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Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Community Relations](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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

UK Parliament Debates

Immigration (European Economic Area Nationals) (EU Exit) Order 2019

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-18/debates/261F8D85-218F-45D4-85D5-6DBCADA9A76F/Immigration\(EuropeanEconomicAreaNationals\)\(EUExit\)Order2019](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-18/debates/261F8D85-218F-45D4-85D5-6DBCADA9A76F/Immigration(EuropeanEconomicAreaNationals)(EUExit)Order2019)

Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-18/debates/96CCD9AB-687B-402F-BBAB-85259851BE24/ImmigrationNationalityAndAsylum\(EUExit\)Regulations2019](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-18/debates/96CCD9AB-687B-402F-BBAB-85259851BE24/ImmigrationNationalityAndAsylum(EUExit)Regulations2019)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Impact Assessments

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [231565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will place in the Library all impact assessments his Department has made of changes to the immigration system since 2010.

Immigration

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [231566] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of the changes to the immigration system that increased immigration since 2010.

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [231567] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment the Government has made of the changes to the immigration system that reduced net immigration since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Impact Assessments associated with legislation or rules changes are publicly available on gov.uk. We keep all immigration policies under regular review including the impact that they are having on net migration. The introduction of major immigration policies are accompanied by published impact assessments where appropriate, and the Government also commissions the Migration Advisory Committee to advise on immigration policy. Recent changes proposed in the Immigration White Paper, 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system,' were accompanied by an analytical assessment which was published as part of the paper.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231565/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231566/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231567/>

Impact assessments relating to the immigration system can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y3y98gyb>

UK Visas and Immigration: Training

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [232000] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether UK Visas and Immigration staff receive mandatory training on (a) identifying signs of exploitation and (b) what actions to take if exploitation is identified; and what information is covered in this training.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: "UK Visas and Immigration takes the protection of vulnerable applicants seriously and expects staff to complete mandatory e-learning courses on modern slavery. The courses, which cover human trafficking and slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour provide important information on indicators of vulnerability and the actions to be taken in the event that these indicators are identified during interaction with applicants.

Additionally, as part of the package of reforms to the National Referral Mechanism, the UK's system for identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, the Home Office is leading a multi-agency review to determine how to strengthen training on identifying and supporting victims for all First Responders, including those at UK Visas and immigration".

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232000/>

Visas: Married People

Damien Moore (Conservative) [232651] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made over the effect of denied spousal visas on families across the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Supreme Court has upheld the lawfulness of the requirements of the Immigration Rules for spouse visas. The Rules, which include the minimum income and English language requirements, prevent burdens on the taxpayer and promote integration. The Supreme Court agreed that they strike a fair balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a non-European Economic Area national spouse to settle in the UK and of the community in general. We continue to keep the family Immigration Rules under review and make adjustments in light of feedback on their operation and impact. Our overall assessment is that the family Immigration Rules are having the right impact and are helping to ensure public confidence in the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232651/>

Visas: New Businesses

Keith Vaz (Labour) [230620] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 7 March 2019 on Immigration Rules, HCWS1388, what criteria his Department plans to use to determine suitability for the category of start-up visa.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Endorsements for Start-up visas will be based on whether applicants' business ideas are innovative, viable and scalable. This assessment will be carried out by approved endorsing bodies, rather than by the Home Office.

Applicants will also need to prove their English language ability, have sufficient maintenance funds for themselves and any dependants and satisfy the standard checks which apply across the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230620/>

The Statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-03-07/HCWS1388/>

Visas: New Businesses

Keith Vaz (Labour) [230621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Written Statement of 7 March 2019 on Immigration Rules given by the Minister for Immigration on 7 March 2019, HCWS1388, what criteria his Department plans to use to determine the suitability for (a) an extension of an existing visa and (b) accelerated settlement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Extensions and settlement in the Innovator category will be based on further assessment by an approved endorsing body

Endorsement for extension applications will assess whether applicants have made significant achievements against their business plans, and whether their businesses are trading. Applicants whose original business ideas do not succeed may re-apply, with a new business idea, for endorsement under the criteria for initial applications

Endorsements for settlement applications will be made against a range of criteria – covering investment, innovation, business growth and job creation – which applicants may choose from in order to qualify for settlement. Applicants may apply for accelerated settlement as soon as their businesses satisfy at least two of these

criteria, providing they have spent at least three years in the category.
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-11/230621/>

The Statement referred to above can be read at
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-03-07/HCWS1388/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [232016] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the exemption for PhD-level roles from visa caps announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Spring Statement includes exemption from the minimum salary requirement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In the Spring Statement, my Rt Hon Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that PhD-level occupations will be exempt from the Tier 2 (General) visa cap. The change will not alter the salary requirements for these roles.

Salary thresholds in Tier 2 are designed to ensure that the resident labour market is not undercut by overseas workers and that migrants are paid a salary that is fair and reflects the labour market.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232016/>

The Spring Statement referred to above can be read at
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-13/debates/5B9C772E-1769-437A-A4F0-06DEAC55D676/SpringStatement>

Visas: Pakistan

Patrick Grady (SNP) [232042] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the refusal rate has been for applications for visitor visas from Pakistan in (a) each of the last (a) three years and (b) three months.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Applications for visit visas are considered against Appendix V of the Immigration Rules and on a case by case basis. Detailed information on how UK Visas and Immigration makes decisions on visitor cases is published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visit-guidance>

Information on total entry clearance visas (the majority of which are visitor visas) broken down by nationality and outcome (grants, refusals, withdrawals, lapsed) is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics Visas volume 1 table vi_02_q at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232042/>

Immigration: English Language

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [231380] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to review the UK Visas and Immigration guidelines on English language testing for English-speaking Commonwealth countries.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are a number of ways individuals seeking to come to the UK for work study, or to join family can prove their level of English. National of the following countries do not need to prove their level of English:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- the Bahamas

- Barbados
- Belize
- Canada
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- USA

Alternatively, individuals who have obtained a degree which is equivalent to a UK bachelor's or master's degree or a PhD which was taught or researched in English to a required level would also be considered to have proved their level of English.

Under the family Immigration Rules, a person is exempt from proving their level of English if the applicant is over the age of 65 at the time of making the application or the person has a disability – a physical or mental condition – or there are exceptional circumstances which prevent them from meeting the requirement.

The Government keeps all of its guidelines under regular review.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231380/>

English Language: Immigration

Dan Carden (Labour) [232096] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the White Paper entitled The UK's future skills-based immigration system, published in December 2018, what additional funding his Department plans to make available to support their English language strategy beyond the current English Language Co-ordination Fund; and on what basis those funds will be allocated.

Reply from Anne Milton: As part of the government's response to the Integrated Communities Strategy green paper, the government has committed to developing a new strategy for English for speakers of other languages in 2019.

We are currently in the process of developing the strategy. Funding for all programmes beyond 2019/20, including any potential funding for this strategy, if needed, will be set during the upcoming Spending Review, which we expect to take place later this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232096/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Migrant Workers: Self-employed

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [230058] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has plans to allow self-employed migrants to enter the UK under the proposed future skills-based immigration system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As we set out in the immigration system White Paper, those wishing to base themselves in the UK to work on a self-employed or freelance basis will continue to be able to do so where they are able to qualify under the exceptional talent and business start-up routes. Skilled professionals who are technically self-employed, but effectively filling a position with a UK-based business

(for example, barristers) will continue to be able to be sponsored under the new route for skilled and highly skilled workers.

We are currently engaging with businesses, employers and other stake-holders on the proposals set out in the White Paper

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-08/230058/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Construction

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [230059] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the effect on the construction industry of only allowing skilled visas for roles at RQF Level 3 or above; and if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of reducing that requirement to RQF Level 2.

Immigration: Construction

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [230060] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposals in the Immigration White Paper on the construction industry.

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [230061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what engagement he has had with representatives of the construction industry on the Immigration White Paper.

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 construction sector

The Migration Advisory Committee recommended reducing the level required for those coming to the UK as skilled workers to include those at RQF level 3 and above. They did not recommend a route for low skilled workers. However, the White Paper does propose a temporary short-term workers route which will be open to people at any level.

Our proposals in the immigration White Paper, the UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System, were accompanied by a full economic appraisal. As the Government has been clear, we are launching a twelve month engagement process in order to listen to businesses and organisations. As part of this, there has already been engagement with the construction sector. We will consider the feedback from this process before making a final decision.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-08/230059/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-08/230060/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-08/230061/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration: Forced Labour

Stephen Crabb (Conservative) [230063] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that any future changes to immigration

policy do not lead to a rise in forced labour.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to tackling modern slavery in all sectors, including construction, which is why we reformed the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), giving it a wider remit and police powers to investigate labour market offences across all sectors of the economy.

The construction sector has been the focus of increased enforcement activity by the GLAA and other agencies over the last 12 months, with over 20 investigations resulting in several arrests. The GLAA has also established a Construction Protocol in partnership with the industry to protect vulnerable workers and raise awareness of modern slavery.

The Government is also using other levers to tackle modern slavery in the sector. Businesses operating in the UK with a turnover above £36m are required to publish annual transparency statements detailing the steps they are taking to address modern slavery in their supply chains.

The Home Office is hosting a conference on 27 March to share good practice on tackling modern slavery in public procurement, focussing on high-risk sectors for public sector buyers, including construction.

The protection of all persons from forced labour and modern slavery offences remains a key priority for the Government and will of course be taken into account in the development of future immigration policy through engagement with key representative and law enforcement bodies, the Director of Labour Market Enforcement, consultations and impact assessments.

Those with lawful immigration status permitting them to work in the UK enjoy full protection under labour market legislation when they engage in employment. Immigration Enforcement will take action against rogue businesses who exploit illegal workers under powers provided in the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and Immigration Act 2016.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-08/230063/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [234245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what effect any extension to Article 50 would have on the (a) EU Settled Status Scheme for EEA nationals and (b) the full opening of that scheme on 30 March 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Until the UK leaves the EU, EEA and Swiss citizens currently living in the UK, as well as UK nationals living in other EU Member States, continue to have the same rights and status, and are subject to the same residence requirements under EU law, as was the case before Article 50 was triggered. The EU Settlement Scheme will launch fully on 30 March regardless of whether Article 50 is extended.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-19/234245/>

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

Steve McCabe (Labour) [231889] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how non-UK EU nationals will be able to inform his Department online about changes to passports or national identity cards after the UK has left the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has recently launched a new

Update my Details service to make it easy for customers to keep their information up to date. The service currently enables EU Settlement Scheme applicants to change their email address and telephone number through an entirely online process. Name and ID Document updates currently require applicants to post their ID Document to the Home Office as supporting evidence and to protect against identity fraud, however we are continuing to deliver improvements to make these processes as user friendly as possible by making them entirely online.

The EU Settlement Scheme will make it easy for EU citizens who want to stay in the UK to get the UK immigration status they need. We have conducted two successful private test phases and have recently commenced the wider public roll-out to all resident EU citizens with a valid passport. This is still a test phase, which we are conducting so that we can continue to develop and improve the system before it fully launches on 30 March, and we are grateful to everyone who has taken part so far.

Applicants who have been granted Settled or Pre-Settled status can view and share their status via the online Status service using the ID Document Number that they used in their application, alongside some user authentication. Users are encouraged to notify the Home Office when they acquire a new ID Document which will then enable them to view and share their online status using the new document. Alternatively, applicants can continue to access their status using their original ID Document.

