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

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## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Immigration (Economic Contribution)

**Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government what assessment the finance secretary has made of the contribution that immigration makes to Scotland's economy. (S5O-03197)

**Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work (Derek Mackay):** Migration is vital to Scotland's population growth and makes an essential contribution to future economic prosperity and delivery of public services. We know that people who come to live and work in Scotland and across the United Kingdom typically contribute more through tax revenues than they consume by way of public services. Research from Oxford Economics published last June found that people who arrived in the UK in 2016 are projected to make a total net positive contribution

of £26.9 billion to the UK's public finances over the entirety of their stay.

**Alex Cole-Hamilton:** Last week, the Federation of Small Businesses revealed that one in 10 small businesses in Scotland is led by an immigrant entrepreneur, contributing more than £13 billion to the Scottish economy. During its recent inquiry, the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee heard from Scottish Chambers of Commerce that businesses could find themselves in the position where their route to Government support is somewhat unclear. ... What consideration has the Government given to whether that lack of transparency could deter immigrant entrepreneurs from starting or upscaling businesses in Scotland?

**Reply from Derek Mackay:** The Scottish Government has welcomed the FSB report, and Stuart McMillan MSP is hosting an FSB reception here this evening. Jamie Hepburn has engaged with the FSB on the report.

I agree that we should look at further ways of supporting entrepreneurship, business growth, and the scaling up the businesses of those migrant entrepreneurs who are building successful businesses in Scotland's economy and contributing to our shared prosperity.

**Jackie Baillie (Labour):** I want to push the cabinet secretary further on that, because, despite immigrant-led SMEs generating £13 billion and 107,000 jobs, they struggle—growth is erratic and export activity is poor. Is sufficient support available from Scottish Enterprise and business gateway to help immigrant-led SMEs flourish, and what more can be done?

**Reply from Derek Mackay:** As a member of the Economy, Jobs and Fair Work Committee, Jackie Baillie is well aware that business gateway is led by local government, but, yes, we are proactively looking at that, partly as a consequence of the committee's inquiry. I believe that there is support from Scottish Enterprise, but I want to do more, and that is why we will engage further with the FSB and other business representative organisations to try to support those groups that, for whatever reason, feel that financial products and support have not been available. We want to address that and celebrate the economic and social contribution that migrants have made to this country.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12081&i=109308#ScotParlOR>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.fsb.org.uk/docs/default-source/fsb-org-uk/starting-over---migrant-entrepreneurship-in-scotland-final.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

## Scottish Parliament Written Answer

### Eviction of Asylum Seekers

**S5W-22746 Patrick Harvie (Green):** To ask the Scottish Government whether it is involved in any contingency plan discussions regarding the potential eviction of hundreds of people from asylum accommodation in Glasgow, in light of the Court of Session decision on 12 April 2019 in the so-called "lock change" case against Serco and the Home Office.

**Reply from Aileen Campbell:** The Scottish Government is not directly involved in discussions between the Home Office, Serco and Glasgow City Council about next steps following the judgement in the Court of Session. However, I have written to the Immigration Minister, the Chief Executive of Serco and the Leader of Glasgow City Council to seek information about the current position and contingency planning.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22746>

## Scottish Parliament Motion

**S5M-17178 Gordon MacDonald (SNP): Migrants Account for One-in-Five Business Start-ups in Scotland** – That the Parliament welcomes a recent report by the Federation of Small Businesses on migrant entrepreneurship in Scotland, which suggests that immigrant-led firms generate £13 billion for the economy and 107,000 jobs; understands that the research, which was carried out by the Hunter Centre at the University of Strathclyde, was the first-of-its kind in Scotland and examined the economic and cultural contributions of migrant entrepreneurs; notes that it found that Scotland attracts entrepreneurs from across the world, with 70% from two regional blocks, the EU, with 38%, and the Middle East and Asia, with 32%, and that a significant proportion, 12%, come from Africa; believes that around half of these entrepreneurs are located in three cities, with 21% in Edinburgh, 16% in Glasgow and 9% in Aberdeen; understands that migrants account for one-in-five start-ups in Scotland, and welcomes their contribution to the country's economy, communities and culture.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-17178>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children

**The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes)** [HCWS1543] Following a review of the existing funding arrangements, I have decided to make more funding available to local authorities supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

The review involved gathering detailed information and feedback from across the local government sector, and I am grateful to all those who contributed to producing a robust evidence base. This included over 50 upper tier or unitary local authorities, NGOs, the Local Government Association (LGA), Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and regional Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs).

After considering the evidence, I have decided that the rates currently paid at £71, £91 and £95 should be uplifted to £114 per UASC per night. This will apply to care provided from 1 April 2019 onwards.

Home Office funding for local authorities supporting UASC provides a contribution to their costs. The decision to increase these rates reflects the incredibly valuable work local authorities undertake with vulnerable UASC, and the Home Office commitment to supporting this.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-08/debates/19050827000006/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

### Visas: Ministers of Religion

**David Linden (SNP):** Earlier this week, I received a letter from Father Liam McMahon, who is the parish priest at St Michael's on Gallowgate in Parkhead. Like many other ministers and those in the clergy, he is concerned about the changes to tier 5 religious worker visas. May we have a debate in Government time about early-day motion 2362, in the name of my hon. Friend the Member for Glasgow North (Patrick Grady), to ensure that the Home Office reverses these retrograde plans that will disproportionately impact parishes right across the United Kingdom?

*[That this House notes with concern the decision of the Home Office to remove Ministers*

*of Religion from the eligibility criteria for tier 5 entry visas to the UK; further notes the widespread disappointment about this decision felt by Churches and other faith communities which have previously been able to invite religious ministers from overseas, and particularly developing countries, to provide supply cover for religious services over the coming months; believes this will have a negative effect on the ability of priests and ministers in the UK to take a break over the summer, on faith communities who may experience reduced worship schedules, and on the supply ministers who have used the opportunity to gain experience in the UK and earn some additional income before returning to their home country; and calls on the Home Secretary to meet with representatives of faith communities to listen to their concerns and urgently review his Department's policy decision.]*

I know the Leader of the House is sympathetic and a practising Christian. Will she be a voice in Government to U-turn on this ridiculous decision by the Home Office that will affect parishes all across these islands?

**Reply from Andrea Leadsom:** This issue has been raised a couple of times. Of course, we want to be able to facilitate visits by religious leaders around the world to talk to parishes here in the United Kingdom. There are arrangements—I am struggling to remember, but I think they can apply under tier 2 visa arrangements and that there are some pauses in place to ensure that those visas remain temporary. I recommend that the hon. Gentleman seeks an Adjournment debate, so that Ministers can set out for him precisely how visitors can apply for visas.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-09/debates/3E1EEF18-D129-4798-92A9-F3504ADD4CE1/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-D934C179-0CB0-4439-B407-D220EFE00ECA>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Immigration: Reviews

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [249360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many reviews his Department is undertaking into immigration issues; and what the topic is of each of those reviews.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office is conducting a number of reviews across the immigration system, including, the Wendy Williams lessons learned review, the forward-looking Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System review and Darra Singh's assessment of the Home Office's response to the use of DNA evidence in immigration cases.

