



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

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

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The Scottish Parliament returns from recess on 26 October 2020.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debate

Immigration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-19/debates/2CE297BF-23A7-4F42-9100-F2DDB62FF085/Immigration>

UK Parliament, Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU, HC 705: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1082/html/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Assessments

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [104188] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the revised Life in the UK test will (a) include a history of Britain's colonial past and (b) include important colonial figures and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [104189] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that people (a) from disadvantaged backgrounds and (b) who do not speak English as a first language are supported to pass the Life in the UK immigration test.

Reply from Kevin Foster: When the Life in the UK handbook is next reviewed the Home Office will consider all feedback on what should be covered in it.

All those required to pass the Life in the UK test are also required to demonstrate knowledge of spoken English language at a level equivalent to B1 or above on the Common European Framework for Reference (CEFR). The Home Office continues to work with the handbook and test provider to ensure the test is accessible to all candidates who meet that level of language proficiency.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104188>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104189>

Immigration: Married People

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [103669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons a UK citizen living in the UK is charged a fee for the citizenship applications process to bring their non-UK citizen spouse to the UK and a EU citizen living in the UK is able to bring their spouse to the UK through the settled status scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Immigration Act 2014 gives the Home Office statutory powers to set fees for applications for entry or residence documentation issued under our domestic Immigration Rules and fees currently charged to non-EU citizens, including the dependants of British citizens, take into account wider factors within primary legislation.

At the end of the transition period, we will introduce a new fairer immigration system.

This new points-based immigration system, to be implemented from 1 January 2021, will focus on the skills migrants possess and the contribution they can make to the UK, not where their passport comes from. Our intention is to align the immigration arrangements for newly arriving EU citizens with those for migrants from the rest of the world, including in respect of family reunion. Further details of the new system will be set out in due course.

The EU Settlement Scheme reflects our obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement with the EU in relation to EU citizens resident in the UK by the end of the transition period and their family members. British nationals living in the UK are not exercising free movement rights and therefore need to sponsor family members under the UK's immigration rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/103669>

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

Immigration

Stephen Timms (Labour) [104010] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2020 to Question 100882 on Immigration, whether the figures given for in-country family extensions include all family and human rights extensions.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Stephen Timms (Labour) [104011] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2020 to Question 100882 on Immigration, in how many cases in each of the four quarters given were fee waivers granted for extension applications in which it was subsequently decided (a) to apply the No Recourse to Public Funds condition and (b) to grant Recourse to Public Funds.

Reply from Chris Philp: We can confirm that the figures given in the Answer of 13 October 2020 to Question 100882 include all initial decisions for 'family and human rights' applications.

Fee Waiver applications are recorded as a separate case in our systems and so the data does not allow us to report which immigration decision a successful Fee Waiver application relates to, although caseworkers making immigration decisions are able to see all relevant information when considering the application. To manually check each immigration decision would incur a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104010>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104011>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-08/100882>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [103406] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recommendation 6 of her Department's Policy Equality Statement of 17 April 2020, when she plans to reissue that Policy Equality Statement on No Recourse to Public Funds so that it addresses the point relating to the impact on British citizen children.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has published its policy equality statement on the impact of the No Recourse to Public Fund (NRPF) policy on migrants on the 10-year human rights route and specifically addresses the point relating to the impact on British children. It can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/application-for-change-of-conditions-of-leave-to-allow-access-to-public-funds-if-your-circumstances-change>

The NRPF policy is based on the well-established principle that migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. Access to benefits and other publicly funded services reflects the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK and is normally linked to indefinite leave to remain.

Individuals with leave under the family or private life routes, including those with British children, can apply for the restriction on accessing public funds to be lifted or not imposed if they are at risk of destitution or where there are concerns about the welfare of their child.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/103406>

The Policy Equality Statement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880531/Policy_Equality_Statement_PES_21_April_2020.pdf

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [104190] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to ensure that children from families that have no recourse to public funds can access free school meals.

Reply from Vicky Ford: We have temporarily extended free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups of people who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF). This extension includes children of families receiving support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, and is subject to a maximum income threshold of £28,500 for families outside of London and £31,200 for families inside of London.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104190>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [104150] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people applying for a skilled workers visa after 31 December 2020 will be subject to a market labour test.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As already set out in the Government's Policy Statement on the UK's Points-Based Immigration System, published on 19 February, and the 13 July Further Details document, we will be abolishing the Resident Labour Market Test. This will take effect when the new Skilled Worker route launches later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104150>

The policy statements referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-points-based-immigration-system-further-details-statement/uk-points-based-immigration-system-further-details-statement>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Owen Thompson (SNP) [103578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the likely number of applicants for the bespoke British Nationals (Overseas) visa from Hong Kong; when she plans to publish the full details of that scheme; what steps she is taking to ensure that people convicted of offences related to participation in pro-democracy protests will not be prevented from accessing that scheme; and what arrangements she plans to put in place to welcome, integrate and support people who access that scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Further details of the new Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Visa route will be put before Parliament shortly when the Immigration Rules are laid. Estimates of the potential number of applicants will also be made available in due course.

Consistent with the Immigration Rules we will be able to refuse applicants who have serious criminal convictions or have been otherwise engaged in behaviour which the UK Government deems not conducive to the public good, or are subject to other general grounds for refusal. However, where convictions are related to free speech or peaceful protest, which would not be considered offences under UK law, we would apply discretion as appropriate.

We are working closely with other government departments, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, to ensure BN(O) citizens coming into the UK are able to integrate and contribute to the betterment of society across our United Kingdom.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/103578>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [75445] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2020 to Question 1928 on Immigration: Windrush Generation, when she plans to make the first compensation payments; and how much funding her Department has allocated to that scheme.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [75446] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 July 2019 to Question 276275 on Immigration: Windrush Generation, if she will publish data on the time taken between a person submitting a claim to the Windrush compensation scheme and a decision being made on that claim.

Reply from Priti Patel: ... Information on the total number of claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-september-2020>.

Information relating to estimated costs including compensation payments are referred to in the Home Office's Impact Assessment IA No: HO 0329 dated 29/1/20. The Home Office has secured funding from HM Treasury for the scheme, and there is no cap on the amount of compensation an individual can receive.

We do not publish information on waiting times for decisions to be taken on Windrush Compensation Scheme claims. This could jeopardise a full assessment of the claim and ultimately be potentially detrimental to the claimant. Furthermore, as each claim is unique, we do not prescribe a set list of documentation but work with claimants to obtain evidence when required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-16/75445>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-16/75446>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-01-10/1928>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2019-07-11/276275>

The Impact Assessment referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/864199/Windrush_compensation_policy_Impact_Assessment.pdf

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Neil Coyle (Labour) [102819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many additional staff her Department has appointed to manage the EU Settlement Scheme caseload.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are currently 1,510 full time equivalent staff employed to work on the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102819>

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

Neil Coyle (Labour) [102820] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how long on average her Department takes to process an EU Settlement Scheme application.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our aim is to process all applications to the EU Settlement Scheme as expeditiously as possible. Complete applications are usually processed in around five working days.

