



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

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 20 April 2020, and the UK Parliament is in recess until 21 April 2020.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Visas: Married People

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [33614] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will reduce the minimum income requirement of £18,600 per year to sponsor a spouse's visa during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

We continue to monitor the situation closely and may make adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33614/>

Visas: China

Alan Brown (SNP) [34370] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will further extend the relaxation of visa requirements for Chinese nationals in the UK beyond 31 March 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Visa nationals whose leave expired after the 24 January and who cannot leave the country because of travel restrictions or self-isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to extend their visa.

A dedicated COVID-19 immigration team has been set up within UKVI to make the process as straightforward as possible. Anyone in this situation just needs to contact this team, via the following email address, CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk, to let them know their visa has expired and they will be issued with an extension.

This will last until 31 May, but will be kept under regular review in case further extensions are needed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-24/34370/>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [32747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to provide a support package for migrants in the UK without access to public funds during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. We are continually reviewing the situation to consider what more can be done.

Individuals who have leave to remain on human rights grounds can already apply to have their no recourse to public funds condition lifted if they would otherwise be destitute. We are working to ensure that those who are eligible to have the condition lifted can have a decision taken as swiftly as possible.

Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases.

Covid-19 has been added to the list of communicable diseases so anyone experiencing symptoms regardless of their immigration status will be treated for free.

A dedicated covid-19 immigration help-centre has been set up to deal with queries.

The best way to contact the help-centre is via email on CIH@homeoffice.gov.uk.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-20/32747/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [32240] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme beyond 30 June 2021 as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are still nearly 15 months before the deadline of 30 June 2021 for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme. The published statistics, to 29 February 2020, show the scheme is performing well, with more than 3.3 million applications having been received and applications continuing to be received and processed.

EU citizens can apply online, free of charge, simply by completing three key steps: proving their identity, showing they live in the UK and declaring any criminal convictions. There is support available online and by email.

Where a person eligible for leave under the scheme has reasonable grounds for

missing the application deadline, they will be given a further opportunity to apply. Our compassionate and flexible approach will ensure individuals who miss the deadline through no fault of their own can still obtain lawful status in the UK. We will publish clear guidance for caseworkers in due course to ensure consistency of approach.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-19/32240/>

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

Asylum: Information

Jim Shannon (DUP) [33517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to improve the accuracy of (a) information gathered during interviews with asylum applicants and (b) asylum decisions.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum operations is working to improve the quality and accuracy of decision-making to ensure that we get decisions right first time. This includes assuring that we properly consider all evidence provided by applicants in order to reduce the proportion of allowed appeals, analysing the reasons for allowed appeals and using this to inform and further improve guidance and training for decision making staff.

All decision makers receive extensive training on how to interview asylum seekers in a sensitive way and consider the claim for sustainable decisions to be reached. We ensure that claimants are given every opportunity to disclose information relevant to their claim before a decision is taken, even where that information may be sensitive or difficult to disclose.

UKVI has an internal audit process which assesses the quality of decisions, interviews and the application of Home Office policy. We have Senior Case Worker assessments as well as independent auditors from the Central Operations Assurance Team who audit asylum cases and provide quarterly reports.

It is Home Office policy to digitally record asylum interviews unless the exemptions policy applies, a copy of the interview record is given to the applicant and legal representative if present.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33517/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Information

Jim Shannon (DUP) [33518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to improve information provided to people seeking asylum.

Asylum

Jim Shannon (DUP) [33522] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to monitor the quality of experience of people seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office issues an information leaflet to asylum claimants at the point of claim which outlines the asylum process and the claimant's responsibilities within that process. This information leaflet is periodically reviewed. Independent guidance and advice are also available to asylum claimants provided by Migrant Help. Migrant Help are present in initial accommodation where destitute asylum seekers are initially housed and their services can also be accessed via their website or by phone. Their website is available in multiple languages, and the helpline is free and accessible in multiple languages.

UKVI work closely with our key partners and stakeholders to seek and share

feedback to identify ways in which we can improve the quality of experience of people seeking asylum in the UK. We have recently set up a Customer Experience Management Team, based across the UK, who will work closely on a local level with stakeholders, to identify key areas to improve the overall experience for people seeking asylum in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33518/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33522/>

The Migrant Help website, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/>

Asylum: Employment

Jim Shannon (DUP) [33521] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to grant asylum applicants (a) the right to work after six months waiting for a decision on their application and (b) access to English language classes from application.