It is important that we reflect very closely on our policies and our rules to ensure we have an immigration system that provides control but is also fair and humane. Therefore at any time, as a matter of routine, the Home Office will be reviewing aspects of the performance and operation of the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249360/>

Information about the reviews referred to above can be read at

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/774736/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_Home\\_Office\\_collaborative\\_working\\_with\\_OGDs\\_and\\_agencies\\_web\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/774736/An_inspection_of_Home_Office_collaborative_working_with_OGDs_and_agencies_web_version.pdf)

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-11-27/HCWS1116/>

### **Immigration Controls: Racial Discrimination**

**Jim Cunningham (Labour)** [250432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure that his officials do not profile people based on their race or ethnicity during immigration checks.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** It is illegal for an individual to be stopped on the basis of their race or ethnicity. Immigration Enforcement officers do not carry out random visits and nor do they stop individuals at random. Enforcement operations by Immigration Enforcement officers are intelligence-led and are carried out only where there is a reasonable prospect of encountering immigration offenders.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250432/>

### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**Sharon Hodgson (Labour)** [248607] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the implications for his policies of the conclusions of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An Inspection of the Home Office Borders, Immigration and Citizenship System's policies and practices relating to charging and fees.

**Reply from Stephen Hammond:** The Department will consider the implications of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: 'An Inspection of the Home Office Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Systems' as part of its ongoing commitment to keep the charging regulations under review and will take any action it deems necessary.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248607/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/792682/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_policies\\_and\\_practices\\_of\\_the\\_Home\\_Office\\_s\\_Borders\\_Immigration\\_and\\_Citizenship\\_Systems\\_relatinq\\_and\\_fees.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/792682/An_inspection_of_the_policies_and_practices_of_the_Home_Office_s_Borders_Immigration_and_Citizenship_Systems_relatinq_and_fees.pdf)

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Health Services: Immigrants**

**Sharon Hodgson (Labour)** [248608] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an assessment of the (a) equity and (b) effectiveness of the immigration health surcharge.

**Sharon Hodgson (Labour)** [248609] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of exempting doctors from the immigration health surcharge; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Stephen Hammond:** The immigration health surcharge applies to non-European Economic Area nationals subject to immigration control coming to live, work and study in the United Kingdom and is payable as part of their visa application. The surcharge provides comprehensive access to NHS services regardless of the amount of care needed during a person's time in the UK, and includes treatment for pre-existing conditions. This represents excellent value when compared to the alternatives and ensures that individuals do not need to worry about insurance or pay for unexpected treatment whilst they are here. The surcharge also reduces the administrative burden on the NHS frontline associated with identifying chargeable patients and recovering charges.

Whilst the Government fully recognises the contribution that international professionals make to the UK and to our health service, it is only right that all those who come to the UK to live, work and study should contribute to the running of the NHS.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248608/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248609/>

### **Visas: Married People**

**Grahame Morris (Labour)** [249944] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is for a spousal visa appeal to be considered by UK Visas & Immigration.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Statistics on appeal clearance timescales are published by HM Courts and Tribunals Service on a quarterly basis. The most recent edition (Tribunals and gender recognitions certificates statistics quarterly: October to December 2018) is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-october-to-december-2018>. Table T 3 contains the closest match to the requested data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-01/249944/>

### **NHS: Migrant Workers**

**Rosie Cooper (Labour)** [249249] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the Immigration White Paper, what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposal to cap salaries at £30,000 on maintaining adequate levels staff in the NHS.

**Reply from Stephen Hammond:** The Home Office is undertaking a programme of engagement with colleagues across Government and industry to discuss the proposed measures in the Immigration White Paper, including at what level any minimum salary threshold should be set. Officials from the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office are working closely together to engage with the health and care sector to ensure views on the design of the future immigration system are heard.

However, we also recognise the need to boost our domestic workforce as well. The NHS Long Term Plan sets out a vital strategic framework to ensure that, over the next 10 years, the National Health Service will have the staff it needs so that nurses and doctors are working in a supportive culture that allows them to provide the expert compassionate care they are committed to providing. Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement, working closely with Sir David Behan, Chair of Health Education England, will lead a number of programmes to develop a detailed workforce implementation plan. Baroness Harding and Sir David will present these initial recommendations to the Department this spring.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249249/>

*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](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 Long Term Plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-term-plan/>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Agriculture: Seasonal Workers**

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op)** [250784] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, whether non-UK workers entering the UK under the Seasonal Workers Pilot will be guaranteed a set number of working hours.

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op)** [250785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether employers will be able to offer zero hours contracts to workers entering the UK under the Seasonal Workers Pilot.

**Alex Norris (Labour Co-op)** [250786] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether workers who enter the UK under the new Seasonal Workers Pilot will be charged for NHS emergency healthcare.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The scheme operators for the Seasonal Workers Pilot are required to provide pilot workers with fulltime employment, and are responsible for ensuring that the pilot workers they sponsor are provided with a regular income, and not left destitute if, for any reason, full-time work is not available over any particular period.

The scheme operators are not permitted to offer zero hours contracts to workers. Pilot workers come to the UK for six months or less and are therefore liable to NHS overseas visitor treatment charges. The scheme operators are therefore required to ensure that all participants have suitable health insurance before they travel to the UK. Charges do not apply to accident and emergency treatment, and immediately necessary or urgent NHS care is never withheld irrespective of status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-03/250784/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-03/250785/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-03/250786/>

#### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [250507] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to implement a quality assurance process for the EU Settlement Scheme.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As noted in the latest published report from the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI), we have extensive quality assurance processes across the scheme and we will continue to further review and align to other operational areas as we move forward.

The ICIBI's report is available here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/799439/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_EU\\_Settlement\\_Scheme\\_May\\_WEB.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799439/An_inspection_of_the_EU_Settlement_Scheme_May_WEB.PDF)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250507/>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

#### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [250508] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure applicants do not incur ancillary costs when applying for the EU settlement scheme.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The EU Settlement Scheme application process is simple, streamlined and free of charge so there is no financial burden on applicants. We have a broad range of support in place to meet various user needs. These are

optional and applicants can choose the support option best suited for their circumstances.

The Home Office is committed to supporting EU citizens to obtain UK immigration status and we will continue to engage with representative groups to ensure that the scheme is accessible to all prospective applicants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250508/>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [250510] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU settlement scheme made during the testing phases remain unresolved.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As of 16 April 2019, 75 cases remained outstanding from the public beta phase. This was published in the public beta testing phase report on 2 May 2019. The report can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-public-beta-testing-phase-report>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250510/>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [250511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many formal complaints his Department received during the private beta testing phase of the EU Settlement Scheme; and what the subject of these complaints was.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The EU Settlement Scheme makes it simple and straight forward for EU citizens and their family members who want to stay in the UK to get the immigration status they need.

Over 31,000 people applied during the two private beta testing phases. Just one complaint was received through the formal complaints process during this time. The complaint was in response to a technical issue and was resolved satisfactorily.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250511/>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [250512] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to feedback on the private beta two phase of the EU Settlement Scheme, what feedback was provided by people who neither spoke highly nor gave a neutral response.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** As part of our commitment to improving the application process for customers, feedback during both the private beta 1 and 2 phases and the public beta phase was sought via a voluntary online survey. In total, 1,330 applicants completed the survey during private beta 2. Of these 61% of customers said they would speak highly of the application process, 19% said they would be neutral, 19% would be critical and 1% said they did not know.