EU nationals can continue to evidence their right to live and work in the UK using their passport or identity card until 31 December 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/231889/>

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

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [233452] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he has taken to ensure the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible to children of EU nationals living (a) in care and (b) with vulnerable families.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all, including children in care.

A user group of external stakeholders who represent the needs of vulnerable individuals has been established to work with the Home Office to understand relevant risks and issues and to ensure the right support arrangements are in place for applicants. We are also engaging with relevant stakeholders such as the Department for Education, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure they are met.

a) The Department for Education (DfE) and Home Office have agreed that local authorities in England will need to ensure that applications for the scheme are made on behalf of all looked after children who are EU citizens and for whom they have parental responsibility.

For children accommodated by the local authority under section 20 of the Children Act 1989: Local authorities will raise awareness of the Settlement Scheme to those with parental responsibility for eligible child(ren), provide practical support where needed, or signpost to relevant community support where this is deemed more appropriate.

This process has also been agreed for children in care in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

b) The Home Office has announced grant funding of up to £9 million for voluntary and community sector organisation to support vulnerable EU citizens who might need additional help when applying for the Settlement Scheme. Specific guidance and resources for local authorities and community leaders is being produced to inform vulnerable groups about the application process and the need to apply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-18/233452/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [232082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of EU citizens with a criminal record eligible to apply for (a) pre-settled status and (b) settled status.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [232083] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an applicant for (a) pre-settled and (b) settled status whose application has been refused on criminal records grounds is entitled to appeal that decision in the event that the UK leaves the EU (i) with and (ii) without a deal.

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [232084] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, at what stage an applicant for (a) pre-settled and (b) settled status whose application is denied on criminal records grounds would become an unlawful resident.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold estimates of the number of EU citizens with a criminal record who are eligible to apply for immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

If the draft Withdrawal Agreement is agreed, the Government will implement that agreement, including a right of appeal in respect of citizens' rights immigration decisions, through the Withdrawal Agreement Bill.

If there is no deal, a person who is refused status under the EU Settlement Scheme on criminality grounds and who is therefore liable to be deported will, in respect of pre-exit conduct, have a right of appeal under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016. In respect of post-exit conduct, they will be able to make a human rights claim in relation to any deportation decision and, if that claim is refused, they will have a right of appeal under section 82 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002.

An EU citizen who is refused leave under the EU Settlement Scheme on the basis of their criminal conduct will not have a right to reside in the UK once a decision is made to deport them on criminality grounds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232082/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232083/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232084/>

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

Steve McCabe (Labour) [231355] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress his Department has made in negotiations with Apple Inc. on the scanning of documents and passports on Apple mobile devices for non-UK EU citizens seeking to apply to remain in the UK after the UK has left the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have engaged with Apple on this issue at Ministerial and Official level, and we are confident that Apple are taking this issue seriously. We will continue to engage with Apple at senior levels to ensure that this issue stays on their priority list and seek further opportunities to work with them on a technical level to ensure that they understand our specific use case.

At present, applicants can attend any of our 13 Chip Checker locations to have their ID document scanned, if they choose to do so. Once the scheme is fully open by 30 March, the app will be optional. There will be over 50 locations across the UK where applicants can have their identity document scanned. Applicants will also be able to post identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231355/>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Dan Carden (Labour) [232095] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment has been made of the ability of refugees arriving through the resettlement programmes to access universal credit on the day of their arrival.

Reply from Alok Sharma: A resettled refugee can make a claim to Universal Credit on the day of arrival into the UK. They can make their claim via several channels, including the online service, by telephone, by a home visit or in person at their local Jobcentre Plus office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232095/>

Health Services: Refugees

Dan Carden (Labour) [232640] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what language support NHS services should provide for refugees who lack the English language skills required to communicate with those services in (a) the UK and (b) in Liverpool.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: People using NHS services who experience a communications barrier may be entitled to access interpreting and translation services. For people who need assistance communicating with healthcare professionals, such as refugees or asylum seekers, NHS services should ensure they comply with legislative provisions such as the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

For general practice, NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) contracts with three companies to provide translation and interpreting services: Language Line for telephone translation; Global Accent for face to face translation; and Action on Hearing Loss for British Sign Language. The CCG also commissions a local quality improvement scheme (enhanced service) to support general practice in the provision of services for asylum seekers and refugees. Practices are funded based on the number of asylum seekers/refugees on their list.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-14/232640/>

Refugees: Families

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [231516] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that people arriving in the UK on a refugee family reunion visa receive a Biometric Residence Permit that contains their National Insurance number.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions are currently developing plans for all migrants who are eligible for a National Insurance number, including those on a refugee family reunion visa, to have this printed on their Biometric Residence Permit as a matter of course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231516/>

Housing: Refugees

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [232009] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the ability of local authorities to rehouse refugees in respect of the notice period refugees are given to vacate premises.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Successful asylum seekers who are granted refugee status are eligible to be allocated social housing and to receive homelessness assistance. 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 council's housing allocation scheme.

Households moving from Home Office Asylum support comprised 0.2 per cent of new local authority lettings in 2017/18 with less than 200 households.

Households with a refugee lead tenant comprised 0.8 per cent of new local authority housing lettings in 2017/18 at less than 700 households.

(Source: CORE lettings data 2017/18)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232009/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Housing

Dan Carden (Labour) [232093] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timetable is for his Department to announce plans for future refugee resettlement programmes ahead of the conclusion of the Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme in 2020.

Dan Carden (Labour) [232094] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to support local authorities to maintain their current capacity to resettle refugees.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Work has begun with key stakeholders and international partners on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy, which includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer beyond 2020.

Delivery of the Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) has relied strongly on the principles of collaboration and co-design between central and local government and other partners and it is likely that any future resettlement offer would seek to build on that model.

We are grateful to the 300+ local authorities who came forward to participate in the VPRS. Through the collective goodwill and efforts of all involved over 14,900 vulnerable refugees fleeing the brutal conflict have now found safety in the UK to rebuild their lives.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232093/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232094/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Gender Recognition

Chris Evans (Labour Co-op) [231447] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who have described themselves as transgender when seeking asylum in the UK have been refused asylum since 2015.

Asylum: LGBT People

Chris Evans (Labour Co-op) [231449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who described themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual when seeking asylum in the UK have been refused asylum on the grounds that there is not enough evidence to prove that they are gay, lesbian or bisexual since 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office remains committed to publishing information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation

On 29 November 2018, the Home Office published experimental statistics on Asylum claims made on the basis of sexual orientation, covering the period 2015 to 2017.

These experimental statistics provide data on asylum claims from 2015-2017, by year of application, initial decision, appeal receipt, or appeal decision

Data on the number of asylum seekers refused asylum on the basis of sexual orientation can be found in tabs SOC_00 in the experimental statistics in the link provided below:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231447/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231449/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Chris Evans (Labour Co-op) [231448] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) gay, lesbian or bisexual and (b) transgender asylum seekers have been deported from the UK since 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold central records of how many (a) gay, lesbian or bisexual and (b) transgender asylum seekers have been deported from the UK since 2015.

Providing the information requested would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231448/>

Undocumented Migrants

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [231564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government has taken to reduce illegal immigration since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government is committed to reducing illegal immigration. Since 2010 we have completely reformed the immigration system, cutting abuse whilst focusing on attracting the brightest and the best.

We are tackling illegal immigration by making it harder for those who do not qualify under the Immigration Rules to live here illegally, including through measures introduced in the Immigration Acts 2014 and 2016. We have taken action against over 1,000 colleges to prevent the admission of non-genuine students into the country. We continue to take enforcement action against employers who employ

illegal workers; applying civil penalties, intervening with licensing authorities to withdraw licences, and closing their business premises where necessary. In addition, we have pursued an ambitious programme of reform at the border, included investment in new technology in the United Kingdom and at our juxtaposed controls to keep this country safe, with Border Force transforming its working practices, command and control and leadership. These reforms are working and border security has been enhanced.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231564/>

Detention Centres

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [232066] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has visited an immigration removal centre since his appointment as Home Secretary.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Secretary and Home Office Ministers conduct visits, and host meetings, on the whole spectrum of Home Office business regularly. It is our policy not to provide details of such visits.

Information on ministers' meetings is released quarterly as part of Government transparency and accountability data and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/home-office-ministerial-gifts-hospitality-travel-and-meetings-july-to-september-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232066/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Gill Furniss (Labour) [232076] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps are taken to ensure that people in immigration removal centres have uninterrupted access to prescribed medication.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: NHS England's focus on improving the physical needs of this patient population have resulted in the development of a dedicated medicine improvement programme for those in an immigration removal centre (IRC).

The programme aims to improve the optimisation of medicines for people in immigration removal centres and has been underpinned by specific professional medicines optimisation standards published in partnership with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (2017).

The programme aims to improve the optimisation of medicines for people in IRCs to deliver:

- A clear understanding of current provision of pharmacy services, including on-site services, and medicines handling and use in IRCs;
- An audit of the medicines standards in all IRCs to support quality improvement in pharmacy services and medicines optimisation;
- Identification of key improvement priorities for each IRC based on the gap analysis between provision and expected standards;
- Introduction by providers of policies and an IT-based risk assessment tools to enable as many detainees as possible to self-administer their medicines;
- Provide medicines in an environment where people can maintain confidentiality and access support from pharmacy staff about their medicines; and
- Improve continuity of medicines on admission through more effective electronic recording during their period of detention in IRCs as well as on their release and transfer or deportation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232076/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Training

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [231999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether immigration removal centre staff receive training on indicators of trafficking and modern slavery; and what information is covered in that training.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [232001] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Immigration Removal Centre staff receive training on identifying vulnerable adults based on his Department's adults at risk in immigration detention policy.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Home Office staff working in all immigration removal centres receive training on identifying vulnerable adults, and to act as first responders to identify and refer potential victims of trafficking or modern slavery to the National Referral Mechanism.

Home Office supplier staff have a duty to highlight to the Home Office any detainee who they consider to be an adult at risk, including potential victims of trafficking or modern slavery, so that appropriate action can be taken.

Training on the adults at risk in immigration detention policy has been provided to IRC staff, including healthcare staff and other staff who come into contact with detainees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/231999/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232001/>

Immigrants: Detainees

David Davis (Conservative) [231363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the proportion of migrant detainees who were trafficked to the UK in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and this information is published Quarterly by the National Crime Agency. This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community. The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and, secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change.

Data taken from the NRM would not accurately reflect the numbers of those who had been trafficked into the UK, as a number only get exploited once they have arrived, and their journey to the UK can be entirely unconnected to the trafficking. Further a number may be victims of trafficking, but it relates to events in a third country and is not necessarily connected to their reasons for coming to the UK.

Providing the information requested would require a manual check of individual records which could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-12/231363/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [231998] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether immigration detainees have access to free independent interpreting services during appointments with medical staff in immigration removal centres.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: All those detained in Immigration Removal Centres have access to independent interpreting services. These services are commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and are available to all staff in Immigration

Removal Centres, including the healthcare staff, as required.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/231998/>

Deportation: Zimbabwe

Gill Furniss (Labour) [232075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he made of Zimbabwe's human rights record prior to sharing sensitive personal information with the Government of Zimbabwe on potential deportees to that country.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK has a long and proud history of granting asylum to those who need our protection. But when a decision has been made that a person does not require international protection, the Home Office will take steps to remove that person. Removal is only enforced when the Home Office and the courts conclude that it is safe to do so, with a safe route of return.

