



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

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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Mohammad Zahir Zazai (Visa)

Sandra White (SNP): The First Minister will be aware of the issue regarding Sabir Zazai, chief executive of the Scottish Refugee Council. The University of Glasgow, which is in my constituency, is awarding Sabir an honorary doctorate, yet the Home Office is refusing his father a visa to enter the United Kingdom to attend the ceremony. That is absolutely disgraceful. Can the Scottish Government take any steps to apply pressure on the UK Government to ensure that Sabir's father can enter the country and attend this significant ceremony?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Those who know Sabir Zazai are aware that, over 20 years in the UK, he has made a significant contribution in supporting refugees in communities. I thank him for the contribution that he makes

to this country, and I am delighted that the University of Glasgow has chosen to recognise that. All of us understand that it is entirely natural that he wants to share that outstanding achievement with his father. It is hard for any of us to comprehend the disappointment that he must feel that his father's visa application has been refused. That is shameful and inexplicable. I call on the UK Government to reflect carefully on its decision. The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government has written to the UK Minister of State for Immigration to ask her to look into the case. Today, I reiterate that request very strongly indeed.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12102&i=109485#ScotParlO>

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration Applications: Fee Structure

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-14/debates/EA89E986-FFE8-46E0-815C-51EE140F0861/ImmigrationApplicationsFeeStructure>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

Daniel Zeichner (Labour): What recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the effectiveness of the EU settlement scheme for European economic area nationals. [910922]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Robin Walker): This is a hugely important scheme designed to help EEA and EU citizens take up their rights and deliver on the Government's commitment that we want them to stay. I regularly meet colleagues in the Home Office to discuss the scheme, and it is important to note that the Home Office has received more than 650,000 applications so far, with thousands more being received every week. Applications are free and there is plenty of time to apply.

Daniel Zeichner: If the Government really wanted to make non-UK EU nationals feel welcome and wanted them to stay, they would make this an easy system. In fact, people have to have the right phone. If they do not have the right phone, they have to go to an ID scanning centre. But just look at where those centres have been placed; they are all around London, so the Secretary of State's constituents and my constituents have to travel all the way to Bedford, Peterborough or London. Why is there not at least an ID scanning centre in every county?

Reply from Robin Walker: The hon. Gentleman makes an important point about the accessibility of the scheme, and I agree that it should be accessible. There are going to be 200 assisted digital locations across the UK to support people to register, including one in the hon. Gentleman's constituency of Cambridge, which he should welcome.

Kirsty Blackman (SNP): It is all well and good for the Minister to say that there are going to be these centres, but they are not here yet. My constituents are having to travel to Glasgow for ID scanning because there is not an opportunity to do that in Aberdeen, where there is only a small library centre. I am incredibly concerned—that issue has been highlighted to me—that women fleeing domestic violence are being told that that, because their application is a bit more difficult, they will have to go all the way to Glasgow, when they are already suffering from destitution as a result of domestic violence.

Reply from Robin Walker: I take on board the hon. Lady's point and I am happy to discuss it with colleagues at the Home Office. As well as the assisted digital locations and the scanning centres that she mentioned, it is also possible for people

to apply via the Android app. My colleagues at the Home Office have also been in regular talks with Apple to ensure that applications can also be made through its devices. There is a whole range of ways in which people can apply. Face-to-face support at home is also available to help particularly vulnerable people complete their applications.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-16/debates/9A979025-ED87-4631-A9DC-29A7D3420C0D/EUSettlementScheme>

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Assessments

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [253714] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to include adult and child safeguarding in the Life in the UK Test.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There is currently a “fundamental principles” section in the handbook which covers domestic violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

However, the Home Secretary has announced a review of the handbook and test, and we will be revising it and the test to place greater emphasis on British values. In doing so, it is important that we focus on both the rights and responsibilities of citizens and on the importance of being active citizens.

We are currently considering how this will be taken forward.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253714/>

Immigration: Applications

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [252622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the average time taken was for UK Visas & Immigration to process indefinite leave to remain applications in each year since 2010; what proportion of those applications application were responded to outside of the 20-day service standard; and what the average number of days was for those response times that exceeded the service standard.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We do not publish this specific data for all applications for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), however the vast majority of such cases are dealt with within the service standard of 6 months (which applies to straightforward applications, where the customer has met all their obligations). Where an application is defined as non-straightforward, due to complexity, the customer will be written to within the normal processing time to explain why it will not be decided within the normal standard, and to explain what will happen next).

The published statistics on leave to remain applications that have been processed within service standard can be found in the migration transparency data release

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/in-country-migration-data-february-2019> at: InC_02: Percentage of In-Country visa applications, for each Route, processed within Service Standards.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252622/>

Visas: Sponsorship

Jo Stevens (Labour) [252053] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what assessment his Department has made of trends in the number of companies in the (a) digital, (b) arts and (c) sports sectors registered to sponsor immigration visas of any tier with a view to ensuring preparedness in the sector for the new immigration system after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals in “The UK’s future Skills-based Immigration System” White Paper, which is due to come into force from January 2021.

We are determined to ensure that the future immigration system is efficient and able to respond to users’ needs, and as proposed in the White Paper, we will reform existing sponsorship arrangements – streamlining, simplifying and minimising bureaucracy.

The Government values the positive contribution made to the UK by the digital, arts and sporting sectors and we want this to continue. We will ensure that the new system continues to support the UK’s thriving cultural and sporting life and will also explore options to support start-up companies in our new, expanding digital technology sector.

The White Paper is the start of a conversation and we have launched a year-long engagement programme to take the views of a range of stakeholders across the UK, including the digital, arts and sporting sectors.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252053/>

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

Immigrants: Employment

Jessica Morden (Labour) [251952] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recourse is available to people who have a right to work in the UK when they have lost their job as a result of an employer failing to use the Employer Checking Service; and what guidance his Department has issued to employers on their responsibilities in relation to that service.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office issued guidance to employers on 28 January 2019 on how they can use the on-line digital service in complying with their responsibilities under the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 on the prevention of illegal working. The online service provides an alternative digital means for individuals to evidence their right to work if they hold a biometric residence permit or biometric residence card or status under the EU Settlement Scheme. The Home Office guidance clearly stipulates that employers should provide individuals with every opportunity to demonstrate their right to work. They should not discriminate on the basis of whether or not an individual is able or willing to demonstrate their right to work using the online checking service, as opposed to using physical documents specified in Home Office regulations which continue to be acceptable. The guidance makes clear that employers who do so risk breaching the Equality Act 2010. Where employees have an outstanding immigration application or appeal, the Home Office provides a separate employer checking service which provides emailed confirmation to the employer of the person’s continuing right to work in these circumstances. The Home Office has issued a statutory code of practice for employers on how to avoid unlawful discrimination whilst conducting right to work checks.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251952/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

Service Industries: Migrant Workers

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [250794] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure that non-EU migrants working in the (a) cleaning and (b) hospitality industry receive the statutory rights they are entitled to under UK law.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: Non-EU migrants working legally in the UK are entitled to the same workplace statutory protections as any other worker. Fair and effective enforcement is central to the Good Work Plan, which sets out the biggest upgrade of employment rights in a generation. Building on existing minimum wage and agency worker enforcement, we are expanding state enforcement to cover holiday payments for the most vulnerable workers and intermediary companies that operate in the agency worker market.

