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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-21229 Neil Findlay (Labour): Call for Investigation into Interpreters' Pay – That the Parliament notes that the courts, police and NHS, among others, are public services where interpreters work on a daily basis, assisting citizens and visitors to Scotland who do not have English as a first language; understands that interpreters are paid via agencies that pay an hourly rate but no travel time or travelling expenses, leaving interpreters often receiving less than the national minimum wage once public transport costs are taken into account; believes that interpreters are essential workers who provide a very important and valuable service and should be regarded as important partners in the delivery of public services and justice; understands that these workers are often not briefed before cases, leaving them unsure, vulnerable and put into tense and unpredictable situations, that they have to work across many agencies at the same time on flexible arrangements, with no guarantee of work, are without basic employment rights and often dismissed with minimal

pay of one hour where cases have been cancelled by the client, leaving them living hand to mouth, and calls on the Scottish Government to launch an immediate investigation into the work of interpreters, the contracts they are employed under and the pay and conditions they work to.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21229>

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration (Citizens' Rights Appeals) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-09/debates/BEC10E5A-67EF-4913-8A21-EFBB3CBA9DC8/Immigration\(Citizens%E2%80%99RightsAppeals\)\(EUExit\)Regulations2020](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-09/debates/BEC10E5A-67EF-4913-8A21-EFBB3CBA9DC8/Immigration(Citizens%E2%80%99RightsAppeals)(EUExit)Regulations2020)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Points-based Immigration

Brendan O'Hara (SNP): What assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed points-based immigration system on the provision of health and social care. [901427]

Owen Thompson (SNP): What assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposed points-based immigration system on the provision of health and social care. [901440]

Reply from the Minister for Care (Helen Whately): The points-based immigration system is designed so that the UK can attract the brightest and best individuals to work here. As the hon. Member no doubt knows, jobs where there is a recognised shortage of supply, such as nurses, are on the shortage occupation list, and people filling those roles will score more than enough points to come to the UK. We are also introducing the NHS visa to make it easier for doctors, nurses and health professionals from all around the world to come to work here.

Brendan O'Hara: The sector is understandably worried about what a points-based system will mean for their ability to recruit the workforce they need. Soon I plan to reintroduce my private Member's Bill, which sought an independent review of the impact of Brexit on the sector, but will also now include an independent evaluation of having such a points-based system. Given the importance of an evidence-based approach to policy making, will the Minister agree to meet me and others to see how we can all work together to ensure that the long-term needs of the health and social care sector are met based on the evidence available?

Reply from Helen Whately: I thank the hon. Member for his question. I am in contact with stakeholders, as a relatively new Minister in this post, reaching out as much as I can. I am mindful of concerns about vacancy levels but absolutely committed to making sure that, across health and social care, we have the workforce we need.

Owen Thompson: Not only do this Government treat the Scottish Government with contempt, but they treat their own Scottish Tory colleagues in the same way, as they were reportedly livid about the points-based immigration system introduced. Given the implications for health and social care staffing in Scotland, will the Minister ask Cabinet colleagues to reconsider our proposals for a Scottish visa?

Reply from Helen Whately: We have the NHS visa, which applies to the whole United Kingdom. The Migration Advisory Committee has been clear that UK immigration policy must benefit the whole UK, and Scotland benefits from its own shortage occupation list, which will continue to exist.

Kevin Hollinrake (Conservative): Does my hon. Friend agree that a German-style system of social insurance for adult social care would relieve the burden and reduce the requirement for overseas workers, by allowing a loved one, a neighbour or a friend to provide that care and be properly remunerated for it?

Reply from Helen Whately: I am well aware that my hon. Friend is very keen on that particular approach. He has hopefully received a letter from the Secretary of State, inviting colleagues to come to talk to us about the proposals and options for fixing our social care crisis, and I hope he will take that up.

Luke Evans (Conservative): Will the Minister consider waiving the NHS surcharge for overseas staff who want to come to work in our NHS?

Reply from Helen Whately: I am well aware of concerns about the surcharge. Many overseas nurses coming to work in the NHS do not have to pay the surcharge, as it is covered by their employer.

Toby Perkins (Labour): The phrase “brightest and best”, when it appears in immigration talk, is obviously subjective and deliberately vague. What the private sector and local authorities want to know is: under the new Government system, will they be able to get people to come in who want to provide care—people we are desperate for?

Reply from Helen Whately: For the NHS, we have the NHS visa and a clear route to come to work in the health sector. For social care, there is a job to be done by employers, to make sure that working in social care is an attractive job that is well paid. I also recognise that there is a role for Government and for all of us in Parliament, to come together and support changes to how we fund social care. We need to fix the social care system for the future.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-10/debates/FA5A6ED2-1683-4FD9-97F7-C565D23C1680/Points-BasedImmigration>

NHS Workers: Immigrants

Andrew Bowie (Conservative): What steps he is taking with the Home Secretary to fast-track immigration applications from doctors and nurses who want to work in the NHS. [901422]

Simon Jupp (Conservative): What steps he is taking with the Home Secretary to fast-track immigration applications from doctors and nurses who want to work in the NHS. [901425]

Reply from the Minister for Care (Helen Whately): This Government will be introducing an NHS visa, which will offer reduced fees and fast-track access for overseas doctors, nurses and allied health professionals to work in the UK. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will be outlining detailed plans in due course.

Andrew Bowie: Scotland has an increasing crisis of GP shortages, and in NHS Grampian—where £1 million had to be spent on agency nurses this winter—we have an increasing nursing crisis. Some people are understandably concerned that the changes to immigration rules will have an adverse effect. Can my hon. Friend confirm that the new NHS visa will be applicable in Scotland as well?

Reply from Helen Whately: Yes, I can absolutely give my hon. Friend that assurance. The NHS visa will be available for doctors, nurses and allied health professionals coming to work in the NHS across the whole United Kingdom.

Simon Jupp: As we all know, nurses, midwives, paramedics and physiotherapists are highly skilled roles, and the Government have been clear that they meet the immigration skills threshold. What steps is the Department taking to dispel the level of fake news on the subject, and to encourage the brightest and best from around the world to apply for these important roles?

Reply from Helen Whately: The salary threshold for people coming to work in the NHS in the roles that my hon. Friend mentioned are linked to NHS pay bands, and applicants will have more than enough points to apply under the new immigration

system. We are working with NHS employers to encourage international applicants. I thank my hon. Friend for giving me the opportunity once again to dispel any myths in this area.

Justin Madders (Labour): The Minister will have to try a bit harder, because the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy is certainly very concerned that its positions are not going to be covered. Others, such as care assistants, are also below the salary threshold. We are talking about vital roles. There are 100,000 vacancies across the NHS, so will the Minister go back to the Home Office and ask staff to look at the detail of these proposals so that they do not make the NHS staffing crisis any worse than it already is?

Reply from Helen Whately: The NHS visa is in place. There are also plans in place to ensure that we have international recruitment alongside investment in a home-grown workforce, and that we increase retention rates and the number of returners to provide the NHS with the staff it needs.

John Spellar (Labour): Many skilled health professionals in this country who have been granted refugee status are finding it difficult to get accreditation from the regulating bodies. May I commend to the Minister the healthcare overseas professionals programme of Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, and invite her to visit that trust? Will she have discussions with the regulating bodies to try to speed up the process for these people, who have the skills and want to work, and whom we need?

Reply from Helen Whately: Work has already been done by the regulating bodies. For instance, we are already speeding up the process for nurses from overseas who want to come here to work in the NHS. I would be very happy to have further correspondence with the right hon. Member about the specific problem, and would be delighted if he could send me an invitation to make the visit that he mentioned.

Jeremy Hunt (Conservative): I congratulate the Department on securing the NHS visa but, as the Minister knows, it does not apply to nurses and care workers in the social care sector. What is the Department's assessment of the gap there will be in the social care workforce as a result of this new immigration policy, and how are discussions going with the Home Office and No. 10 on that issue?

Reply from Helen Whately: I thank my right hon. Friend for his question. I am well aware of concerns in the social care sector, particularly in areas where there are higher vacancy rates. It is important that employers make sure that they are taking the steps they can take to make sure that social care jobs are attractive and, of course, well paid, as they should be. I recognise as well a role for Government in this, supporting the role of working in social care, and overall making sure that we come together and fix the social care crisis.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-10/debates/BD1A4B57-45FA-4388-A9CC-73FF5EA67D0E/NHSWorkersImmigrants>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas: Fees and Charges

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [19054] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the (a) amount accrued to the public purse from (i) fees and (ii) charges applied by the UK Visa Application Centre; and (b) date on which each category of (A) fees and (B) charges were introduced.

Reply from Kevin Foster: All visa and migration fees are paid directly by the applicant to the Home Office and not routed through UKVCAS. The amounts collected are published in the Home Office accounts. The amounts collected for 2018-19 are shown here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807126/6.5571_HO_Annual_Report_201920_WEB.PDF

at page 137.

The fees levels approved by Parliament are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-fees-transparency-data>

However, customers using UKVCAS may elect to pay for additional premium services over and above the visa/migration fee. These premium charges are retained by the commercial operator of UKVCAS. Details of the additional, optional services can be found here at:

<http://www.ukvcas.co.uk/additional-services>.