Re-documentation interviews with officials from receiving countries are a standard part of the Home Office returns process.

Once an individual no longer has the right to remain in the UK and a travel document is required to facilitate return, interviews are conducted by officials from diplomatic missions to establish nationality and identity to enable a travel document to be produced. Basic personal information and supporting evidence such as a copy of a passport or birth certificate (if available), are provided to officials to support this process.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/232075/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to prevent destitution among newly recognised refugees in the light of the British Red Cross Report Still an ordeal, published in December 2018.

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

My Lords, the Government are working on a number of important initiatives to ensure that refugees are able to access benefits and housing promptly, once their Home Office support ends. These include provision of a biometric residence permit with a national insurance number on it and arranging an appointment with their nearest Jobcentre if they confirm that they want assistance to make a benefit application.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: My Lords, it has been three years since this House was promised action to ensure that refugees have enough time to claim social security before their asylum support is stopped. The British Red Cross report shows that the actions mentioned by the noble Baroness have not solved the problem. The refugees surveyed who had claimed universal credit were left up to 72 days in destitution. Will the Minister therefore undertake, first, to publish the evaluation of the mitigating scheme, which was expected over a year ago, and, secondly, to meet with me and the British Red Cross to discuss the calls made for a long time by organisations on the ground to extend the moving-on period so as to end the ordeal and misery faced by this uniquely vulnerable group of people?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I acknowledge the report that the noble Baroness mentioned. There were something like 26 people interviewed, but that is not to dismiss it at all. I can confirm that the evaluation work that she mentioned on the impact of some of the things that we are doing has been

undertaken, and the results are to be shared with the Work and Pensions Select Committee and NGOs thereafter.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett: When?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I can only say “in due course” at the moment, but I am very happy to meet with her and the Red Cross.

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench): Have the Government undertaken discussions with the banks? The problem is that universal credit is paid to banks, but refugees cannot prove residency and therefore need an alternative system to prove that they are refugees when opening a bank account.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I certainly recognise that bank accounts are a difficulty for refugees. Local authorities were doing a pilot in 19 local authority areas, appointing 35 local authority liaison officers. They are there to give just that type of support, because we recognise that that is an issue.

The Lord Bishop of Chester: My Lords, is it not the 28 days that people have to make arrangements, when they change from being asylum seekers to being refugees, that is the difficulty? It takes me more than 28 days to open a bank account if I am on good form, and there are lots of other things that they have to think about. Could the period not be extended beyond 28 days? Universal credit often does not kick in for at least 35 days. The 28-day period is just too tight for people in these circumstances.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I certainly recognise the point that the right reverend Prelate makes about 35 days for universal credit, because the move-on period is 28 days but the post-grant appointment service contacts the refugee at the start of the 28 days. The early findings are actually very positive on this new initiative. The majority who attend appointments get benefits before the 28-day period and, actually, on the subject of the 35-day universal credit payment, the advance UC payment as well.

Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, is the Minister aware that the number of rough sleepers whose last settled base was asylum accommodation has increased over the past three years? If the Government’s declared aim of ending rough sleeping is to be achieved, is it not essential that the move-on period be extended to 56 days, which is in line with homelessness legislation, which would give time for migrants to access financial support and for local authorities to take preventative steps?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our view is that elongating the move-on period does not necessarily solve the problem. What has been shown to be very effective is when the refugee is contacted right at the beginning of that period, so that the process of accessing universal credit or housing or other services can begin straightaway. Indeed, for universal credit, advance payments can be made ahead of 35 days.

Baroness Meacher (Crossbench): My Lords, noble Lords will know that most asylum seekers are not permitted to work during the period awaiting the decision on their application. They will have received just £37.70 per week from the Home Office. They are therefore absolutely without money when the decision finally comes through. Homelessness and destitution seem almost unavoidable in that situation. They have no chance of obtaining rented accommodation. Does the Minister accept that there really is a need for urgent steps if we are to eliminate destitution, particularly among this group? Will she take back to the department the need to allow asylum seekers to work during the period of waiting for their decision?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness highlights the complex arguments around permitting asylum seekers to work, which the Government are certainly listening to very carefully. But it is also important to distinguish between those who need protection and those who are actually seeking to work here, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, does the noble Baroness

accept that the present arrangements, as highlighted in this report, can plunge the asylum seeker accepted as a refugee into destitution?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I certainly accept that the Government are doing everything they can to ensure that measures and interventions are put in place during the 28-day period to ensure that the person who has been granted asylum gets the help they need in a timely fashion and that they do not have a gap in which benefits are not paid. But I certainly think there are all sorts of situations, including this, where people can be brought into destitution inadvertently.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, can I return the noble Baroness briefly to the question of the moving-on period and refer her to a letter that I wrote to her on 18 February? This detailed the experiences of the asylum and refugee community ARC Project Blackburn and the Lancashire Sanctuary Homes Project, giving details of the circumstances that newly recognised refugees have been unable to resolve during the 28-day period. These included things such as unscrupulous landlords and the condition of the accommodation they had been offered. Surely that gives more force to the argument advanced by other noble Lords in the House today that the period of grace should be longer than the current 28 days, perhaps by one month more.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I did receive the noble Lord's letter, and it is now with the Immigration Minister—that is not to fob it off on to the Immigration Minister, but the noble Lord will definitely get a response from the department. I do not accept the point about 56 days, but I accept that people should be given help, advice and the interventions that they need promptly so that they can get the support that they need.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-03-20/debates/207980D9-3B31-4C4B-86B6-26F3539777EC/Refugees>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbotts (Conservative) [HL14330] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the undertaking in their response to the report of the Select Committee on Citizenship and Civic Engagement (Cm9629), published on 28 June 2018, that they would respond further on the Committee's recommendations to review the Life in the UK Test, when that further response can be expected.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has announced that it will review and revise the Life in the UK test and associated text to give much greater prominence to and information on the shared values which we believe underpin society here in the UK. We are currently considering how this will be taken forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-07/HL14330/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldcitizen/118/118.pdf>

The Government response referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yxktejvw>

British Nationality: Fees and Charges

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14343] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether minors will have to pay fees to achieve UK citizenship after any UK withdrawal from the EU; and if so, what those fees will be.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All minors pay a fee for UK citizenship, which currently stands at £1,012, however, if a minor turns 18 during the application process, an additional £80 will be required to cover the ceremony fee. There are no proposed changes to citizenship fees following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The Home Office keeps fees under regular review, with the aim of ensuring that those who use and benefit directly from the system make an appropriate contribution towards meeting the costs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-07/HL14343/>

British Nationality: Fees and Charges

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14345] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much it costs for an asylum seeker to apply for British citizenship; whether they make a profit on such fees; if so, why; and what any such profit is used for.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: A person who has successfully obtained indefinite leave to remain as a refugee, may, if they desire, naturalise as a British citizen.

The cost for any adult to apply to naturalise as a British citizen is £1,330, which includes the required ceremony fee. The cost for a child to register as a British Citizen is £1,012. However, if a minor turns 18 during the application process, an additional £80 will be required to cover the ceremony fee.

No profit is made on fees that are set above the estimated cost of processing. All funds are utilised to run the Border Immigration and Citizenship system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-07/HL14345/>

Immigration

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL14302] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the "hostile environment" policies on vulnerable members of society; and what plans they have to address any systemic and cultural problems in how immigration matters are dealt with by the Home Office that have been identified.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to a fair and humane immigration policy which welcomes and celebrates people here legally, and which distinguishes effectively between those with lawful status and those here illegally.

In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements, ensuring access to work benefits and services is permitted for those with the right access to them. The term "hostile environment" is not used to describe these policies and does not reflect our values. Key measures were the subject of public consultations and/or impact assessments before they were introduced. These policies already incorporate important safeguards, including the ability to exercise discretion where there are genuine barriers to persons leaving the UK or there are exceptional compassionate factors. We are considering further options to evaluate the impact of controls on work, benefits and services.

My Rt hon Friend, the Home Secretary has already announced that he will review the structures and processes of the immigration system to ensure that we can deliver a future system in a way that is fair and humane.

We are considering the form and timing of the review, but it will need to build on the lessons learnt from the Lessons Learned review, which is being led by Wendy Williams and is seeking to establish how members of the Windrush generation

became entangled with immigration measures designed to tackle illegal immigration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-06/HL14302/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL14301] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in implementing the recommendations of the report of (1) the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee The Windrush Generation (HC 990), published on 3 July 2018 and (2) the Joint Committee on Human Rights Windrush Generation Detention (HL Paper 160), published on 29 June 2018; and what steps they plan to take as a result of the recommendations of those reports.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government response to the (1) the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee The Windrush Generation (HC 990), published on 3 July 2018 is published at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/1545/1545.pdf> and (2) the Joint Committee on Human Rights Windrush Generation Detention (HL Paper 160), published on 29 June 2018 is at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt201719/jtselect/jtrights/1633/1633.pdf>.

Furthermore, we will be responding to the Public Accounts Committee report of 6 March 2019 in due course.

The Government continues to provide regular updates to the Home Affairs Select Committee on actions taken in response to the issues faced by the Windrush Generation. The Home Secretary has said that the details of the Windrush Compensation Scheme will be published soon, and we look forward to receiving and responding to the report of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review being led by Wendy Williams.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-06/HL14301/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14342] To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to secure the status of children who are citizens of other EU member states but who live in the UK with particular regard to ensuring access to (1) social security, (2) study, and (3) work if the UK withdraws from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have introduced the EU Settlement Scheme to enable all qualifying EU citizens, and their family members, to obtain an immigration status in the UK.

This status will protect, and enable them to demonstrate, their rights to work, education, healthcare, and other benefits and services in the UK after it has left the EU. The scheme will open in full on 30 March 2019.

The Government has been clear that the scheme, and the protections that it brings, will be available in both a 'deal' and 'no deal' scenario, ensuring that the rights of EU citizens, including children, are protected in every outcome.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-07/HL14342/>

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>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14341] To ask Her Majesty's

Government what steps they are taking to ensure that refugee children will not lose rights derived from EU law if the UK withdraws from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The rights of children granted refugee status in the UK are unchanged when we leave the EU. The UK will continue to be bound by the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights and will continue to provide protection to all those who need it, including children, in accordance with our international obligations.

In respect of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking children, Section 17 of the Withdrawal Act requires the Government to seek a reciprocal agreement with the EU to establish a mechanism to transfer children to the UK to reunite with family members. If Parliament accepts the Withdrawal Agreement, the existing provisions in respect of the Common European Asylum System will continue to apply in the transition period. In the event of a no deal, the Government has introduced a 'No Deal' Statutory Instrument – The Immigration, Nationality and Asylum (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-07/HL14341/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14344] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that all asylum seeking children have access to legal aid and advice.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Unaccompanied asylum seeking children in the UK are placed into the care of local authorities and are provided with specialised legal advice and support throughout this period.