Government has taken concrete measures to increase the number of labour market inspectors and extend their coverage.

- Government has increased funding for HMRC's enforcement of the National Minimum and Living Wage (NMW) to a record high of £26.3 million for 2018/19.
- Funding for the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) has also risen in the last two years to reflect the expansion of its remit to tackle labour exploitation. The GLAA now receives over £7m per year in funding, up from £4.5m in 2016/17.
- The Employment Agency Standards Inspectorate has seen its funding increase from £0.5m in 2016/17 to £0.725m in 2018/19.

These three enforcement bodies continue to ensure workers receive the protections they are entitled to. As well as responding to every complaint they receive, all three undertake proactive, intelligence-led enforcement, targeting employers and sectors where the risks of non-compliance are highest, including in the cleaning and hospitality sectors.

Government is also exploring options for a single labour market enforcement body – we will publish proposals on this for consultation shortly. More recently we announced that this consultation will consider extending the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority's licensing scheme to further sectors and that we will ensure trade unions and businesses are consulted on the strategic direction of labour market enforcement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-03/250794/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Migrant Workers: NHS and Social Services

Jim Shannon (DUP) [251318] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure effective recruitment from (a) EU and (b) non-EU countries to meet demand for NHS and social care workers after the UK leaves the EU.

Visas: Nurses

Jim Shannon (DUP) [251319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the salary exemption for nurses under Tier 2 visas will (a) be maintained and (b) extended to EEA citizens after the UK leaves the EU.

Migrant Workers: Social Services

Jim Shannon (DUP) [251320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, steps he is taking to ensure that adequate numbers of non-UK care workers are able to work in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have been clear that we want all EU nationals, including those working in the NHS and the care sector, to stay in the UK after we leave the EU.

In December 2018, the Government set out its proposals in “The UK’s future Skills-based Immigration System” White Paper. The White Paper proposals include a new route for skilled workers which will be open to anyone at RQF level 3 and above, irrespective of where they are applying from. This route will not be capped allowing all of those who meet our requirements to come to the UK and we intend to abolish the existing Resident Labour Market Test for highly skilled roles.

The White Paper also includes, as a transitional measure, a temporary workers route which will be open to anyone from qualifying countries, wishing to fill positions at any skill level, for up to 12 months. We do not intend to impose a cap on the number of people wishing to use the route.

In their report on the impact of EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended maintaining the existing system of salary thresholds.

The Government is undertaking an extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of stakeholders across the UK, over the course of this year, including with the private, public and voluntary sector and local government, as well as industry representatives and individual businesses before taking a final decision on the level of salary thresholds.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-07/251318/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-07/251319/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-07/251320/>

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

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Patrick Grady (SNP) [251347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish a response to Early Day Motion (a) 2358 on Changes to visa requirements for religious workers and (b) 2362 on Tier 5 visas for ministers of religion.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government very much values the importance of religious and cultural expression to our communities in the UK and we continue to welcome Ministers of Religion from all faiths who wish to come to the UK in accordance with our Immigration Rules.

There are two routes for Religious Workers in the current immigration system.

Tier 2 Ministers of Religion is for those playing a leading role as faith leaders in our religious institutions. This category requires those coming to have a strong command of the English language in order to ensure Ministers of Religion can lead their congregations effectively and can interact with the wider communities they serve.

The second route, Tier 5 Religious Workers, is for those undertaking non-pastoral roles supporting the activities of these institutions. In line with our other temporary work categories, Tier 5 Religious Workers are not required to demonstrate their English language skills when applying for a visa.

We have taken steps to prevent our temporary work categories being used as a

means to live in the UK for longer periods. Tier 5 is designed to facilitate short periods of knowledge sharing and cultural exchange and yet we have identified evidence of migrants using our Tier 5 Religious Worker and Charity Worker routes to facilitate near continuous residence in the UK.

We made changes to the Immigration Rules in October 2018 to preclude the use of Tier 5 by minister of Religion and to introduce a 'cooling off period', preventing Tier 5 Religious worker and Tier 5 Charity Worker visa holders from returning to the UK, via these immigration routes, for 12 months after their visa expires. This approach underpins the Government's intention that these are temporary routes.

Bona fide Ministers of Religion are still welcome to come to the UK and that there remains a route for them in the immigration system through Tier 2.

The Government wrote to faith leaders in December, setting out the detail and explaining the rationale for the changes. Officials remain in regular contact with stakeholders and we are embarking on an extensive programme of engagement, in connection with the future immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-07/251347/>

The Early Day Motions referred to above can be read at

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52887/changes-to-visa-requirements-for-religious-workers>

and

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52889/tier-5-visas-for-ministers-of-religion>

Visas: Ministers of Religion

Matthew Pennycook (Labour) [251348] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for Tier 5 temporary religious worker visas were (a) made and (b) granted in the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information on 'Tier 5 – Religious Workers' entry clearance visa applications and outcomes (granted, refused, withdrawn, lapsed) is published on a quarterly basis in the Home Office's 'Immigration Statistics', Visas data tables volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-07/251348/>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [252023] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to ensure that Windrush compensation scheme payments will not be taken into account in eligibility assessments for means-tested benefits.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government Response to the Windrush Consultation states at paragraph 4.50 on page 39 that we will exempt Windrush compensation payments from the calculation for income related benefits. The Home Office has been working with colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions to action this.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252023/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252029] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the effect of the (a) Allocation of Housing and

Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, (b) Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and (c) Social Security (Income-related Benefits) (Updating and Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 on the right of people with pre-settled status to access public funds.

Social Security Benefits: EEA Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252030] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what discussions she had with stakeholder groups representing EEA citizens on the (a) Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (England) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, (b) Child Benefit and Child Tax Credit (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 and (c) Social Security (Income-related Benefits) (Updating and Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

Reply from Alok Sharma: The Government has always been clear that EU, EEA and Swiss nationals and their family members granted status through the EU Settlement Scheme will be able to continue their lives in the UK much as before, with the same entitlements as now to access benefits, social housing and homelessness assistance services. Those granted pre-settled status under the scheme will not have any change in their entitlement to access benefits and services. A consultation has not been carried out as these regulations do not reflect a change in the existing rules or government policy and therefore will not have any adverse effects. These regulations provide legal clarity to claimants, applicants, decision makers and local authorities, delivering continuity and ensuring that the existing rules are applied fairly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252029/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252030/>

Department for Work and Pensions: Immigration

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252531] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will place in the Library, a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between her Department and HMRC in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Alok Sharma: Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) regarding the EU Settlement Scheme have set out the information sharing arrangements between the Home Office and DWP, and separately, between the Home Office and HMRC. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-uk-tax-and-benefits-records-automated-check>. Each department has direct arrangements with the Home Office, therefore there is no requirement for an MOU between DWP and HMRC.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252531/>

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

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252534] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department undertook an Equality Impact Assessment assessment of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In accordance with the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Government has had due regard to the impacts of the EU Settlement Scheme on those who share a protected characteristic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252534/>

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

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [252535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme whose automated residency check result is (a) wholly or (b) partially unsuccessful will be informed of the reasons for that result.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The automated checks of employment and benefits records of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme by those who choose to provide their National Insurance number have enabled most adults so far granted status under the scheme to be so without needing to provide any further evidence of their UK residence.