More information about processing times for applications under the scheme is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-application-processing-times/eu-settlement-scheme-pilot-current-expected-processing-times-for-applications>.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102820>

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

Neil Coyle (Labour) [102821] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many appeals to EU Settlement Scheme decisions have (a) been made and (b) been successful in reversing a decision made by his Department.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The EU Settlement Scheme is administered by the Home Office with a statutory right of appeal to the First-tier Tribunal - Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTIAC).

From commencement of the statutory appeal right on 31 January 2020 to 30 June 2020, the most recent date for published tribunal statistics, there have been 57 appeals lodged with the FTIAC against decisions made under the EU Settlement Scheme.

Seven appeals have been rejected, with the remainder awaiting determination by the tribunal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102821>

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

Neil Coyle (Labour) [102822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people identified as being in a vulnerable group with citizenship from an EU member state have been contacted and supported with funding from her Department to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In April 2019 the Home Office awarded £9 million of funding to 57 UK voluntary and community sector organisations to support vulnerable EEA citizens and their family members with additional help when applying for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS).

In March 2020, the Home Office announced a further £8 million of funding to be awarded to continue supporting vulnerable and hard to reach EEA citizens applying to the EUSS.

72 UK organisations are now providing support with this funding, which has been used to support over 200,000 vulnerable citizens applying to the EUSS so far.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102822>

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

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

Immigration: Children

Neil Coyle (Labour) [102823] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of children who need support to apply for Settled Status and who do not have a parent to complete the process for them.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office made some broad initial estimates of

the numbers of children in care and care leavers who may be eligible for status under the EU Settlement Scheme. In the absence of local authority data on the nationality of children coming into care, these were based on a range of input from interested parties such as Department for Education, MHCLG, LGA and representations from the devolved administrations, but broadly based on data from the Office for National Statistics. The resulting figures – of around 5,000 children in care and 4,000 care leavers – provided a reasonably generous basis for the new burdens' assessment, from which additional funding was provided to relevant local authorities.

The Home Office has recently conducted a survey of local authorities across the UK as part of the support it is offering to them with this important work. With over 90% of local authorities having so far responded to the survey, the emerging picture is actual volumes of eligible cases are significantly lower than the overall estimate of 9,000. Returns to date have so far identified fewer than 4,000 children in care and care leavers eligible for the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102823>

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

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

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [102848] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what representations she has received from legal professional bodies on the effect of her use of the phrase activist lawyers on the safety of legal professionals; when those representations were received; and what steps she took in response.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government rejects the underlying insinuation of this question. Lawyers play an important role in upholding the law and ensuring people have access to justice. They are however, just like politicians, not immune from criticism.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102848>

Refugees: Resettlement

Neil Coyle (Labour) [99627] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many resettlement decisions were outstanding in the latest period for which figures are available; and what recent estimate she has made of the average waiting time for resettlement decisions.

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. However, the Home Office does not publish the data that is being requested. Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related restrictions and pressures, both overseas and in the UK, it is not currently possible to undertake any refugee resettlement activity. This has inevitably impacted both the processing of refugees through the system and their resettlement to the UK. However, refugees who have been accepted for resettlement remain eligible and we are working with our international partners to ensure they are able to access any additional support they may need during the pause. We will resume resettlement arrivals to the UK as soon as safe to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/99627>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [102061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the covid-19 risks of her Department resuming its requirement for asylum seekers to attend reporting centres.

Reply from Chris Philp: Immigration Enforcement recommenced face to face reporting in July and August for limited, priority cohorts of people. We have implemented Safe Systems of Working (SSOW) and Risk Assessments in all our Reporting Centres where we have put in place robust social distancing measures; health screening questions are asked as a person enters; face masks are offered to those who have travelled without them; and sanitiser stations are placed throughout our buildings. We continue to review our current reporting arrangements in line with any new local and national COVID restrictions that are put in place. Before inviting individuals into reporting, case owners will make an assessment based on the harm that those who are Foreign National Offenders may pose to the public, as well as the vulnerability and personal circumstances of all of those we ask to report. We continue to keep in contact with the overall reporting population by telephone to update individuals on the current reporting position. An SMS text or email/letter is sent to those required to recommence reporting informing them of the date and time they should report, along with relevant advice on COVID. We have also updated the reporting pages on GOV.UK for those who report and their representatives. This information includes how to travel most safely by public transport, avoiding both busy transport hubs and traveling at peak times; advice on reporting alone where possible; and what to do if those reporting have symptoms or are shielding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/102061>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [102062] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the need for vulnerable asylum seekers to travel for appointments and reporting requirements during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum applicants affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

In line with the Home Office' commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and applicants as a top priority, we have introduced regional intake units to allow asylum claims to be registered in a safe way that adheres to social distancing guidance and minimises travel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/102062>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Coronavirus

Peter Kyle (Labour) [99677] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to commence covid-secure face-to-face substantive asylum interviews.

Asylum: Children

Peter Kyle (Labour) [99678] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many video conference interviews her Department has conducted with unaccompanied asylum seeking children since August 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has put in place a range of measures to support asylum seekers affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

Asylum Operations have been clear it would not restart substantive asylum interviews until it was safe to do so. We are now able to ensure safe social distancing of our staff and customers and restarted remote video interviewing for adults from 17th July 2020.

On 21st September 2020, we recommenced with face to face substantive interviews for adults. On the same date, we also commenced remote video

interviewing for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

We are focused on increasing the number of interviews at pace and working towards returning back to pre-COVID-19 levels as soon as we are able.

Information on video conference interviews with UASCs is not routinely published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/99677>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/99678>

Asylum: Children

Peter Kyle (Labour) [106432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to commence covid-secure face-to-face substantive asylum interviews for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has put in place a range of measures to support asylum seekers affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

Asylum Operations have been clear it would not restart substantive asylum interviews until it was safe to do so and recommenced with adult interview at the end of July 2020. On 21 September 2020 we recommenced remote video interviewing for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Plans are in place to expand the number of UASC and minors' interviews utilising remote video interviewing and, where it is established that a face to face interview is more appropriate, an in-person interview will also be available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-20/106432>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat) [102660] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure the welfare of asylum seekers and refugees being housed (a) in temporary hotel accommodation and (b) at temporary Ministry of Defence sites.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the welfare of the asylum seekers we accommodate very seriously. We work closely with our service providers, local health teams and the voluntary sector to ensure that support is provided to vulnerable asylum seekers.

Service providers have welfare officers on hand at temporary accommodation sites and asylum seekers are encouraged to speak to them if they are concerned for their (or anybody else's) welfare.

Anyone receiving asylum support can contact the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility service, operated by Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice or guidance or are experiencing difficulties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102660>

Information about the service referred to above can be read at

<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/about-asylum-services>

Asylum: Kent

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [103553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what provision she is making for the education, health and mental welfare of unaccompanied asylum seekers detained in the Kent Intake Unit.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes its responsibility for the welfare of children seriously and we have very stringent statutory and policy safeguards in place. We have seen record numbers of arrivals on the south coast in recent weeks and are working hard to make sure every unaccompanied child receives appropriate support.

Unaccompanied children arriving in Dover are cared for in the Kent Intake Unit (KIU) before being placed in appropriate social services care. Those claiming asylum are only in the KIU whilst their claims are registered; it is not an immigration removal centre.