The Home Office works closely with the Legal Aid Agency, which administers the legal aid provision, to ensure that there is sufficient legal assistance coverage throughout the UK. In addition, assistance in accessing legal advice is available from the child's social worker, the Refugee Council Children's Advice Project for children in England and the Scottish Guardianship Service for children in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-07/HL14344/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL14272] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people claimed asylum in the last 12 months on the grounds of their (1) sexual orientation, and (2) gender identity; and of those, how many cases were (a) granted, (b) refused, (c) granted on appeal, and (d) refused on appeal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office remains committed to publishing information on the number of people claiming asylum on the basis of sexual orientation.

On 29 November 2018, the Home Office published experimental statistics on Asylum claims made on the basis of sexual orientation, covering the period 2015 to 2017. These experimental statistics provide data on asylum claims from 2015-2017, by year of application, initial decision, appeal receipt, or appeal decision. The experimental statistics can be found at:

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

SOC_00: Applications, initial decisions, and appeals for main applicants, for whom sexual orientation formed a basis of their claim			
	2015	2016	2017
Applications	1,768	2,212	1,936

Initial decisions	1,584	1,845	1,887
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>Grants</i>	<i>620</i>	<i>497</i>	<i>423</i>
<i>Refusals</i>	<i>964</i>	<i>1,348</i>	<i>1,464</i>
Appeal lodged	857	1,103	1,306
Appeals determined	515	916	1,477
<i>Of which:</i>			
<i>Allowed</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>341</i>	<i>487</i>
<i>Dismissed</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>553</i>	<i>951</i>

These are the latest data available, and the next planned update to these statistics is in August 2019.

Data published in this release relate to the number of asylum claims made where sexual orientation formed part of the basis of the claim. The data does not represent the number of asylum claimants who define themselves as LGB. Having an identifier that an asylum case is based on sexual orientation does not indicate that a claimant has any particular sexuality or that sexual orientation is the reason for any grant or refusal of asylum. It also does not signify whether that aspect of the claim has been accepted. Sexual orientation as a basis of claim could be due to imputed assertions or association rather than a defining characteristic of the claimant.

The Home Office do not record data on asylum claims based on gender identity or expression. The option to record this data remains under review. Historically the number of gender identity-based asylum claims has been low.

The Home Office is developing dedicated policy guidance for caseworkers considering gender identity and expression (including intersex) issues raised as the basis of an asylum claim.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-05/HL14272/>

Asylum: Housing

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL14204] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the asylum dispersal scheme, especially with regard to its impact on local social cohesion.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office engages closely with Local Authorities, through Strategic Migration Partnerships, on a regular basis to assess the effectiveness of asylum dispersal and discuss issues such as local cohesion. In addition, accommodation Providers must consult on every property that is to be used for asylum dispersal with Local Authorities who will assess its viability in relation to social cohesion, as well as a number of other factors.

A governance structure has been established to facilitate a joint review into asylum dispersal which will be co-designed and co-produced by Local Authorities and the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-04/HL14204/>

Homelessness: Asylum

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL14286] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 5 March (HL13836), why they do not hold specific breakdowns on the number of (1) homeless asylum seekers, and (2) rough sleepers who are asylum seekers and refugees; whether the number of households

accepted as statutorily homeless and granted refugee status in England equates with the number of individuals concerned; and if not, how many individual refugees were homeless in (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016, and (e) 2017.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Asylum seekers are not eligible for homelessness assistance. We record the number of ineligible applicants, but do not break this down by reason for ineligibility. The Home Office provides asylum seekers with accommodation and support to meet their essential living needs if they would otherwise be destitute.

Rough sleeping statistics are collected through a single night snapshot. The purpose is to estimate the number of people sleeping rough across local authorities in England on a single night, and assess change over time. Since 2016, where possible, we have collected the demographics of people found or thought to be sleeping rough via the snapshot, to give an indication of the representation of particular groups among people who sleep rough. This includes gender, age and nationality. However, it can be difficult to collect even this basic demographic information from people sleeping rough on a single night, and often people are not willing to share this information, so it is regularly recorded as unknown.

The number of households that have refugee status does not equate to the number of individuals. A household can be made up of one or more individuals. The department only holds this information at household level.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-06/HL14286/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Private Rented Housing: Undocumented Migrants

Lord Ouseley (Crossbench) [HL14207] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they intend to take in response to the High Court judgment that the Right to Rent scheme is discriminatory and incompatible with the right to freedom from discrimination enshrined in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government disagrees with the High Court's findings and has been granted permission to appeal the judgment on all grounds.

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.

The law is absolutely clear that landlords should not discriminate when carrying out right to rent checks in compliance with the 2014 Act.

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 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.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-04/HL14207/>

Press Releases

Communities across the country given £500,000 to commemorate Windrush Generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-across-the-country-given-500000-to-commemorate-windrush-generation>

New immigration rules will hit the Welsh economy finds report

<https://gov.wales/newsroom/finance/2019/190318-new-immigration-rules-will-hit-the-welsh-economy-finds-report/?lang=en>

New Publications

Scottish Government Response to the Migration Advisory Committee: 2018/19 Call For Evidence on the Shortage Occupation List

<https://tinyurl.com/y5ys8slm>

Shortage Occupations List 2018/9 Call for Evidence: Scottish Government Response for Health and Social Care

<https://tinyurl.com/y4vnjoxc>

Guidance: EEA nationals in the UK: access to social housing and homelessness assistance in a no deal scenario

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eea-nationals-in-the-uk-access-to-social-housing-and-homelessness-assistance-in-a-no-deal-scenario>

EU Settlement Scheme: evidence of relationship to an EU citizen

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-evidence-of-relationship-to-an-eu-citizen>

Letter from Caroline Nokes MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding the EU Settlement Scheme

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0348/Caroline_Nokes_MP_to_HASC_Chair-EU_Settlement_Scheme.pdf

Immigration detention

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmhaff/913/913.pdf>

Letter from Baroness Barran to Lords regarding issues raised during the debate on improving immigration procedures in the UK

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0345/Baroness_Barran_letter_on_immigration_procedures.pdf

Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act Third interim report: Independent Child Trafficking Advocates

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787728/Independent_MSA_Review_Interim_Report_3.pdf

Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act Fourth interim report: Legal application of the Modern Slavery Act

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787674/Fourth_Interim_Report_-_Legal_application_FINAL_3.pdf

Migration in Wales The impact of post-Brexit policy changes

https://www.wcpp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/FINAL-WCPP-report_Immigration-in-Wales-post-Brexit.pdf

Court of Justice of the European Union: An asylum seeker may be transferred to the Member State that is normally responsible for processing his application or that has previously granted him subsidiary protection unless the expected living conditions in that Member State of those granted international protection would expose him to a situation of extreme material poverty, contrary to the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-03/cp190033en.pdf>

News

More than 2,500 Syrian refugees have settled in Scotland, says SNP

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17505690.more-than-2500-syrian-refugees-have-settled-in-scotland-says-snp/>

Home Office 'utterly failing' over immigration detention centres

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-47645883>

Home Office overseeing 'serious failings' in almost every stage of immigration detention process, MPs warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-overseeing-serious-failings-in-almost-every-area-of-immigration-detention-process-a8832106.html>

Home Office has utterly failed in immigration detention, MPs find

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/21/home-office-has-utterly-failed-in-immigration-detention-mps-find>

Home Office refuses Christian convert asylum by quoting Bible passages that 'prove Christianity is not peaceful'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-christian-convert-asylum-refused-bible-not-peaceful-a8832026.html>

Church attacks Home Office for saying Christianity 'not peaceful' to reject asylum seeker

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/21/church-attacks-home-office-saying-christianity-not-peaceful/>

Home Office cites Bible to deny asylum

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-21/news/home-office-cites-bible-to-deny-asylum-0s59c38l0>

Man blocked from coming to UK to meet baby twins after Home Office claims relationship with partner is not genuine

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-policy-man-twins-ghana-togo-visa-a8833441.html>

Home Office uses debit cards to spy on asylum seekers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-19/scotland/home-office-uses-debit-cards-to-spy-on-asylum-seekers-3xtxsklcx>

Home Office held 'illegal interview' with asylum seeker

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/20/home-office-held-illegal-interview-with-asylum-seeker>

Home Office apologises for failings that led to detention centre death

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/19/home-office-apologises-for-failings-that-led-to-detention-centre-death>

Crackdown on visas 'will send workers south'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-19/scotland/crackdown-on-visas-will-send-workers-south-2n0pl8dtd>

Scottish Refugee Council announce an exciting opportunity for community groups across Scotland

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3419_scottish_refugee_council_announce_an_exciting_opportunity_for_community_groups_across_scotland

Asylum accommodation update

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3422_asylum_accommodation_update

UK asylum system compounds trauma of torture victims

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/22/uk-asylum-system-compounds-trauma-of-torture-victims>

Post-Brexit migrant salary plans 'would hit Wales harder'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-47603147>

Thousands of children 'could become undocumented' after Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/18/thousands-of-children-could-become-undocumented-after-brexit-new-windrush-generation>

'I was put on a plane with no warning'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-47641019/i-was-put-on-a-plane-with-no-warning>

The choir helping Bradford's refugees

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-leeds-47503931/the-choir-helping-bradford-s-asylum-seekers-and-refugees>

TOP

Community Relations

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre

John Mason (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what support it can give toward the annual running costs of the Scottish Jewish heritage centre in Glasgow. (S5O-03011)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop): We value our relationships with our Jewish communities, and the significant and important contributions that those communities make to Scottish society.

The Scottish Jewish heritage centre shares in our ambition to promote interfaith dialogue, to strengthen and enhance connections across communities and to lower barriers, eliminate fear and increase understanding. I recognise the importance of learning about the Holocaust as well as taking action to tackle religious prejudice, including antisemitism.

I urge the centre to explore with Museums Galleries Scotland museum accreditation and related support. In addition, the next wave of the Scottish Government's promoting equality and cohesion fund will be open for application in 2020, and I suggest that the centre considers developing an application, in the coming year, for relevant projects.

John Mason: I thank the cabinet secretary for her encouraging reply. Does she agree with me and, I think, the Jewish community, that there is ignorance not just about the Holocaust but about Jews, Judaism, Jewish history, the Jewish way of life and the considerable Jewish community in Scotland, and that such ignorance can lead to antisemitism, when people do not understand properly?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: I absolutely agree. The more understanding there is, the greater the tolerance, appreciation—and indeed celebration—of the variety of religions and cultures that we have in Scotland. That is an important part of promoting the positives and explaining the experiences that other people perhaps do not understand. John Mason made the point well.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12010&i=108637#ScotParlOR>

New Publication

Intercultural Cities Manual on Community Policing

<https://rm.coe.int/intercultural-cities-manual-on-community-policing/16809390a5>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Monitoring Race and Ethnic Disparity

S5W-22135 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on using external bodies to assist with its monitoring of race and ethnic disparity.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government are open to engaging with external bodies to shape the data used for monitoring race and ethnic disparity. A range of race equality partner organisations were invited to contribute to Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy and to shape Scotland's new Equality Evidence Finder. A workshop on data and how the Equality Evidence Finder is used was held within Scotland's recent Race Equality Action Plan Conference, and the Scottish Government intends to engage further with race equality partner organisations on data in the spring.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22135>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yy4x3qzt>

The Evidence Finder referred to above can be read at

<https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sq-equality-evidence-finder/>

Race and Ethnic Disparities

S5W-22136 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government what requirement there is on its directorates to explain and address any reported race and ethnic disparities.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government is committed to increasing the representation of minority ethnic employees. We are a signatory of the Race at Work Charter which reflects our commitment to improve race equality at all levels.