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

It is important to distinguish between those who need protection and economic migrants, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider immigration policy would be undermined if migrants could bypass work visa routes by lodging unfounded asylum claims.

Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue and is under review. It is crucial we take the time to get this right. We are listening carefully to the arguments and considering the evidence put forward on the issue. Work on the review is ongoing. After six months we provide a 50% contribution to the costs of English language classes for asylum seekers in certain circumstances. Those granted refugee status are entitled to access fully funded English language tuition if they are unemployed and in receipt of certain benefits.

Currently around half of those who seek asylum in the UK are found not to need international protection. Therefore, rather than invest in integration for those who may not qualify for international protection, this Government's priority is to focus our efforts and resources to support those who most need it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-23/33521/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigrants: Health Services

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2737] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish an impact assessment of the proposed increase in the immigration health surcharge; and whether any such assessment will include the impact on children's rights.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Impact assessment for the Immigration Health Surcharge Order can be found here:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukia/2020/30/pdfs/ukia_20200030_en.pdf

A policy equality statement and family test have also been completed.

[Legislation - UKIA 2020/30](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-18/HL2737/>

Immigrants: Health Services

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2738] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to exempting NHS workers from the immigration health surcharge.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government fully recognises the role overseas Doctor's Nurses and Allied Health Professional play in our NHS, hence we are working to introduce an NHS visa for qualified health professionals who will be offered fast track entry, reduced visa fees and dedicated support to come to the UK with their families.

Yet it is right all who come to work in the UK contribute towards the cost of providing the NHS services they will have access to from their arrival as do providers of other essential public services such as teachers and care-workers. Those who show a long-term commitment to our country become exempt from the immigration health surcharge when they secure Indefinite Leave to Remain.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-18/HL2738/>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL2809] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that residents without recourse to public funds will have financial protection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Lord Agnew of Oulton: The government has introduced a range of measures to provide financial protection for those affected by Covid-19, including those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

Employers will be able to apply for grants under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for workers on the PAYE system. The government has also extended Statutory Sick Pay to be payable from Day 1 rather than Day 4 and made Contributory Employment and Support Allowance available from the first day of sickness rather than the eighth, subject to other eligibility criteria. For those who file Self-Assessment returns, the government has deferred Income Tax Self-Assessment payments from July 2020 to January 2021.

In addition, the government has announced that banks and building societies will offer a three-month 'mortgage holiday' for borrowers in financial difficulty, including landlords with tenants in financial difficulty, as a result of Covid-19. Alongside this, the government has legislated to prohibit tenant evictions for three months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-23/HL2809/>

Migrant Workers: Ministers of Religion

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2680] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there will be any change to the existing requirements for a Temporary Worker-Religious Worker visa (Tier 5) under the new points-based immigration system.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under the current Immigration Rules, there are a range of routes for specialist activities, including temporary religious workers. From January 2021, these routes will be opened to EEA and Swiss citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-17/HL2680/>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

The Lord Bishop of London [HL2780] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to provide healthcare and support services to people in immigration removal centres during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office continues to follow national guidance issued by Public Health England (PHE), Health Protection Scotland and the National Health Service. In addition, all immigration removal centres have communicable disease contingency plans, based on PHE advice. Measures such as protective isolation and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) are being used to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading to vulnerable groups in immigration removal centres.

Basic hygiene is a key part of tackling COVID-19. Handwashing facilities are available in all immigration removal centres and we are working closely with suppliers to ensure adequate supply of soap and cleaning materials.

All immigration removal centres have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-19/HL2780/>

New Publications

Covid-19: The risk to asylum seekers and undocumented migrants

<https://learning.rcpe.ac.uk/mod/page/view.php?id=7206>

Children in migration 2019

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-children-in-migration_en.pdf

News

Coronavirus: EU settlement applicants warned to expect delays

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-52139322>

Coronavirus: Hundreds of refugees made destitute as Home Office 'too slow to act', charities warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-refugees-homeless-uk-home-office-a9439346.html>

Coronavirus: Thousands of foreign NHS workers to have UK visas extended for one year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-nhs-visa-doctor-nurse-paramedics-home-office-migrants-a9438211.html>