Information on the UKVCAS contract is published here:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/ec5031ea-021e-471a-86cf-af540e8d8efa?p=@xUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=UFQ>

However, the commencement of service and premium charge price change dates are not disclosed separately.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/19054/>

Visas: Married People

Kerry McCarthy (Labour) [24281] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of children in families that are unable to satisfy the requirements for a spousal visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office does not collate or publish the information requested. However, the Home Office does publish data on the outcomes of entry clearance visa applications at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24281/>

Visas: Married People

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [26879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 24 February 2020 to Question 1248 on Visas: Married People, what her Department's definition of adequate maintenance is.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Adequate maintenance is defined by Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules to mean, after income tax, National Insurance contributions and housing costs have been deducted, there must be available to the family the level of income that would be available to them if the family was in receipt of Income Support.

Published guidance on adequate maintenance for spouses is on GOV.UK here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/452967/IDI_Adequate_Maintenance_and_Accommodation_Appendix_FM_Annex_1_7A.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26879/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-12/1248/>

Visas: Musicians

Jo Stevens (Labour) [26847] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she (a) has recently taken and (b) plans to take to engage the music industry on ensuring that the visa and immigration system supports the needs of that sector.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Free Movement will end on 31 December 2020 with the end of the Transition Period. Following the end of the Transition Period EEA and

Swiss nationals will be able to continue to travel to the UK for holidays or short-term trips, without needing a visa. The current Immigration Rules, including those for visitors, contain a wide range of provisions to cater for artists, entertainers and musicians.

The Home Office continues to engage with DCMS and the creative sector to ensure the future immigration system contributes to the thriving cultural sector in the UK. More detailed analysis on the points-based system and individual routes will be published shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26847/>

Immigrants: Health Services

John Spellar (Labour) [25621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to undertake a review of the immigration health surcharge for people with leave to remain who are in employment.

Reply from Kevin Foster: It is a migrant's immigration status that determines whether or not they pay the immigration health surcharge, not their tax contributions or their profession.

As set out in our election manifesto, the Surcharge will be further increased to ensure affected migrants broadly cover the cost of NHS services provided to them.

Detailed plans for implementing this will be set out shortly.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-05/25621/>

EEA Nationals: Registration

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [26146] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to process all EEA registration applicants within one month.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Under the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2016, any application received from EEA citizens for residence documentation under those Regulations must be decided immediately upon application provided that application meets the relevant validity requirements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-06/26146/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neale Hanvey (Independent) [24444] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens that have not applied for settled status by 31 December 2020 will be able to remain in the UK after this date in the event that an agreement is not reached by the end of the transition period.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK left the EU on 31 January on the basis of the Withdrawal Agreement reached in October 2019. No further agreement is required and the protections for resident EU citizens provided in the Withdrawal Agreement are now underpinned by the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and by the EU Settlement Scheme. In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, EU citizens resident in the UK by the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 will be eligible to apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Their current residence rights under EU law will be protected during the grace period which will apply from 1 January 2021 until the application deadline of 30 June 2021. In addition, where a person has reasonable grounds for missing this deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24444/>

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

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [22020] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens that are awarded pre-settled status will have the same entitlement to benefits after the transition period as they do now.

Reply from Kevin Foster: EU citizens and their family members who have obtained pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will continue to access benefits on the same basis and according to the same rules as they do now. This means EU citizens will still need to demonstrate they are exercising a qualifying right to reside, for example as a worker, in order to access taxpayer funded benefits, such as Universal Credit. This will continue until their pre-settled status expires or until they are granted settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-27/22020/>

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

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [24456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications to the EU settlement scheme from people in Northern Ireland have been (a) received, (b) accepted and (c) rejected.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published figures show that the total number of applications received up to 31 January 2020 was more than 3.1 million (3,107,900), of which 50,500 were from Northern Ireland.

Published information on EUSS applications and concluded applications by the applicants location in the United Kingdom (up to 31 December 2019), can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', statistics tables, tables EUSS_01 and EUSS_03_NIR respectively, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-december-2019>.

As at 31 December 2019 a total of 2.8 million (2,756,130) applications had been received and 2.5 million (2,450,220) applications had been concluded, of which 44,860 were from Northern Ireland.

Of the 44,860 applications from Northern Ireland, 38,630 had been concluded, within which 25,830 (67%) were granted settled status and 12,620 (33%) were granted pre-settled status, 130 were withdrawn or void and 50 found to be invalid.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24456/>

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) [27644] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the grant funding of up to £9 million her Department has made available to voluntary and community sector organisations to support vulnerable EU citizens apply for settled status, whether her Department has plans to extend the provision of that funding beyond the original term agreed; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The EU Settlement Scheme was launched in March 2019 and gives EU citizens and their family members the status they need to live and work in the UK after 30 June 2021. There have already been more than 3.2

million applications to the EU Settlement Scheme and nearly 2.9 million granted status, with over a year left to go.

There is a wide range of support available online, over the phone and in person to help them apply. This includes a helpline open 7 days a week where 250 staff based in Liverpool answer questions and help people apply. There are 1,500 Home Office staff working on the scheme in total.

Home visits and telephone support are available from a tutor for those lacking in digital skills or without internet access.

Last year, the Home Office awarded £9 million funding to 57 charities across the UK who have helped hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people already. The 57 charities currently funded by the Home Office will have their funding extended until the end of June 2020, to allow their work to continue during the bidding process for new funding.

On 6 March 2020, the Home Office announced a further £8 million of funding to help vulnerable EU citizens apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-million-to-help-vulnerable-people-apply-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

Charities and local authorities will bid for further funding to provide face-to-face, online and telephone support to vulnerable people across the UK. This may include legal support, caseworker services or general advice as either individual or group sessions.

The further £8 million of funding for the 2020-2021 financial year will ensure important information continues to get through to those hardest to reach. As with all government funding, there will be a competitive bidding process to ensure the right support is provided to all parts of the UK and makes best use of public money.

Successful organisations will be fully supported by the Home Office and will be able to speak to caseworkers directly to discuss individual cases.

The bid process will begin shortly and more details will be announced in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27644/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants

Laurence Robertson (Conservative) [24233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to prevent migrants from illegally entering the UK from continental ports; and if she will make a statement.

Laurence Robertson (Conservative) [24234] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that migrants who have illegally entered the UK from continental ports are returned safely to their countries of origin; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK continues to collaborate with France under the terms of the Sandhurst Treaty to tackle illegal migration across the shared border. Under the Treaty, significant improvements were made to the security at northern French ports such as Calais, Dukirk, and the Eurostar Terminal at Coquelles. Last year, more than 35,000 attempts to enter the UK illegally were prevented at our juxtaposed controls in northern France and Belgium. The UK-FR Migration Committee takes responsibility for oversight of these projects, for discussing current pressures and agreeing new joint projects.

Senior Home Office officials and operational partners are in regular discussions with officials from the Belgian government to identify immediate action that can be taken

at the Port of Zeebrugge to tackle illegal migration through the port and reduce the risks to migrants.

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Protection is granted where a claimant has a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention or their circumstances engage our obligations under Article 3 (ECHR). Those found not to need protection are refused and if unsuccessful at a subsequent appeal will be removed from the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24233/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24234/>

Refugees: Syria

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [24282] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Syrian refugees have been admitted to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These can be found at

www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics

Latest statistics published on 27 February 2020 show that as of December 2019, a total of 19,353 people had been resettled in the UK across 327 local authorities under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme since it began.

The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 21 May 2020 and will cover the period January to March 2020.

We have committed to resettle 20,000 vulnerable refugees who have fled Syria and are on track to deliver the full commitment in 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24282/>

Asylum: Families

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [25612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to publish proposals for continuing the family reunification scheme after the transition period; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: At the end of the Transition Period, the UK will no longer be bound by the Dublin Regulation. Any Dublin family reunion cases, which have entered the system prior to completion day will continue to be processed.

The Government provides a safe and legal route to bring families together through its refugee family reunion policy under the Immigration Rules. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. This will not change at the end of the Transition Period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-05/25612/>

Asylum: Children

Mathew Offord (Conservative) [13965] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's policy is on family reunion for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government remains resolutely committed to the

principle of family reunion.

The UK will cease to participate in EU instruments at the end of the Transition Period, including the Dublin Regulation. This means that the ability of unaccompanied children to use Dublin to reunite with family will end, unless a replacement agreement is negotiated. The Government has been clear that it is committed to seeking such an agreement with the EU, thereby ensuring these children can continue to reunite with family at the end of the Transition Period. The Home Secretary wrote to the European Commission on 22 October to begin negotiations.

The UK will continue to be bound by the Dublin Regulation provisions during the Transition Period, allowing us to continue to transfer family reunion cases to the UK throughout 2020, and we will continue to process all family reunion requests that have been submitted but not completed under Dublin before the end of the Transition Period.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-07/13965/>

Asylum: Children

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [26810] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will allocate additional funding to the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government to support the continuation of the Controlling Migration Fund and local authority support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from John Glen: The Controlling Migration Fund opened in November 2016 with the aim of easing pressures on local services linked to recent migration and providing targeted immigration enforcement activity. Until 2020 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has contributed £100 million of funding, with the Home Office contributing £40 million worth of enforcement activity.