There is no requirement on each directorate to report on race and ethnic disparities. Directorates are provided with their diversity data as part of organisational assurance processes and use this information to inform Directorate workforce planning and recruitment activity. Directors are accountable to their Director Generals for decisions they take in relation to diversity and inclusion in support of an overall outcome to increase the diversity of our workforce to reflect the general Scottish population by 2025 and fostering an inclusive workforce culture and valuing the contribution of employees from all backgrounds.

The Scottish Government's progress towards achieving its stated outcomes for diversity and inclusion are published in an equality mainstreaming report. The next report is due to be published on April 2019.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22136>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Students: Finance

Dawn Butler (Labour) [231952] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what equalities assessment his Department has undertaken on access to student finance for individuals of Muslim faith.

Dawn Butler (Labour) [231953] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of alternative funding arrangements for student finance that is compatible with sharia law for individuals of Muslim faith.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: The department undertook equalities assessments on access to student finance for individuals of Muslim faith in November 2015 when introducing regulations to move from a system of maintenance grants to loans and in May 2016 when introducing the Bill which became the Higher Education Research Act 2017 which includes provisions to enable alternative student finance to be introduced. The assessments can be found at the following links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482110/bis-15-639-student-finance-equality-analysis.pdf.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524226/bis-16-281-he-research-bill-equality-analysis.pdf.

The government's assessment of the merits of alternative funding arrangements that is compatible with Sharia law for individuals of Muslim faith was made in its response to the consultation published in September 2014. The consultation response can be found at the follow link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/349899/bis-14-984-government-response-to-a-consultation-on-a-sharia-compliant-alternative-finance-product.pdf.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-13/231952/>

and

New Publication

Freedom of Information release: Ethnicity and number of primary head teachers in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-19-00640/>

News

No Asian head teachers in Scotland

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-20/scotland/no-asian-head-teachers-in-scotland-dtc09cf15>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament First Minister's Statement

Remarks following the tragic events in Christchurch in New Zealand

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I begin today with heartfelt condolences to the people of New Zealand after last week's appalling terrorist attack in Christchurch. I hope that people in New Zealand can take some comfort from the knowledge that people across the world stand in solidarity with them.

Events in New Zealand have been felt deeply here in Scotland, as in other countries, and perhaps especially in our Muslim community. Last week, Police Scotland arranged reassurance patrols and visits to mosques and other places of worship. On Friday, I visited Glasgow central mosque with the justice secretary.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand has said that nations around the world are engaged in a global fight against far-right, racist and extremist ideology. Regrettably, she is absolutely right. All of us have a responsibility to engage in that fight. We must tackle hatred and prejudice through the words that we use, the actions that we take and the climate that we create. I know that all parties in this chamber will play their part in doing that.

In the past week, we have also seen an attack in Utrecht and the stabbing of a teenager in Surrey. Our condolences are with all those who have been affected by those incidents as well.

Let us today express sympathy and solidarity with the victims of racist and extremist violence in Christchurch and around the world. Above all, let us make clear our determination that the proponents of hate will be defeated by the values of kindness, compassion and love. *[Applause.]*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12012&i=108671&c=2162508#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Christchurch Terrorist Attack

Anas Sarwar (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to provide

reassurance to communities in the wake of the Christchurch terrorist attack. (S5T-01562)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government (Aileen Campbell): Our thoughts and condolences are with the victims, their families and the communities that have been affected by this dreadful act. The First Minister has sent condolences on behalf of Scotland to the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

We stand in solidarity with Muslim communities across the world. The First Minister, the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and I have visited and been in contact with Muslim communities in Scotland. That included a visit to Glasgow central mosque on Friday, to offer reassurance and our heartfelt support.

Police Scotland has stepped up reassurance patrols around mosques and has increased engagement with all faith communities, giving advice on how people and places can stay safe in these troubling times.

We must stand united against Islamophobia and all hate. Everyone should be able to feel safe as they go about their daily lives. Scotland's diversity is our strength. We value and appreciate our relationships with our diverse faith communities, and we welcome their contribution to our society.

Anas Sarwar: We send our deepest condolences to the family and friends of those who lost loved ones in Christchurch. We also send a message of solidarity to the millions of people who are hurting in New Zealand and across the world. This was a devastating and despicable attack. Let us be clear: it was the act of a terrorist.

In the aftermath of this latest tragedy, it is important that we unite and work together to confront hatred in all its forms. This is not someone else's fight, so we should not leave it to anyone else. It is a fight for all of us.

One of the issues that has been raised with me is the on-going security concerns at places of worship. No one should have to fear for their own lives, especially when in a mosque, a church, a synagogue, a mandir or a gurdwara. A places of worship security funding scheme is available in England and Wales, but no such scheme exists in Scotland. Will the cabinet secretary urgently consider that matter and commit the Government and its agencies to work with all our faith communities to deliver such a scheme?

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I associate myself with the comments that Anas Sarwar has made about acts of solidarity, which are so necessary at this time of grief and vulnerability for so many. Following their recent visit to the Glasgow central mosque, the First Minister and Humza Yousaf committed to exploring what further actions the Scottish Government could take to provide reassurances to all faith communities and their places of worship. That includes exploring the issues around safety and security, and the funding that Anas Sarwar mentioned. We are doing that work, and we will continue to keep him and Parliament involved as those discussions develop, bearing in mind the pleas from communities that they need extra reassurance and support from their Parliament and Government at this incredibly stressful and vulnerable time.

Anas Sarwar: I thank the minister for that answer, but I stress that we cannot just consider this issue while it is still a hot topic—it needs to be considered urgently in the weeks and months that follow.

I am sad to say that the tragic attack did not surprise me, and it probably did not surprise Muslims across the United Kingdom and across the world. The “us versus them” rhetoric, the sowing the seeds of hate and the othering of our fellow citizens have become all too common. Security at our places of worship is one thing, but security and a sense of belonging in our homes and in our everyday lives are equally—if not more—important.

Although social media has opened up our world, and I believe that it is a force for good, it has also allowed people with extreme views to amplify, recruit, organise and fundraise. That simply cannot go on. What action will the Scottish Government take to engage with social media platforms and make them understand their responsibilities to help to create a

fairer and more equal world?

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I thank Anas Sarwar for raising those points, particularly on the amplification of messages of hate on social media—those toxic messages that do so much damage. I chair an action group that tries to establish much more cohesive communities and to tackle the prejudice that he talks about. We look at those issues, and we will investigate what more we can do in relation to social media platforms.

As we are elected, we are in a privileged position to be listened to and to influence more generally. We can use that privilege in one of two ways. We can show the leadership, empathy and resolve to build tolerant, peaceful and respectful communities in our world, and to reach out to those who feel threatened, vulnerable or fearful, by celebrating our diversity, or we can use our position to stoke up hate and use toxic language and the practice of othering. We have seen too much of that. We cannot remain immune from the toxicity of language that many choose to use and which will inevitably bring consequences such as those that we have seen in New Zealand.

I stand with Anas Sarwar. We should all resolve to call out hate, promote tolerance and respect, and show solidarity with our Muslim communities and friends. They need our support at this time and they need to know that we love and cherish what they contribute to our diverse Scotland. We should continue to explore ways in which we can call out hate, and we must ensure that we use every avenue open to us to have a peaceful, tolerant Scotland in which we cherish our diversity and preach tolerance and respect.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): I associate myself with the cabinet secretary's comments on our abhorrence of the attack in Christchurch, and the comments made thus far. We, too, extend our deepest sympathies to all victims of this horrific act.

The cabinet secretary is right that Governments can and should take steps to reassure communities across Scotland, yet it is often by simple acts of unity and togetherness that we defeat such evil. Anas Sarwar is right—this is a job for all of us, together. What steps does the cabinet secretary suggest Scots can take to show minority communities that they are welcome neighbours, colleagues and friends?

Reply from Aileen Campbell: People can reach out to the Muslim communities in their areas. We saw a great strength in the solidarity of the gatherings in Glasgow. The Muslim leaders whom I spoke to were appreciative of the simple act of a phone call to reassure and stand in solidarity with them. More generally, we can call out the hate, we can call out the practice of othering and we can call out the toxicity of language that we see too often in political discourse and the media and on social media platforms.

That was one of the reasons why Humza Yousaf and I jointly launched the tackling hate campaign, which encouraged others to call out hate. People can use the police to call out hate, or third-party reporting centres if they want to do so anonymously. We underline that message—call it out and report it to the police or use the third-party reporting centres.

More generally, we can reach out not only at the point when something bad happens. We can reach out to build cohesive communities and show love and respect at all times, not just at the point when those things need to be most firmly understood. Those are the ways by which I urge members to encourage their constituents to reach out and to ensure that we underline the message of calling out hate when it happens.

Patrick Harvie (Green): I am grateful that Anas Sarwar's question gives us the opportunity to stand together with a message of love and solidarity for the people of New Zealand, with revulsion at not only the violence but the white supremacist values that underpinned the violence, and with inspiration — I have certainly felt that — from the responses that have

been shown by the people of New Zealand who, it seems clear, are not going to cede ground to the ideology of hatred and fear but are going to affirm their embrace of diversity, multiculturalism and respect.

The comments that have been made about social media are accurate, but we also need to acknowledge and admit to ourselves that, as a society, we have permitted a situation to develop where our mainstream media is awash with anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiment, a sentiment that is all too often taken up by those in positions of power who frankly should know better than to pander to such attitudes. We have seen that far too much.

What does the Scottish Government have to do, not only in relation to the security and the policing aspects of the far-right threat that has been so deliberately cultivated but in relation to our education system? What are the opportunities to affirm positively the values of the society that we want to be? It is surely essential not just to counter the far-right threat with security but to counter it by building the values that we wish to express.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I thank Patrick Harvie for raising those points. I absolutely agree—we have reached a moment when people must admit that the toxicity of the language that is used far too often in not just the mainstream media but many parliamentary chambers across Europe has created a culture in which, unfortunately, events such as those in Christchurch will inevitably happen. I encourage members to read Dani Garavelli's article in *The Scotsman*, which called out that behaviour and the crocodile tears that are often shed when such traumatic events take place.

Patrick Harvie made some good points. On education, the capacities in curriculum for excellence ensure that young people gain an understanding of the need for tolerance and respect and of the need to be effective contributors to our society when they reach adulthood, but there is always more that we can do. One of the actions of the tackling prejudice action group is about what more we can do to link to other areas of education, such as youth work, to ensure that our young people go on to make a positive contribution to our society.

On this issue, as on any other, I am happy to engage with members on what more we can and should do or other ways in which we could work, because the issue is not owned by just one political party or the Government; it transcends party politics. It is about the type of country that we want to create—the type of Scotland that we want to be. It is about respecting diversity and other cultures and appreciating what they bring to our country. We must continue to promote that, to reject hate and to ensure that everyone who contributes to our country feels valued.

Fulton MacGregor (SNP): As the convener of the cross-party group on racial equality, I associate myself with the words of Anas Sarwar, the cabinet secretary and the First Minister, who spoke about the Christchurch attack earlier in the week.