Children are always prioritised and supported there for as short a period as possible. The KIU also includes a non-detained waiting area where children can await the arrival of local authority social workers. Support is also provided on-site by the Refugee Council. Once a child is in the care of a local authority, they are afforded the same rights as all other looked-after children

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/103553>

Asylum: Housing

Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat) [102659] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she made of the (a) adequacy of the two temporary Ministry of Defence sites being used to accommodate asylum seekers and (b) the effect of ongoing Ministry of Defence work at those sites on the health and wellbeing of those people being accommodated; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office and Ministry of Defence conducted a scoping exercise which identified Napier Barracks and Penally Training Camp as both suitable and available for the temporary accommodation of asylum seekers. The Home Office has since worked with its provider Clearsprings Ready Homes to put these sites into operation with accommodation provided to the required standards in accordance with the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts. Napier Barracks and Penally Training Camp were handed over to the Home Office for use for up to twelve months and so there is no ongoing Ministry of Defence work at these sites.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102659>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Adonis (Labour) [HL8961] To ask Her Majesty's Government what are the responsibilities of the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The responsibilities of the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander can be found

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-appoints-small-boat-commander>

The new Clandestine Channel Threat Commander will collaborate closely with the French to build on the joint work already underway, urgently exploring tougher action in France, including stronger enforcement measures and adopting interceptions at sea and the direct return of boats. For more information see attached Press Release.

[Gov. UK - Press Release - Small Boats Commander](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-09/hl8961>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Adonis (Labour) [HL8962] To ask Her Majesty's Government how the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander assesses the threats for which they are responsible.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Clandestine Channel Threat Commander refers to threat assessments produced by intelligence experts from across law enforcement agencies and wider Government.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-09/hl8962>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Adonis (Labour) [HL8963] To ask Her Majesty's Government what additional measures the Clandestine Channel Threat Commander will implement to reduce the number of migrant boats crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Clandestine Channel Threat Commander is focused on four key strategic objectives.

These include working with France to reduce the number of migrants in Calais seeking to cross the Channel; tackling the organised crime groups who facilitate many of the journeys; stopping attempts to cross the border illegally; and supporting reform of the asylum system, increased penalties and maximised returns – to remove the incentives for people to seek to reach the UK via small boat and other dangerous methods.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-09/hl8963>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Resettlement

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL8794] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 5 October (HL Deb, col 407), what criteria are being used by Public Health England to assess when it will be safe to restart refugee resettlement.

Refugees: Coronavirus

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL8796] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 5 October (HL Deb, col 407), what discussions Public Health England has had with comparable public health bodies in other countries which have restarted refugee resettlement about how they assessed the public health implications of doing so in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) related restrictions and pressures, both overseas and in the UK, it is not currently possible to undertake any refugee resettlement activity. We continue to evaluate how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume refugee resettlement activity when safe to do so.

We are continuing to engage with international and domestic partners on plans to restart arrivals, including Public Health England who, in turn, are engaged with other Public Health bodies, both in the UK and in other countries.

To clarify, guidance from PHE is just one of the factors our plans to restart resettlement arrivals are dependent on. Other factors include the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of host refugee countries, local authority and central government capacity, and recovery of the asylum system from the impact of COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/hl8794>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/hl8796>

The remarks referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-05/debates/97A02583-03AD-4CBD-BAE9-8E85758EA004/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill#contribution-4D7D7618-497E-4A87-A0B3-DB2E132A4528](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-05/debates/97A02583-03AD-4CBD-BAE9-8E85758EA004/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill#contribution-4D7D7618-497E-4A87-A0B3-DB2E132A4528)

Asylum: Children

Lord Risby (Conservative) [HL8948] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied child asylum seekers have entered the UK this year; and whether they plan to make the National Transfer Scheme compulsory for all local authorities.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of unaccompanied

children who make asylum claims is published in the quarterly immigration statistics. The latest statistics can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

We are very grateful to local authorities who have pledged places to support the National Transfer Scheme (NTS) and we need more to come forward and do their bit for vulnerable children.

We recognise a need to achieve a more equitable distribution of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and have therefore worked with local government partners to develop proposals to further improve the scheme which we have recently consulted on. We are grateful to local authorities for their responses to that consultation which we are carefully considering in order to develop a more sustainable long-term future model for the NTS. The consultation also sought views on a potential mandatory approach should participation in the voluntary scheme not achieve a more proportionate distribution of UASC.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-08/hl8948>

Asylum: Evictions

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL8967] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the numbers of street homeless people of the Home Office's decision to restart asylum evictions from 15 September in England; and what plans they have to delay the proposed extension of this policy to Scotland and Wales until the data to permit such an assessment is available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We have worked, and continue to work, with colleagues at the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to understand rough sleeping pressures within Local Authorities in England. We have considered guidance from MHCLG on the aforementioned pressures as part of the phased resumption of negative asylum support cessations.

Cases continue to be triaged for cessation in a manner that considers feedback and guidance from colleagues at MHCLG but above all considers that those receiving a cessation notification will have a route of return as well as access to assistance to leave the country through a Voluntary Returns Service without impacting on Local Authority rough sleeping pressures.

Discussions are ongoing with colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as to when negative asylum support cessations will resume in there.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-09/hl8967>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Patrick Grady (SNP) [1060] Digital exclusion of asylum seekers – That this House recognises that asylum seekers in the UK receive cash support of £37.75 per week in the form of cash loaded on to an ASPEN debit card; notes that the Home Office describes this cash support as helping asylum seekers pay for essentials such as food, clothing and toiletries; considers that the ability to get online is also an essential need in modern society; appreciates that the need for online connectivity is particularly acute for asylum seekers, many of whom are vulnerable, isolated, and have family and friends trapped in dangerous conditions elsewhere around the world; regrets that many asylum seekers find themselves digitally excluded due to their inability to access affordable, reliable internet access through the asylum support system; understands that the ASPEN card system prevents asylum seekers from paying for efficient, low-cost mobile internet contracts through direct debit, and instead forces many to choose between purchasing prohibitively expensive pay-as-

you-go data packages or affording other essentials such as food and toiletries; believes that it is grossly unfair that those with the lowest amount to live on are forced to pay the highest price to get online; thanks the Scottish Asylum Seeker Residents Association and Maryhill Integration Network for their work highlighting this important issue; and calls on the Government to widen the scope of asylum support system to ensure that asylum seekers can access affordable, reliable internet service, and provide a commensurate increase in the asylum support to cover these costs.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57624>

Press Release

Statement from the First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford – Penally military base

<https://gov.wales/statement-first-minister-mark-drakeford-penally-military-base>

New Publications

Guidance: The UK's points-based immigration system: information for EU citizens

Available in English, Bulgarian, Czech, Welsh, Danish, German, Greek, Spanish, Estonian, Finnish, French, Croatian, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Maltese, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Swedish

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-information-for-eu-citizens>

Statement of Changes to Immigration Rules

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928751/CCS001_CCS1020373376-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_HC_813_PRINT_.pdf

Immigration and Asylum Ad-hoc Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-asylum-ad-hoc-statistics/immigration-and-asylum-ad-hoc-statistics-cover-note>

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928039/Immigration_and_Asylum_Ad-hoc_Statistics.ods

Home Secretary letter to the Migration Advisory Committee in response to the shortage occupation lists report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-the-mac-on-the-shortage-occupation-lists-report/home-secretary-letter-to-the-mac-in-response-to-the-shortage-occupation-lists-report-accessible-version>