Changes were made to the system as a result of this feedback, ahead of the public beta test phase. In the public beta test phase, 75% of applicants completing the

survey said they would speak highly of the application process, 15% said they would be neutral and 11% would be critical. With regards to completing the application form, in the public beta phase 81% said completing the form was either easy or fairly easy with a further 8% finding it neither difficult or easy.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250512/>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op)** [249352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 February 2019 to Question 221003 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether organisations have been contracted to translate the settled status registration (a) process and (b) app into British Sign Language; and if he will make a statement.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The EU Settlement Scheme is supported by a Grant Scheme to support various groups including deaf people. We will announce further details in due course.

All EU Settlement Scheme communications campaign videos, including video guidance on how to use the app, as well as all translated versions, are subtitled. These videos are available on Gov.uk.

The Settlement Resolution Centre which provides help and information to individuals completing their EU Settlement Scheme application can be contacted via e-mail.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249352/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-13/221003/>

*Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>*

*The videos referred to above can be watched at*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOEq6TE9fqwWfAGB--8KyyMNxt72pTEza>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Carol Monaghan (SNP)** [249330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the impact assessment on the European temporary leave to remain scheme included an assessment of the effect of that scheme on the differentiated system of academic courses across the UK.

**Carol Monaghan (SNP)** [249331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation the Government has had with EU students in Scotland on the European temporary leave to remain scheme.

**Carol Monaghan (SNP)** [249332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to prepare for a potential increase in applications for Tier 4 visas from students as a result of the European temporary leave to remain scheme.

**Carol Monaghan (SNP)** [249333] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation she has had with her counterpart in the Scottish Government on the potential increase in applications for Tier 4 visas as a result of the European temporary leave to remain scheme.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The transitional arrangements under European

Temporary Leave to Remain will only be required in the event that the UK leaves the EU without securing a deal. The Government has been clear that leaving the EU with a deal remains our top priority.

The Government has regular contact with representatives of the education sector, and the Scottish Government, and will continue to consult with the relevant stakeholders during the course of our 12 month engagement with stakeholders on the UK's future skills-based immigration system.

As we move towards the future system, the Government will continue to consult with internal stakeholders to ensure that operational capability is given due consideration as we build an immigration system that works for the whole of the UK, including the education sector.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249330/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-01/249331/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249332/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249333/>

### **Refugees: Families**

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [250457]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugee family reunion visas have been granted in exceptional circumstances for dependent children over 18 in each of the last five years.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Home Office publish data on the number of family reunion visas granted to over 18s and under 18s in the quarterly [Immigration Statistics](#).

The latest data covering the year ending December 2018, can be found in as\_21\_q in [volume 5](#) of the asylum tables.

The data does not separately identify those which have been granted in exceptional circumstances for dependent children over 18.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250457/>

### **Refugees: Families**

**Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [250458]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the review of the eligibility of adult children, who were part of the family unit when they were forced to flee, to automatically join their family in the UK under part 11 of UK immigration rules, will be completed.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** The Government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

Our policy makes clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

Refugees can also sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, due to age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK.

The Government believes the best interests of children is reflected in staying with their families, claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety – and relying on safe and legal routes under the Immigration Rules or through resettlement schemes.

Nonetheless, the Government is listening to calls to extend our current family reunion policy and has been following closely the passage of the two Private Members' Bills. We will continue our productive discussions with key partners on this complex and sensitive issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250458/>

### **Asylum: Glasgow**

**Paul Sweeney (Labour Co-op)** [249938] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Mears Group plans to rule out the use of lock-change evictions when it commences the contract for providing housing for asylum seekers in Glasgow in September 2019.

**Reply from Caroline Nokes:** Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free, furnished accommodation whilst their asylum claim is under consideration. Where they are granted leave to remain they are free to live and work in the United Kingdom.

Those who have been unsuccessful in their asylum claim and do not have leave to remain in the UK are no longer entitled to asylum accommodation and should take steps to leave the UK. UKVI will continue to work with Serco, Mears and Glasgow City Council to ensure that those with no right to be in the UK leave their accommodation in a safe and secure way and that they are provided with the necessary support and advice to make an informed decision about their future.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-01/249938/>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers**

### **Home Office: Fees and Charges**

**Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour)** [HL15357] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their response to the report by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration An inspection of the policies and practices of the Home Office's Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Systems relating to charging and fees June 2018–January 2019, published on 4 April, which specific areas they plan to consult on; whether they intend to publish a children's best interests impact assessment when proposing fees levels and increases; and what is their response to the Chief Inspector's recommendation that they include consideration of extending eligibility for fee waivers, including for all child Leave to Remain and nationality applications, in a full review of the fee waiver process.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** As detailed within the official Home Office response, there are no plans to run a full public consultation. A consultation in specific areas may be useful and we will undertake to do this before we take decisions which would result in fundamental changes to the way the system is funded.

There are no plans to produce a separate children's best interest impact assessment at this point in time, but as we set out in the Home Office responses to the ICIBI report, we will consider publication of fee-related Policy Equality Statements on a case by case basis going forward.

In respect of the Chief Inspector's recommendation to consider extending eligibility for fee waivers, the Home Office response is as detailed within the published

response. We have recently reviewed the fee waiver policy, invested in recruitment and continued process improvement and also engaged with Local Authorities on how we may identify and, where required, prioritise fee waiver applications from those who are most vulnerable. Current fee levels and policies remain under consideration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-25/HL15357/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/792682/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_policies\\_and\\_practices\\_of\\_the\\_Home\\_Office\\_s\\_Borders\\_Immigration\\_and\\_Citizenship\\_Systems\\_relying\\_to\\_charging\\_and\\_fees.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/792682/An_inspection_of_the_policies_and_practices_of_the_Home_Office_s_Borders_Immigration_and_Citizenship_Systems_relying_to_charging_and_fees.pdf)

*The Home Office response referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/792428/19\\_04\\_04\\_Formal\\_response\\_Charging\\_inspection.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/792428/19_04_04_Formal_response_Charging_inspection.pdf)

### **Visas: Commonwealth**

**Lord Beecham (Labour)** [HL15338] To ask Her Majesty's Government how visa applications fees for Commonwealth veterans are calculated; and why visa application fees have risen by 1,441 per cent since 2003.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The fees for applications from Commonwealth citizens who have served in the armed forces are the same as applications from Commonwealth applicants who have not.