Where the automated checks do not provide sufficient evidence of UK residence for the applicant to be granted the status for which they think they qualify, they can upload a wide variety of documentary evidence.

Where this is necessary, the results of the checks will indicate to the applicant which period(s) of residence they need to evidence. We will not be able to tell applicants why the automated check is unable to cover all their UK residence because doing so may introduce the risk of identity theft and abuse. We recognise that some applicants may lack documentary evidence for various reasons, and we will work flexibly with applicants to help them evidence their UK residence by the best means available to them.

More information about the automated checks including why records may not be found in full or in part is available at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-settlement-scheme-uk-tax-and-benefits-records-automated-check>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252535/>

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) [250513] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to investigate the low take up of the private beta testing phase of the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The total number of applications received since the testing of the scheme began on 28 August 2018 is now over 600,000, and we received over 50,000 applications in the first weekend the scheme was fully live.

In total, over 230,000 people applied during the three testing phases of the EU Settlement Scheme. Over 31,000 of these people applied during the two private beta testing phases and we do not consider that this was a low turnout or that it needs investigating. It was not our intention to process high volumes during these phases, which were implemented gradually to bring the systems up to scale in a controlled way. This gave us a valuable evidence base from which to assess the application process and allowed for incremental improvements to be made in response to applicant feedback

We have been clear that applying during the testing phases was voluntary and EU citizens will have until 30 June 2021 to apply, in line with the draft Withdrawal Agreement, or until 31 December 2020 in the event of no deal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-02/250513/>

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [252641] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2019 to HL13583, how much of the £170 million reserved for the development and delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme was allocated to (a) the digital application system, (b) the communications campaign to promote awareness of that scheme and (c) caseworkers to process applications to that scheme in the 2018-19 financial year.

Kate Green (Labour) [252643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2019 to HL13583, how much of the £170 million reserved for the development and delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme was used on promoting that scheme in foreign language EU newspapers.

Kate Green (Labour) [252644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2019 to HL13583, how much of the £170 million reserved for the development and delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme was allocated to promoting and advertising that scheme (a) on the radio, (b) on television, (c) online and (d) in print.

Kate Green (Labour) [252648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the cost to the public purse for the (a) development and (b) delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme in 2019-20 will be.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: For the 2018/19 financial year, HM Treasury provided EU Exit funding allocation of £395 million to Home Office. £170 million was been reserved for the development and delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme. Allocation for the requested areas are as follows (these figures are still being audited and may change by the time that they are published):

Caseworkers and staff: £59m

Application system: £63m

The EU Settlement Scheme marketing campaign led by the Home Office did not include advertising in foreign newspapers. However, the Immigration Minister was interviewed by key diaspora media both in broadcast and print for the highest populated EU countries in the UK. The Home Office launched a £3.75m UK wide marketing campaign to encourage EU citizens to apply when the EU Settlement Scheme went live. The campaign ran on radio, catch up tv, online, print with the cost breakdown below. Advertising also ran on outdoor billboards.

a. Radio and digital audio: £410,000

b. Catch up tv: £1,000,000

c. Online (digital and social): £410,000

d. Print: £180,000

Data for 2019/20 financial year expenditure is unavailable as the new financial year has just begun.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252641/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252643/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252644/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252648/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-02-11/HL13583/>

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

Kate Green (Labour) [252645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to meet the access needs of disabled people who wish to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all. We are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to understand user needs and issues and to ensure the right support arrangements are in place for applicants, including those with disabilities.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including up to £9 million grant funding for voluntary and community organisations, to ensure those that require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it.

The Home Office has developed a community toolkit which includes communications materials and specific guidance on the EU Settlement Scheme for local authorities to download to help support individuals.

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

An Assisted Digital service is available for those who do not have the skills, access or confidence to complete the online form.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252645/>

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

Jo Platt (Labour Co-op) [253725] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what standards his Department used in the digital verification of people applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: EU citizens make a huge contribution to our economy and society, and we want them to stay. The EU Settlement Scheme enables them to do so.

The 'EU Exit: Identity Document Check' app is an optional aspect of the service which allows applicants to prove their identity remotely.

The app performs a series of digital security checks on the chip contained within the applicant's identity document that meets the international standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). These checks allow us to establish, to a high level of trust, the authenticity of the identity document and its contents. Where an individual cannot validate their identity document using the app to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme, they can post their identity documents to the Home Office to be checked and returned quickly.

The use of the 'EU Exit: ID Document Check' app is entirely optional, but it offers a

secure and quick way of making an application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253725/>

Asylum

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [253539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to promote Refugee Week 2019; and if he will take steps to ensure his Department promotes the value of refugees and asylum seekers to the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The UK government is committed to humanitarian efforts to support refugees at home and abroad.

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it – and this Government is committed to ensuring refugees can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK. We recognise Refugee Week as an opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions refugees make to UK society.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253539/>

Asylum: Applications

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [251908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the average time taken by his Department to make a decision on an asylum application in each of the last ten years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data on the average time taken to make a decision on an asylum application in each of the last ten years, nor is that information available in a retrievable format.

However, the Home Office do publish data on the number of pending applications that have been awaiting an initial decision for more or less than 6 months. This data can be found at Volume 1, as_01 of the Immigration Statistics December 2018:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251908/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Judith Cummins (Labour) [253591] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is for a decision on an application for asylum.

Judith Cummins (Labour) [253593] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of asylum claims are decided within the Home Office's service standard that 98 per cent of straightforward claims will be decided within 6 months.

Judith Cummins (Labour) [253595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to reduce the time taken for asylum decisions to be made.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not publish data on the average time taken to make a decision on an asylum application. In addition, we cannot provide data on the average time taken to receive a decision in particular region such as Yorkshire and Humber, such data can only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number of pending applications that have been awaiting an initial decision for more or less than 6 months. This data can be found at Volume 1, as_01 of the Immigration Statistics December 2018:

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

In line with our ambition to promote a greater understanding and transparency of the asylum system and to develop service standards that are meaningful and command confidence, plans are underway for UKVI to implement new service standards for asylum case working. This change means UKVI will be moving away from the six-month service standard for straightforward cases which was introduced in 2014.