It is clear that we all agree that no form of hate crime can be tolerated. How can the Scottish Government promote the sense of collective responsibility that has been talked about and the idea that it is everyone's job to stand in solidarity to call out hate in all its forms? How can people in communities be encouraged and made to feel confident enough to report hate crime when they encounter it?

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I will use the opportunity provided by Fulton MacGregor's question to underline some of the points that I made to Liam Kerr. In September last year, Humza Yousaf and I, in partnership with Police Scotland, launched a campaign to encourage witnesses to report hate crime. We encourage people who have experienced or witnessed hate crime to call it out and to report it to the police or to use one of the many third-party reporting centres across the country. Community cohesion is important in allowing us to have strong, resilient and supportive communities and in ensuring that there is one Scotland where people live in peace and everyone has the opportunity to flourish and to feel valued

and supported.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12006&i=108606#ScotParlOR>

The Scotsman article referred to above can be read at

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/dani-garavelli-islamophobe-hypocrites-ride-wave-of-sympathy-after-christchurch-1-4890667>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-16391 Anas Sarwar (Labour): Standing in Solidarity with New Zealand – That the Parliament stands in solidarity with the people of New Zealand and the wider Muslim community following the horrific attacks on Mosques in Christchurch, in which at least 50 innocent people were killed while praying peacefully; believes that attacks such as this are designed to divide communities at home and abroad, but considers that an attack on one is an attack on all; believes that, as a society, people must unite and work together to confront hatred and prejudice, and considers that this is not a fight for one community, but it is a fight for all communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16391>

S5M-16431 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): Celebrating Difference – That the Parliament recognises the launch of the shared campaign, Celebrating Difference, in collaboration between Scotland’s anti-bullying service, respectme, Show Racism the Red Card and Changing Faces; applauds the campaign’s objective to encourage young people to celebrate things that make people unique and challenge bullying based around prejudice; notes that a worldwide UNESCO report, published in January 2019, demanded “safe and inclusive schools for all children” following research, which found that one in three children had experienced bullying in the previous month; understands that the report detailed physical appearance as being the most common characteristic related to bullying, which was followed by race, nationality or skin colour; acknowledges that prejudice-based bullying was highlighted in a report by the Equalities and Human Rights Committee in 2017; commends the aim to support educators to continue create a positive, respectful and inclusive culture for all, and hopes to see an end to prejudice-based bullying, which can have a huge impact on young people throughout their lives by increasing mental health issues and isolation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-16431>

The UNESCO report referred to above can be read at

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366483>

The EHRC report referred to above can be read at

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/EHRiC/2017/7/6/It-is-not-Cool-to-be-Cruel--Prejudice-based-bullying-and-harassment-of-children-and-young-people-in-schools/5th%20Report%202017.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Business of the House

Jack Dromey (Labour): Hate is on the march. Last night, mosques across Birmingham were attacked, including the Slade Road mosque in Erdington. Fear stalks the Muslim community, but so too does a determination never to surrender to the forces of fascism. I pay tribute to the different faiths across Birmingham that are rallying in support of the

Muslim community. Can we have a debate on the importance of celebrating our diversity, standing together in national unity and rejecting anyone who fans the flames of prejudice and division?

Reply from Andrea Leadsom: I wholeheartedly agree with the hon. Gentleman. As I said earlier, our hearts go out to those who were affected by the attacks on mosques in Birmingham last night. It is absolutely unacceptable to see any form of religious or racial prejudice in our free and open society. I know that many Muslim communities are feeling vulnerable and anxious, but they should seek comfort from knowing that the Government are doing everything we can to tackle hate and extremism. One practical thing that we are doing is doubling next year's places of worship fund, with the Home Secretary this week boosting funding for protective security to £1.6 million to reassure communities and to safeguard mosques and other places of worship. In addition, a new £5 million fund will provide security training. However, I agree with the hon. Gentleman we must stamp out this type of vile abuse.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-21/debates/949BD54E-75E0-4611-B1F5-CC06295BC84A/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-8C97FE6F-4E33-4F2C-B913-FC661A1B3DA1>

Urgent Question: Far-right Violence and Online Extremism

col 793 Janet Daby (Labour): To ask the Minister for Security and Economic Crime, in the light of the recent terrorist attacks against the Muslim community of Christchurch, New Zealand, to make a statement on the Government's strategy to tackle far-right violence and online extremism in the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister for Security and Economic Crime (Ben Wallace): ... The Government take all forms of terrorism and extremism seriously. Our counter-terrorism strategy, Contest, does not differentiate between what motivates the threat: it is designed to address all forms of terrorism whatever the ideology, whether Islamist, neo-Nazi, far-right or extreme left.

If we are to tackle terrorism in the long term, we must challenge those seeking to radicalise people. The Prevent policy is designed to safeguard our vulnerable citizens from being recruited or motivated into terrorism. That is why I always urge people to get behind the policy.

Our counter-terrorism strategy is agnostic to the threat: it is not relevant to us in what name terror strikes; it is the use of violence and hate that we seek to stop. Government and law enforcement will direct their funding wherever the threat emerges, and if we are to stay one step ahead as the threat changes so must the funding. We will continue to keep funding for protected security measures under review as that threat moves and will indeed consistently review it for places of worship and other areas that may be vulnerable.

Social media platforms should be ashamed that they have enabled a terrorist to livestream this evil massacre and spread this mantra of hate to the whole world. As the Home Secretary has made clear, enough is enough. We have been clear that tech companies need to act more quickly to remove terrorist content and ultimately prevent new content from being made available to users in the first place. This must be a wake-up call for them to do more. There can be no safe spaces for terrorists to promote and share their sick views. The online harm White Paper will be published imminently and will set out clear expectations for tech companies to keep users safe and what will happen if they fail to do so.

This Government take the growing threat of the extreme right-wing extremely seriously, and I can assure the House and our Muslim communities that we will stand together to counter it wherever it manifests itself in our society.

col 794 Janet Daby: ... This type of racial hatred and violence, whether in the UK or

elsewhere in the world, must not be tolerated. It brings with it such immense fear, worry and anxiety for our Muslim communities, for families, children and young people. This should not be happening to people in this country or other countries; this should not be how people live, and the Government need to demonstrate that everything is being considered and done to keep people safe from harm and to promote respect and acceptance of difference and others. Will the Minister therefore state how his Department will deal with social media offences, including the removal of extreme content, and protect free speech, while developing an efficient strategy to tackle hate speech online? Also will he confirm he will be increasing his commitment to financing mosque security?

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... First, on the money to protect vulnerable places—whether places of worship, schools or large public areas where people might gather—we of course continue to fund that where the threat requires it. ... Every single police force has a national counter-terrorism security adviser whose job is to go out and advise businesses, communities and places of worship about what they can do to mitigate any threat, even if it is threat unseen, and how they can make sure the people who use their premises are kept safe, and I urge people to do that. On top of that, the National Counter Terrorism Security Office publishes an online manual to help places of worship, specifically, with tailor-made areas. ... There are different factors at play in the United Kingdom but nevertheless, as I said this morning, it is perfectly possible that this type of thing will happen here.

We are already seeing a growing threat from people moving into the extremist mindset of the extreme right wing and neo-Nazis, and that is the pool that terrorists of the future will recruit from. We must all get together—all of us—to make sure that we teach our children about tolerance and equality and that we understand that just because someone disagrees with us, they are not lesser people. If someone comes from a different religion, they are not lesser, and if they have a different colour, they are not lesser. Until we embrace that, extremism will grow. Doing that is the best way of heading off far-right and neo-Nazi extremism.

col 795 **Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour):** ... an attack on anyone at worship is an attack on all peoples of faith and non-believers too, as they go about their lawful, peaceful business. The harrowing live streaming of events in Christchurch, on the other side of the world, raises questions about the role of social media platforms in facilitating a growing extremism. ... does the Minister accept that asking online platforms to act is not enough and that we need a new regulator with strong powers to penalise them if they do not curb harmful content? ...

col 796 **Reply from Ben Wallace:** ... Tolerance, respect and the underpinning of the British values of democracy and the rule of law are vital in our society, and the more we teach our children about that and the more we clamp down on those who do not believe in that, the better a place we will be. ...

col 797 **Peter Bottomley (Conservative):** ... This is not just about other faiths, but the whole community, and we must stand with the Muslims as we stand with the Jews.

Will my right hon. Friend go on encouraging the Community Security Trust—the CST—to share with our mosques and Islamic societies the basic steps that people can take, within the law, to help to raise levels of confidence and security?

Reply from Ben Wallace: My hon. Friend makes the strongest point of all, which is that we will defeat this challenge through peer group pressure and by coming together to show what is unacceptable. The CST has already offered online material to help advise other places of worship in how to make themselves safe. But the fact is that our law enforcement cannot do this on their own. The current threat is from sudden violent extremists—people who, in minutes, can step outside their front door, grab a knife or car and wreak murder on our streets. That is not going to be spotted by a police officer on every corner, or a large intelligence service, without the support of the public, who can understand their neighbours and bring any

worries they have to the attention of the correct authorities, to make sure we say, "This is not acceptable."

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... I am sure the Minister will agree that Islamophobia must be combated and condemned wherever it raises its head. Does he also agree that politicians, journalists and those in the public eye should always be cautious never to cross the line on free speech and fair comment to risk stirring up the sort of hatred and "othering" that can feed into the narrative of the far right? ...

col 798 I noticed that on the radio this morning the Muslim Council of Britain was very concerned to ensure that its community should get the same sort of funding as the Jewish community has received to protect its places of worship against attack, and I was pleased to hear the Minister say on the radio that protective security tacks with the threat present. It seems that he does recognise the threat, but will he confirm that he will be meeting the MCB to discuss its requests and to look at directing funds where needed? ...

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... If you want a good lesson on how to tackle intolerance, Mr Speaker, I should say that one of the early successful policies of the SNP was on dealing with anti-sectarianism. The SNP recognised in Scotland that this starts with anti-sectarianism and it grows into violent extremism. I have to commend the SNP for what it did all those years ago on that, taking strong steps, certainly among the football community, to stamp it out. ... We must focus in the communities and say what is not acceptable. We must embrace policies such as Prevent to make sure that everyone realises that this is ultimately about safeguarding.

On the issue relating to the community trust, the hon. and learned Lady is right. We will direct our funds as the threat changes ...

We will sense the fear that there currently is in some of those communities as a response to the attack in New Zealand and that there was even before that, given the growing rise of Islamophobia, spread through the evils of some of these chatrooms on the internet. We must, all of us, say that that is not acceptable ... Intolerance is where this starts as a small seed, and it grows into hate.

col 800 **Vicky Ford (Conservative):** ... Will my right hon. Friend confirm that our Muslim constituents are our friends, neighbours and colleagues; that they are vital to British society today; and that we as parliamentarians and Government Members will do everything to stand by them and keep them safe?

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... British Muslims are part of Britain. That is it. They are no lesser than any one of us; we are all the same. ... We stand shoulder to shoulder. We are not going to let these people spread their hate and we will put in all the resource we need to put in to counter it. It is very much incumbent on us all, from all parties, to do it together, because if we do not do it together, the bad people will exploit that difference and make it worse. ...

col 801 **Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat):** ... Will the Minister condemn without reservation Islamophobic language, whether used by individuals or in the media? ...