When setting fees, the Home Office takes into account the cost of processing the application, the wider cost of running Border, Immigration and Citizenship (BIC) system and the benefits the Home Office believes are likely to accrue from a successful application

Application fees have increased in recent years as the Home Office aims to reduce the overall level of funding that comes from general taxation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-25/HL15338/>

## **New Publications**

**Letter from Sajid Javid MP to Diane Abbott MP and Yvette Cooper MP regarding British Citizenship – clarification following a question**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0517/Letter from HS to Diane Abbott Acquisition of British citizenship.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0517/Letter_from_HS_to_Diane_Abbott_Acquisition_of_British_citizenship.pdf)

*The statement and question referred to in the letter can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-03-11/debates/B0DEF120-527D-4635-B5BF-E6C8F30456C8/ShamimaBegumAndOtherCases#contribution-2A2AF8B9-9D20-4C34-BAAD-ADB2F08C192D>

**Letter from Lord Agnew to Lord Hylton regarding the ability of the UK to take in the number of asylum-seeking children provided for through section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the Dubs amendment)**

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0532/letter to Lord Hylton asylum seeking children.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0532/letter_to_Lord_Hylton_asylum_seeking_children.pdf)

## **An inspection of the Home Office's approach to Illegal Working August – December 2018**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/800641/An\\_inspection\\_of\\_the\\_Home\\_Office\\_s\\_approach\\_to\\_Illegal\\_Working\\_Published\\_May\\_2018.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800641/An_inspection_of_the_Home_Office_s_approach_to_Illegal_Working_Published_May_2018.PDF)

## **The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An inspection of the Home Office's approach to illegal working August – December 2018**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/800524/Formal\\_response\\_Illegal\\_Working\\_ICIBI.PDF](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800524/Formal_response_Illegal_Working_ICIBI.PDF)

## **International migration and the education sector – what does the current evidence show?**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/internationalmigrationandtheeducationsectorwhatdoesthecurrentevidenceshow/2019-05-03/pdf>

## **Refugees and the UK Labour Market**

<https://www.compas.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/ECONREF-Refugees-and-the-UK-Labour-Market-report.pdf>

## **Economic impacts of immigration detention reform**

[http://www.camecon.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Immigration-detention-reform\\_Final-report.pdf](http://www.camecon.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Immigration-detention-reform_Final-report.pdf)

## **News**

### **Justice secretary urged to review provision of legal aid in complex immigration cases**

[https://www.heraldscotland.com/business\\_hq/17624186.justice-secretary-urged-to-review-provision-of-legal-aid-in-complex-immigration-cases/](https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/17624186.justice-secretary-urged-to-review-provision-of-legal-aid-in-complex-immigration-cases/)

### **New post-Brexit immigration plan 'needed for Scotland'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-48221757>

### **Scotland to be hit by post-Brexit immigration crackdown, warns top UK business chief**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brexit/scotland-to-be-hit-by-post-brexit-immigration-crackdown-warns-top-uk-business-chief-1-4924544>

### **Nearly 900 stateless children forced to pay UK citizenship fees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/06/nearly-1000-stateless-children-forced-to-pay-uk-citizenship-fees>

### **Home Office abandons six-month target for asylum claim decisions**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/07/home-office-abandons-six-month-target-for-asylum-claim-decisions>

### **Banning asylum seekers from working is both morally and economically unjustifiable**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/03/25/banning-asylum-seekers-working-morally-economically-unjustifiable/>

### **Let asylum seekers work while they wait for Home Office decision**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/09/let-asylum-seekers-work-while-they-wait-for-home-office-decision>

### **Fight against illegal immigration undermined by backlash against authorities after Windrush scandal, says official report**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/09/fight-against-illegal-immigration-undermined-backlash-against/>

### **Ending indefinite immigration detention could save tens of millions of pounds each year**

<https://www.camecon.com/news/ending-indefinite-immigration-detention-could-save-tens-of-millions-of-pounds-each-year/>

### **Time limit on detaining immigrants could save £35m a year, says study**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/08/time-limit-on-detaining-immigrants-could-save-35m-a-year-says-study>

### **Pledge to tackle human trafficking**

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/pledge-to-tackle-human-trafficking>

### **UN committee against torture scrutinises UK's human rights record**

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/may/07/un-committee-against-torture-scrutinises-uks-human-rights-record>

### **Asylum seeker fearing death sentence in Pakistan fighting deportation**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-death-sentence-blasphemy-pakistan-deportation-home-office-a8906101.html>

### **Pakistani campaigner says he could be killed if UK deports him**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/09/pakistani-campaigner-says-he-could-be-killed-if-uk-deports-him>

### **Deportation halted for man who brought injured niece to UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/10/deportation-halted-for-man-who-brought-injured-niece-to-uk>

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## **Equality**

### **New Publication**

#### **Gypsies and Travellers**

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

### **News**

#### **BAME: The children's bookshop selling diversity**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-london-48225791/bame-the-children-s-bookshop-selling-diversity>

**Lack of Afro hairdressers 'puts black students off going to Cambridge'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cambridge-university-student-application-afro-caribbean-hairdresser-bame-a8908926.html>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Race Equality Action Plan

**S5W-22910 Jackie Baillie (Labour):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-21125 by Christina McKelvie on 25 January 2019, on what date it will publish outcomes from the Race Equality Conference and the final report on Year 1 Race Equality Actions.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** The Race Equality Action Plan Year 1 Actions Report with a summary of discussion from the end of year event will be published on gov.scot on 24 June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22910>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-21125>

#### Historic Implications of Slavery

**S5W-22896 Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat):** To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-22254 by Christina McKelvie on 28 March 2019, for what reason it has decided not to quantify the historic implications of slavery for Scotland as a whole, and whether it will encourage other public bodies to carry out this work.

**Reply from Christina McKelvie:** Whilst we are determined to learn from our past and the role Scotland played in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, our efforts at the present time are focused on ensuring we deliver positive outcomes for the minority ethnic people of Scotland now. This work is being carried out through the [Race Equality Action Plan](#) and [Race Equality Framework](#) which sets out our approach to promoting race equality and tackling racism and inequality between 2016 and 2030.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22896>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22254>

### UK Parliament Debate

#### English Football

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-05-08/debates/69F8D859-510F-48EE-82C4-9083522C679B/EnglishFootball>

### Places of Worship: Security Funding

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid):** ... Yesterday marked the start of Ramadan, a peaceful time of prayer and reflection. Throughout the holy month, Muslims will come together in mosques to celebrate. The tragic events in Christchurch, New Zealand, will never be far from their minds, and the 51 innocent souls who were slaughtered in March will be remembered in many prayers. A terrorist gunned down these Muslim men, women and children as they prayed. A few weeks later, Christians were massacred by terrorists in Sri Lankan churches as they observed their faith on Easter Sunday. More victims were targeted in hotels, with a total of over 250 lives lost. Just days ago, a gunman stormed a synagogue near San Diego, killing an innocent woman on the last day of Passover. Each one of those atrocities was heartbreaking and tragic, and my thoughts are with every single person who has been affected. I know that the House will join me in condemning these hate-fuelled attacks on our freedom and values.

This slaughter has sent shockwaves through our religious communities. People are understandably worried. Many members of my own family contacted me after Christchurch to seek reassurance. They asked, "Just what are you doing to stop this happening here?" With your permission, Mr Speaker, I would like to answer that and provide some much-needed reassurance.

There can be no doubt that people have been targeted because of their religion in terrorist attacks around the world, but also in vile hate crimes on the streets of this country—sledgehammer attacks on mosques, a Christian preacher spat at in the street, and a brick thrown through the glass door of a synagogue. I condemn all these attacks with every fibre of my being. No one should be targeted because of what they believe. Everyone, of every faith, deserves the right to observe their religion without fear, and we are doing all we can to ensure that this remains the case in the UK and that our fundamental values are preserved.

Mr Speaker, allow me to update the House on some of the work that is under way to protect our religious freedom. First, I have increased the places of worship protective security fund to £1.6 million for 2019-20—double the amount awarded last year. Expressions of interest are now open for the next round of the fund, which will open in July. Since the scheme launched in 2016, more than £1.5 million has been awarded, with 63 grants to churches, 49 to mosques, five to Hindu temples and 16 to gurdwaras. They have paid for security equipment such as CCTV, security lighting, new locks or fences. Many more places of worship will now benefit after we made it even easier to apply this year, by removing the need to find multiple quotes and contractors. A separate £14 million grant also provides security for Jewish schools and synagogues against terror attacks.