The Home Office also provides funding to local authorities as a contribution to the costs they incur when supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), which is in addition to the money provided through the local government finance settlement. In May 2019, the Home Office announced a significant increase in the funding: from 1 April 2019, local authorities now receive £114 per UASC per night for each UASC in their care, regardless of their age or when they entered the UK. This represented a 61% increase to the lowest rate that was previously paid. Future spending decisions on the Controlling Migration Fund and funding for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children will be taken at the Comprehensive Spending Review this year.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26810/>

Asylum: Children in Care

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [26809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the provision of adequate resources to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the care system.

Reply from Chris Philp: We recognise that local authorities undertake incredibly valuable work in looking after vulnerable young asylum seekers and the Home Office is committed to supporting this.

The Home Office provides funding to local authorities as a contribution to the costs they incur when supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), which is in addition to the money provided through the local government finance settlement.

In May 2019, we announced a significant increase in the funding: from 1 April 2019, local authorities now receive £114 per UASC per night for each UASC in their care, regardless of their age or when they entered the UK. This represented a 61% increase to the lowest rate that was previously paid. As well as providing a greater contribution to local authorities support costs, these changes addressed feedback that the existing rate structure was overly complex.

Further consideration is being given to funding rates for local authorities supporting UASC and former UASC care leavers following the recent Spending Round. We will continue to keep these rates under consideration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-09/26809/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Child Refugees: Turkey and Greece

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to offer places to child refugees currently (1) on the border between Turkey and Greece, or (2) on Greek islands.

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

My Lords, the Government currently transfer eligible children located in Greece under the Dublin regulation, and will continue to do so during the transition period. The UK will also continue to transfer unaccompanied children in Greece through Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 until we fulfil this important obligation.

Lord Dubs: My Lords, I am grateful to the Minister, who will be as aware as anybody of the terrible conditions affecting refugees, especially child refugees, on the Greek islands. She will also be aware of the request made not long ago by the Greek Government that other countries should help in resettling some of the child refugees who have reached the Greek islands. Can the Minister confirm that the global resettlement scheme, which was referred to yesterday by Ministers in both Houses, will apply to children who are currently in Greece and on the Greek islands, and not just to those elsewhere in the region?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I understand what the noble Lord is saying, in the sense that those children are now in a European country as opposed to coming from whatever region in the world they come from. We will absolutely stand by our commitment to helping children from around the world who need our help. We are in dialogue with Greece and we will work closely with UNHCR, which both identifies and refers children who may need our resettlement.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, it is likely that some of the children in this situation have relatives in the UK and therefore have a right to be reunited with their family in this country. What proactive—I stress that word—steps are the Government taking to help them exercise their right? Secondly, when do the Government expect to publish the Statement on family reunification, as required by legislation?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In terms of proactivity, clearly, we engage with our European counterparts. We are still engaged in the Dublin process, which goes both ways; in fact, we take more children than we transfer back. On the Statement, we will lay an Act Paper by 22 March on our policy regarding future arrangements between the UK and the EU for family reunion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine (Non-affiliated): My Lords, the Minister will be aware that the Greek Government have suspended the processing of asylum applications for a month under emergency legislation, as permitted by the EU. Are the Government having any conversations with the Greek Government to see whether they can assist them in not prolonging this situation and in fulfilling their international obligations — because they are

international obligations, irrespective of the get-out clause given by the EU? Also, are they doing anything to facilitate taking the children, as other noble Lords have suggested?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We stand ready to take any children the UNHCR in Greece identifies and for whom it requests transferral to the UK. The fact that the Greeks are currently suspending those transfers because of the coronavirus is of course a matter for the Greek authorities, but we stand ready to receive those children who are identified and referred to us.

Lord Kerr of Kinlochard (Crossbench): My Lords, in a previous question the noble Baroness, Lady Hamwee, stressed the need to be proactive. A number of other European countries have volunteered to take batches of unaccompanied children newly trapped in Greece. Have we done so, and if not, why not?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In terms of our obligations, under the national resettlement schemes we have taken more than 42,000 children since 2010—more than any other state in the EU. That is a record of which I am very proud.

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, are the Government aware that the charity Safe Passage has identified more than 1,400 places for child refugees being offered by local authorities that are willing and able to take children from the Greek islands and other emergency zones? Does the Minister agree that it would be an outrage if those places were to go unfilled? Will she ask the Government to start the transfer of children from Greece as a matter of urgency?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I am just not going to accept the statement that there are places available in local authorities but they are refusing to take children. We constantly engage with local authorities and currently, they are housing some 5,000 unaccompanied children. If they will take any more, we will be most grateful.

Viscount Waverley (Crossbench): My Lords, will the Government pass on a firm message to the Greek authorities that they should adopt acceptable humanitarian standards and refrain from the use of live ammunition and gas at the border?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I agree with the noble Viscount that some of the footage we have seen is really quite disturbing. On the other hand, Greece is a democracy and we respect its rule of law. However, I totally take the point he is making.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, given the tragedy of Idlib, what action are we taking to bring about some sort of resolution to the terrible situation that we have known in Syria for so many years? Are we taking an active lead there?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am proud, the generous country that we are, that we are providing £89 million in humanitarian aid to address the situation in Idlib and to help those people in the truly dreadful situation they find themselves in.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, as we sit here, there are some 70 million displaced people or refugees worldwide. Could Her Majesty's Government do more to try to convene a conference of the great powers to discuss what can be done to respond to the massive numbers of people who are migrating purely because of conflict or war?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I have outlined just how generous this country is and has been over our history. We are a small island and we are doing what we can. As I have said, under the national resettlement schemes we have taken in more people than any other state in the EU, and we continue to extend that generosity. As the Prime Minister has outlined, in the coming year he will make available 5,000 more places for resettlement.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-03-11/debates/B9C12FBD-7EDF-450B-92EF-9C96F4290358/ChildRefugeesTurkeyAndGreece>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL1873] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to appeal the judgment made in *Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens v Home Office*, issued on 19 December 2019; and if they have no such plans, why they have not revised the fees for children applying for British citizenship, as set out in their policy paper *Home Office immigration and nationality fees*, published on 20 February.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has been granted permission to appeal against the Court's finding the Home Office did not have full regard to Section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 when setting the fee in fees regulations.

The Immigration and Nationality Fees Regulations 2018 were not found to be unlawful and the court case remains on-going. We will therefore continue to charge the fees set out in the fees regulations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1873/>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/prcb-v-sshd.pdf>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Migrant Workers: Interpreters

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL1855] To ask Her Majesty's Government how the new points-based immigration system will accommodate public service interpreters who work on a freelance basis.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL1856] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there will be any flexibility in the new points-based immigration system's salary thresholds in respect of freelance public service interpreters who cannot guarantee their earnings levels.

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL1857] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether public service interpreters working for the (1) NHS, (2) courts system, and (3) police, are regarded as (a) skilled, (b) high-skilled, or (c) low-skilled, workers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 19 February we published a policy statement setting out the United Kingdom's future Points-Based Immigration System, which will work for all parts of the UK. We will not be creating a dedicated route for self-employed people. However, in due course, freelance workers will be able to benefit from the proposed unsponsored route as recommended by the independent Migration Advisory Committee's (MAC). Freelance workers contracted to provide services to an organisation can continue to be sponsored under the new skilled work route (which also allows them to work up to 20 hours a week for other organisations). Public service interpreters fall within standard occupational classification (SOC) code 3412; authors, writers and translators. Occupations within this SOC code are considered to be skilled at RQF 4 by the MAC.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1855/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1856/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1857/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf

Migrant Workers: Social Services

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL1760] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to designate care work as a skilled occupation under the new immigration system.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The classification of the skill level of jobs is based upon advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

The MAC has been clear that immigration is not the solution to addressing staffing levels in the social care sector.

The Government is working alongside employers to ensure the workforce has the right number of people to meet increasing demands and have recently launched a national recruitment campaign for social care.

Senior care workers who meet the criteria will be able to come to the UK through the points-based system.

We are also providing councils with access to an additional £1.5 billion for adults and children's social care in 2020-21.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1760/>

Migrant Workers

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL2000] To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures will apply following the ending of free movement and the introduction of a points-based immigration system for (1) European citizens and others to work in the UK as self-employed people, (2) self-employed people resident in the EU to provide their services in the UK as well as in the EU, (3) people who work for a company that operates in the UK but are resident in the EU to travel to and work in the UK as part of their employment, (4) European citizens and others to set up new businesses in the UK, and (5) self-employed citizens of the UK to provide their services in the EU, and to set up new businesses there.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK's Points-Based Immigration System has been designed with businesses and employers given huge consideration.

As set out in The UK's Points-Based Immigration System: Policy Statement, we will not be creating a dedicated route for self-employed people. However, in due course, self-employed workers will be able to benefit from the proposed unsponsored route as recommended by the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC).

Self-employed workers will still be able to travel to the UK under other routes in the new points-based system. Those contracted to provide services to an organisation can continue to be sponsored under the new skilled work route, or if wishing to set up a business in the UK, use the Innovator and Start-up routes.

Provisions for UK self-employed persons to provide their services in the EU will be for individual Member States to decide.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-27/HL2000/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf

Migrant Workers

The Lord Bishop of Bristol [HL1723] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the risk of labour shortages in the event of changes to immigration rules, and (2) the possibility of the exploitation of workers as a consequence of these shortages; and what steps they intend to take to ensure that workers are protected.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has been clear free movement is ending, and a new immigration system will be introduced from January 2021. The independent Migration Advisory Committee has been clear immigration is not the solution to addressing shortages in the labour market.

