, but I have not heard anything since. Could the Minister gently nudge the right honourable gentleman and find out whether he intends to implement this measure?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: One thing the noble Baroness might find helpful is that it is an offence to fail to protect a girl from FGM. She mentions schools—clearly, they have not only a safeguarding role but a welfare role. Professionals are now being trained to look out for the signs of whether a girl has gone through FGM, forced marriage or another form of illegal practice.

Baroness Masham of Ilton (Crossbench): My Lords, is the Minister aware that in 1985 I took the first bit of legislation on female circumcision through your Lordships' House and that the noble Lord, Lord Glenarthur, who is here today, was the Minister? This shows how difficult the situation is, as there have been several bits of legislation since 1985. ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ...The noble Baroness points out the difficulties of this. If people, particularly family members, are reluctant to come forward, it becomes very difficult to drive out. However, we have made a small amount of progress, and certainly some of the FGM protection orders that we have introduced have helped to stop girls from being cut.

Baroness Harris of Richmond (Liberal Democrat): Does the Minister know about the spoon campaign—that is what I call it—where young girls are told about putting a small spoon inside their underwear when they go through checks at airports? This alerts the security officers to the fact that these young girls are frightened and need to be taken care of, so that their parents cannot take them out of the country to be cut.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I certainly have heard of the spoon campaign—I heard the lady who initiated it speaking in Manchester the other week. It prevents not only FGM but forced marriage, which is another benefit. It is such a wonderful, simple campaign, and I commend it.

The Lord Bishop of St Albans: My Lords, the Government are to be congratulated on the various pieces of legislation that have been taken through. However, this is much more complex and is not simply a legal issue, as we have heard. That does not seem to solve the problem; it is clearly a cultural issue. The Minister has already referred to some of the attempts that have been made to change culture. What efforts are being made to talk to community leaders, who are some of the key people in those more traditional and sometimes hierarchical communities, to try to get the cultural change, so that this becomes an unacceptable practice and something which we really can see addressed?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate goes to

the nub of the problem: it cannot be solved by legislation alone. Certainly, we are doing some work around the world in giving UK aid. At home, we need to get to the point where those community leaders not only see that this is wrong but articulate that to members of their community, explaining that this is not only unacceptable and illegal but that it maims girls for life.

Baroness Corston (Labour): My Lords, when I was the Member for Bristol East in another place quite a long time ago, I used to work with secondary school head teachers to discuss instances when girls said they were being taken to another country, often a home country of their family, for a long holiday. The school would then do what it could to investigate the purpose of the trip and try to alert the authorities. What work are the Government doing with schools?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: As I outlined to the noble Baroness, Lady Burt, professionals in schools clearly do not have only a duty of care to their children and a safeguarding role; there is now an offence for failing to protect a girl from FGM. Schools are now trained in spotting various safeguarding issues, including the signs that a girl might be taken away. Actually, the girl is not necessarily taken away or taken abroad; it can definitely happen here at home and we must not dismiss that. We have work to do in training our school staff but also the work in communities that the right reverend Prelate talked about.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-07/debates/358265FF-ACC4-4309-96E8-8E2C984D7B7B/FemaleGenitalMutilation>

New Publication

Female genital mutilation: the facts

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/783684/FGM_The_Facts_A6_v4_web.pdf

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Other News

Applying online to become a charity

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/applying-online-to-become-a-charity/>

Why are BAME girls less likely to get the HPV jab?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-47419895/why-are-bame-girls-less-likely-to-get-the-hpv-jab>

FGM trial: First ever person convicted of practice in UK jailed for 13 years after mutilating 3-year-old daughter

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/fgm-sentencing-trial-uganda-mother-guilty-old-bailey-conviction-a8814051.html>

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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>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2)

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/asylumseekerspermissiontoworkno2.html>

Border Control Bill

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

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

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/6f63dbaf-fddb-4514-a05f-41c00bf6376d/ChildrenAct1989\(Amendment\)\(FemaleGenitalMutilation\)Bill\(Lords\)\(FirstSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/6f63dbaf-fddb-4514-a05f-41c00bf6376d/ChildrenAct1989(Amendment)(FemaleGenitalMutilation)Bill(Lords)(FirstSitting))

Proposed amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0294/amend/children_daily_pbc_0304.1-2.html