Scottish Refugee Council Strategic Plan 2020–2023

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SRC-Strategic-Plan-FINAL.pdf>

News

Government reduces minimum salary for migrants to settle in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/24/migrants-to-uk-now-need-to-earn-only-20480-after-home-office-climbdown>

Net migration targets abandoned as £38,500 salary threshold to settle in UK ditched
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/23/net-migration-targets-abandoned-38500-salary-threshold-settle/>

MPs vote to remove child refugee protections from flagship immigration law
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18806985.mps-vote-remove-child-refugee-protections-flagship-immigration-law/>

The loss of family reunion rights will lead to enormous suffering for child refugees
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/oct/20/the-loss-of-family-reunion-rights-will-lead-to-enormous-suffering-for-child-refugees>

Home Office under investigation after 1,000 suddenly deported over English test cheating claims
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-student-visa-english-language-test-cheat-a8888926.html>

Home Office policy for removing migrants unlawful, court rules
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54632985>

Appeal court quashes UK policy of removing migrants with little warning
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/oct/21/appeal-court-quashes-uk-policy-of-removing-migrants-unlawfully>

Home Office 'deportation window' policy is unlawful, Court of Appeal rules
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/21/home-office-deportation-window-policy-unlawful-court-appeal/>

Home Office policy giving people little notice of deportation ruled unlawful
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-policy-72-hours-deportation-removal-unlawful-b1202604.html>

Windrush man wrongly classified as illegal immigrant left destitute for a year
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/25/windrush-man-wrongly-classified-as-immigrant-left-destitute-for-a-year>

Brexit: UK to ban more EU citizens with criminal records
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54639677>

Latest Home Office crackdown could see EU citizens with convictions banned from UK
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18811723.latest-home-office-crackdown-see-eu-citizens-convictions-banned-uk/>

Home office failure to prepare for surge in Channel migrants left them in the cold, says prison watchdog
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/23/home-office-failure-prepare-surge-channel-migrants-left-cold/>

Nineteen people arrested over cross-Channel people smuggling
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/24/nineteen-people-arrested-cross-channel-people-smuggling/>

Young child among migrants crossing the English Channel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-54606353>

English Channel migrants 'being detained in unfit conditions'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54652234>

Migrants 'held at rubble-strewn building site'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18816106.migrants-held-rubble-strewn-building-site/>

Kent inspectors find wet and cold migrants held in cramped containers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/23/kent-inspectors-find-wet-and-cold-migrants-held-in-cramped-containers>

Channel asylum seekers processed in facility 'resembling building site' where social distancing is 'impossible'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-migrants-asylum-seekers-prison-inspector-report-social-distance-b1230890.html>

'I was shocked by everything': an asylum seeker on arriving at Kent intake unit

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/23/i-was-shocked-by-everything-an-asylum-seeker-on-arriving-at-kent-intake-unit>

Asylum-seekers welcomed to UK barracks by crowd of locals singing 'You've Got a Friend in Me'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-kent-barracks-refugees-welcome-party-b1155198.html>

Child refugees 'betrayed' by UK as Home Office sends them to adult detention centres

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-minors-home-office-adult-detention-report-b1229079.html>

'Untenable': Child asylum seekers being held for days without access to beds or showers, watchdog warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/untenable-child-refugees-waiting-for-days-in-holding-unit-without-access-to-beds-or-showers-children-s-commissioner-warns-b1078575.html>

Essex lorry deaths: Migrant 'paid £13k for 'VIP' smuggling trip'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-54644556>

One year on from the Essex lorry deaths, the only way forward is to dismantle the 'hostile environment'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-priti-patel-essex-lorry-deaths-asylum-seekers-home-office-b1249655.html>

Asylum seekers sue UK over unlawful detention

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/25/asylum-seekers-sue-uk-over-unlawful-detention>

Afghan refugee families have left Inverclyde - because it does not have a mosque

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18806507.afghan-refugee-families-left-inverclyde--not-mosque/>

Lone child refugee completes his journey by graduating

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lone-child-refugee-completes-his-journey-by-graduating-52t3wrlcc>

Human rights campaigner bids to become Scotland's first refugee MSP

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/human-rights-campaigner-bids-become-22863387>

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Community Relations

News

Teaching children that white privilege is a fact is breaking the law, says minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/20/teaching-children-white-privilege-fact-breaking-law-says-minister/>

Teachers presenting white privilege as fact are breaking the law, minister warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/kemi-badenoch-black-history-month-white-privilege-black-lives-matter-b1189547.html>

To be black in the British countryside means being an outsider

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/oct/20/black-woman-british-countryside-london-rural-village-stereotypes>

'I'm Bengali, my boyfriend was black - and my mum freaked out'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-54607713>

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Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Black History Month

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-20/debates/5B0E393E-8778-4973-B318-C17797DFBB22/BlackHistoryMonth>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Elections: Proof of Identity

Cat Smith (Labour) [105426] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Government plans to carry out an equality impact assessment on the effect of Voter ID on BAME communities at a General Election, before the introduction of Voter ID.

Reply from Chloe Smith: As I noted in my answer to Question 104752, the Government has taken due regard to the public sector equality duty throughout the planning for implementation. Each pilot authority implemented an equality impact assessment, and our Public Sector Equality Duty was correctly fulfilled. We will

continue to work with the Electoral Commission and other stakeholders including charities and civil society organisations to make sure that reforms are delivered in a way that is inclusive for all voters. As the legislation is brought forward the appropriate impact assessments will be provided for Parliament in the normal way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105426>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-16/104752>

Elections: Travellers

Cat Smith (Labour) [104752] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, pursuant to the Answer of 14 October 2020 to Question 100441 on Elections: Travellers, if he plans to undertake an equality assessment on the potential effect of introducing voter ID on the ability of the Roma and Traveller community to vote.

Reply from Chloe Smith: As I noted in my answer of 14 October, the Government has taken due regard to the public sector equality duty throughout the planning for implementation. Each pilot authority implemented an equality impact assessment, and our Public Sector Equality Duty was correctly fulfilled. We will continue to work with the Electoral Commission and other stakeholders including charities and civil society organisations to make sure that reforms are delivered in a way that is inclusive for all voters. As the legislation is brought forward the appropriate impact assessments will be provided for Parliament in the normal way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-16/104752>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-07/100441>

Ethnic Groups: Employment

Emma Hardy (Labour) [907863] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help tackle race inequality in the workplace.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: In July, the Government launched the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which is looking at outcomes across the country, with a focus on employment, enterprise, education, health and the criminal justice system.

Led by the evidence, the Commission will consider the causes of persistent disparities and barriers different groups face, and make recommendations for further action.

Their work will be crucial in informing and improving the national conversation on race. The Commission will aim to provide its report to the Prime Minister at the end of the year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/907863>

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [102178] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that BAME people can access the same level of support through mental health services as people from other backgrounds.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: We want to ensure that all communities, including people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds, can access mental health services when they need to. National Health Service mental health services have remained open, and our community, talking therapies and children and young people's services have deployed digital tools to connect with people as well as face to face appointments where possible to provide ongoing support.