It had become clear that the current service standard no longer best served those that used our services and a number of stakeholders had been concerned that not all cases were captured by it.

For these reasons, it has been agreed to change how Asylum Operations prioritise their workload. This means, in the short term, Asylum Operations will reprioritise cases by focusing on claims with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required, will also be prioritised. The implications of the change on applicants have been considered and appropriate mitigations put in place, with the most vulnerable groups being prioritised as appropriate.

The intention is for this approach to bring balance back to the asylum system while steps are taken to increase the capacity of the asylum decision making system and focus on process improvements to deliver better quality decisions more efficiently.

To come to a longer-term arrangement for service standards that meet the needs of those seeking asylum and the country, UKVI have engaged with key partners in the Strategic Engagement Group (SEG) and other NGOs to redesign the way in which claims are prioritised. This engagement started on 4 December 2018 and over 100 organisations were invited to service standards workshops, which included members of SEG and National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF) sub groups. 41 organisations out of the 100 attended workshops nationally.

We aim to ensure that we design our new service standards to deliver a world leading immigration service for those seeking asylum in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253591/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253593/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253595/>

Asylum: Employment

Judith Cummins (Labour) [253594] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to allow individuals who have not received a decision on their asylum claim after six months the right to work.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum seekers can work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months, through no fault of their own. Those allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is published by the Home Office and based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

During the Meaningful Vote debate on 5 December, the Home Secretary stated that although there are no current plans to change the current policy, it is an area he wished to review, and work on this is ongoing.

In making any policy changes, it is important to distinguish between those who need protection and economic migrants, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider policy could be undermined if migrants could bypass

work visa routes by lodging unfounded asylum claims.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253594/>

Asylum: Religion

Afzal Khan (Labour) [251363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2019 to Question 235381 on Asylum: Religion, what progress his Department has made on investigating reports that asylum refusals have included quotations from religious texts; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: After reports indicated that an asylum decision included quotations from religious texts and was not drafted in accordance with Home Office policy guidance, Asylum Operations conducted an investigation into this matter. A small number of religious conversion cases were sampled, and no further cases were identified during this sampling exercise.

All such decisions are currently subject to further scrutiny, pending the roll out of additional specialist training, which has been developed in collaboration with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief.

The Asylum Learning and Development Team started to deliver the specialist training package on religious claims on Monday 8 April, which will be mandatory for all asylum decision-makers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-07/251363/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-21/235381/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [252009] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason the decision was made to abandon the six-month target for processing straightforward asylum claims.

Asylum: Mental Health

Catherine West (Labour) [252010] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the mental health of asylum seekers of the decision to abolish the six-month target for processing straightforward asylum claims.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In line with our ambition to promote a greater understanding and transparency of the asylum system and to develop service standards that are meaningful and command confidence, plans are underway for UKVI to implement new service standards for asylum case working. This change means UKVI will be moving away from the six-month service standard for straightforward cases which was introduced in 2014.

It had become clear that the current service standard no longer best served those that used our services and a number of stakeholders had been concerned that not all cases were captured by it.

For these reasons, it has been agreed to change how Asylum Operations prioritise their workload. This means, in the short term, Asylum Operations will reprioritise cases by focusing on claims with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required, will also be prioritised. The implications of the

change on applicants have been considered and appropriate mitigations put in place, with the most vulnerable groups being prioritised as appropriate.

The intention is for this approach to bring balance back to the asylum system while steps are taken to increase the capacity of the asylum decision making system and focus on process improvements to deliver better quality decisions more efficiently.

To come to a longer-term arrangement for service standards that meet the needs of those seeking asylum and the country, UKVI have engaged with key partners in the Strategic Engagement Group (SEG) and other NGOs to redesign the way in which claims are prioritised. This engagement started on 4 December 2018 and over 100 organisations were invited to service standards workshops, which included members of SEG and National Asylum Stakeholder Forum (NASF) sub groups. 41 organisations out of the 100 attended workshops nationally.

We aim to ensure that we design our new service standards to deliver a world leading immigration service for those seeking asylum in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252009/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252010/>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Jo Stevens (Labour) [252607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of new asylum applications breached the six month resolution target threshold in 2018.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [252608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many new asylum applications breached the six month resolution target threshold in 2018.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [252609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications submitted in 2017 breached the six month resolution target threshold during 2018.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [252610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have remained open for over a year as at 1 December 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Information regarding the number of asylum applications that breached the six month resolution target threshold in 2017/2018 is published as part of the Government's Transparency agenda, the latest release of which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-february-2019>

The Home Office does not publish data on the number of asylum applications that have remained open for over a year as at 1 December 2018.

However as at 31st December 2018, there were 12,213 asylum applications pending an initial decision for more than 6 months. This can be found at Immigration Statistics, table as_01.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252607/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252608/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252609/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-09/252610/>

Asylum: Namibia

Chris Stephens (SNP) [253648] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons his Department is unable to provide an essential interpreter for Namibian nationals undertaking a substantive asylum interview.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office recognises the ongoing high demand for Namibian interpreters across the department and has an ongoing recruitment campaign for all high demand languages, of which Namibian is a priority.

We will continue to explore and act upon potential recruitment avenues both regionally and nationally. Alongside the ongoing recruitment campaign, we will continue to work with stakeholders in assessing demand and have in place contingencies to ensure the available national resource is utilised as effectively as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253648/>

Asylum: Housing

Holly Lynch (Labour) [252095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he plans to allocate additional resources to the Migrant Help phone line to respond to asylum accommodation calls from September 2019.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Migrant Help recently won the contract to deliver the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) contract. AIRE will provide advice and guidance on the asylum process, their rights and signposting different services. It will also provide asylum seekers with a single point of contact, independent from the accommodation providers and the Home Office, to report issues.

The resourcing of the Migrant Help phone lines are included as part of the AIRE contract and we are working with them to ensure a smooth transition of service.

I have attached the AIRE statement of requirements which provides further information about the AIRE contract.