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

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

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/gypsyandtravellercommunitieshousingplanningandeducation.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 and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/7543bb4a-6a16-45f7-8844-af33ada2cead/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(NinthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/7543bb4a-6a16-45f7-8844-af33ada2cead/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(NinthSitting))

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/4c72ba6c-70e5-453b-8a2a-3185b68f7023/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill\(TenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-05/debates/4c72ba6c-70e5-453b-8a2a-3185b68f7023/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill(TenthSitting))

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/immigrationtimelimitondetention.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

**** Police Scotland: Shaping our direction and delivery 2019-2022**

(closing date 18 March 2019)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2019shape/>

Scottish charity law (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

Proposed Post-Mortem Examinations (Defence Time-Limit) (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 4 April 2019)

www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf

Defamation in Scots law (closing date 5 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/yb7dv8tu>

The Law of Succession (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/law-of-succession-2019/>

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act (closing date 10 May 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/111249.aspx>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers
(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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 Oportunities

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see

<http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

**** this week!**

Employability Programme for New Scots (Women only)

12 March 2019 in Dundee (11.30-2.30)

19 March 2019 in Dundee (11.30-2.30)

26 March 2019 in Dundee (11.30-2.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre opportunity for New Scots (women only) to explore skills and opportunities and find out about the Scottish job market. For information see

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D1StellWwAETieT.jpg> or contact info@mwrc.org.uk / 01382 787 450

**** this week!**

Introduction to Race Equality

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.30)

CRER training to increase understanding of race and racism in the Scottish context, and provide the tools to promote equality for minority ethnic people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5rguwh2>

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

PAiH course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier3>

**** this week!**

Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

14 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider three models that help guide our thinking, as we seek to tackle discrimination, communicate across difference and understand the relationship between our identities, our experiences and our worldview. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yd8uhfeg>

**** this week!**

Women only: Training for Trainers: Confidence Building and Hate Crime Reporting

15 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.45-2.15)

22 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.45-2.15)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre training for women to learn how to deal with discrimination and hate crime, build confidence, learn new skills, and learn how to train other women in the community. For information contact 0141 212 8420 / info@mwrc.org.uk or see <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D0f28QVX4AU5xS4.jpg:large>

**** this week!**

Introduction to Policing Programme

16 and 24 March, and 6 April 2019 (three-day course) in Edinburgh and Tulliallan

Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. For information see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps.pdf , contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

**** UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

21 March 2019 in Glasgow (5.30-7.30)

CRER event with Glasgow City Council to mark the UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and preview CRER's forthcoming Virtual Museum of Empire, Colonialism, Slavery and Migration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y32groho>

Refugee rights to housing

22 March 2019 in Glasgow

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and

obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Discover your Journey: Police Scotland women-only event

23 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-3.30)

30 March 2019 in Jackton (9.30-3.30)

Police Scotland event to encourage women to consider a career in policing. For information about the Edinburgh event see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps2.jpg , and about the Jackton event see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19iii_ps3.jpg contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk

**** Glasgow Grants 2020 Stakeholder Engagement**

25 March 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

29 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

Glasgow City Council is developing plans for a new grant fund to tackle specific city priorities, allowing resources to be directed where they are needed most. These events provide an opportunity for organisations to be involved in the discussion and provide views around how these funds should impact within communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6lw6ouq>

Engaging with seldom heard voices

27 March 2019 in Glasgow

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

2021 Ethnic Group and Religion Questions Update Event

27 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-11.30)

28 March 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

National Records of Scotland events about the ethnic group and religion questions that are being proposed for Scotland's Census 2021. For information <https://tinyurl.com/y2dfndfx>

Equality and intersectionality

29 March 2019 in Edinburgh (12.00-4.00)

University of Edinburgh and Equality Network event to share learning about equality work and applying intersectionality across cities, sectors and countries of the UK, and network with people working in equality third sector organisations in England and Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaerx9fm>

**** Interfaith Youth Conference: What is Justice**

13 April 2019 in St Andrews (11.00-4.00)

St Andrews Coexistence Initiative conference with Interfaith Scotland conference. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4lmggyw>

Inclusion Cultivation

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

Working with Interpreters

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision, looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Age assessment awareness

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with refugees and the asylum process

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

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

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see

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/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>



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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