Foreign doctors and nurses to get visas extended for a year to help in NHS fight against the coronavirus

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/03/31/foreign-doctors-nurses-get-visas-extended-year-help-nhs-fight/>

The government just admitted it needs foreign NHS workers – this visa extension shows it doesn't value them at all

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/nhs-coronavirus-foreign-staff-visa-extension-home-office-a9440856.html>

Urgent call to 'strengthen the safety net'

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/urgent-call-to-strengthen-the-safety-net/>

Covid-19: No evictions for three months

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/covid-19-no-evictions-for-three-months/>

Coronavirus: Yarl's Wood detainees 'terrified' after positive test

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52121224>

Former asylum seeker minister granted British citizenship

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2020/former-asylum-seeker-minister-granted-british-citizenship>

Anti-trafficking experts note 44% rise in identified victims since 2015

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/anti-trafficking-experts-note-44-rise-in-identified-victims-since-2015>

Refugee Festival Scotland 2020 – Coronavirus update

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/refugee-festival-scotland-2020-coronavirus-update/>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Public Appointments: Ethnic Groups

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL2485] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many publicly appointed members of public bodies regulating (1) social work, and (2) education, identify as BAME; and what is the recorded ethnicity of each of those members, disaggregated by public body.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Department for Education has 136 publicly appointed members of public bodies, 17 of whom identify as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME). Social Work England has seven public appointees. Due to the low number of appointees, and the risk of potential identification of individuals within this group, we are not able to confirm the number of declared BAME appointees within Social Work England. Ethnicity is based on voluntary declaration. In order to protect personal information, the Department is unable to provide this data disaggregated by public body as, within each body, the number relates to fewer than 10 individuals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-11/HL2485/>

Travelling People: Coronavirus

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL2922] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that there is protection from eviction for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: The Government takes the welfare of all citizens seriously and we are working hard to ensure those most at risk are identified and supported including those in GRT communities who will be receiving support alongside others.

The Government is also holding regular discussions with community representatives to understand issues faced and are looking into what guidance and support is required for Local authorities, who have a responsibility to look after vulnerable groups.

We are sending a clear message to landlords that they should do everything possible to avoid evictions – particularly where households are facing hardship as a result of coronavirus. Where a person's main home is on a camp site or caravan park, those sites can stay open.

We are urgently introducing emergency legislation to protect tenants in social and private accommodation from an eviction process being started and are considering what further action may be appropriate. In the meantime, we are urging the landlords of those on licences to follow the same guidance to work with renters who may be facing hardship as a result of Covid-19.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-25/HL2922/>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Hate Crime: Facebook

Rupa Huq (Labour) [33632] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of Facebook's complaints process for reporting hate crimes.

Reply from James Brokenshire: As outlined in the Online Harms White Paper, we intend to establish in law a new 'duty of care' on companies towards their users. The 'duty of care' will ensure companies have appropriate systems and processes in place to deal with harmful content, which includes hate crime, on their services to keep their users safe. The 'duty of care' will apply to companies that provide services which facilitate the sharing of user generated content or user interactions, for example through comments, forums or video sharing.

Companies will be required to have effective and proportionate user redress mechanisms which will enable users to report harmful content and to challenge content takedown where necessary. This will give users clearer, more effective and more accessible avenues to question content takedown, which is an important safeguard for the right to freedom of expression. These processes will need to be transparent, in line with terms and conditions, and consistently applied.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-21/33632/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/793360/Online_Harms_White_Paper.pdf

Press Release

Home Office grants £14 million funding for security at Jewish institutions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-grants-14-million-funding-for-security-at-jewish-institutions>

News

Jewish community to get £14 million Government grant for security after record anti-semitic attacks

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/04/01/jewish-community-get-14-million-government-grant-security-record/>

Home Office grants CST £14 million to protect Jewish institutions

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/home-office-grants-14-million-to-protect-jewish-institutions-1.498658>

Labour leadership: Call to resolve Anti-Semitism cases in four months

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-52105180>

Britain doesn't value black lives, claims NUS leader Larissa Kennedy

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-doesnt-value-black-lives-claims-nus-leader-larissa-kennedy-nxm7rcc>

Coronavirus: Racist 'zombombing' at virtual synagogue

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52105209>

Arsenal Fan TV's Robbie Lyle reveals how racism stopped him taking dad to watch Gunners

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/arsenal-fan-tv-aftv-robbie-lyle-racism-youtube-a9437836.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News

Jackie Baillie elected Scottish Labour deputy leader

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-52158708>

Mixed-sex civil partnerships backed by group of MSPs

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/mixed-sex-civil-partnerships-backed-group-msps-2523366>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Female Genital Mutilation: Education

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative) [HL2173] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether female genital mutilation education in schools is having a positive impact.