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... I condemn Islamophobia. It is racism; it is like any other type of racism. We should not even subdivide it. It is what it is. It is racism, just as antisemitism is racism. ...

col 802 On the definition of Islamophobia, I read the all-party group report and I looked at its definition. It is an interesting and good starting point. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary chaired on, I think, 5 March, a roundtable with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and members of the Muslim community to discuss Islamophobia and what can be done on it. We will look at the definition and at what we can do to start on that process. But all of this comes back to this: if we over-define, if we start subdividing Islamophobia and antisemitism, we forget what this is really about, which is tolerance. It is really important that we accept that we are tolerant of people. That is what underlines

extremism: where people choose not to be tolerant, they start to become extremists.

When they think other people are lesser, that is where we are in trouble.

col 803 **Matthew Offord (Conservative):** ... I feel that it is a matter of some regret that this urgent question has been framed as one of right-wing extremists, because there are also left-wing extremists; this is terrorism, pure and simple. I am proud that my first question in this House was to ask for the finances to provide security at Jewish schools in my Hendon constituency. Indeed, the Community Security Trust is based in Hendon and provides that security. Now we need to make the same call on behalf of Muslim schools and Islamic institutions in our constituencies. Will the Minister take that suggestion to the Treasury and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and ask for resources to be made available to these communities, because any kind of extremism is not acceptable?

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... We are determined to make all our places of worship safe, and we will do what is necessary. ...

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op): ... I have previously raised with both of them the issue of an organisation called Radio Aryan, which is available on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. I have also raised this matter directly with the social media companies, and it is absolutely clear that they do not give a damn. That content is still online this morning. It advocates antisemitism, Islamophobia, homophobia and white supremacy. Why is it still on there and what are the Government going to do to remove it?

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... one of the reasons that some of these things remain online is that the servers of the companies are often abroad and out of our jurisdiction. ...

col 804 **Tom Tugendhat (Conservative):** ... I was particularly moved this afternoon to hear the Home Secretary using the Arabic words, “Bi-smi llāhi r-rahmāni r-rahīm”, meaning “In the name of God, the most compassionate, the most merciful.” We are fundamentally talking about a compassion and a mercy that were not shown to a community—this time in New Zealand, but sometimes at home—and a justice that we now need to extend to members of our own community who feel that they do not have access to the same security as others. ...

John Lamont (Conservative): I was reassured by the Minister’s remarks about the work the Department is doing to help mosques and places of worship to fight hate crime, but could he confirm that that work extends to Scotland and outline what discussions he has had with the Scottish Government in this regard?

col 805 **Reply from Ben Wallace:** My understanding is that matters relating to places of worship are devolved to Scotland. However, I am always in contact with officials and ministerial counterparts in Scotland, and I will continue to discuss this with them. ...

col 806 **Wes Streeting (Labour):** ... I want to say, in terms that I think my Muslim constituents would want me to use, that the kind of prejudice that slaughtered innocent people in Christchurch does not begin with a gunman mowing down people in their place of worship. It begins with unchecked prejudice in our workplaces, our schools and our communities, which is amplified in the pages of national mainstream media outlets that should know better. I am afraid it is also legitimised by people who purport to be mainstream politicians and aspire to the highest office who describe Muslim women as “bank robbers” and pillar boxes without any reaction.

On a day when HOPE not hate has called for action from the Conservative party to tackle Islamophobia within its ranks, when Baroness Warsi has again asked her own party to act and when my constituents are looking to the Government to act, they will have no confidence in this Government to tackle the prejudice they face unless they have confidence in the governing party to tackle racism within its own ranks. I say that with humility but great sincerity. Enough is enough. Condemnation in general is nothing compared with specific condemnation. When will the Minister’s party tackle the racists in

its ranks, whether in this House or at the grassroots?

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... If we see racism or antisemitism in our ranks, we should deal with it. If we see Islamophobia in our ranks, we should deal with it; if I find it in my party association, those people should not be in the Tory party. ...

col 807 **Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op):** Will the Security Minister assure communities in Lancashire of the Islamic faith, of any other faith or of no faith that everything is being done through the security and intelligence services and the police to monitor and deter potential attackers from targeting places of worship, including online activity and political campaigns aimed at Muslims and other minority faiths? This should not just be about tolerance, which means accepting something whether we like it or not, but be about mutual respect. Let us talk more about mutual respect, not just tolerating something even though we might not like it.

Reply from Ben Wallace: How we respond to that tolerance is about mutual respect: whether we disagree and disagree in a manner that accepts people as equals or whether we disagree and denigrate them for having a different view is about respect. ...

col 808 **Rushanara Ali (Labour):** ... Will the Minister look at how to take far-right activism, far-right groups and the threat more seriously? For years, we have campaigned for some of those groups to be proscribed, and the Government have fallen short. I ask him to take that much more seriously, to look at making online platforms responsible for the content of what they provide and to consider the German approach of fining online companies when hate crime material—online hate propaganda—is on those sites. ...

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... It was this Government who first proscribed a far-right, neo-Nazi group—National Action—over 18 months ago. We did that, and we have subsequently taken action against a number of people and organisers. On hate crime, which is also one of the planks we need to take away from extremists, we have funded a £1.5 million action plan. We have asked the Law Commission to review the hate crime legislation to make sure it is fit for purpose. No doubt, the Law Commission will look at hate crime in the online space as well, and I hope it can feed into the online harms White Paper that is coming soon.

col 809 **Naz Shah (Labour):** ... As a Muslim who has the largest Muslim constituency in the United Kingdom and who spent the weekend reassuring not only my constituents but my own Muslim family, I can tell the Minister how Islamophobia happens: it happens because it goes unchecked; it happens because people in politics have responsibilities that they do not meet. The Conservative party ran the most Islamophobic dog-whistle campaign against the Mayor of London, who happens to be Muslim. The party has yet to apologise for that campaign. Its former chair Baroness Warsi is crying out for an inquiry, as is the Conservative Muslim Forum. The Minister must check that his own house is in order before he can give me or my constituents any confidence that his party can safeguard the Muslim community.

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... I am not making excuses for Islamophobia. Islamophobia exists. Islamophobia is racism. Islamophobia should be dealt with. If it happens in my party, we should deal with it and we should deal with it forthwith, and I am happy to do that wherever I see it. We should all make sure we deal with it. I totally agree with the hon. Lady: it is racism and where we see it we should stop it in its tracks. ...

col 811 **Imran Hussain (Labour):** ... I want to emphasise the point that, tragically, far right and Islamophobic views are being tolerated and normalised more and more by those in the mainstream—those in power and responsibility, whether in the media, public life or public institutions. Frankly, that is feeding into the rise of the far right and Islamophobia. What concrete steps will the Minister take to address that and end all forms of racism, in particular Islamophobia?

Reply from Ben Wallace: When I see Islamophobia in the media, it breaks down

into three reasons: laziness, because the journalist could not be bothered to find out about what they were writing about; ignorance, because they do not know anything about the religion, people or communities they are writing about; and naked racism or aggression. We can deal with two of those factors quite well.

We need to make sure that we educate people about different faiths in this country, so that they understand the differences within the faiths and across the faiths. We need to bring more people together to understand our different communities. ...

Mohammad Yasin (Labour): ... What are the Minister's Government going to do now to tackle the rise in far-right attacks against British Muslims and other minority communities? ...

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... we asked the Law Commission to review hate crime to make sure that the legislation is fit for the 21st century, and can deal with, for example, the online aspect and how things have changed. We will fund that with £1.5 million. We will also make sure that we tackle the ignorance that I talked about in communities; that is the first thing we need to do. At the same time, we need to deal with online harm to make sure that people stop spreading it. We have also funded work with groups such as Tell MAMA, so that people can report hate crime better, because by them reporting it and our getting better data, we will be able to do something about it. ...

col 812 **Catherine West (Labour):** ... I challenge the Minister to discuss with the Department for Education how we can help our schools, particularly in areas that are predominantly non-Muslim, to visit mosques, synagogues, Hindu temples and churches in these times when people do not necessarily get taught any religion at home. That way, we can promote awareness across the piece—not just in areas where we have a lot of Muslim constituents, but across all our communities—and this attitude cannot just pop up in a spirit of ignorance.

Reply from Ben Wallace: The hon. Lady is right. This starts off in ignorance and is then exploited. ... I am very happy to write to the Department for Education to make sure that we redouble our efforts and spread that good practice across the country. ...

col 813 **Kate Green (Labour):** ... Will he also discuss with his colleagues in the Department for Education the problem of some parents choosing to withdraw their children from religious education classes, particularly when they think that the classes will be about Islam and Muslims? ...

Reply from Ben Wallace: ... ignorance is where this starts, and we must do everything we can to ensure that our children are educated about different faiths and religions. ...

Karen Buck (Labour): In November, I was at St John's Wood synagogue in solidarity after the Pittsburgh shootings, and on Friday, I was 500 yards away at the Regent's Park mosque after the Christchurch atrocity. Over the last couple of months, these communities have felt a level of risk, a level of abuse and a rising level of hate crime that are unparalleled in modern times. Our local police were there in strength on Friday, but they are stretched, as the Minister has heard from others today. We have lost one third of our police. Our safer neighbourhood teams are on the frontline, embedded in communities and helping to respond to these challenges, but they are being decimated. Please will he listen to the call for support for safer neighbourhood teams to work with our religious communities?

col 814 **Ben Wallace:** ... The calls are being heard, and we will see what we can do.

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-18/debates/B29813B9-4628-4720-A661-BBB855102C55/Far-RightViolenceAndOnlineExtremism>

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office manual referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/375136/Places_of_Worship_Reviewed.pdf

and updated guidance can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/701910/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1a.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Buildings: Security

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [232975] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to maintain public safety and security at mosques in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Police continue to protect places of worship as part of their core activity particularly in relation to hate crime. Following the events on Friday in New Zealand local police have increase patrolling and security measures around mosques and other places of worship to enhance safety and reassure the public.

Under the 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan we committed £2.4m over three years to provide protective security measure to places of worship who have been victim of or are vulnerable to hate crime attacks. Over the last three years we have awarded funding to just under 50 mosques. In October 2018 we committed to a fourth round of funding of the scheme in 2019/20. We continue to listen to communities to ensure the scheme continues to run as effectively as possible. Protective security advice is provided by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI). NaCTSO have published sector specific protective security advice and guidance for owners and operators of crowded places sites such as places of worship, to allow them to identify key risks and consider what steps to take.