Secondly, a new £5 million fund will provide security training for places of worship across England and Wales. This funding will support the physical security measures provided by the places of worship fund. It will share best practice and help faith organisations to understand how best to protect their worshippers.

Thirdly, we are consulting religious communities on what more can and should be done to help them. We will shortly announce a programme of engagement, to help us understand what they need and how to make it work in a faith setting. This listening exercise will inform how the £5 million security training fund is spent to ensure that it is effective and will help ascertain how we can best protect worshippers.

Fourthly, we are providing immediate help with a Ramadan package of support for mosques. We know that Muslims are anxious for their safety after the atrocity in Christchurch, and that tensions are heightened during religious festivals. So we are supporting Faith Associates to provide security training and advice for the Islamic holy month. Support is being given in 12 workshops around England and Wales, and guidance is being distributed to over 2,000 mosques, community centres and madrassahs.

Finally, our world-class police provide a vital protection role to all places of worship. Patrols near mosques were stepped up following the Christchurch attack to provide much-needed reassurance and the police have increased activity around religious festivals and holy days, including the Ramadan period. Our security services work tirelessly to disrupt all terror threats known to this country. This includes tackling the growing threat from the far right, with more than four such terrorist plots disrupted since the beginning of 2017. We are also using a range of other powers to tackle the threat of terrorism and extremism in this country. Our robust hate crime legislation has seen far-right influencers jailed for a range of offences, including religiously aggravated harassment. As Home Secretary, I can exclude foreign nationals from entering the UK if I believe that their presence would not be conducive to the public good—a power that I can and do use to stop hate preachers stirring up tension here. I have used that power eight times since I became Home Secretary. Our Prevent and Building a Stronger Britain Together programmes work with and through local communities to challenge terrorist or extremist ideologies from Islamist to the far right. Together, this comprehensive package of support provides protection for all our places of worship. We know that there are deep and genuine concerns in religious communities; we know that people are feeling vulnerable and scared, but have no doubt that I am listening to these concerns and we are responding. The diversity of this country and our shared values of tolerance and respect are what make us truly great. We will never allow those who seek to divide us to win. The freedom to practise any religion or none is a cornerstone of our democratic society. People must have the peace of mind to worship without fear, and I am doing everything within my power to make this possible. ...

**Diane Abbott (Labour):** ... The Opposition welcome his statement in principle, particularly the Ramadan package. We are aware that there is particular fear in some of our communities as we enter the period of Ramadan. However, we reserve the right to return to the subject as the detail of implementation becomes clear.

Across the world we are seeing a rise in terror attacks especially on people in their place of worship. The House should contemplate what it means to be gathered together to pray to your God and find yourself a victim of murder and terrorism. In Sri Lanka we saw more than 200 people die, including hundreds of people at Easter services in Christian churches. We all saw the images of the terrorist entering the church with the rucksack on his back, patting a small child on the head and then proceeding to blow up the innocent worshippers. This followed the terror attacks in Christchurch on Muslim worshippers, which claimed the lives of 50 people and injured 40 more. The attack was livestreamed on Facebook. Most recently, a gunman stormed a synagogue, killing an innocent woman on the last day of Passover. The concern must be that, in this era of online, when someone can literally livestream their terror, there is a danger of copycat incidents. That is one of the things that has inspired fear in different communities.

On this side of the House, we want to make it clear that these terror attacks are murderous and vile, whether they come from admirers of al-Qaeda or ISIS or from admirers of tinpot Adolf Hitlers. As we move towards the European elections, sadly, we may well see a rise in far right activity, which may seek to mirror some of the terrorist attacks that we have seen. That is why we believe that this statement is timely and to be welcomed.

These terror attacks spread ripples of violence throughout communities and countries. The Metropolitan police report that racist and religious hate crimes in London hit their highest levels in a year immediately following the Christchurch mosque shootings. Tell MAMA, the Muslim community organisation, said that there was an almost sixfold increase in reports to its monitoring service immediately after the Christchurch attack. Separately, the Community Security Trust also reports rising incidents. My own Haredi Jewish community in Stamford Hill have seen a steep rise in attacks; sadly, they do not always report them to the police, although I am working with them to encourage them to go to the authorities after all such incidents. There have been similar reports from police forces and monitoring

community organisations across the country.

The proposals that the Home Secretary has announced are both timely and appropriate, but we will follow up some of the measures. For instance, the Opposition will wish to know where the worship protection security fund is being allocated, and which organisations have applied for and been awarded the funding. My experience is that sometimes those who obtain Government funding are better at putting in applications, rather than necessarily being the organisations in most need. ...

The terrorist incidents that we have been seeing are both frightening and tragic. We as a House must assure vulnerable communities of our intent to support them, whether financially or in other ways. I welcome the Home Secretary's statement, but he can be assured that we will be following up how it actually unfolds in practice.

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** ... The right hon. Lady rightly started by condemning the recent terrorist attacks around the world—in Christchurch, Sri Lanka and San Diego. She was also right to make a link between those attacks and what she called the ripple effect—the rise in recorded hate crime that we have sadly seen here in our own country. ...

**Steve Double (Conservative):** ... This issue is not just about buildings. People of faith live out their faith day in, day out in their homes and in their communities, so will he confirm that he will continue to do all he can to ensure we remain an open and tolerant society, and that the principles of freedom of faith, freedom of worship and freedom of speech will continue to be upheld for people of every faith?

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** ... He is right to highlight that this is not just about buildings—bricks and mortar—but the environment that people feel exists for them to practise and talk about their faith. ... There are a number of groups that both my Department and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government work with to try to create the all-important environment that gives people the freedom and security to practise their faith, no matter what that faith is.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** ... Everybody should be able to practise and observe their religion without fear. Any sensible measure that will help to make that happen is to be welcomed. Listening to what our religious communities need is paramount, so I welcome in particular what he said about consultation. It is a tragedy that we are having to have this discussion on how to protect places of worship in 2019. One reason we are having to do so is that online space has been ruthlessly exploited by those who would peddle hate and encourage such attacks. ...

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** ... the Home Secretary ... is right to be very clear that no one should ever be in fear as a result of following their faith.

Will the Home Secretary clarify whether the funding that he announced today is a further development from the announcements in March? Will he say what is being done to address online radicalisation and online religious hate crimes? ... In particular, what action is he aware of to tackle the closed Facebook groups that still have huge numbers of members and about which there are real concerns that religious hate crimes are being pursued?

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** ... The £1.6 million for places of worship is not new, although there is more detail available on it today; I also announced the £5 million for training at the time. What is new today is the Ramadan package.

Like other colleagues, the right hon. Lady expressed her concern about how online platforms are being used. In particular, she mentioned Facebook. When legislation is in place, it will naturally be easier to take action. However, as I have said, there is action that online platforms can take today, including on closed groups. ...

**Kate Green (Labour):** ... may I also raise the concerns that my constituents have expressed about safety around schools? In particular, Muslim mothers in traditional dress are highly visible as they collect or drop off children and are often vulnerable to abuse and hate attacks. Will the Home Secretary work with his colleague to advise and support

schools to ensure that children and parents are safe whenever they attend school premises?