Baroness Jenkin of Kennington (Conservative) [HL2174] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of female genital mutilation education in schools on any stigma experienced by children of African descent.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is child abuse and it is illegal. Services, including schools, should safeguard children from this abuse as from any other form of abuse.

Keeping children safe in education is statutory safeguarding guidance. All schools must have regard to it when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The guidance sets out that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that all school staff should receive appropriate safeguarding training at induction and that the training should be regularly updated. The guidance states that all staff should speak to the school's designated safeguarding lead with regard to any concerns about FGM. It then goes on to explain the specific legal duty placed on teachers to report an act of FGM on a girl under the age of 18 to the police. The guidance is available here and attached:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>.

We want to support all young people to be happy, healthy and safe. We want to equip them for adult life and to make a positive contribution to society. From September 2020, we are making Relationships Education compulsory for all primary pupils, Relationships and Sex Education compulsory for all secondary pupils and Health Education compulsory for all pupils in state-funded schools.

The statutory guidance states that by the end of secondary education, pupils should have been taught about FGM. Schools should address the physical and emotional damage caused by FGM. They should also be taught where to find support and that it is a criminal offence to perform or assist in the performance of FGM or fail to protect a person for whom you are responsible from FGM. As well as addressing this in the context of the law, pupils may also need support to recognise when relationships (including family relationships) are unhealthy or abusive (including the unacceptability of neglect, emotional, sexual and physical abuse and violence, including honour-based violence and forced marriage) and strategies to manage this or access support for oneself or others at risk. All teaching for these subjects should be age as well as developmentally appropriate and sensitive to the needs of the pupil. This includes ensuring that no pupil feels stigmatised. Schools for example should work closely with the local community and key partners such as school nurses, as well as draw on local health data, when planning their teaching for any aspect of these subjects.

[keeping children safe in education 2019 pdf](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-03/HL2173/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-03-03/HL2174/>

News

Labour leadership winner: Sir Keir Starmer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51049756>

Who is Labour's new deputy leader Angela Rayner?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52127078>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

<https://www.nearme.scot/>

NHS (England and Wales)

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

Scottish Government

Coronavirus in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Where to find additional support

<https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/where-to-find-additional-support/>

Deliveries for high risk groups

<https://www.gov.scot/news/deliveries-for-high-risk-groups/>

Support for victims of domestic violence during COVID-19 outbreak

<https://www.gov.scot/news/support-for-victims-of-domestic-violence-during-covid-19-outbreak/>

Parliament asked to back emergency Coronavirus Bill

<https://www.gov.scot/news/parliament-asked-to-back-emergency-coronavirus-bill/>

National volunteering plan for coronavirus

<https://www.gov.scot/news/national-volunteering-plan-for-coronavirus/>

Tens of thousands sign up to help during coronavirus outbreak

<https://www.gov.scot/news/tens-of-thousands-sign-up-to-help-during-coronavirus-outbreak/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Coronavirus: Disease Control

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [26181] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care what guidance he has issued to (a) schools, (b) community groups, (c) faith organisations and (d) other organisations that attract public congregation on the spread of covid-19.

Reply from Helen Whately: The Government has made several announcements

regarding social distancing to be implemented across all areas raised in this question that will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). More information on social distancing can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Additional advice on school and business closures can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-regulations-created-by-secretary-of-state-for-business-closure-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures/guidance-for-schools-about-temporarily-closing>

On 23 March the Prime Minister announced new measures to lock down the United Kingdom for a minimum of three week, stating that places of worship were among the premises that had to close immediately, along with libraries, playgrounds, most shops, and outdoor gyms. People should stay at home, except to shop for basic necessities, take exercise, address medical needs, and travel to and from essential work. More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.government-online.net/the-prime-minister-announces-new-measures-to-lock-down-the-country/>

Specific guidance or information for faith groups is not held centrally. However, The Church of England have released their own advice. More information can be found at the following link::

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-06/26181/>

UK Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do

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

Video: What is Social Distancing?