[AIRE Statement of Requirements](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252095/>

Undocumented Migrants: Detainees

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [251911] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to implement a statutory limit for the length of time suspected illegal immigrants can be detained.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As Stephen Shaw noted in his follow up review of the welfare of vulnerable people in immigration detention, the debate on a time limit for immigration detention rests mainly on slogans rather than evidence. My rt. hon. Friend the Home Secretary has commissioned an internal review of how time limits work in other countries and how these relate to any other protections within the detention systems in those countries.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251911/>

The review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

Deportation: Homosexuality

Jo Swinson (Labour) [253532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the 13th edition of the ILGA State Sponsored Homophobia Report, how many people were deported to each of the 71 countries where homosexuality is illegal in (a) 2016, (b) 2017 and (c) 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of enforced returns from the UK by year and country of destination is published in table rt_05 (returns data tables, volume 5) in 'Immigration Statistics, year ending December 2018', available from the GOV.uk website at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781118/returns5-dec-2018-tables.ods

Deportations are a subset of enforced returns. They may occur either following a criminal conviction, or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available. The published statistics refer to enforced returns, which include deportations, as well as cases where a person has breached UK immigration laws, and those removed under other administrative and illegal entry powers who have declined to leave voluntarily. Most illegal immigrants are removed from the UK under administrative or illegal entry powers and not deported.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-13/253532/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_State_Sponsored_Homophobia_2019.pdf

Migrant Workers: Domestic Service

Afzal Khan (Labour) [249359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 24 June 2015 to Question HL314 on Migrant Workers: Domestic Service, how many trafficking cases have been confirmed since 2015; and how many of those trafficking cases were linked to people who had previously been issued an overseas domestic worker visa.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Data on the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is published regularly by the National Crime Agency, available via the following link:

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/component/finder/search?q=national+referral+mechanism&Itemid=101&Itemid=101>

This includes data on how many conclusive grounds decisions are made year-on-year, confirming individuals as victims of modern slavery.

The Home Office does not publish information on the number of confirmed victims of modern slavery who have previously been issued an overseas domestic worker visa.

The Home Office is committed to improving data around victim identification and will continue to review the data it publishes in relation to NRM referrals and victim typology.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-04-30/249359/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2015-06-08/HL314/>

Human Trafficking: Tourism

Nigel Dodds (DUP) [251928] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions he has had with the (a) hospitality and (b) tourism sectors on training people to detect warning signs of potential victims of human trafficking.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The hospitality and tourism sectors have an important role in identifying and preventing modern slavery. Home Office officials regularly engage with businesses and industry bodies and have supported several initiatives to train staff and raise awareness of modern slavery.

The National Crime Agency supported the Shiva foundation to produce a Stop Slavery Blueprint to help hoteliers to identify and prevent modern slavery.

<http://www.shivafoundation.org.uk/blueprint/#1534166149795-46b5e29a-c1e9>

The Home Office has published factsheets and posters on how to protect workers and spot the signs of slavery in the hospitality industry. Factsheets can be found here.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638774/FACTSHEET_Modern_Slavery_Hospitality_v2_WEB.PDF

Border Force works with airlines, port operators and travel agents to help their staff to spot the signs of modern slavery including developing e-learning which is being used to train thousands of staff and a referral process for airlines to report concerns through the Modern Slavery Helpline.

In May 2018, Border Force led an operation at airports across the UK specifically targeting flights to the Balearic Islands to warn young travellers about the risks of labour exploitation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251928/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Lord Dubs (Labour) [HL15381] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the European Migration Fund is being allocated to local authorities and in particular to child refugees.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), to which this question presumably relates, is operated in the UK by the AMIF UK Responsible Authority. The total value of the fund to the UK is currently €538.2m.

Funding is not allocated directly to local authorities unless they have applied for funding through an open call for proposals operated by the Responsible Authority, one of which is currently open with £50m available for organisations to apply for, for integration related activities for third country nationals, including refugees. The Home Office, as the department with responsibility for migration, is also able to apply for AMIF funds, and has received a significant amount of AMIF funds to date. There is no particular amount allocated to managing child refugees. A full list of funded projects is published each August on the AMIF page of www.gov.uk along with the UK National Programme and information about calls for proposals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-29/HL15381/>

The webpage referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/asylum-migration-and-integration-fund>

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Lord Dubs (Labour) [HL15382] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are their priorities for the European Migration Fund; and what is the size of the fund in the present financial year.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), to which this question presumably relates, is operated in the UK by the AMIF UK Responsible Authority. The total value of the fund to the UK is currently €538.2m.

AMIF operates on a funding year different to the financial year, the AMIF year runs 16 October to 15 October, furthermore funding is allocated for the full 7-year programme.

In agreeing the AMIF UK National Programme with the European Commission, the UK proposed an even spending plan across the programme, and the funds can be utilised flexibly across the programme, so the spending plan is only a rough guide. There is not a set amount allocated for the current financial year. To date the UK has utilised €372m, this figure includes both expenditure and funding committed by grant agreement. In addition, the Responsible Authority is currently undertaking an open call for proposals for integration related activities for a value of up to £50m.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-29/HL15382/>

Refugees: Syria

Lord Dubs (Labour) [HL15383] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to continue the Vulnerable Persons Refugee Scheme after 2020.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are making positive progress in our work with key stakeholders and international organisations on our future Asylum and Resettlement Strategy. This includes consideration of the UK's resettlement offer beyond 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-29/HL15383/>

Asylum: Religion

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL15495] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 4 April (HL14728), what were the findings of their investigation into reports which indicated that some asylum decisions were not drafted in accordance with Home Office policy guidance on how asylum decision-makers are expected to approach religious-based claims.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: After reports indicated that an asylum decision was not drafted in accordance with Home Office policy guidance, Asylum Operations conducted an investigation into this matter. A small number of religious conversion cases were sampled and no further cases were identified during this sampling exercise.

All such decisions are currently subject to further scrutiny, pending the roll out of additional specialist training, which has been developed in collaboration with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief.

The Asylum Learning and Development Team started to deliver the specialist training package on religious claims on Monday 8 April, which will be mandatory for all asylum decision-makers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-02/HL15495/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-03-21/HL14728/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL15466] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the reply by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 3 April (HL Deb, col 165), what is their definition of "indefinite" as applied to the term "indefinite detention".

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: It is not possible to detain people for an indefinite – or unrestricted – period.

In order for detention to be lawful there must be a realistic prospect of the individual's removal within a reasonable timescale.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-05-01/HL15466/>

Press Release

Nationals of countries with visa-free access lodge over a quarter of asylum applications in EU+

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/news-events/nationals-countries-visa-free-access-lodge-over-quarter-asylum-applications-eu>

New Publications

Court of Justice of the European Union Judgement: The provisions of the Refugee Directive relating to the revocation of and refusal to grant refugee status on grounds connected with the protection of the security or the community of the host Member State are valid

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-05/cp190062en.pdf>

Letter from Lord Young of Cookham to Baroness Hayter regarding a question on ensuring EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU can use their right to vote in the European Parliamentary elections

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0543/Lord_Young_letter_to_Baroness_Hayter_right_to_vote_in_the_EPE.pdf

Legal Pathways' Effects on Irregular Migration

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5cd99936e5274a38bed21639/569_Regular_Pathways_Effects_on_Irregular_Migration.pdf

Migration: Key Fundamental Rights Concerns

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-migration-bulletin-2_en.pdf

News

UK-based Poles call for revolt against having to apply for settled status

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/18/uk-based-poles-call-for-revolt-against-having-to-apply-for-settled-status>

Scottish Refugee Council Chair of the Board of Trustees comments in response to news that chief executive, Sabir Zazai's father has been denied a UK visitors visa

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3439_response_to_guardian_article