The Government is committed to tackling labour exploitation across all sectors of the labour market and protecting workers' rights. Through the Immigration Act 2016, we have widened the remit of the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority giving it new powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 to investigate serious labour market offences. We recently ran a public consultation on the establishment of a new Single Enforcement Body for employment rights. We will publish a response to this consultation in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1723/>

Refugees

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative) [HL1772] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees were resettled in the UK from (1) Jordan, (2) Lebanon, (3) Iraq, and (4) Turkey, in 2019, broken down by country of origin.

Lord McInnes of Kilwinning (Conservative) [HL1773] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many resettlement interviews conducted in (1) Jordan, (2) Lebanon, (3) Iraq, and (4) Turkey, in 2019 resulted in (a) acceptance, or (b) rejection, of the case for resettlement in the UK, broken down by the country of origin of those interviewed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Migration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These can be found at

www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-statistics

The next statistics, which contain resettlement arrivals by nationality for the year ending December 2019, is planned for publication on 27 February. We do not publish a breakdown of resettlements by host country.

The Home Office undertakes remote video interviews with refugees referred for resettlement under the Vulnerable Persons and Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Schemes. These interviews are principally designed to gain a deeper understanding of any UK family links and gather information to assist with the process of matching refugees to suitable offers of accommodation, and do not form part of the case consideration process. We do not publish a breakdown of resettlement case acceptance or rejection by host country.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1772/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1773/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL2068] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people were held in immigration detention in the UK at the start of each of the last five financial years; how many were compulsorily deported in each year; and what proportion of deportations were of (1) people at the end of court sentences, and (2) unsuccessful asylum claimants.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on people in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of people in detention on the last day of each quarter are published in table Det_D02. Data on people leaving detention every quarter by reason for leaving (including whether they were returned from the UK) are published in Det_D03 of the Detailed Detention datasets.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'. Q1 2020 figures will be released on 21st May 2020.

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced 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 and therefore the 'returned from the UK' category in the leaving detention by reason figures, refer to all enforced returns and voluntary departures.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2068/>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Slavery

The Lord Bishop of Bristol [HL1722] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of a reduction in low-skilled migration on the incidence of modern slavery.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford The Government has been clear that free movement is ending, and a new immigration system will be introduced from January 2021.

We recognise this represents significant change. The Government is committed to eradicating exploitation within the labour market and migrant workers are no exception. The Government is committed to identifying potential victims of modern slavery and will continue to ensure needs-based support is available, regardless of an individual's immigration status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1722/>

Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1879] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) prosecutions, and (2) convictions, for human trafficking-related offences there were in each of the last five calendar years.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The Ministry of Justice has published data on the number of people prosecuted and convicted in England and Wales up to the year ending December 2018 for the following human trafficking-related offences

- Human trafficking for sexual exploitation;
- Human trafficking for non-sexual exploitation;
- Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation;
- Commit offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation; and
- Commit offence other than kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention

of arranging travel with view to exploitation.

Note that the first two offences in this list, were superseded in 2015 by the latter three offences (arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation, commit offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation, commit offence other than kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation), all of which are under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Figures can be found in the table attached. If an offence does not appear in the table, it means there were no prosecutions or convictions for it in the period given.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1879/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL 1942] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of human trafficking who receive a positive conclusive grounds decision have (1) had the recovery needs assessment, and (2) been granted additional support; what is the average length of time assigned to victims under the recovery needs assessment; and how many of those who have been granted additional support are waiting for an immigration decision from the Home Office.

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL 1946] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many (1) non-EEA, and (2) non-UK national, victims of trafficking with a positive conclusive grounds decision have received support following a recovery needs assessment.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is the UK's system for identifying and providing access to support for potential victims of modern slavery.

Potential victims have their individual support needs assessed on entry to the NRM and through contact with their support worker while they remain in the system awaiting a conclusive grounds (CG) decision. The Recovery Needs Assessment is conducted after a positive CG.

The RNA enables support workers to consider whether a victim has any ongoing recovery needs arising from their modern slavery experience.

The information requested on RNA data does not currently form part of the published NRM statistics. The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics>

The UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

[Modern Slavery Report - 2019](#)

[National Referral Mechanism Stats](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-26/HL1942/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-26/HL1946/>

Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL 1943] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of human trafficking in England and Wales with a positive conclusive grounds decision received discretionary leave to remain in 2018–19, and on what grounds.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics regarding the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-referral-mechanism-statistics> and the UK Annual Report on Modern Slavery which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2019-uk-annual-report-on-modern-slavery>

Statistics on the total number of people granted discretionary leave for all reasons can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2019>

A positive conclusive grounds decision does not result in an automatic grant of immigration leave. However, the Single Competent Authority (SCA) will consider whether a grant of discretionary leave is appropriate based on the victim's individual circumstances and usually after consideration has been made by UK Visas and Immigration of any existing applications for more advantageous forms of leave.

The grounds for granting discretionary leave to victims of modern slavery, which includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour, can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/739436/dl-for-victims-of-modern-slavery-v2.pdf

[National Referral Mechanism Stats](#)

[Annual Report - Modern Slavery](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-26/HL1943/>

Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1944] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many victims of human trafficking with a positive (1) reasonable, and (2) conclusive, grounds decision are currently held in immigration detention.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does record the number of all individuals referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) this information is published quarterly and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/national-referral-mechanism-statistics-quarter-3-2019-july-to-september>

This information does not distinguish between those detained under immigration powers and those living in the community. The reason for this is two-fold, firstly because the NRM referral is not an immigration route by which individuals should regularise their stay in the United Kingdom and secondly, because a person's status in immigration detention is not permanent and can change.

The use of immigration detention in all cases is subject to regular reviews and consequently, a change in circumstance may result in a different consideration. It is quite possible that an immigration detainee is referred to the National Referral Mechanism during a detention period and is re-leased into the community at any point during that process.

As National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals, Reasonable Grounds and Conclusive Grounds decisions are considered separately from immigration enforcement action, there is no central record of those who have received a positive (1) reasonable, and (2) conclusive, grounds decision and are detained under immigration powers. The Home Office therefore does not collate or publish the data requested.

Published data on the number individuals held in immigration detention can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2018/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

[National Referral Mechanism Stats -2019](#)

Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1945] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to incorporate EU Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims into UK law.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to eradicating human trafficking and the scourge of modern slavery.

The UK currently gives effect to obligations on modern slavery under The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT), Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive (2011/36), through the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and policy guidance.

At the end of the EU Exit transition period in December 2020, the UK will no longer be bound by EU law. The Modern Slavery Act 2015 and relevant policy guidance will be unaffected. The UK will remain bound by international obligations in relation to preventing and combatting human trafficking and modern slavery.

Human Trafficking: Children

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1941] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money has been allocated to fund independent guardians for trafficked children in the current, and each of the last three, financial years; and how much they intend to allocate for such purposes in 2020–21.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Over the last three financial years, the Home Office has allocated approximately £3m to the provision of Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) in early adopter sites, broken down as: 2017/18, £0.5m; 2018/19, £1m; 2019/20, £1.53m. Home Office budget allocations for 2020/21 are currently being agreed.

The following two questions both received the same answer

Children in Care: Human Trafficking

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1874] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many children identified as potential victims of human trafficking have gone missing from local authority care in each financial year from 2009–10 to 2018–19.

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1875] To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms are in place to monitor the number of children identified as potential victims of human trafficking who go missing from local authority care.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: Information on the number of looked after children who have been identified as potential victims of human trafficking and who go missing from care is not held centrally.

The latest figures on looked after children who go missing in England as at 31 March are published in Table G1 of the statistical release 'Children Looked after in England including adoptions: 2018 to 2019', which is attached and is also available at the following link:

Slavery and trafficking of children is a very serious offence and the government is committed to protecting children from this harm. The response to trafficking should

be primarily about protecting victims and bringing those who exploit them to justice. Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area, including child victims of modern slavery. The department's statutory guidance for local authorities on care of unaccompanied migrant children and child victims of modern slavery is clear on authorities' duties to work with local partners to protect child victims of modern slavery from further risk from their traffickers and preventing exploitation from taking place. In particular, there should be a clear understanding between the local authority and the police of their respective roles in planning for this protection and responding if a child victim of modern slavery goes missing.

Section 48 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 makes provisions for Independent Child Trafficking Advocates, which have been renamed Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs). ICTGs are an independent source of advice for trafficked children; somebody who can speak up on their behalf and act in the best interests of the child. Currently, ICTGs have been rolled out to one third of local authorities in England and Wales and the government remains committed to a national rollout.

[HL1874 HL1875 Table](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1874/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1875/>

Human Trafficking: Victims

Lord McColl of Dulwich (Conservative) [HL1876] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they intend to publish guidance about identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking as required under section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government recognises that publishing statutory guidance under section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is important in ensuring that victims are provided with the support they need to begin rebuilding their lives.