The Government has provided £10.2 million of additional funding for mental health

charities to support adults and children. This includes charities that offer some support to BAME communities, such as the What? Centre, which supports young people with furthering their understanding of race, culture and identity in relation to mental health.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/102178>

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

Matt Western (Labour) [104164] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what progress there has been on the implementation of the Lammy Review recommendations.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The Government has provided updates on the implementation of the independent review into the treatment of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the criminal justice system (the Lammy Review).

Where a recommendation could not be implemented in full or exactly as set out in the Review, alternative approaches have been sought to achieve the same aim. As of 16th October 2020, the status of the recommendations is as follows:

Out of the 35 recommendations listed in the Lammy Review:

- i. Actions in relation to 16 recommendations have been completed (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22, 23, 33, 35)
- ii. Actions in relation to 17 recommendations are still in progress, of which:
 - a. 11 recommendations aim to be completed within 6 – 12 months (15, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30)
 - b. 6 recommendations will take longer than 12 months to be completed (1, 9, 10, 31, 32, 34)
- iii. Two recommendations (14, 16), specific to a target for judicial appointments and appraisal, are not being taken forward. This was announced in the Government's response to the Review in December 2017.

The Government's response identified actions going beyond the Review's recommendations. Progress on recommendations and additional actions are overseen by a CJS Race and Ethnicity Board which was created in response to the Review.

An Independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities is currently reviewing inequality in the UK, focusing on areas including education, employment, health and the criminal justice system. The Independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities will aim to report to the Prime Minister by the end of the year

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104164>

The review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

The Government response to the review referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669206/Response_to_David_Lammy_Review.pdf

Suicide: Travellers

John McDonnell (Labour) [98662] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he has made an assessment of the implications for his policies of the the report by Friends, Families and Travellers entitled Suicide Prevention in Gypsy and Traveller communities in England and its findings that (a) only five out of 79 local authority suicide prevention plans mention Gypsy and Traveller communities and (b) only two out of 79 local authority suicide prevention plans listed any action to address the high suicide rate in their local Gypsy and Traveller communities.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: We have not made a formal assessment. We continue

to explore ways of improving the quality and timeliness of suicide data to allow both national and local partners to continue to monitor rates, identify trends and develop effective prevention plans.

We know that there are certain groups that may be exposed to more risk factors for suicide, and we expect local agencies to work together to ensure that their plans are tailored to meet the needs of these groups. These groups include people from minority ethnic groups, such as Romany Gypsies or Irish Travellers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-02/98662>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gypsy-traveller.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Suicide-Prevention-Report-FINAL.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Pensions: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL9198] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the ethnicity pension gap; and what steps, if any, they are taking to reduce it.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: Automatic enrolment has reversed the decline in workplace pension saving. Latest figures show that over 10 million workers have been automatically enrolled into a workplace pension by more than 1.7 million employers to date. By 2019/20 an estimated extra £18.8 billion a year was estimated to go into workplace pensions as a result of this policy.

The level of earnings at which workers are automatically enrolled (the earnings trigger) is subject to an annual statutory review. An analysis of the equalities impact always forms part of the review, as does an assessment of reducing the trigger to the National Insurance threshold. Analysis for the 2020/21 thresholds showed that 14 per cent of those made eligible by freezing the trigger were from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups.

Eligible employee participation continues to increase across all ethnic groups but gaps persist.

The White ethnic group has had the highest participation rate since the introduction of automatic enrolment in 2012 and had an average participation rate of 81 per cent over the period 2016/17-2018/19. This compares to the lowest, Pakistani and Bangladeshi group at 61 per cent. However, between the 2011/12-2013/14 period and 2016/17-2018/19 there were large increases among all ethnic groups. The Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic group shows the largest increase from 36 per cent to 61 per cent.

Our aim remains to help BAME workers and others achieve greater financial resilience for the long term. Our ambition, set out in the 2017 Automatic Enrolment Review: Maintaining the Momentum, is to remove the lower earnings limit and lower the age threshold for workplace pensions, in the mid-2020s, to increase the amount of savings people can build up for their retirement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-14/hl9198>

Business: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8835] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the campaign launched on 1 October by the Confederation of British Industry and others to increase the diversity of racial and ethnic participation in British businesses.

Reply from Lord Callanan: The Government is committed to promoting business

leadership diversity and inclusion. Companies should embrace diversity throughout their workforce, including at board level and throughout senior leadership and the talent pipeline.

We work with businesses and business representative bodies to promote diverse boardrooms for FTSE 350 companies, and we support the independent business-led Parker Review which recommends that FTSE 100 companies should have at least one director of colour by the end of 2021 and that FTSE 250 companies also meet this target by the end of 2024.

We welcome the CBI campaign's reinforcement of the Parker Review's recommendations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/hl8835>

Information about the campaign referred to above can be read at

<https://www.cbi.org.uk/our-campaigns/building-diverse-and-inclusive-workplaces/>

Pupil Exclusions: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8834] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Institute of Race Relations How Black Working-Class Youth are Criminalised and Excluded in the English School System, published on 28 September.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: To understand the disparities in school exclusion rates, the department is committed to working with the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, established by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister.

Exclusions guidance is clear that all schools should consider what extra support might be needed to identify and address the needs of children from groups with disproportionately high rates of exclusion, to reduce their risk of exclusion.

The department is taking forward an ambitious programme of action on school behaviour and is working to rapidly improve the availability of good Alternative Provision, so that permanently excluded children and children at risk of exclusion receive a high quality education suited to their individual needs.

In addition, the department is investing £10 million in Behaviour Hubs which will enable schools and multi-academy trusts, with exemplary behaviour cultures and practices, to work in partnership with those that want to improve their behaviour culture. We are also supporting staff through the Early Career Framework reforms, which will entitle all early career teachers to 2 years of professional development in 5 core areas, including behaviour management.

The department will revise guidance on exclusions to make it clearer and more consistent, so that head teachers have the information they need to use exclusion properly and proportionately. We will continue to engage with key stakeholders including academics, when revising guidance. We are also working with Ofsted to clamp down on off-rolling.

In addition, the department provided £7 million to the See, Hear, Respond service, led by Barnardo's which will deliver, amongst other things, street-based youth work to identify and support children at risk of harm outside of the home, including criminal exploitation. The £13 million Trusted Relationships Fund (2018-22) also funds 11 different local authorities across England delivering innovative approaches to supporting children and young people aged 10 to 17 at risk of child sexual exploitation or abuse, criminal exploitation and peer on peer abuse.

The department is also funding a £2 million Tackling Child Exploitation support programme to help safeguarding partners in local areas develop an effective response to extra-familial harms such as child sexual and child criminal exploitation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-06/hl8834>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://irr.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/How-Black-Working-Class-Youth-are-Criminalised-and-Excluded-in-the-English-School-System.pdf>

Literature: Education

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8779] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Teach First Missing Pages: Increasing racial diversity in the literature we teach, published on 30 September.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage. It encourages pupils to read a range of books, poems and plays to encourage the development of a life-long love of literature. Pupils should be taught to maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books, including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and books from other cultures and traditions. Teachers have flexibility in their choice of books to teach within the context of the curriculum.

Following consultation on the minimum requirements for the new English Literature GCSE criteria in 2013, the final categories are: at least one play by Shakespeare; a selection of poetry since 1789; at least one 19th century novel; and fiction or drama from the British Isles from 1914 onwards. The GCSE specification encourages students to read widely within these categories, to broaden their knowledge of literature and enhance critical and comparative understanding. Selection of set texts for examination in the GCSE is down to the exam boards, who follow the categories set out above. The set requirements for both GCSE and A-level provide scope for pupils to read a breadth of diverse texts (including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic authors) so that they can encounter diverse representations within literature.