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** ... I mentioned in my statement that there is £14 million of support for the Jewish community, as there should be. Most of that is for Jewish schools. It is right that we take a fresh look at other schools and religious establishments where people of certain faiths gather. Schools and community centres would be included in that. ...

**Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op):** ... I remain deeply concerned about the neo-Nazi, extreme-right organisations that are targeting communities throughout the United Kingdom, especially Muslim and Jewish communities. Can the Home Secretary update me on the organisation System Resistance Network, which has been active in my south Wales constituency? It is simply an offshoot of National Action, and I have called for it to be proscribed.

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** ... As for the proscription of groups, whatever type of terrorism or extremism they preach, we take that incredibly seriously. The hon. Gentleman will know that ours was the first Government to proscribe a far-right organisation, National Action. If any proscribed organisation comes up with aliases or tries to get around the rules, we take that very seriously as well. ...

**Mike Gapes (Change UK):** ... Will the Home Secretary encourage his officials to do more to pursue a policy of interfaith dialogue and co-operation because, ultimately, it is through understanding and co-operation that we will deal with these problems?

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** I strongly agree. ...

**Jim Shannon (DUP):** ... Hate crimes based on religion were at record levels last year, partly due to antisemitism and to Islamophobic incidents. While security is absolutely necessary, I believe that there is a need for a two-pronged approach, so can he tell the House what has been done to promote freedom of religious belief more generally, so that there would be no need for extra security at places of worship?

**Reply from Sajid Javid:** ... I wish we did not have to have a statement like this today because none of us felt that we needed to provide protection for places of worship. Sadly, that is not the case and I know he agrees that we are absolutely right to focus on this. At the same time, we need to continue to ensure that our laws and regulations and the environment for religious worship are as strong as they can be, and I hope that today's announcement will help to give reassurance to people of all faiths that, where protection is needed, it will be provided.

**To read this very lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-07/debates/21C4190A-5CAB-43DA-8360-AA944753E549/PlacesOfWorshipSecurityFunding>

## UK Parliament House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

### Places of Worship: Protective Security Funding

*The Minister of State, Home Office, Baroness Williams of Trafford repeated the statement made by the Home Secretary in the House of Commons (see above)*

**Lord Rosser (Labour):** ... The Statement deals with a serious issue, in the light not only of the tragic and sickening events elsewhere in the world but of events on our own doorstep, with the increasing number of attacks causing damage to synagogues, temples, mosques, churches and other places of worship, with the fear that, before long, those attacks could be directed more at worshippers than at just the buildings themselves.

It is a sorry state of affairs when people of different faiths do not always feel safe simply practising their religion. The language of hate that seems increasingly to be used only ramps up the likelihood of such attacks. What is even more appalling is that that language

is used by some who hold or seek to hold office in our democratic structures and intuitions, and by so doing give that language an air of respectability.

Places of worship should be open to the public as havens for quiet reflection, contemplation, prayer and worship, and as places where an understanding hearing and help may be found. But it is increasingly difficult to keep places of worship open for most of the day because of the threat of attacks in one form or another—increasingly difficult because people, often volunteers, are needed inside to ensure that nothing untoward occurs, and, even then, a single person on their own may feel too vulnerable to want to carry out that role even when they have the time.

We support making more money available for protective security measures as a means of seeking to reduce fear and apprehension for those practising their faith in places of worship. But this cannot be regarded as a solution to the problem. We need, beyond the increased security measures set out in the Statement, resources directed at those who preach or practise hatred or encourage others to do so, and in particular also at those who might find such messages seductive or compelling. That requires further resources not simply for our seriously overstretched police but for community organisations and local government and our schools, for example, which have also been denuded to the bone to the detriment of the extent and level of what they can achieve in this field. ...

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat):** ... She repeated the Home Secretary's four specific items. I thought that the third, which was, "consulting religious communities on what more can and should be done to help them", might have been the first one in the list. The amounts of money which are mentioned are welcome, but they are very small when one compares them to the cost to the community of an attack—any sort of attack, but particularly a major attack. The aim must be to eliminate religious hatred.

The focus of this Statement—I do not think it pretends to be otherwise—seems to be on relatively low-level physical security. ...

I have a couple of questions for the Minister about the application form on the Home Office website. There are questions about the building, asking whether: "The exterior and interior ... is in a good state of repair and look well maintained", whether there is "natural surveillance"—I am not sure what that means—and whether it is in a conservation area. What is the relevance of some of these questions? There are questions about security measures, such as whether personal injury or assault has been experienced in the past 12 months and whether the building is, "visible and identifiable as a place of worship? e.g. Symbolism/description on exterior of building, building dominate town or hidden away etc". My reaction on reading that is that we should be loud and proud about faiths which are practised. Again, will the Minister tell the House the purpose of such questions?

Five million pounds is proposed over three years for training. I appreciate that the Community Security Trust is outside this scheme, but I mention it because I was struck by an email circulated to members of my synagogue asking for volunteers to come forward for specific levels of training, and I realised how much these groups depend on volunteers. Is the Home Office satisfied that all communities that need training will be able to access this funding? ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... The noble Lord commented that this is not just about buildings. He is absolutely right—it is not just about buildings. Just securing a building will not create confidence or put the minds of communities at rest. I do not know whether he recalls it, but the reassurance that was provided by the police following the "punish a Muslim" letter was exemplary. Communities up and down the country were very grateful for that, and the police will be doing the same over Ramadan. ...

[Baroness Hamwee] also talked about some of the funny things on the application form. As she listed them, I reflected on why you would need to know whether the institution in question was in a conservation area. I surmise that it is because you would need to know what you can stick on the outside of or put around buildings.

Certainly, whether a building is secluded or in full sight will influence the risk assessment. Similarly, a building in a poor state of repair is clearly more of a security risk. Basically, it allows an assessment of risk.

The noble Baroness talked about the £5 million-worth of training and asked whether all communities that need training will get it. I really hope that communities that need it will come forward. The consultation will be online very shortly. I know that organisations such as the CST and Tell MAMA are fully engaged when it comes to working with each other, so there will be community involvement and participation. I look forward to the details of the consultation coming online in due course. ...

**The Lord Bishop of Rochester:** ... The Minister has already observed the tragic events in Christchurch, Sri Lanka and San Diego. It seems to me that one of the learnings from those events is the impossibility of predicting where, or even when, a dreadful event might occur. With that in mind, I am particularly grateful for the broadening of the eligibility criteria in relation to potential grants from the fund, whereby it is now not necessary for places of worship to have experienced an incident of hate crime in order to make an application. ... the balance between ensuring security and maintaining welcome and openness ... is a daily concern for our cathedrals and other nationally significant places of worship of different faith traditions, but it is also relevant for what one might call the humbler, local ones. Reference has already been made to the role of volunteers in making sure that buildings remain open. It seems that continued engagement is needed on how to get the balance right between, on the one hand, openness and accessibility and, on the other, the security of both buildings and persons.

I have a final observation and question on the security of persons. I am conscious that some religious leaders in the public eye—I am not thinking particularly of people like me—might be at greater risk precisely when they are not within their place of worship. ... It is when they are at home, with their family or in other settings that the risks might be greater. Is consideration being given to support in terms of security in the homes of the public religious leaders of faith communities? ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... the real benefit of the consultation is that people ... can point out some of the wider risks that we have not perhaps considered in deliberating on the security of not just places of worship but the people who worship there and those who lead people in worship. ...