We aim to publish the guidance as soon as possible.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-25/HL1876/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Edward Davey (Liberal Democrat) (281) Points based immigration system and the consequences for care – That this House notes the negative effect that the new points-based immigration system will have on care, particularly considering the 122,000 job vacancies in the social care sector identified by Skills for Care; recognises the invaluable contribution that migrants bring to the UK as carers, and that low paid work should not be equated with low skill level; emphasises the need for an evidence-based immigration policy; and calls on the Government to engage with the care sector to ensure that its concerns on the proposed points-based immigration system and its possible consequences are adequately addressed in full.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56748/points-based-immigration-system-and-the-consequences-for-care>

Owen Thompson (SNP) (288) EU Settlement Scheme and EU citizens in Midlothian – That this House acknowledges that over 2,000 EU citizens living in Midlothian have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living and working in the UK; recognises the

enormous contribution that EU citizens make to the cultural and economic fabric of the UK every day; further recognises Scotland's particular reliance on EU citizens, with 26 per cent of small employers in Scotland having at least one EU citizen on the team compared to 21 per cent across the UK; notes with concern the risk that treating settlement in the UK as a privilege rather than a right could have on small businesses in Midlothian as a hub for small business; condemns the EU Settlement Scheme for treating settlement in the UK not as a right but a privilege; further condemns the Home Office for its lack of clarity in providing details of how many EU citizens have been granted settled status and pre-settled status; and recognises that the incompatibility between the Home Office's approach to EU citizens and the needs of Scotland further underlines the need for Scotland to pursue an independent future with a more compassionate, open migration system.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56750/eu-settlement-scheme-and-eu-citizens-in-midlothian>

UK Parliament Early Day Petition

Refugee family reunion

[P002555] The petition of residents of Glasgow North, Declares that under current family reunion rules adult refugees can only sponsor their partners and children under 18 years old to join them in the UK; further that child refugees in the UK have no family reunion rights so they can't bring their parents to join them; further that the lack of opportunities for refugees to reunite with family members forces people to turn to smugglers and exacerbates the humanitarian crises in Southern Europe; and further that, for refugees already living safely in the UK, the enforced separation from their families and constant anxiety about their wellbeing can be devastating, preventing them from rebuilding their lives and undermining their successful integration into their new communities.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to expand the criteria of who qualifies as a family member for the purposes of refugee family reunion, including by allowing adult refugees in the UK to sponsor their adult children, their siblings that are under the age of 25, and their parents; further to give unaccompanied refugee children in the UK the right to sponsor their parents and siblings that are under the age of 25 to join them under the refugee family reunion rules; and further to reintroduce legal aid for refugee family reunion cases.

And the petitioners remain, etc.—[\[Presented by Patrick Grady, Official Report, 11 February 2020; Vol. 671, c. 826.\]](#)

Observations from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): The Government provide a safe and legal route to bring families together through its family reunion policy. Under this policy, we have granted over 27,000 family reunion visas in the last five years.

We are clear that there is discretion to grant visas outside the immigration rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances. This discretion may be used where, for example, young adult sons or daughters are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

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

Amending the policy without careful thought could significantly increase the numbers who could qualify to come to the UK, not just from conflict regions but from any country from which someone is granted protection. In reality, this would result in extended family being able to come here who themselves do not need protection—which risks reducing our capacity to assist the most vulnerable refugees.

The Government have made clear in the past their concern that allowing refugee children

to sponsor parents' risks creating incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and attempt hazardous journeys to the UK. This too would play into the hands of criminal gangs, undermining our safeguarding responsibilities. Our policy is not designed to keep child refugees apart from their parents, but in considering any policy we must think carefully about the wider impact to avoid putting more people unnecessarily into harm's way. There is a need to better understand why people choose to undertake secondary journeys to the UK after reaching a safe country, which are unnecessary. It is important that those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach—that is the fastest route to safety.

Legal aid for refugee family reunion may be available under the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) scheme, where failure to provide legal aid would mean there is a breach or a risk of breach of the individual's ECHR or enforceable EU rights, and subject to means and merits tests.

The Government recently amended the scope of legal aid so that separated migrant children may receive civil legal aid in relation to applications by their family members and extended family members, for entry clearance, leave to enter or leave to remain in the UK granted either under the immigration rules or outside the rules on the basis of exceptional circumstances or compassionate and compelling circumstances.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-09/debates/20030990000022/RefugeeFamilyReunion>

Press Releases

Scottish Refugee Council: Service Update

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/important-service-update/>

Coronavirus Response Plan – Positive Action in Housing

<https://www.paih.org/coronavirus-response-plan-positive-action-in-housing/>

New Publications

Statement of changes to the Immigration Rules: HC 120, 12 March

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/872098/CCS207_CCS0320241090-001_HC_120_PRINT.pdf

Explanatory Memorandum to the Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules presented to Parliament on 12 March 2020 (HC 120)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/872108/CCS207_CCS0320240908-001_EM_HC120_PRINT.pdf

Wales Position Paper on Migration

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-03/wales-position-paper-on-migration.pdf>

News

Unionists are denying Scotland a devolved immigration system for purely political reasons

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/unionists-are-denying-scotland-devolved-immigration-system-purely-political-reasons-kenny-macaskill-2446733>

Hike to immigration health surcharge will 'penalise' NHS workers from overseas, campaigners say

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-surcharge-fees-nhs-workers-budget-2020-a9395521.html>

Home Office tell 83 year-old Chilean dad in Glasgow to go home to...Nigeria

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18300373.home-office-tell-83-year-old-chilean-dad-glasgow-go-home-nigeria/>

Tory MPs intervene in Commonwealth veterans immigration row

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/09/tory-mps-intervene-commonwealth-veterans-immigration-row>

Lord Dubs calls on UK to urgently intervene to help child refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/11/lord-dubs-calls-on-uk-urgently-intervene-help-child-refugees-greece-lesbos>

Coronavirus: call to release UK immigration centre detainees

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/14/coronavirus-call-to-release-uk-immigration-centre-detainees>

Removal of illegal immigrants and offenders halves in decade

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/removal-of-illegal-immigrants-and-offenders-halves-in-decade-nhps8fhz0>

He calls us 'new Mum, new Dad': fostering a teen asylum seeker

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/mar/09/new-mum-new-dad-fostering-teen-asylum-seeker>

The real story of the birth of immigration controls in the UK is eerily familiar

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-uk-alien-antisemitism-home-office-boris-johnson-patel-a9351821.html>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ethnic Groups

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [24326] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 13518 on Unemployment: Ethnic Groups, what estimate he has made of the average wage of workers from BAME backgrounds.

Reply from Paul Scully: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published estimates of the earnings for different ethnic groups in Great Britain.

In 2018, on average, the median gross hourly pay for people from an ethnic minority background was £11.54. The full analysis can be found in the link below:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/ethnicitypaygapsingreatbritain/2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24326/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-06/13538/>

Housing: Travellers

Elliot Colburn (Conservative) [23528] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether he plans to update Government Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessments guidance; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Luke Hall: In February 2019 we announced a package of measures to help support site provision as part of the Government response to the Consultation on Unauthorised Encampments, including a commitment to finalise the 2016 draft guidance on assessing housing need including for those residing in caravans and houseboats.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23528/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/776942/Unauthorised_development_and_encampments_response.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Police: Ethnic Groups

Lord Wasserman (Conservative) [HL1971] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many police officers in England and Wales of the rank of Assistant Chief Constable, or equivalent, and above are BAME.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office collects and publishes information on the police workforce on a biannual basis. The latest statistical releases are available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-workforce-england-and-wales>

The annual "as at March" release contains information on the ethnicity of officers by rank. The rank of 'Chief Officer' includes all ranks above Chief Superintendent, and the latest information shows that as at 31 March 2019, 2.6% of Chief Officers were BAME.

Data on promotions can also be found in the "as at March" edition of this release. However, as the rank of 'Chief Officer' includes all ranks above Chief Superintendent, promotions within Chief Officer ranks are not collected and we are therefore unable to say how many Chief Constables were promoted from the rank of Deputy Chief Constable or equivalent.

The releases also contain information on how many officers are on secondment, however, data are not collected on the location of those secondments.

Information on whether officers are university graduates, or whether they served at the same rank in another force are not collected.

[Police Workforce England and Wales](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-workforce-england-and-wales)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-26/HL1971/>

Travellers: Life Expectancy

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL1984] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce discrepancies in life expectancy between Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities and other communities, as demonstrated by the Race Disparity Audit.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Government has been working to improve outcomes

for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities especially improving access to primary care. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will also lead development of a cross-Government strategy to improve outcomes for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, covering access to important services but also the wider determinants of health.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-27/HL1984/>

Travellers: Finance

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL1983] To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding, if any, they have committed to improving the life chances of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities; and whether that funding is ringfenced.

Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: The Government has provided funding aimed at improving the life chances of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.

The Department for Education has provided over £15 billion of pupil premium funding since 2011 and a further £2.4 billion in the current financial year, which will have benefited children from GRT communities.

In 2018/19, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provided £200,000 of ring-fenced funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations for six pilot projects aimed at improving outcomes for GRT in the areas of educational attainment, health and social integration. Two of these pilot projects received further ring-fenced funding totalling £95,000 in 2019/20.