Schools make their own decisions on choosing texts, within the set requirements. There is guidance for teachers on how to make their choices of texts, with literacy organisations and reading charities offering suggestions, book lists, guidance, research, and support.

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this can include the voices and experience of black people. The department is committed to an inclusive education system which recognises and embraces diversity and supports all pupils and students to tackle racism and have the knowledge and tools to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-05/hl8779>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-09/English%20Curriculum%20Diversity%20Report..pdf>

Press Release

Hard-won equality and human rights at risk of going backwards in wake of pandemic

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/hard-won-equality-and-human-rights-risk-going-backwards-wake-pandemic>

New Publications

How coronavirus has affected equality and human rights

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/equality_and_human_rights_mission_how_coronavirus_has_affected_equality_and_human_rights_2020.pdf

Accommodation needs of Gypsy/Travellers: evidence review

<https://tinyurl.com/y5g2ky6m>

Welsh Government: Enabling Gypsies, Roma and Travellers

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-02/enabling-gypsies-roma-and-travellers_0.pdf

News

History made as University of St Andrews elects first black female rector

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/history-made-university-st-andrews-elects-first-black-female-rector-3007717>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament Debate

Historical Discrimination in Boxing

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-20/debates/3A92BEA6-2E92-4F9F-8E05-EC99C835B8C1/HistoricalDiscriminationInBoxing>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Artificial Intelligence: Racial Discrimination

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [102810] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 30 September 2020 to Question 96062 on Twitter: Racial Discrimination, what steps the Government is taking to tackle racial bias in algorithms.

Reply from John Whittingdale: As set out in the National Data Strategy, we can harness data in efforts to tackle bias and exclusion. The use of algorithms has the potential to improve the quality and speed of decision-making, but there are also risks of human-introduced bias, discriminatory outcomes or unsafe applications, which must be mitigated if we are to harness their benefits. We have commissioned the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation to review the potential for bias in algorithms and we will review the Centre's recommendations once their report is published.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-13/102810>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-28/96062>

The National Data Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy>

Press Release

Why celebrating Black history is so important – four influential figures share their experience of speaking out against racism

<https://senedd.wales/en/newhome/pages/newsitem.aspx?itemid=2149&assembly=5>

New Publication

From anti-vaxxers to antisemitism: Conspiracy theory in the COVID-19 pandemic

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Antisemitism-antivaxxer-report.pdf>

News

Humza Yousaf confirms Hate Crime Bill amendments

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/humza-yousaf-confirms-hate-crime-bill-amendments-3009780>

SNP accused of 'soft touch justice system' as racially aggravated crimes rise year-on-year

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/snp-accused-soft-touch-justice-system-racially-aggravated-crimes-rise-year-year-3011151>

Racism: Equalities minister says anti-discrimination drives can 'create prison for black people'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/racism-kemi-badenoch-reni-eddo-lodge-critical-race-theory-b1208279.html>

Len McCluskey accused of antisemitism after 'count your gold' jibe to Peter Mandelson

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/len-mccluskey-antisemitism-peter-mandelson-gold-labour-b1176745.html>

Len McCluskey apologises after 'count gold' jibe at Peter Mandelson

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/20/len-mccluskey-issues-apology-accused-using-anti-semitic-trope/>

Len McCluskey apologises for telling Peter Mandelson to 'count his gold'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/len-mccluskey-apologises-for-telling-peter-mandelson-to-count-his-gold-2cb7xm83f>

Sinister Nazi group hide blades behind stickers in Scotland-wide horror hate campaign

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/vicious-nazi-groups-razor-blade-22876959>

Racial discrimination widespread in NHS job offers, says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/oct/21/racial-discrimination-widespread-in-nhs-job-offers-says-report>

Racist attack investigation reopened by Met Police

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54622169>

Met police apologise over errors in racist attack investigation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/21/met-police-apologise-over-errors-in-racist-attack-investigation>

Bug caught police unit making racist and sexist remarks, hearing told

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/19/toxic-hampshire-police-unit-recorded-racist-sexist-remarks-hearing-told>

'Racist' police called part of office African Corner

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/racist-police-called-part-of-office-african-corner-dllchzmlb>

My son Stephen's place in UK black history has not gone to waste

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/my-son-stephens-place-in-uk-black-history-has-not-gone-to-waste-z6p0tnb23>

Antivaxxers spreading anti-semitic conspiracy theories about coronavirus, Government report finds

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/21/antivaxxers-spreading-anti-semitic-conspiracy-theories-coronavirus/>

New report warns that 79% of anti-vaccination networks host Jew-hate

<https://www.thejc.com/news/uk/new-report-warns-that-79-of-anti-vaccination-networks-host-jew-hate-1.507742>

TikTok bans misinformation about Jews, but antisemitic conspiracy theories still get millions of views

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/tiktok-antisemitism-conspiracy-theory-george-soros-jews-misinformation-b1203511.html>

Benenden headmistress apologises for 'offensive' word as racial protests break out in schools

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/benenden-headmistress-apologises-for-offensive-word-as-racial-protests-break-out-in-schools-c03088v7s>

Is the film and TV industry keeping its promise to tackle racism?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-54631654>

Man charged after Black Lives Matter exhibition posters vandalised

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18812124.man-charged-black-lives-matter-exhibition-posters-vandalised/>

Child abuse inquiry 'scared of racist tag'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/child-abuse-inquiry-scared-of-racist-tag-nh2zcctwq>

Raheem Sterling calls for action in response to racism study

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/raheem-sterling-calls-for-action-in-response-to-racism-study-3jvkxx7bs>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publication

Recorded Crime in Scotland: September 2020

<https://tinyurl.com/yytd6uxp>

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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/coronavirus>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

Healthcare for overseas visitors

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors>

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

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/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Covid-19: Disparate Impact

The Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): ... I came before the House on 4 June, just after Public Health England had published its report “Covid 19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes”, as the Prime Minister had asked me to lead the cross-Government work to address the findings of that review. I return today to update the House on the progress I have made and to announce publication of my first quarterly report to the Prime Minister.

My work to date has focused on the impact of covid-19 on ethnic minority people. There is a wider strand of work within Government that is considering other groups that may have been particularly impacted by covid, such as disabled people, and I will include updates on that wider work in future reports. My report summarises the significant measures that Government Departments and their agencies have to date put in place to mitigate the disproportionate impacts of covid-19. ...

It is clear that a lot of good work is under way. For example, as we have reported in Parliament, more than 95% of frontline NHS workers from an ethnic minority background have had a risk assessment in the workplace to ensure good understanding of the necessary mitigating interventions in place. The NHS is working hard to restore services inclusively so that they are used by those in greatest need, with new monitoring of service use and outcomes among those from the most deprived neighbourhoods and from black and Asian groups. We issued revised guidance to employers in July and again in

September, highlighting the findings of the PHE review and explaining how to make workplaces covid secure.