People go to places of worship for such a wide range of reasons. ... It is always so sad when a church or other place of worship is closed for security reasons. ...

**Lord Harris of Haringey (Labour):** ... Three years ago, I reviewed London's preparedness for a major terrorist incident and had some consultation meetings with faith communities. Complacency may be the wrong word, but I was concerned about the sense that came across from so many of the faith communities that "this would not happen to us because we are good people", and therefore their unwillingness even to contemplate it. ... I was slightly concerned that this is a Statement made by the Home Office as much for show as for reality. This is not new money ... Spending £1.6 million between the country's 60,000 places of worship equals £26 each, which does not buy much in the way of CCTV or physical preventions. ...

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** ... I think it is fair to say that we are all complacent until something happens to us—we never quite think that it will. He asks whether this is all for show. No, it is not. As we go into the holy month of Ramadan, there are people who are concerned, and I think it absolutely right to reiterate what is and what will be available to them and to give them reassurance. ...

**To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-05-07/debates/87DD4900-8974-4B6F-80C6-B5A5626C240B/PlacesOfWorshipProtectiveSecurityFunding>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

### Religious Buildings: Security

**Catherine West (Labour)** [248748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the recent shooting at the San Diego synagogue, what urgent steps he is taking to provide additional funding for security at places of worship.

**Reply from Ben Wallace:** The police are aware of events taking place around the world such as San Diego, Sri Lanka and Christchurch and adapt their operational policing plans, including increased high visibility patrolling, to protect and reassure all our faith communities.

On 19 March, the Home Secretary announced a boost in funding for the hate crime Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme to £1.6 million for 2019/20 (excluding synagogues). This is double the amount awarded in 2018/19. Furthermore, £5 million over three years has also been committed to providing security training to places of worship in England and Wales. This will enable staff and volunteers to develop the security understanding necessary to make security measures work more effectively.

On 27 February, the Home Secretary announced increased funding for the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant to £14 million for 2019/20. Although this fund is focused primarily on security at Jewish Schools a proportion of funding is allocated to the security of synagogues. This Grant was introduced in 2015 following a number of terrorist attacks on Jews and Jewish sites in Europe.

More widely, the Home Secretary has committed to consulting with faith communities to understand what more could and should be done to help protect faith communities at their places of worship.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-29/248748/>

*The announcement relating to the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme, referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-to-get-security-funding-boost>

*The announcement about the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant is not available online, but information about the announcement can be read at*

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47389912>

## Press Release

**TUC, community groups and charities call on politicians to stand up against hate speech during European elections**

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-community-groups-and-charities-call-politicians-stand-against-hate-speech-during-european>

## New Publication

**The (Democratic) Football Lads Alliance: a Far Right Antechamber?**

<https://www.fair-matters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/dfla.pdf>

## News

### **Scottish Labour embroiled in new racism row**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-labour-embroiled-in-new-racism-row-1-4924693>

### **Sajid Javid: I get abuse because of my colour**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48226528>

### **Sajid Javid says he is attacked daily online by Asians and the 'far Left' because he is not 'brown enough'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/10/sajid-javid-says-attacked-daily-online-asians-far-left-not-brown/>

### **'People don't like me because of my colour,' Sajid Javid says after online abuse from far right and left**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sajid-javid-abuse-racism-far-left-right-twitter-attacks-a8909376.html>

### **Nigel Farage facing criticism over 'antisemitic tropes' on far-right talkshow**

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17622283.nigel-farage-facing-criticism-over-antisemitic-tropes-on-far-right-talkshow/>

### **30ft swastika painted on business belonging to Jewish Brexit party candidate, as police announce investigation**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/08/30ft-swastika-painted-business-belonging-jewish-brexiteer-party/>

### **Racism claim made life a nightmare, says councillor David McLachlan**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-06/scotland/racism-claim-made-life-a-nightmare-says-councillor-david-mclachlan-fgsb2rrv3>

### **Poison of antisemitism has returned to infect our politics, says Tony Blair**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-07/news/poison-of-antisemitism-has-returned-to-infect-our-politics-says-tony-blair-50dmsqmk>

### **Hate preachers banned from UK eight times in extremism crackdown by Sajid Javid**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/07/hate-preachers-banned-uk-eight-times-extremism-crackdown-sajid/>

### **Police hunt man who said he wanted to set black people 'on fire'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-48238593>

### **Hundreds of students in UK sanctioned over racist or offensive online posts**

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/may/06/hundreds-of-students-in-uk-sanctioned-over-racist-or-offensive-online-posts>

### **Football racism: 'Monkey chants aimed at children'**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-48093032>

### **Children as young as seven 'victims of racist abuse' on football pitch**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/football-racism-discrimination-young-children-seven-bame-a8901251.html>

**Evil racist abuse of players must stop, says Chelsea's Callum Hudson-Odoi**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/may/06/callum-hudson-odoi-evil-racist-abuse-must-stop-england>

**Danny Baker's not a racist — but he had to go after chimp tweet**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-09/news/danny-baker-s-not-a-racist-but-he-had-to-go-r63dpz9sh>

**Is extremism really getting worse?**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-48126648>

**Racism in political parties reflects pervasive prejudice in Brexit Britain**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/07/racism-politics-reflects-pervasive-prejudice-brexit-britain>

**Holocaust Memorial Day 2020: 75 Memorial Flames – A project for UK community groups**

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/75-Memorial-Flames-Project-Brief.pdf>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**Investing in communities**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/investing-in-communities/>

**Vulnerable Witnesses Bill passed**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/vulnerable-witnesses-bill-passed/>

### News

**Presiding Officer: Holyrood has not made any progress on number of female MSPs**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17624256.presiding-officer-holyrood-has-not-made-any-progress-on-number-of-female-msps/>

**Nicola Sturgeon: Parliament has been a success and force for good**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17633180.nicola-sturgeon-parliament-has-been-a-success-and-force-for-good/>

**Nicola Sturgeon: Why the Scottish Parliament can inspire the world**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/nicola-sturgeon-why-the-scottish-parliament-can-inspire-the-world-1-4925201>

**Professor Michael Keating: We were promised a liberating 'new politics'. Has Holyrood delivered?**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17634267.professor-michael-keating-we-were-promised-a-liberating-new-politics-has-holyrood-delivered/>

## 20 years on, the Scottish Parliament must find a new, stronger voice

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17633471.herald-view-20-years-on-the-scottish-parliament-must-find-a-new-stronger-voice/>

## Over two decades, how Holyrood's powers grew

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17632806.over-two-decades-how-holyroods-powers-grew/>

## Holyrood voting system 'hard to understand' says top official

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/holyrood-voting-system-hard-to-understand-says-top-official-1-4924692>

## Holyrood chief calls for re-think of Scottish Parliament's voting system

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17630520.holyrood-chief-calls-for-re-think-of-scottish-parliaments-voting-system/>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Offensive Weapons Bill: Carrying the Kirpan

**Jim Shannon (DUP):** The Offensive Weapons Bill seeks to strengthen legislation on weapons such as knives. The Bill is important, but friends in the Sikh community were concerned that it would impinge on their freedom to carry the kirpan, or ceremonial sword, which is an ingrained part of their religious practice similar to wearing a cross. There must always be a balance between freedom and public safety. I am delighted that the Government have considered that balance and amended the Bill to accommodate Sikh religious freedom. That positive result highlights the importance of considering freedom of religion or belief in all Government policy. Will the Leader of the House join me and others in welcoming that decision?