The Controlling Migration Fund (2016 – 2020) has provided £102 million of non-ringfenced funding for local authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. This funding is designed to help ease the pressures on local services caused by recent migration. These projects aid in helping migrant communities to access services, improve health outcomes, raising educational outcomes for children and young adults and English language provision. Roma communities are the beneficiaries, but not the sole focus of several of the projects funded through the Controlling Migration Fund.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-27/HL1983/>

Press Release

UK's civil and political rights record under review: challenges of new digital technologies

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/uk%E2%80%99s-civil-and-political-rights-record-under-review-challenges-new-digital>

New Publications

Civil and political rights in the UK: Equality and Human Rights Commission submission to the UN

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/civil_and_political_rights_in_great_britain_2020.pdf

Racial disparities in mental health: Literature and evidence review

<https://raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/mental-health-report-v5-2.pdf>

News

BAME communities' 'unequal mental health care'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-51860052>

Bernardine Evaristo celebrates black female writers in Bristol libraries

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-51838297>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Hate Speech

John Mason (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how it ensures that the action that it takes to restrict hate speech does not inadvertently discourage freedom of speech. (S5O-04266)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government (Aileen Campbell): Scotland is a modern and inclusive nation that protects, respects and realises internationally recognised human rights. Any form of hate crime is, nonetheless, unacceptable. In June 2017, the Scottish Government published an ambitious programme of work to tackle hate crime through an action group that I chair. Our plans include the introduction of a hate crime bill during this parliamentary term. The bill, like all our efforts to tackle hate crime, has been carefully balanced against the fundamental rights and freedoms of all who live in Scotland, as reflected in human rights legislation.

John Mason: We have had two recent cases in Glasgow where freedom of speech has, apparently, been restricted. One case was when Franklin Graham was refused an event at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, and the other case was when forwomen.scot was refused an event at the Glasgow Women's Library. It appears that there is a cooling towards freedom of speech and that, when someone disagrees with someone else, it is simply called hate speech.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I am aware of the exchanges that John Mason referred to, and I am sure that we are all aware of the tone and nature of some of the discussion and dialogue that has gone along with them. That tone is not necessarily helpful in carving out the space for dialogue, discussion and debate, and for that to be done respectfully.

As I said in my earlier reply, Scotland is a modern and inclusive nation; however, that does not happen by accident. It is precious, and we need to work hard to keep that. It is incumbent on all of us as parliamentarians to ensure that we set the right tone, lead by example, and are guided by kindness, respect and empathy. That should be the hallmark of our approach to all the vexing and challenging discussions that we have.

Gordon Lindhurst (Conservative): Following on from the cabinet secretary's comments, does she share the concern of many Christians in Edinburgh at the cancellation of a Destiny Church event at the public Usher Hall venue, and their concern about perceived, potentially state-supported, religious censorship?

Reply from Aileen Campbell: As I said, the tone of some of the dialogue that happens around that is, sometimes, not necessarily helpful. I am happy to meet Gordon Lindhurst and John Mason should they have concerns to make sure that, as we take forward the hate crime bill, they can be made to feel reassured.

As I said, Scotland is a modern and inclusive nation; however, that has to be worked hard for. We should lead by example. We will meet members to discuss concerns to ensure that we proceed in a positive way and that people do not feel in any way threatened.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12573&i=113675#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-21197 Dean Lockhart (Conservative): Police Scotland Launches Don't Tolerate Hate Campaign – That the Parliament welcomes the campaign by Police Scotland that aims to encourage people to report disability hate crime; understands that, although 20% of people in Scotland identify as having a disability, only 4% of reported hate crime relates to disability, and commends Sam, Ivan, Alison and Sean who have agreed to tell about their experiences as part of the campaign to encourage others to report disability hate crime.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21197>

Scottish Parliament Petition

Hate Crime (Security Funding Scheme) (PE1737)

Petition closed

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12561&i=113573#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister's Questions

Naz Shah (Labour): Last week, Emmy award-winning actor and musician Riz Ahmed released a hard-hitting new album and a short film, “The Long Goodbye”, which powerfully expresses the heartbreak of many British minorities who feel unwanted in Britain, where hate crime is rising and hate speech infects public life. These are also the concerns of Muslims in my constituency. I urge Members of the House to listen to it and watch it. Will the Prime Minister, for once without hiding behind the robes of his Muslim ancestors—yes, we all know he had them—or clinging to the fig leaf that his ex-Chancellor's presence in the Cabinet provided him, or resorting to the potentially divisive, tit-for-tat deflection of the very serious issue of antisemitism, and given the 300 complaints of Islamophobia in his party, simply tell me what he is doing to assure Britain's Muslims that their Prime Minister is not an Islamophobe and takes their concerns seriously? [901454]

Reply from the Prime Minister: I can reassure the hon. Member that there is absolutely no room for hatred or racism in this party—in our Conservative party—and I wish I could say the same of her own party.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-03-11/debates/93AC1505-2F6C-4142-BED5-AEAADB2D98DC/Engagements#contribution-D2C8E75A-D20A-4815-A765-C37B75C6CE81>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [18670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the College of Policing's

operational guidance for investigating and recording allegations of non-crime hate incidents.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The College of Policing is independent from Government and its role is clear: setting high professional standards; sharing what works best; acting as the national voice of policing; and ensuring police training and ethics is of the highest possible quality.

The College of Policing has recently consulted on revised operational guidance on hate crime, which the College plans to publish in due course to support forces dealing with hate crimes and hate incidents.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18670/>

Hate Crime: Sentencing

Jim Shannon (DUP) [24349] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of sentences for people convicted of hate crime.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The legal framework for the prosecution of hate crimes in England and Wales includes provisions in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Criminal Justice Act 2003 to increase sentences where the offence is found to have been aggravated in relation to hostility on the grounds of race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or transgender identity. For example, common assault (non-aggravated) carries a maximum sentence of 6 months imprisonment, whilst racially or religiously aggravated common assault carries a maximum two years imprisonment. These provisions are clearly highlighted in the relevant sentencing guidelines.

The Government has asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the legislation related to hate crime, which will report in early 2021. The review is considering parity in the existing legislation and the case for additional characteristics to be protected by legislation. This includes reviewing the current range of specific offences and aggravating factors in sentencing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-03/24349/>

Information about the Law Commission review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

Hate Crime: Crime Prevention

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [25216] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps the Government is taking to tackle (a) antisemitism and (b) other hate crimes in (i) Bury South constituency and (ii) the UK.

Reply from Luke Hall: All hatred including antisemitism, is completely unacceptable and has no place in our society, which is why we're taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms.

We recognise that there has been an increase in reported religiously motivated hate crime incidents across the country.

We are also aware that Greater Manchester had the highest number of antisemitic incidents outside Greater London over the last 10 years (2008-2018) according to the Community Security Trust, who are one of our key partners in tackling antisemitism and the main body reporting on the number of incidents each year.

That is why we became the first country in the world to adopt the working definition of antisemitism as set by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. We are making sure the police record hate crimes disaggregated by faith and our refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan reaffirms our commitment to

combating antisemitism and our support for Jewish communities. We also are providing £14 million this year, and provided over £65 million to date, for the Protective Security Grant to protect Jewish schools and community buildings. We have committed just over £1.5 million for projects to tackle racially and religiously motivated hatred from 2018 to 2020, and have just launched a new Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme to promote integration and tackle hate crime, including antisemitism. We have also committed £200,000 of Home Office funding for a new national police hub to tackle the emerging threat of online hate crime. The hub went live in January 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-04/25216/>

Church of England: Travellers

Kate Green (Labour) [27547] To ask the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, what progress has been made on (a) making Church land available for Gypsy and Traveller sites and (b) other plans to tackle racism and discrimination as agreed at the General Synod in February 2019.

Reply from Andrew Selous: The Church Commissioners manage the charitable and historic endowments of the Church to support mission and ministry financially. The Commissioners seek to make provision for a range of housing types on their land but have not recently been made aware of any requirements for the direct provision of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation on that land. Other land at a parish and diocesan level is not under the ownership or management of the Church Commissioners.

The Church has an active network for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people and is also running an annual training day for clergy that offers support and guidance, alongside a conference on 24th March 2020 which aims to give voice and visibility to minorities not traditionally heard, seen and represented in the Church of England. The Church of England's Ministry Division and clergy senior appointments team have developed a programme of work to support vocations from UKME communities and is working towards increasing representation in the senior leadership of the Church.

The Church will also be making an additional £20 million available over three years under its new Social Impact Investment Project, which incentivises positive investment in communities over the maximisation of financial return. One of the key areas for this project will be looking at the social impact of housing and consideration will be given to the housing needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples.