Home Office denies father visa to see son collect doctorate

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/16/home-office-denies-father-visa-to-see-son-sabir-zazai-collect-doctorate>

Charity chief executive's father banned from UK

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/chief-executives-father-banned-from-ceremony>

Illegal immigration to UK will rise after Brexit, study suggests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-illegal-immigration-free-movement-eu-leave-a8915816.html>

Bullied Syrian teenager fears for his safety

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/world-48274580/bullied-syrian-teenager-fears-for-his-safety>

Former Moderator laments lack of compassion for asylum seeker family

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/former_moderator_laments_lack_of_compassion_for_asylum_seeker_family

Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 programme announced

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3438_refugee_festival_scotland_2019_programme_announced

EU settlement scheme doesn't work, say couple held at airport

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/14/eu-settlement-scheme-doesnt-work-say-couple-held-at-airport>

Home Office under pressure to grant visa to sick woman threatened with removal while in a coma

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-woman-coma-deportation-bhavani-esapathi-uk-a8919851.html>

Woman in coma faced deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-13/news/woman-in-coma-faced-deportation-dq529cdv6>

Asylum at last for humanist who did not know his Plato

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-15/news/humanist-asylum-seeker-was-rejected-for-not-knowing-plato-8nkj2ks7j>

Blind student facing deportation says university reneged on support

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/may/13/blind-student-facing-deportation-says-university-reneged-on-promised-support-dundee-university>

Case study: 'My heart is here in the NHS. But I can only take so much'

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/may/12/malaysia-gp-home-office-pushing-away-foreign-nhs-doctors>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Tony Blair's sister-in-law wants 'coach loads of Muslims' at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/tony-blair-s-sister-in-law-wants-coach-loads-of-muslims-at-the-edinburgh-festival-fringe-1-4930019>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Treatment Of, and Outcomes For, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [251975] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 28 March 2019 to Question 235745 on Treatment of, and Outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review, when the review of the Supreme Court's recommendations will be completed; and what steps will be taken to ensure that his Department complies with the Court's ruling.

Reply from Robert Buckland: We are awaiting the Order from the Supreme Court setting out the instructions it has made in respect of the judgment. Once we have received this, we will come forward with proposals for reform in response to the judgment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251975/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-03-22/235745/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Children's Rights: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL15447] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to address the findings in the Children's Rights Alliance for England report on the State of Children's Rights in England in 2018, in particular in respect of the proportion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children deprived in three or more dimensions of deprivation compared to the proportion of all other children.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government welcomes this report and we will continue to work with the Children's Rights Alliance for England through the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Action Group to promote the importance of children's rights across the government.

Through the pupil premium, we are addressing low economic circumstances, which affects a high proportion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. We have provided over £15 billion in pupil premium funding from April 2011 to March 2019 to help schools improve the progress and attainment of their disadvantaged pupils.

We are also focusing specifically on Gypsy, Roma and Travellers through a number of initiatives, including working with the communities in Opportunity Areas and prioritising Gypsy, Roma and Traveller young people in our £1.7 million investment

in careers provision for disadvantaged young people. I am also very grateful to the noble Baroness Whitaker for chairing a new stakeholder group for my department aimed at ensuring that improvements to the whole school system take into account Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupil needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-04-30/HL15447/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<http://www.crae.org.uk/publications-resources/state-of-childrens-rights-2018/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Hate Crime: Racially Motivated Assaults

S5W-22882 Jamie Greene (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government how many instances of racially motivated assaults have been reported in (a) North Ayrshire, (b) Inverclyde and (c) Scotland in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Ash Denham: In February 2019, the Scottish Government published a report entitled “*Developing information on hate crime recorded by the police in Scotland*”. This report includes the number the hate crimes that were aggravated by the five hate strands (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity).

Table 1 includes additional analysis of the dataset used to produce the report ‘Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland’ and shows the number of assaults, including Attempted murder, Serious assault and Common assaults, recorded by the police with a race aggravator for the past four years for North Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Scotland. Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/developing-information-hate-crime-recorded-police-scotland/>

The Scottish Government previously published information on Racist Incidents Recorded by the Police, derived from a different source. Table 2 includes further analysis of this dataset and shows the number of assaults, including Attempted murder, Serious assault and Common assaults, recorded by Police Scotland as part of racist incidents for the years 2008-10 to 2013-14 for North Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Scotland. Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/racist-incidents-recorded-police-scotland-2013-14/>

The tables relate to crimes which have been perceived by the victim or any other person, to be motivated (wholly or partly) by malice and ill-will towards a social group based on race. A person does not need to be a member of a social group to be the victim of a hate crime. The law states that the identity of the victim is irrelevant as to whether something is a hate crime or not; the motivation of the perpetrator is the key factor in defining a hate crime. Furthermore, this will not include any incidents which did not include the committing of a crime or racially aggravated assaults that were not reported to the police.

It is important to note that the tables presented here are not directly comparable as they are derived from different sources. Table 1 is based on information taken from Police Scotland’s Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD), an incident-based database which was introduced in 2013, and became a national system in 2014,

whereas Table 2 is based on information previously extracted annually from individual Police Scotland crime management systems.

Table 1. Number of assaults 1 recorded by the police, with a race aggravator 2014-15 to 2017-18

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
North Ayrshire	13	*	*	7
Inverclyde	8	*	*	-
Scotland	646	573	664	68

Source: Additional analysis of the extract of data from the Interim Vulnerable Persons Database (IVPD) used to produce the report 'Developing Information on Hate Crime Recorded by the Police in Scotland'

Table 2. Number of assaults 1 recorded by the police as part of racist incidents, 2014-15 to 2017-18

	2008-10	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
North Ayrshire	16	25	10	18	7	9
Inverclyde	8	*	*	10	*	*
Scotland	728	723	733	754	593	628

Source: Additional analysis of the extract of data used to produce the report 'Racist incidents recorded by the police in Scotland, 2013-14'

¹ Includes Attempted Murder, Serious assault and Common assault

² Will also include some crimes where there may have been multiple aggravators for example if a crime was aggravated by race and religion.

*¹ indicates a value of less than five.

-¹ indicates a value of zero.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22882>

Tackling Sectarianism

S5W-22715 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government whether it has implemented the recommendations in the report, *Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland: review of implementation*, and whether it will provide a progress report on each recommendation.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Professor Morrow's review itself provided an excellent independent evaluation of the progress that the Scottish Government and its partners have made in implementing the recommendations from the Advisory Group's report – and, as such, the Scottish Government currently has no plans to publish a further evaluation.