We also reached out to all parts of the community through our information campaign. From March to July, we spent an additional £4 million to reach ethnic minority people through tailored messaging, strategically chosen channels and trusted voices. We have published messaging in well over 600 publications, including those that have readerships with a high proportion of ethnic minority people. We have reached more than 5 million people through the ethnic minority influencer programme. We have translated key public health messages into numerous languages, which initiated a marked improvement in recognition of our crucial “Stay alert” campaign.

My report summarises how the NHS, Public Health England and others are implementing the recommendations from the summary of the rapid literature review and stakeholder engagement work led by Professor Kevin Fenton. The PHE review indicated that people from ethnic minority backgrounds were disproportionately impacted by covid-19. It told us what the disparities in risks and outcomes were, but not why they had arisen and therefore it did not make any recommendations. It is therefore imperative that we understand the key drivers of the disparities and the relationships between the different risk factors to ensure that our response is as effective as possible. ...

We now know much more about the impact of the virus than we did in June. We know more in particular about why people from ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to be infected and die from covid. The current evidence shows that it is a range of socioeconomic and geographical factors, such as occupational exposure, population density, household composition and pre-existing health conditions, that contribute to the higher infection and mortality rates for ethnic minority groups. However, according to the latest evidence, part of the excess risk remains unexplained for some groups and further analysis of the potential risk factors is planned for the coming months.

What has emerged is that interventions across the entire population are most likely to disproportionately benefit ethnic minorities and are least likely to attach damaging stigma. ...

We have made good progress, but more needs to be done. In particular, we need to work with local communities to protect the most vulnerable. I am therefore announcing today a new community champions scheme that includes up to £25 million in funding to local authorities and the voluntary and community sector. This will help to improve the reach of official public health guidance and other messaging or communications about the virus into specific places and groups most at risk from covid-19. ...

There are other measures we can take to protect those most at risk, particularly those from minority groups. So in my report to the Prime Minister I outlined a number of recommendations and next steps. These include mandating the recording of ethnicity data as part of the death certification process, as this is only way we will be able to establish a complete picture of the impact of the virus on ethnic minority groups; appointing two expert advisers on covid and ethnicity who will bring expertise from the fields of medicine, epidemiology and clinical research to the Government’s work going forward, ensuring that new evidence uncovered during this review relating to the extremely clinically vulnerable is incorporated into health policy; and supporting the development and deployment of a risk model to understand individual risk from research commissioned by the CMO. ...

Marsha De Cordova (Labour): ... Coronavirus continues to expose deep-rooted structural inequalities in our society, and these drive the health inequalities. ...

Just this week the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Runnymede Trust showed that well over 2,000 black and south Asian deaths could have been avoided during the first wave of the pandemic if those populations did not experience a higher risk of death from covid-19, and that 58,000 people would have died in the first wave if the white population experienced the same risk of death from covid as our black populations. The Government

must be prepared to admit and act on the root causes of the hugely disproportionate impact that coronavirus has had on our black and ethnic minority communities. ...

Where is the Government's plan of action to address the long-term structural inequalities, such as the deep-rooted inequalities in housing and employment, including occupational discrimination? Where is the Government's implementation plan, with milestones, for protecting our black, Asian and ethnic minorities during this pandemic? ...

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: ... The hon. Lady talks about the IPPR report, and my answer is that I do not recognise those figures. Its methodology was not transparent, and our statisticians in the Cabinet Office could not understand where it got the numbers from. I found the presentation scaremongering and alarming. ... I wrote a letter to every single Member of Parliament asking them to share with ethnic minorities and their communities how they can join the national vaccine register, and I have been taking vaccines myself. Opposition Members have not been doing so. Especially when it comes to the hon. Lady, knowing that she has a large ethnic minority population in her community, what has she done to tell them to join the national vaccine register? We have not seen anything to that effect on her social media. ...

Anne McLaughlin (SNP): ... Minority ethnic women are particularly over-represented in frontline care roles, so they are at particular risk of job disruption, as highlighted in a report by Close the Gap. ... The Minister said that help that is provided across the population disproportionately benefits black, Asian and minority ethnic people, but that does not apply to those who have no recourse to public funds. I know that she has spoken about this before, but most people who have no recourse to public funds are from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities. ...

Finally, I note that the Minister said that she would include in future reports updates on other groups who are disproportionately impacted, and I want to make sure that older people are one of those groups. ...

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: ... [Anne McLaughlin] is absolutely right to mention older people, who are the most disproportionately impacted group. Someone who is over 70 or 80 is 80 times more likely to have the disease, whereas someone from an ethnic minority background is between 1.2 and 1.8 times more likely to have it. We must keep this in perspective, and we are looking at everybody who is impacted and vulnerable in whatever way.

Philip Hollobone (Conservative): ... Given the high level of concern about the impact of covid-19 on ethnic minorities, and given that a vaccine will be a very large part of the solution to the pandemic, why does she think there has been such a disproportionately low number of ethnic minority people coming forward to volunteer for the NHS vaccine registry?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: ... I have been particularly disappointed at the amount of anti-vaxxer disinformation campaigns that are out there. I have received three separate messages myself from people telling ethnic minorities not to take part in vaccine trials. I am really sorry to say that an Opposition Member said in this House that the Government were using ethnic minorities as cannon fodder in their battle against coronavirus—one of the worst things that I have ever heard said in this House. That really causes division and tension. ...

To read the very lengthy statement, and question and answer session in full see
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-22/debates/A4EB27E9-2078-498B-BBDC-0BD0EE1CDF78/Covid-19Disparatelmpact>

The Public Health England report referred to above can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

The quarterly report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928646/First_Covid_Disparities_report_to_PM_Health_Secretary_Final_22-10-20.pdf

The Runnymede Report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Runnymede%20Covid19%20Survey%20report%20v3.pdf>

The Close the Gap report referred to above can be read at

https://www.closesthegap.org.uk/content/resources/1557499847_Still-Not-Visible.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Topical Questions: Equality

Marsha De Cordova (Labour): The Equality Act 2010 sets out that the Government must seek to advance equality of opportunity in relation to its functions, yet throughout the pandemic Ministers have repeatedly failed to do so. It is vital that the Government take proactive steps to prevent the disproportionate impact of covid on disabled, black, Asian and minority ethnic people. Failure to do so is neglect. It is discriminatory, and it is unlawful. What evidence does the Minister have that her Government are fulfilling their public sector equality duty as set out in the Equality Act?

Reply from the Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): It is completely false to say that the Government have not acted and to deliberately ignore the significant measures we have put in place to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities across the United Kingdom, which we have repeatedly stated in this House. As I mentioned earlier, I will be making a full oral statement tomorrow, but it is known that we have taken many key measures to ensure that NHS frontline staff—in particular, those from ethnic minority backgrounds—are best protected and to ensure we fully understand the links between the virus and ethnicity.