At its February 2020 session the General Synod of the Church of England debated and passed the following motion:

"Windrush Commitment and Legacy

That this Synod, commemorating in 2018 the martyrdom of the Revd Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., noting with joy the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush liner in the United Kingdom in June 1948 bringing nearly 500 Commonwealth citizens, mainly from the Caribbean, to mainland UK; and the eventual arrival of approximately half a million people from the West Indies, who were called to Britain as British subjects to help rebuild the post-war United Kingdom:

a. lament, on behalf of Christ's Church, and apologises for, the conscious and unconscious racism experienced by countless black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) Anglicans in 1948 and subsequent years, when seeking to find a spiritual home in their local Church of England parish churches, the memory of which is still painful to committed Anglicans who, in spite of this racism from clergy and others,

- have remained faithful to the Church of England and their Anglican heritage;
- b. request the Archbishops' Council to commission research to assess the impact of this on the Church of England in terms of church members lost, churches declining into closure, and vocations to ordained and licensed lay ministries missed, and to report back to this Synod and the wider Church."
 - c. express gratitude to God for the indispensable contribution to the mission, ministry, prayer and worship of Christ's Church in this nation made by people of BAME descent in the Church of England;
 - d. acknowledge and give joyful thanks for the wider contribution of the 'Windrush generation' and their descendants to UK life and culture in every field of human activity, including service across the Armed Forces and other services during and after the Second World War; and
 - e. resolve to continue, with great effort and urgency, to stamp out all forms of conscious or unconscious racism, and to commit the Church of England to increase the participation and representation of lay and ordained BAME Anglicans throughout Church life;
 - f. request the Archbishop's Council to appoint an independent person external to the Church to assess the current situation as regards race and ethnicity in the Church, in order to present a report to this Synod with recommendations for actions to achieve reconciliation and authentic belonging so that we can move towards truly being a Church for all people;
 - g. to the greater glory of the God in whose image every human being is made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-10/27547/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL2248] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 4 February (HL728), what discussions they have had with the Law Commission about how they intend to conduct the review of legislation related to hate crime; whether that Commission intends to call for evidence; if so, (1) when, and (2) whom, it will call for evidence; and whether the Crown Prosecution Service will be involved in that review.

Baroness Williams of Trafford): The Government has asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the legislation related to hate crime, which will report in early 2021. The review is considering parity in the existing legislation and the case for additional groups to be protected by legislation. Officials have met with the Law Commission since the review was commissioned for informal progress updates. The Law Commission are scheduled to conduct a public consultation later in the year as part of their review. They will be seeking a wide range of perspectives and inviting comment from all interested parties.

As part of their review, the Law Commission are engaging with a variety of stakeholders, including the CPS, community organisations, civil rights groups, law enforcement, legal experts and academics.

The Government has asked the Law Commission to undertake a review of the legislation related to hate crime, which will report in early 2021. The review is considering parity in the existing legislation and the case for additional groups to be protected by legislation. Officials have met with the Law Commission since the review was commissioned for informal progress updates.

The Law Commission are scheduled to conduct a public consultation later in the year as part of their review. They will be seeking a wide range of perspectives and

inviting comment from all interested parties.

As part of their review, the Law Commission are engaging with a variety of stakeholders, including the CPS, community organisations, civil rights groups, law enforcement, legal experts and academics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-04/HL2248/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL728/>

The review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

Religious Hatred

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL1822] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Viscount Younger of Leckie on 3 February (HL727), what consideration they have given to requiring allegations of an offence of stirring up religious hatred to be supported by two witnesses, in order to restrict frivolous complaints.

Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: It is an operational matter for the police to determine whether and how to investigate all incidents reported to them. The Crown Prosecution Service will also apply the Code for Crown Prosecutors to ensure a prosecution will not proceed where a complaint is deemed to be frivolous. Decisions to prosecute are furthermore subject to consideration under the Freedom of Expression defence contained in Section 29J of the Public Order Act 1986.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1822/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-22/HL727/>

Travellers: Hate Crime

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL1985] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle hate crimes against Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: The Government takes hate crime against all communities very seriously, which is why we published the hate crime action plan (Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime) in July 2016. This plan was refreshed in October 2018.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is supporting Herts GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment) with over £75,000 of funding in 2019/20 to encourage reporting and support Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) victims of hate crime.

In November 2019 the Crown Prosecution Service held its second National Scrutiny Panel on hate crime affecting GRT communities. The Panel considered issues relating to the investigation and prosecution of GRT hate crime and subsequently produced an Action Plan of commitments, including working with key departments across Government to raise awareness of the issues. This followed a first Action Plan that was published in February 2017.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-27/HL1985/>

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

News

Trevor Phillips suspended from Labour over Islamophobia allegations

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51797316>

Trevor Phillips suspended from Labour over Islamophobia allegations

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51797316>

Sayeeda Warsi chides Trevor Phillips over Muslim comments

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/mar/09/labour-suspends-former-head-of-ehrc-over-alleged-islamophobia>

Trevor Phillips doesn't understand Islamophobia

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/09/trevor-phillips-islamophobia-muslims>

Trevor Phillips suspended from Labour over Islamophobia allegations

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/09/trevor-phillips-suspended-labour-islamophobia-allegations/>

Trevor Phillips calls on Labour leadership candidates to pick a side amid major backlash over his suspension

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/09/trevor-phillips-calls-labour-leadership-candidates-pick-side/>

Trevor Phillips: Anti-racism campaigner suspended by Labour over Islamophobia allegations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/trevor-phillips-labour-islamophobia-racism-rotherham-abuse-ehrc-a9385832.html>

Labour suspends race pioneer Trevor Phillips over Islamophobia claims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-suspends-race-pioneer-trevor-phillips-over-islamophobia-claims-m7qzzqz8d>

What it's like to be an anti-racist accused of racism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-its-like-to-be-an-anti-racist-accused-of-racism-t2x59t6j2>

Labour promotes Yasmine Dar despite brother's race row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-promotes-yasmine-dar-despite-brothers-race-row-j39b0ks6f>

Senior police officer claims he is paid less because he is a white man

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/14/senior-officer-claims-pay-discrimination-white-man/>

White police official sues Priti Patel for alleged race bias

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/white-police-official-sues-priti-patel-for-alleged-race-bias-9svj99q32>

Oxfam caught selling antisemitic book

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/oxfam-caught-selling-antisemitic-book-dw3tggkvc>

Oxfam removes antisemitic books from sale after Israel's UK ambassador tweets condemnation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/13/oxfam-removes-antisemitic-books-sale-israels-uk-ambassador-tweets/>

Cambridge may drop BAME mentoring of white academics

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/mar/14/cambridge-may-drop-bame-mentoring-of-white-academics>

'Let's stop being scared about saying things are racist' — the Cambridge graduates taking on white privilege

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lets-stop-being-scared-about-saying-things-are-racist-the-cambridge-graduates-taking-on-white-privilege-jpd5vn7wp>

I found racist graffiti in my own classroom. And yet my first reaction was denial

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/11/racist-graffiti-classroom-denial-race-card>

Tommy Robinson 'racist invective' led to far-right targeting family, court hears

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/12/tommy-robinson-racist-invective-led-to-far-right-targeting-family-court-hears>

UK bed firm's advert banned for associating migrants with coronavirus

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2020/mar/11/uk-bed-firms-advert-banned-for-associating-migrants-with-coronavirus>

Islamophobia and racism aren't restricted to a few Tories and far-right thugs

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/mar/10/islamophobia-racism-tories-far-right-british-society>

Old Trafford guards accused of racist attack on 19-year-old worker

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/10/old-trafford-guards-accused-of-racist-attack-on-19-year-old-worker>

Manchester United worker claims he was punched in racist attack by security guards outside Old Trafford

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/10/manchester-united-worker-claims-punched-racist-attack-security/>

Guards 'racially attacked' teenager near Old Trafford

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/guards-racially-attacked-teenager-near-old-trafford-vsv8f62w0>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Claudia Webbe (Labour) [23609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

how much funding she has allocated to public safety in and around mosques in the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement.

Claudia Webbe (Labour) [23610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to increase funding for security in and around mosques in response to the Hanau terrorist attack on 19 February 2020.

Claudia Webbe (Labour) [23483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding is available to support security and safety in and around mosques; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: In addition to the 134 grants already provided over the first three years of the Places of Worship scheme, the Government have announced a further commitment of £1.6m funding for the Places of Worship Scheme this financial year and are further doubling the available funding in 2020-21. We will shortly be announcing the outcome of the fourth year of the scheme, which will see over fifty organisations receive funding to enhance the security of their premises.

The police regularly review events and potential threats to ensure everything is being done to protect all our communities from terrorism, hate crime and the impact of public protest. The Government also has an established programme that provides those responsible for crowded places with high quality advice and guidance, to enable them to understand the terrorist threat; prepare for all types of terrorist attacks; and ensure appropriate measures may be taken to reduce their vulnerability.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23609/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23610/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23483/>

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

Religious Buildings: Islam

Claudia Webbe (Labour) [23481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many mosques have received funding from the Place of Worship Security Fund.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Over the first three years, the Places of Worship scheme has approved 134 grants worth approximately £1.5m to 63 churches, 49 to mosques, 5 to Hindu temples and 17 to Gurdwaras.

We received a high number of applications for the scheme in 2019/20 and will be informing successful applicants in the near future.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-02/23481/>

Information about the Places of Worship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation: Prosecutions

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative) [HL2075] To ask Her Majesty's

Government how many people have been (1) prosecuted for, and (2) found guilty of, female genital mutilation in the UK.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: In the period between the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 coming into force and 31 December 2018, there were 6 prosecutions and 0 convictions for female genital mutilation offences.

The media, however, reported on one conviction early in 2019, but that covers a period for which statistics will be published in May 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-02/HL2075/>

Marriage: Islam

Lord Beecham (Labour) [HL1706] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to legislate to ensure that women in Islamic faith marriages can seek redress through the courts in the event that the marriage breaks down.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The law has long made provision for couples, including Muslim couples, to marry in their place of worship in a way that gives them legal rights and protections. The Government shares the concern that some people may nonetheless marry in a way that does not, and without appreciating the consequences.