The review highlighted the progress that has been made particularly in areas such as education, training and the mainstreaming of anti-sectarian messages. The review – which remains live and continues to form the basis of our work on this issue - also emphasised that more is still to be done to tackle sectarianism by a range of organisations, institutions and sectors across Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22715>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-implementation-recommendations-advisory-group-tackling-sectarianism-scotland-report-dr/>

Tackling Sectarianism

S5W-22716 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the recommendation in the report, *Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland: review of implementation*, that “a baseline study to enable a monitoring framework should be

established by agreement with the Scottish Government, the football authorities, Police Scotland and other relevant stakeholders”, whether it will place in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) a copy of the baseline study, the monitoring framework and the annual outcomes of monitoring and evaluation.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Following discussions with the Scottish FA, SPFL, Police Scotland and other stakeholders, the football authorities agreed to collate data on unacceptable conduct in Scottish football for the first time from the start of season 2017-18.

This data provides a baseline for the ongoing monitoring of unacceptable conduct by the football authorities.

This information is shared with the Scottish Government and Police Scotland in confidence, at the request of the football authorities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22716>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-implementation-recommendations-advisory-group-tackling-sectarianism-scotland-report-dr/>

Tackling Sectarianism

S5W-22717 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether the recommendations in the report, *Tackling Sectarianism in Scotland: review of implementation*, should have led to Police Scotland making sectarian a mandatory marker for crime reporting and recording.

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Professor Morrow’s report recommended that a review of hate crime legislation should consider how sectarianism and sectarian incidents could be integrated into a more general approach.

Following the Justice Committee’s recommendation, in January 2018, that a definition of sectarianism in Scot’s law should be considered, a working group was set up. The group reported in November 2018 and concluded that a sectarian statutory aggravation should be introduced along with a definition in Scots law. The group’s conclusions were included for all interested parties and individuals to comment within the hate Crime consultation, which closed in February 2019.

No decisions on establishing a statutory aggravation for sectarianism will be taken until the consultation submissions are fully analysed and considered.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-22717>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-implementation-recommendations-advisory-group-tackling-sectarianism-scotland-report-dr/>

UK Parliament Debate

Definition of Islamophobia

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-05-16/debates/CF834846-65CA-46CD-B955-CDEF42BAFB26/DefinitionOfIslamophobia>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religious Buildings: Security

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [252122] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's funding of the protection of places of worship.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme has been in place since 2016. Over the first three years, in total the scheme has approved grants worth approximately £1.5 million with 63 to churches, 49 to mosques, 5 to Hindu temples and 17 to Gurdwaras.

We continuously listen to feedback to make the scheme as effective as possible, and places of worship which successfully bid for funding have described feeling an increased sense of safety. As part of our ongoing assessment of the success of the scheme, we monitor the scheme's application rates and other related management information, seek regular feedback from faith communities and security experts, and undertake site visits at places of worship which have received funding. We have also heard that some places of worship found it cumbersome to gather multiple quotes for all measures, which is why we have removed the requirement under the 2019-20 scheme.

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. This upcoming consultation will also be an opportunity to assess the impact of the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme further and to identify any potential improvements, which will make the scheme even more effective.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/252122/>

Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

Schools: Racial Discrimination

David Simpson (DUP) [251990] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racist behaviour in schools.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy that outlines measures to prevent racist and other forms of bullying. The Department produces guidance for head teachers and school staff on developing school behaviour policy. The full guidance can be viewed at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/488034/Behaviour_and_Discipline_in_Schools_-_A_guide_for_headteachers_and_School_Staff.pdf.

Under the Equalities Act 2010, schools are under a duty take steps to eliminate harassment, foster good relations, and advance equality of opportunity.

Ofsted considers how a school complies with its statutory duties and promotes equality of opportunity, and holds schools to account for racism or other behaviour issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251990/>

Press Releases

New process set out to establish a working definition of Islamophobia

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-process-set-out-to-establish-a-working-definition-of-islamophobia>

Universities told to stamp out antisemitism on campus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-told-to-stamp-out-antisemitism-on-campus>

Life sentence for white supremacist in MP murder plot

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/life-sentence-white-supremacist-mp-murder-plot>

New Publication

UK Parliament Debate Pack: The definition of Islamophobia

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0086/CDP-2019-0086.pdf>

News

Government rejects Islamophobia definition ahead of debate

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48283337>

Yes, Islamophobia is a type of racism. Here's why

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/15/islamophobia-racism-definition-free-speech-theresa-may>

Ministers face backlash after rejecting definition of Islamophobia

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/16/ministers-face-backlash-rejecting-definition-islamophobia/>

The government's rejection of our Islamophobia definition is a revealing moment for the Conservative Party

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/islamophobia-conservative-party-theresa-may-islam-racism-a8915886.html>

Terror police warn against new rules on Islamophobia

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-15/news/terror-police-warn-against-new-rules-on-muslim-hate-p2pfzbqhx>

Campus anti-Semitism must be stamped out, says universities minister

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-48295537>

Jewish student societies should not have to pay thousands of pounds for security at campus events amid antisemitism concerns, minister says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/antisemitism-jewish-students-universities-societies-campus-chris-skidmore-free-speech-a8917096.html>

Universities told to adopt definition of antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-17/news/universities-told-to-adopt-definition-of-antisemitism-drqwt379p>

Universities must act to stamp out antisemitism on campus

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-17/news/universities-must-act-to-stamp-out-antisemitism-on-campus-57krfwj5w>

UK universities urged to adopt IHRA wording on antisemitism

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/may/17/uk-universities-urged-to-adopt-ihra-wording-on-antisemitism>

Neo-Nazi who planned to murder Labour MP jailed for life

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/17/neo-nazi-jack-renshaw-who-planned-to-labour-mp-jailed-for-life>

Neo-Nazi in plot to kill MP with sword is given life term

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-18/news/neo-nazi-in-plot-to-kill-mp-with-sword-is-given-life-term-5vrq6jt8q>

80,000 responses on neo-Nazi web forum from the UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-15/news/80-000-britons-on-web-forum-run-by-neo-nazis-plnsrppzx>

Standing up to the far-right – how TUC support can help

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/blogs/standing-far-right-%E2%80%93-how-tuc-support-can-help>

Troops with far-right links sent to anti-terror scheme

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-05-13/scotland/troops-with-far-right-links-sent-to-anti-terror-scheme-qsbz3jt8>

Islamic school in Newcastle sent hate mail in third attack on centre

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/islamic-school-newcastle-bahr-academy-police-hate-mail-vandalism-byker-grove-a8917356.html>

English football will lose players and fans unless racism is tackled more effectively

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/05/15/viv-anderson-english-football-will-lose-players-fans-unless/>

'Racism at grass-roots level is 10 times worse than the pros': How a junior club in Leeds shines an ugly light on football's biggest problem

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/05/15/racism-grass-roots-level-10-times-worse-pros-junior-club-leeds/>

Man who sprayed racist graffiti on black family's door because 'Brexit was playing on his mind' is jailed

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/brexit-vaughan-dowd-racist-graffiti-salford-no-blacks-jailed-manchester-crown-court-a8917086.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Scotland's Women Stand

Scotland's Women Stand, run by The Parliament Project and YWCA, is a movement to support and empower women of Scotland to stand for political office. Through a combination of information and inspiring events, they will bring women together and give them the knowledge they need to take their next steps in politics whether that is standing

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Aiding and Abetting: Ethnic Groups

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [251981] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the ethnicity is of adults who are (a) charged and (b) convicted of joint enterprise in the latest period for which data is available.