English

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsETCzKSI2U&list=PLR-KcgoCyiQDOqs_OJRhHV_quBFko7OdE

Polish

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAHV483eshg&list=PLR-KcgoCyiQDOqs_OJRhHV_quBFko7OdE&index=2

Romanian

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RglqNbpPi6A&list=PLR-KcgoCyiQDOqs_OJRhHV_quBFko7OdE&index=3

Other Organisations

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network

- With the kind support of professional counselling volunteers who are registered with British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) BEMIS is now

able to offer free counselling support to those community members who have concerns about self-isolation or other mental health support requirement. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/emnrn/counselling/>

- There will be an online meeting on Thursday 9 April at 10.30am. To participate contact communitysupport@bemis.org.uk

Volunteering and coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/covid-19/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission Briefing: Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020

<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2005/coronavirus-scotland-act-2020-briefing-april-2020.pdf>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: COVID-19 Guidance for Charities

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/covid-19-guidance-for-charities/>

New video in Hindi helps Asian rheumatology patients stay safe from COVID-19

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/mds/news/2020/04/kumar-video.aspx>

Muslim Council of Britain urges pilgrims to delay Hajj bookings amidst COVID-19 pandemic

<https://mcb.org.uk/general/mcb-urges-pilgrims-to-delay-hajj-bookings-amidst-covid-19-pandemic/>

News

Coronavirus: MSPs pass emergency powers bill

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-52111412>

What's in Scotland's emergency coronavirus bill?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-52092081>

Watchdog welcomes equalities focus in emergency Coronavirus legislation

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/coronavirus_act_statement_030420.docx

How new funeral restrictions affect the bereaved in Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-52123899>

Coronavirus: 21,000 Scots sign up to volunteer

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52088526>

Virus-hit charities 'need substantial support'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52113853>

Jews allowed relax Passover rules in unprecedented intervention by Chief Rabbi

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/31/jews-allowed-relax-rules-surrounding-passover-festival-unprecedented/>

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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>

Equalities and Human Rights Committee, Stage 1 Report

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/EHRiC/2020/3/31/Civil-Partnership--Scotland--Bill-Stage-1-Report/EHRiCS052020R1.pdf>

**** Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill – emergency legislation**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/114929.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill66S052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill66S052020.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill66ENS052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill66ENS052020.pdf)

Financial Memorandum

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill66FMS052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill66FMS052020.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill66PMS052020.pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill66PMS052020.pdf)

Delegated Powers Memorandum

[https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/SPBill66DPMS052020_\(1\).pdf](https://www.parliament.scot/S5_Bills/Coronavirus%20(Scotland)%20Bill/SPBill66DPMS052020_(1).pdf)

Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Not Required Declaration

<https://tinyurl.com/wkyzs5m>

Equality Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/qt39cfw>

Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/yxxuj4sc>

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

<https://tinyurl.com/wzzvyqx>

Stage 1, whole Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12602&i=113926#ScotParlOR>

Legislative Programme

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12602&i=113947#ScotParlOR>

Committee Stage, whole Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12602&i=113949&c=2252974#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3, whole Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12602&i=113956#ScotParlOR>

Crown consent

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12602&i=113956&c=2252955#ScotParlOR>

Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

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

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/asylumsupportprescribedperiod.html>

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

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigrationandsocialsecuritycoordinationeuwithdrawal.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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

**** Grants online: Coronavirus**

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

Third Sector Resilience Fund

Closing date not stated

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see <https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

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!**

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network Online Meeting

9 April 2020 via Zoom

If you would like to participate in the meeting, which will include an opportunity to provide an update to members please let contact BEMIS communitysupport@bemis.org.uk

**** Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities**

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland is looking at ways of putting their training courses onto an online format. If you have signed up for any of their training courses please contact Jamie Spurway at jamie@interfaithscotland.org for further details.

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>

Talking Prejudice

These are now likely to be run as online events. Further details will be available in due course.

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 Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

**** Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue**

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland is looking at ways of putting their training courses onto an online format. If you have signed up for any of their training courses please contact Jamie Spurway at jamie@interfaithscotland.org for further details.

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>

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.imiqmob2020.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** 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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