Marsha De Cordova: Two and a half thousand deaths could have been avoided during the first wave of the pandemic had people from black, Asian and minority ethnic communities been adequately protected. Last month, I wrote to the Minister asking what steps her Government had taken to address the disproportionate impact of covid, but I have yet to receive a reply and we are now in a second wave. The Minister says she will be giving a statement tomorrow, but I ask her as it is oral questions today. She still has not given an update on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Public Health England report. It has been over four months, so will she give us an update on the seven recommendations and when they will be fully implemented?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The shadow Minister has written many letters to me over the past four months, and I have replied to them. It is simply untrue to say that she has not received a reply. She knows the work we are doing is progressing the recommendations throughout government. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-21/debates/ED56442C-2AA5-4FF5-A2D7-46279AF1E7E4/TopicalQuestions#contribution-9CCFCF4B-99BC-42D6-92A7-A57D13A883E1>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [97526] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds who have experienced symptoms related to covid-19 for longer than 28 days.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: Research into the long-term health symptoms and impacts of COVID-19 and the number of people likely to be experiencing them is ongoing. The National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation have invested £8.4 million in the Post-HOSPitalisation COVID-19 study (PHOSP-COVID), led by Christopher Brightling.

PHOSP-COVID aims to determine the short to long-term chronic health (and health economic) consequences of COVID-19 infection in survivors following hospitalisation, including those from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. The consortium includes experts that have worked extensively with optimising inclusion and recruitment of under-represented populations, such as the BAME community, and will ensure the population recruited to the study is representative of those hospitalised with COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-30/97526>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Coronavirus (COVID-19): protection levels

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

Halloween and Bonfire Night

<https://www.gov.scot/news/halloween-and-bonfire-night/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-daily-data-for-scotland/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework

<https://tinyurl.com/y3fb36s6>

UK Government Press Release

Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 22 October 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-22-october-2020>

UK Government Publication

Quarterly report on progress to address COVID-19 health inequalities

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928646/First_Covid_Disparities_report_to_PM_Health_Secretary_Final_22-10-20.pdf

News

Covid: Scotland to enter new five-tier alert system

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-54661494>

Covid restrictions: How will Scotland's five-level system work?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-54659056>

Nicola Sturgeon unveils Scotland's new five-tier coronavirus lockdown system

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18817511.nicola-sturgeon-unveils-scotlands-new-five-tier-coronavirus-lockdown-system/>

Nicola Sturgeon: Scots 5-tier lockdown 'targeted and proportionate'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-scots-5-tier-lockdown-targeted-and-proportionate-3013352>

Ethnic minority Covid risk 'not explained by racism'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-54634721>

Racism wasn't to blame for differing Covid death rates

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-wasnt-to-blame-for-differing-covid-death-rates-xpl7gdqb>

'Structural racism' has no place in the national debate on tackling Covid-19

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/10/22/structural-racism-has-no-place-national-debate-tackling-covid/>

UK ministers accused over impact of Covid on minorities and disabled people

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/19/uk-ministers-accused-over-impact-of-covid-on-minorities-and-disabled-people>

'Negligent and unlawful': Ministers accused of failing to address impact of coronavirus on ethnic minorities

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ethnic-minorities-coronavirus-deaths-impact-b1159317.html>

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Other News

Meat from animals not stunned before they are slaughtered must be labelled, vet association says

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/10/24/meat-animals-not-stunned-slaughtered-must-labelled-vet-association/>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/children-scotland-bill>

**** Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

Bill as introduced

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/introduced/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill-as-introduced.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/introduced/explanatory-notes-domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/introduced/policy-memorandum-domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/introduced/delegated-powers-memorandum-domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill.pdf>

Financial Memorandum

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill/introduced/financial-memorandum-domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill.pdf>

Equality Impact Assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill-egia/>

Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill-crwia/>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2699>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2638>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2535>

European Citizens' Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2704>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2660>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2714>

House of Commons consideration of House of Lords amendments ('Ping Pong')

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-19/debates/97E83258-6E39-432F-8AE0-C2D7E0B1966F/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-19/debates/97E83258-6E39-432F-8AE0-C2D7E0B1966F/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

House of Lords consideration of House of Commons reasons ('Ping Pong')

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-21/debates/84EE8238-F96E-4C8F-AF34-27312C2F4048/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-10-21/debates/84EE8238-F96E-4C8F-AF34-27312C2F4048/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2574>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2770>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2538>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2611>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Hate crime laws [in England and Wales] (closing date 24 December 2020)

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

Future Arrangements for Early Medical Abortion at Home (closing date 5 January 2021)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/early-medical-abortion-at-home/>

Tackling modern slavery [in Northern Ireland] (closing date 7 January 2021)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-tackling-modern-slavery>

Your Police 2020-2021 (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19 (closing date not stated)
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers
(closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

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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>

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

BEMIS grants of up to £3,000, in partnership with Foundation Scotland, for eligible local community groups and organisations supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities (suffering with domestic abuse; mental health; access to food, shelter and amenities; poverty, access to services/care). For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/ricfund/>

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network funding for organisations to respond to the changing needs of their members in a sustainable way. Funding priorities will be to ensure that community organisations can:

- set up sustainable networks that support access to food and sustenance needs initially up until August 2020
- support their communities to be connected to services, information and communication
- provide services to tackle isolation, such as online events and befriending

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrrn/transition-fund/>

Places of Worship Fund

Running until mid January 2021

Interfaith Scotland grants of up to £500 for places of worship that are struggling to meet the safety requirements of re-opening their buildings and safely holding services within Government Guidelines. With discretion the funds can also be used to assist in keeping open places that have managed their initial outlay with regard to safely reopening their place of worship but are now struggling to keep up the measures required to stay open.

This fund will help places of worship to:

- **Re-open** safely, including deep clean premises, provide appropriate signage and ensure that all volunteers and staff have appropriate training and PPE.
- **Keep open** places of worship that are struggling with the on-going health and safety costs during the pandemic
- **Remain connected** with those still too vulnerable to come to a place of worship – this may be through regular mail outs, telephone calls or the provision of mobile devices to allow those without digital access to keep in touch
- **Advancing Equality and Tackling Loneliness** Supporting faith communities to open the doors of their places of worship in a safe and inclusive manner will enable thousands of lonely and isolated people across Scotland to re-connect with their wider community.

The funding will be available for faith communities and community groups that utilise places of worship only, and will be offered to faith communities that are members and associate members of Interfaith Scotland in the first instance. For full details and an application form contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Strengthening Migrants' Human Rights in Scotland: The Plans & the Priorities

28 October 2020 (online, 9.30–12.00)

Human Rights Consortium event on how migrants' rights can be strengthened, as Scotland moves to incorporate more international human rights. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yxu2ppyl>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

4 November 2020 (online, 10.00–12.00)

13 January 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

3 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Scottish Interfaith Week

8-15 November 2020

SIFW brings people together whilst promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. The full programme of events is available at <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/programme-2020>

Hate Crime and COVID-19

11 November 2020 (online, 9.30–10.45)

Manchester Metropolitan University seminar to discuss reports in the UK and Australia that attest to increases in hate crimes against Chinese and people who look 'Chinese', attributed to racist assumptions that they are to blame for the COVID-19 pandemic. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy8s6q7s>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

11 November 2020 (online, 10.00–12.00)

20 January 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

No Recourse to Public Funds

18 November 2020 (online, 10.00–12.00)

3 February 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Equality and Diversity in Workplace

18 and 19 November 2020 (two day course) (online, 10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group, discuss the type of language that can be offensive and excluding, and debate how to challenge such behaviour in a constructive manner. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Interpreting Culture

19 and 20 January 2021 (two day course) (online, 10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to examine where culture comes from and look at examples of its extraordinary diversity, and focus on interactions with people from other cultures to improve understanding, confidence and trust. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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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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