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [251982] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the ethnicity is of defendants under the age of 18 who have been (a) charged and (b) convicted of joint enterprise in each of the last five years.

Reply from Paul Maynard: Joint enterprise is a common law doctrine that applies to any offence where more than one person is being charged and convicted of the same crime. The Ministry of Justice only collects information on the ethnicity of defendants that are prosecuted and convicted of specific criminal offences in England and Wales (i.e. murder, manslaughter, etc) in any given year. Information is not collated on whether a prosecution or conviction also relied on the law of joint enterprise. Such information may be held on court records, but could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251981/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-05-08/251982/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Forced Marriage: Children and Young People

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL15521] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many times in 2018 the Forced Marriage Unit provided advice or support on forced marriage to (1) a person aged 15 or under, and (2) a person aged 16 or 17.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to stamp out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) which leads efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. We made forced marriage a criminal offence in 2014 to better protect victims and send a clear message that this abhorrent practice is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the UK.

The joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims, those at risk, and professionals. Statistics on the number of cases dealt with by the FMU, including a breakdown by region and age, are published annually and available online at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forced-marriage#statistics-on-forced-marriage>

Figures for 2018 will be published soon.

Other News

Hundreds of concerns raised about Scottish charities

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-48146943>

The British Victorians who became Muslims

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-48069763>

Fasts and late-night protein shakes: how Muslim athletes compete during Ramadan

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/may/15/fares-and-late-night-protein-shakes-how-muslim-athletes-compete-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>

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>

**** Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan** (closing date 28 June 2019)

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

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!**

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

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

**** this week!**

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

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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>

Meet the Charity Regulator

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/>

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>

**** Women in Politics**

30 May 2019 in Stornoway (6.30-8.30)

31 May 2019 in Benbecula (6.30-8.30)

Workshop for women who want to make a difference in their community and represent them in a local council or the parliament. For information about the event in Stornoway see <https://tinyurl.com/y594e234>, and the event in Benbecula see <https://tinyurl.com/y4o93qpe>

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/>

**** Windrush Compensation Scheme**

11 June 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-4.00)

Home Office event to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme, offer practical information about the Scheme, and provide information about how to make a claim. For information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19vi_windrush.pdf

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/>

**** Introduction to Race Equality**

12 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-3.30)

CRER training to increase understanding of race and racism in the Scottish context, including how racism operates on personal, social and institutional levels, the impact of everyday racism, and rights and responsibilities under equality law. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3n428wy>

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 and the full programme see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/about/>

**** Launch of Refugee Festival Scotland**

20 June 2019 in Glasgow (12.00-2.00)

Celebrate the launch of Refugee Festival Scotland 2019, mark World Refugee Day, and show solidarity and support for people who have been forced to flee their homes. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyomj8bk>

**** The Global Compacts – A New Vision for the Future of Migrant and Refugee Protection?**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-12.00)

UNHCR event providing a short overview of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact on Migration, both adopted by a majority of UN member states in December 2018. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yywm2bgl>

**** So you say you come from ...? Prove it!**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.00)

Interactive event by The Asylum Project highlighting how easy it can be to fall through the cracks and end up stateless in a hostile environment. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/so-you-say-you-come-from-prove-it/>

**** Collecting Around Migration: A Glimpse Behind the Scenes at Glasgow Museums**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (2.00-5.00)

Glasgow Museums event highlighting refugee stories at the heart of Glasgow's story. Come along to discover more about how this is being done, or if you or your organisation would like to be a part of shaping this ongoing process. You are invited to bring an object or story that you find meaningful. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3lfm9v4>

**** Trafficking and Displacement – Intersections, Gaps and Solutions**

21 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.00-6.00)

UNHCR event to explore the link between displacement and trafficking, highlighting initiatives and gaps to addressing vulnerability to exploitation experienced by asylum-seekers and refugees. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3r6te6k>

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 want to bring our communities together and celebrate all that unites us. For information and resources see <http://www.greatgettogether.org/take-part/>

**** Movement of Identity**

22 June 2019 in Edinburgh (1.00-4.00)

Young Academy of Scotland event to hear stories of movement, work being carried out by integration networks in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yah53w>

**** Home on the Move: the Impact of Immigration Policy on Participation and the Possibilities for Practice**

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-1.30)

Workshop to present research findings about the meaning and importance of 'home' to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers living in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5utxt84>

**** Author and Subject – People Seeking Asylum and Refuge Affecting Change**

25 June 2019 in Glasgow (5.30-7.00)

Event to explore the different ways asylum seekers and refugees use their experiences and voices to positively affect change in their own lives and in the lives of others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y44krodd>

**** Housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Europe**

26 June 2019 in Edinburgh (5.00-7.00)

Presentation of research by the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow into housing for refugees and asylum. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y43fjpsb>

**** Come As You Are #Berlin, and Klezmer Ceilidh**

27 June 2019 in Edinburgh (7.00-10.30)

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-10.30)

Contemporary dance performance from Berlin-based dance company TOTAL BRUTAL. It explores what happens when three refugees from Syria try to find their way into the Berlin art landscape. For information about the Edinburgh event see <https://tinyurl.com/y5yjggc4>, and about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/y42g8yfr>

**** Gesturing Refugees**

27 June 2019 in Glasgow (7.00-8.00)

Interactive performance by Palestinian dancer and choreographer, Farah Saleh and collaborators to archive hidden stories of refugeehood using the bodies of refugee artists and audience members, while playing with other archive material, testimonies and imagination. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy5xgocf>

**** Refugee Cycle**

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-4.00)

UNESCO cycle ride. At regular intervals along the route, there will be informative performances and activities. Central themes are (forced) migration, community building and hospitality. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ualhd9>

**** Challenging the Hostile Environment**

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (1.00-5.00)

Stand Up to Racism Scotland event about injustices such as the Windrush scandal, and Serco's threat to evict refused asylum seekers in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5sbt7fa>

**** Asylum Seeker and Refugee Scholarships**

29 June 2019 in Glasgow (4.00-8.00)

Africa Future conference about the benefits for young people and asylum seekers to study in higher education. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y23w6odp>

**** Refugee Festival Scotland 2019 Football Tournament**

30 June 2019 in Glasgow (11.00-4.00)

Football tournament to stimulate the integration of the local community with people from a refugee background. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yygx75mm>

**** Lives in Transit: Written Accounts and Artistic Expressions of Refugee Stories**

30 June 2019 in Edinburgh (6.00-9.00)

Opening night of an exhibition presenting the experiences of refugees through a display of interviews with refugees now resettled in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5emrnew>

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 refugees and the asylum process

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

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

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

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

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

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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