Government continues to work closely with community groups, including through counter extremism coordinators in local authority areas to provide reassurance to communities and develop understanding of tensions and issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-15/232975/>

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/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

and a “two years on” update of the Action Plan 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

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into the Macpherson Report: 20 Years On – evidence session

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/home-affairs-committee/the-macpherson-report-twenty-years-on/oral/98026.html>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Jim Shannon (DUP) (2197) Mass killing in New Zealand –That this House expresses grave and deep concern at the mass killing of worshippers at mosques in New Zealand; conveys sincere sympathy for their families and community who mourn at this time; condemns all those involved in any form of terrorism and reiterates that there can be no justification for the slaughter that took place in a place of worship.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52710/mass-killing-in-new-zealand>

Press Releases

Pressing need to work together to tackle widespread hatred against Muslims

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2019/pressing-need-work-together-tackle-widespread-hatred-against-muslims>

Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March 2019

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/03/21/declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-occasion-of-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-racial-discrimination-21-march-2019/>

Renewed efforts needed to eliminate racial discrimination, especially in the workplace, say heads of Europe's human rights organizations

<https://www.osce.org/odihr/414941>

Dismantle 'Harmful and Specious' Notion of Racial Superiority, Secretary-General Urges in Message on International Day against Discrimination

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sgsm19502.doc.htm>

'Mosques should be safe havens, not sites of terror', says Guterres announcing UN plan to help safeguard religious sites

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1035261>

New Publications

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March 2019

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/LLN-2019-0032/LLN-2019-0032.pdf>

European Union Human Rights Guidelines on Non-discrimination in External Action

<http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6337-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

News

Labour formally adopts definition of Islamophobia

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/mar/20/labour-formally-adopts-definition-islamophobia>

It's time for my Conservative party to root out Islamophobia for good

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/22/conservative-party-islamophobia>

Islamophobia: 'No place' for it in Conservative Party says chairman

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47633067>

'Systemic Islamophobia' fuels terror attacks, say Muslim leaders

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/18/uk-muslim-leaders-seek-funding-for-mosque-security>

Mosques could be given Scottish government cash to improve security

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-47618033>

Labour MSP calls for security fund of Scottish places of worship

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/labour-msp-calls-for-security-fund-of-scottish-places-of-worship-1-4892027>

Pay for mosque security, Anas Sarwar tells SNP

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-20/scotland/pay-for-mosque-security-anas-sarwar-tells-snp-kdsgnqf3k>

Mosques Remain Under Security One Week After the Christchurch Massacre

<https://tellmamauk.org/mosques-remain-under-security-one-week-after-the-christchurch-massacre/>

Christchurch shootings: Far-right attack 'could happen in UK too'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47618176>

Islamophobe hypocrites ride wave of sympathy after Christchurch

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/dani-garavelli-islamophobe-hypocrites-ride-wave-of-sympathy-after-christchurch-1-4890667>

Christchurch terror attack shows why we must must confront racism - Kezia Dugdale

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/christchurch-terror-attack-shows-why-we-must-must-confront-racism-kezia-dugdale-1-4891563>

Scottish vigil for mosque shooting victims

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-47679064>

Vigils across Scotland call for peace and religious tolerance

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17523161.vigils-across-scotland-call-for-peace-and-religious-tolerance/>

Christchurch terror attack: Facebook says no-one reported killer's live stream

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/christchurch-terror-attack-facebook-says-no-one-reported-killer-s-live-stream-1-4891845>

Islamophobic incidents rocket by 600% in UK during week after New Zealand terror attack

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/new-zealand-shooting-attack-muslim-hate-crime-rise-uk-a8836511.html>

Anti-Muslim hate crimes soar in UK after Christchurch shootings

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/mar/22/anti-muslim-hate-crimes-soar-in-uk-after-christchurch-shootings>

Islamophobic attacks in the UK leave Muslims feeling increasingly anxious
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/21/islamophobia-attacks-uk-muslims-christchurch-far-right>

Man makes 'shooting sounds' at Muslim woman following Christchurch terror attack
<https://tellmamauk.org/oxford-man-makes-shooting-sounds-at-muslim-woman-following-christchurch-terror-attack/>

Man detained over Birmingham mosque hammer attacks
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-47679231>

One man arrested after attacks on Birmingham mosques
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/03/22/two-men-arrested-birmingham-mosque-hammer-attacks/>

Birmingham mosque attacks: Man detained under Mental Health Act
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/birmingham-mosque-attacks-man-arrested-mental-health-act-a8836876.html>

Birmingham mosque attacks probed by terrorism officers
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-47651350>

Sixth Birmingham mosque targeted by vandals
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/mar/23/mosque-window-smashing-suspect-held-under-mental-health-act-in-birmingham>

Investigation Launched After Four Birmingham Mosques Have Windows Smashed
<https://tellmamauk.org/investigation-launched-after-four-birmingham-mosques-have-windows-smashed/>

Birmingham mosque attacks: Two arrested after windows smashed at Muslim places of worship
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/birmingham-mosque-attacks-arrest-muslim-a8836036.html>

Sledgehammer attacks on Birmingham mosques
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-21/news/counterterror-police-investigate-sledgehammer-attacks-on-birmingham-mosques-vf0kxbm30>

Christchurch shootings: Charges in UK after taxi driver 'abuse'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-47602808>

Majority of Muslim women in Scotland have been the victims of hate crime
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/majority-of-muslim-women-in-scotland-have-been-the-victims-of-hate-crime-1-4893113>

Six in ten Scots Muslim women 'experienced Islamophobia'
<https://stv.tv/news/politics/1436448-six-in-ten-scots-muslim-women-have-experienced-islamophobia/>

Neo Nazis hijack gaming groups to spread hate against Muslims
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-23/news/neo-nazis-hijack-gaming-groups-to-spread-hate-against-muslims-hzjnn65th>

Why was I asked to condemn Islamist violence days after Christchurch?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/mar/18/islamist-violence-christchurch-white-supremacy>

Jewish Labour group considers Corbyn no-confidence motion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-19/news/jewish-labour-group-considers-corbyn-no-confidence-motion-bxvnr88hm>

Labour pair withdraw over "anti-Semitic" Facebook post

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tees-47657060>

Anti-Jew abuse at Scottish campuses

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/anti-jew-abuse-at-scottish-campuses-ppvscmfnf>

Next time I'm asked how antisemitism started, I'll say 'go to this exhibition'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/daniel-finkelstein-next-time-im-asked-how-antisemitism-started-ill-say-go-to-this-exhibition-2hskh9gjk>

Plans for Protestant march past Glasgow Catholic church blasted by campaigners

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17511118.plans-for-orange-walk-past-glasgow-catholic-church-blasted-by-campaigners/>

Cardiff Irish Traveller's arrest shameful, says charity

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-47589034>

Brexit 'to blame' for rising hate speech in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/general-election/brexit-to-blame-for-rising-hate-speech-in-scotland-1-4894523>

National Action trial: Nazi accused 'obsessed with ethnic cleansing'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-47657770>

Catholic beliefs risk being a hate crime, says church

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/catholic-beliefs-risk-being-a-hate-crime-says-church-6r72p3xgw>

Net giants in neo-Nazi radio row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-03-23/news/net-giants-in-neo-nazi-radio-row-vd2zvclff>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

2021 Census

Richard Lyle (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it is accommodating ethnic groups that have applied to be included in the census for the first time in 2021. (S5O-03014)

The Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop): National Records of Scotland set out proposed questions for inclusion in

the 2021 census. All requests for changes to questions were considered according to user need, data quality, existing data sources and operational considerations. Requests were made for census data on Roma and showpeople, and on Sikh and Jewish populations.

Testing of the changes that are being considered for the ethnic group question was completed in February. NRS is holding events on 27 and 28 March to share the findings with stakeholders. The results of the testing will be published on the NRS website prior to those events.

The questions for the 2021 census will be considered by Parliament as part of the subordinate legislation process. Engagement on that will begin shortly and will continue through to next year.

Richard Lyle: I refer members to my entry in the register of members' interests, which shows that I am the convener of the cross-party group on the Scottish Showmen's Guild. Over the past few years, I have been working with the Showmen's Guild to ensure that the next census includes a section for showpeople. Showpeople are not Travellers or Gypsies; they are a distinct ethnic group. Census officials have been supportive of the proposal, but I seek the cabinet secretary's assurance that she will help me to ensure that showpeople are added to the census.

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: I understand that the findings from the testing of an alternative ethnic group question showed that the inclusion of a tick box for showpeople was acceptable, and that that may well be recommended for inclusion. I am supportive of that, but I refer the member to my answer to his first question, in which I said that it is actually the Parliament that will finally determine, through subordinate legislation, what questions are asked in the census.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12010&i=108640#ScotParlOR>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Primary Education

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL14434] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to educate primary school children about the harmful effects of FGM as part of relationships and sex education; and to include any such information in any relevant guidance issued to teachers.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government is committed to protecting young people from harm, including the horrific crime of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), perpetrated against some of the most vulnerable children in society. Through the introduction of compulsory relationships and sex education (RSE) in all secondary schools, we will ensure that pupils are fully aware of the illegality of FGM and that it will not be tolerated. This has been included, alongside topics such as honour-based abuse, grooming, forced marriage and domestic abuse, as core content for secondary pupils in the updated draft statutory guidance for relationships education, RSE and health education. Through these subjects we want to support all children to be healthy, happy and safe; arming them with the knowledge to recognise unhealthy behaviour in relationships, and how to seek help when necessary.

At primary level, we are introducing compulsory relationships education for all pupils, to put in place the building blocks for developing healthy relationships. There

is no statutory requirement for schools to deliver teaching on FGM at primary, but schools are free to build on the core content to reflect the needs of their cohort of pupils. If a school considers the teaching of FGM to be age-appropriate for their pupils at primary, they are free to deliver this.

There will be a legal requirement for schools to consult with parents in the development of their policies for both relationships education and RSE. During this consultation, schools should share example resources with parents and ensure they understand the age-appropriate content that their child will receive. Schools will continue to be free to choose materials that are age-appropriate and sensitive to the needs of their pupils. Many organisations already provide high quality resources to support this teaching – schools can consider, for example, drawing on the expertise of the main subject associations, who also quality assure third party resources from expert organisations on specific topics.

We have committed to supporting schools and teachers to deliver these subjects to a high standard. We have an initial budget of £6 million for the 2019-20 financial year to develop a programme of support for schools, which will include supporting them to make appropriate choices regarding resources.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-11/HL14434/>

TOP

Other News

Different paths: a collection of life stories

<https://centreforequalities.org.uk/different-paths/>

'Dad said he would kill me if he found me'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-london-47586843/forced-marriage-dad-said-he-would-kill-me-if-he-found-me>

Assisted dying: Doctors' group adopts neutral position

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-47641766>

TOP

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

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>

Bill as introduced

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2017-2019/0313/19313.pdf>

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>

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>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8532/CBP-8532.pdf>

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>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

**** *this week!***

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>

**** *this week!***

Forth Valley Employment Club

26 March 2019 in Falkirk (9.30-12.00)

and then every Tuesday except 2 and 9 April until 18 June 2019

CSREC employability club for young people from minority ethnic communities facing barriers to employment or training. For information contact admin@csrec.org.uk / 01324 610 950 or see https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi_csrec.pdf

**** *this week!***

Employability Programme for New Scots (Women only)

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!***

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

**** *this week!***

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>

**** *this week!***

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, people in the public sector, academics and equality policy makers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yaerx9fm>

**** this week!**

Discover your Journey: Police Scotland women-only event

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

Scottish Parliament Family Day

6 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

13 April 2019 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Parliament free drop-in science activity days in partnership with the University of Edinburgh. For information see <https://www.visitparliament.scot/family-days/>

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>

BAME Disabled People Peer Group

17 April 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-3.30)

Glasgow Disability Alliance peer group for people from minority ethnic communities who are disabled or living with a long term condition. For information see <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/D1xnCROW0AEavwf.jpg> or contact 0141 556 7103 / text: 07958 299 496 / info@gdaonline.co.uk

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 <https://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee rights to housing

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

TOP

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>

TOP

SCoJeC

The Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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/>



gov.scot

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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