**Andrea Leadsom:** I am delighted the hon. Gentleman raises this issue. He is absolutely right to point out that the Government fully support religious freedom. The Government were pleased that the issue of wearing the kirpan was brought to their attention, so that the Offensive Weapons Bill could be amended and the protection of religious freedoms of the Sikh community ensured.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-09/debates/3E1EEF18-D129-4798-92A9-F3504ADD4CE1/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-5C847909-5149-458B-B041-E6D24AC23F30>

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### Female Genital Mutilation

**Baroness Hamwee ((Liberal Democrat) [HL15275]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what information leaflets they publish about female genital mutilation; and whether any of these are in an easy read format for people with limited literacy.

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

The Home Office's FGM unit is driving a step change in our nationwide out-reach on FGM. The Unit is providing outreach support to local areas and working to raise

awareness of resources available to professionals, including training, best practice examples and information on legislation and policy. Resources include an e-learning package, various communication materials such as leaflets and posters highlighting the legislation and health impacts of FGM and an online resource pack for local areas. These materials are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-leaflet>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-opposing-female-genital-mutilation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fact-sheet-on-mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fgm-campaign-materials>

The FGM communications campaign and materials were developed following consultation with the FGM sector and the need for easy read materials was not raised during this consultation. These materials are not available in Easy Read format but have been drafted to be accessible to those with a basic understanding of English.

[FGM Mandatory Reporting - Fact Sheet](#)

[FGM Passport](#)

[FGM - The Fact Sheet](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-24/HL15275/>

## Press Releases

**PM speech at Vaisakhi reception: 8 May 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-at-vaisakhi-reception-8-may-2019>

**Lord Ahmad's Ramadan message 2019**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lord-ahmads-ramadan-message-2019>

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## New Publication

**UK Giving 2019: An overview of charitable giving in the UK**

<https://www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-publications/caf-uk-giving-2019-report-an-overview-of-charitable-giving-in-the-uk.pdf>

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## Other News

**Regulators urge people to give safely to charities this Ramadan**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulators-urge-people-to-give-safely-to-charities-this-ramadan>

**Supporting Muslim colleagues during Ramadan**

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

## **Bills in Progress** \*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **\*\* Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill**

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

Health and Sport Committee Stage 2 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12078&i=109272#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20\(Authorisation\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill32AS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Human%20Tissue%20(Authorisation)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill32AS052019.pdf)

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

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

Revised Explanatory Notes

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20\(Criminal%20Evidence\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill34AENS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20(Criminal%20Evidence)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill34AENS052019.pdf)

Proposed amendments for Stage 3

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5\\_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20\(Criminal%20Evidence\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill34AMLS052019.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Vulnerable%20Witnesses%20(Criminal%20Evidence)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill34AMLS052019.pdf)

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12083&i=109364#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 Debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12083&i=109365#ScotParlOR>

Bill as passed

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12083&i=109366#ScotParlOR>

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

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

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

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

#### **Banknote Diversity**

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

## **Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill**

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

## **Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill**

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

## **Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill**

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

## **Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill**

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

## **Online Forums Bill**

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

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

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

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill**

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

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill**

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**Improving Disability Assistance** (closing date 28 May 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/improving-disability-assistance/>

**EU Settlement Scheme: Call for evidence** (closing date 31 May 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-settlement-scheme-call-for-evidence>

**Online Harms White Paper** (closing date 1 July 2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

**Experiences of Islamophobia** (closing date not stated)

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

**Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers**

(closing date not stated)

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

**Police Scotland: Your view counts** (open all year)

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

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## Job Opportunities

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

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

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## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* Investing in Communities fund**

*Closing date 14 June 2019*

Scottish Government funding to empower communities, enabling them to tackle poverty, inequality and disadvantage on their own terms, in turn supporting inclusive growth. This new fund supports a range of activity through a staged funding approach, enabling communities to:

- build community capacity and strengthen community anchor organisations
- better understand and identify their local aspirations and priorities
- increase active inclusion and develop opportunities for enhanced engagement for groups who are more vulnerable and harder to reach
- create local plans and proposals in collaboration with partners
- prioritise local budgets and access funds
- develop local assets, services and projects that respond to the needs of the people in their communities

- deliver community-led solutions that tackle priorities that matter most to communities; and/or
- develop local interventions which offer opportunities and pathways for social and community integration.

For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>

and for application forms and guidance see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/investing-in-communities-fund-application-form-and-guidance/>

### **Diversity Week Activity Fund – Fife**

*Closing date not stated*

Fife Centre for Equalities funding of up to £100 for groups hosting a one-off activity that will take place during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 2-8 September 2019, and will encourage people to celebrate the diverse population in Fife. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/y45jmk92>

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

14 May 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

28 May 2019 in Stirling (9.30-12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment, and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

14 May 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

28 May 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

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

**\*\* this week!**

### **Meet the Charity Regulator**

14 May 2019 in Srathpeffer (9.30-12.15)

29 May 2019 in Aberdeen (1.15-4.00)

25 June 2019 in Troon (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2019 in Dunfermline (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2019 in Glasgow (1.15-4.00)

1 October 2019 in Fort William (9.30-12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and board and ask questions. For information see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator-2019/>

**\*\* this week!**

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training) or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto: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/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / [martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence**

30 May 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid training to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for BME women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2lp7pfz>

### **Volunteers' Week Scotland 2019**

1-7 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Volunteers' Week is a time to say thank you for the fantastic contribution volunteers make, and recognise their invaluable and diverse contribution to the UK. For information see <https://www.volunteersweek.scot/>

### **No Recourse to Public Funds**

11 June 2019 in Glasgow

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current immigration status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support to maintain tenancies where difficulties arise. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/>

### **Scotland Welcomes Refugees Gathering 2019**

15 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.30)

Scotland Welcomes Refugees Coalition event connecting welcome groups, grassroots movements, like-minded individuals, and refugees. It will be a family-friendly showcase of international art, music, storytelling, and much more, celebrating the variety of backgrounds that refugees bring to our communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4q2hk57>

### **Refugee Festival Scotland**

20-30 June 2019 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland celebrates the contribution refugees make to life in Scotland, and offers people from different backgrounds the chance to meet and celebrate together. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/about/>

### **The Great Get Together**

21-23 June 2019 (Scotland wide)

The Great Get Together is inspired by Jo Cox, who was killed on 16 June 2016. The organisers believe there is a groundswell of people who reject divisive politics and simply want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. This is our chance. For information and resources see <http://www.greatgettogether.org/take-part/>

### **We Are One – Citizenfest**

9-10 August 2019 in Glasgow

Festival asserting and celebrating diversity and equality with a programme of events in a variety of city centre venues: celebrating our rights – ethnic, political, minority, and common human rights – through music, seminars, food, drama, talks, art, and much more. For information see <https://www.facebook.com/citizenfestweareone>

### **Working with unaccompanied refugee children**

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](mailto: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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Age assessment awareness**

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](mailto:martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk)

### **Engaging with seldom heard voices**

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](mailto: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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