The independent Sharia review has recommended that it should be an offence for religious celebrants to carry out a ceremony that is outside the ambit of the Marriage Acts. Any legislative proposal, including such an offence, must be thoroughly assessed for its fairness to all religious groups and for how far it could achieve the change of practice intended. That is why it is with the greatest care that the Government is continuing the exploration of both limited reform and non-legislative options that it began in detail in the spring.

Separately from this exploration, the Law Commission began its weddings project in July last year. It will make recommendations for how the wider law on getting married in England and Wales can be systematically reformed in a way that is simple, fair and consistent.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-24/HL1706/>

The Sharia review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678478/6.4152_HO_CPFPG_Report_into_Sharia_Law_in_the_UK_WEB.pdf

Information about the Law Commission weddings project can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/weddings/>

Out-of-school Education: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL2002] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 13 February (HL1377), whether they assess whether extremist ideology is being taught in madrasas; and if so, how.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: Madrasas are generally considered to be out-of-school settings and, as indicated in the answer provided by my predecessor, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System, on 13 February 2020, out-of-school settings are not captured by a single dedicated regulatory framework. Therefore, they are not subject to assessment regarding their teachings by the department or Ofsted.

However, as explained previously, the department is taking forward a package of measures to enhance safeguarding in out-of-school settings – safeguarding children from all forms of harm, including extremism. This includes a £3 million pilot scheme as previously outlined by my predecessor in his response on 16 January

2020. The pilot scheme will be used to inform development of best practice on how to identify and intervene in out-of-school settings of concern.

If the department became aware of a setting where extremist activity was taking place resulting in children being at risk of harm, we would work closely with relevant agencies, such as the local authority and police, to take action.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-27/HL2002/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-05/HL1377/>

Prisoners: Islam

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL2231] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Keen of Elie on 3 March (HL Deb, cols 507–9), what estimate they have made of the percentage of Muslim managing chaplains in prisons in England and Wales (1) currently, and (2) 10 years ago; and what percentage of current prisoners are Muslim.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: As of 6 March 2020, 29% of Managing Chaplains in prisons in England and Wales were Muslim. No information is held centrally of the faith adherence ten years ago of managing chaplains (or their then equivalent). As of 31 December 2019, 16% of prisoners in England Wales declared that they were Muslim.

Data on prisoner religion up to December 2019 is shown below. These figures are regularly published on gov.uk under table 1.5 of the prison statistics information.

Table 1.5: Prison population by religion and sex						
	31-Dec-18	31-Mar-19	30-Jun-19	30-Sep-19	31-Dec-19	Percentage change December 2018 to 2019
Males and Females	82,236	82,634	82,710	83,810	82,868	1%
All Christian	39,293	39,515	39,257	39,731	39,176	0%
Anglican	13,496	13,480	13,273	13,389	13,225	-2%
Free Church	758	737	739	770	753	-1%
Roman Catholic	14,094	14,160	14,194	14,350	14,183	1%
Other Christian	10,945	11,138	11,051	11,222	11,015	1%
Muslim	12,894	13,008	13,341	13,474	13,424	4%
Hindu	361	343	341	354	342	-5%
Sikh	638	611	601	588	571	-11%
Buddhist	1,575	1,619	1,603	1,627	1,661	5%
Jewish	482	477	494	502	495	3%
Other religious group	1,838	1,876	1,910	1,955	1,965	7%
Non recognised	6	7	6	5	7	**
No religion	25,053	25,034	25,023	25,455	25,099	0%
Not recorded	96	144	134	119	128	33%
Males	78,476	78,802	78,940	79,943	79,165	1%

All Christian	37,119	37,336	37,167	37,607	37,102	0%
Anglican	12,827	12,789	12,632	12,763	12,604	-2%
Free Church	703	685	693	716	707	1%
Roman Catholic	13,377	13,438	13,473	13,606	13,470	1%
Other Christian	10,212	10,424	10,369	10,522	10,321	1%
Muslim	12,659	12,782	13,098	13,222	13,183	4%
Hindu	350	329	327	337	326	-7%
Sikh	618	589	581	571	555	-10%
Buddhist	1,500	1,534	1,524	1,548	1,586	6%
Jewish	476	469	484	495	487	2%
Other religious group	1,735	1,774	1,806	1,850	1,855	7%
Non recognised	6	7	6	5	6	**
No religion	23,919	23,846	23,827	24,204	23,944	0%
Not recorded	94	136	120	104	121	29%
Females	3,760	3,832	3,770	3,867	3,703	-2%
All Christian	2,174	2,179	2,090	2,124	2,074	-5%
Anglican	669	691	641	626	621	-7%
Free Church	55	52	46	54	46	**
Roman Catholic	717	722	721	744	713	-1%
Other Christian	733	714	682	700	694	-5%
Muslim	235	226	243	252	241	3%
Hindu	11	14	14	17	16	**
Sikh	20	22	20	17	16	**
Buddhist	75	85	79	79	75	0%
Jewish	6	8	10	7	8	**
Other religious group	103	102	104	105	110	7%
Non recognised	0	0	0	0	1	**
No religion	1,134	1,188	1,196	1,251	1,155	2%
Not recorded	2	8	14	15	7	**

The role of Managing Chaplain is predominantly managerial rather than faith based and posts are filled through fair and open competition in line with Civil Service guidelines.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-04/HL2231/>

Press Release

Places of Worship scheme provides record levels of funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/places-of-worship-scheme-provides-record-levels-of-funding>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Information and advice about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

Information and advice about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Public Health England

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance for health professionals and other organisations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

Scottish Government

COVID-19 testing update

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-testing-update/>

People with symptoms told to stay at home

<https://www.gov.scot/news/people-with-symptoms-told-to-stay-at-home/>

Large gathering guidance

<https://www.gov.scot/news/large-gathering-guidance/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice to organisers on mass events

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-to-organisers-on-mass-events/>

COVID-19 helpline for Scottish businesses

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-helpline-for-scottish-businesses/>

£320 million package of support for businesses

<https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-320-million-package-of-support-for-businesses/>

UK Government

Coronavirus: prime ministerial statement in full

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-politics-51856107/coronavirus-prime-ministerial-statement-in-full>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Charities and Coronavirus: An update from the regulator

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/charities-and-coronavirus-an-update-from-the-regulator/>

News

Coronavirus: English local elections postponed for a year

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51876269>

Coronavirus: Catholic churches preparing to suspend Mass

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-51887510>

Faith groups warned over burial backlog

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/14/religious-communities-warned-could-banned-burying-dead-faith/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx>

** Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

Stage 1 evidence session, Equalities and Human Rights Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12563&i=113589#ScotParlOR>

** Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111895.aspx>

Proposed amendments

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill50ML2S052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill50ML2S052020.pdf)

Stage 2 consideration of amendments, Education and Skills Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12572&i=113660#ScotParlOR>

Bill as amended at Stage 2

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill50AS052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Disclosure%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill50AS052020.pdf)

** Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111850.aspx>

Revised Explanatory Notes

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20\(Protection%20and%20Guidance\)%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill47AENS052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Female%20Genital%20Mutilation%20(Protection%20and%20Guidance)%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill47AENS052020.pdf)

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/asylumseekerspermissiontowork.html>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

**** Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal.html>

House of Commons Library Briefing

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8706/CBP-8706.pdf>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigration-control-gross-human-rights-abuses.html>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriage-approved-organisations.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugees-family-reunion.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-legal-advice-and-appeals.html>

Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/windrush-compensation-scheme-expenditure.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2020)

<https://tinyurl.com/sxarzv4>

Harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education (closing date 27 March 2020)

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/76f6bdd3-bb14-4956-b089-cd1598323d55/consultation-on-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-in-higher-education.pdf>

Race equality, employment and skills inquiry (closing date 17 April 2020)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/race-equality-employment-and-skills-inquiry/>

Use of interpreters in the asylum process (closing date not stated)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-use-of-interpreters-in-the-asylum-process>

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

Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020

Closing date not stated

Grants of up to £100 for charities, community and voluntary groups, sporting groups, and informal groups to host a one-off activity celebrating the diverse population of Fife during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 7-13 September 2020. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/stbmu24>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Researching migrant and ethnic minority communities in Scotland

18 March 2020 in Aberdeen (12.00–3.30)

School of Nursing and Midwifery at Robert Gordon University Symposium to discuss the influence of policy on research with migrant and ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/stry5vl>

Talking Prejudice

23 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–4.00)

5 May 2020 in Inverness (9.30–4.00)

2 June 2020 in Stirling (9.30–4.00)

YouthLink event for youth workers and others working in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/uq4antk> for the Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xny> and for the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

Advancing Human Rights & Inspiring Equal Citizens for Torture Survivors

24 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–3.30)

Freedom from Torture event to share learning and experiences from the Healing Neighbourhood Project, in relation to promoting human rights, equality, and the empowerment of torture survivors through community learning and development, and enhancing democratic participation in all aspects of Scottish life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wdpzwvn>

Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. Includes the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on how to arrange events that bring together people of many faiths and philosophies for meaningful and respectful dialogue, including practical considerations for their success, and creating an environment that respects difference while seeking mutual understanding. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

The conference is orientated around the four themes that reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns: internal migration and urban change, forced migration and bordering, visualising mobilities, and European migration in turbulent politic. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

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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>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

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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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



*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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