



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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**The Scottish Parliament will be in recess until 4 May 2021.
It will be dissolved on 5 May, and the elections will take place on 6 May 2021.**

NB: The Scottish Parliament website has been redesigned, and they have not set up forwarding between the old and new sites. As a result many Scottish Parliament links in previous issues of MEMO will no longer lead to the relevant items. To find these items you will need to copy details such as the ID number of the written answer or motion, or key words, such as the subject matter, and name of MSP and/or Minister involved, from the link in MEMO into the search facility on their new site at www.parliament.scot/search

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

UK Asylum System and Asylum Seekers' Mental Health

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-04-13/debates/6E532356-9EAF-470D-B3EE-94C13FBEECA/UKAsylumSystemAndAsylumSeekers'MentalHealth>

Immigration

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-04-14/debates/7DB04B35-A1F0-40DF-A84E-C0655D684BD3/Immigration>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [178561] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how she plans to assess applicants for British citizenship who cannot meet the continuous residency requirement as they were unable to return to the UK from abroad as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are taking a pragmatic approach to the coronavirus outbreak and continue to monitor the situation in all countries. Individuals who are following official advice will not be penalised as a result of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is discretion within the British Nationality Act 1981 to overlook excess absences. We would normally do so where there are compelling or compassionate grounds, such as the impact of the global pandemic.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-30/178561>

Biometric Residence Permits

Peter Kyle (Labour) [179297] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of Biometric Residence Permit cards are produced by the DVLA within 10 working days of a notification of the decision to grant leave being sent out.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: DVLA processes all BRP within 10 working days of receiving the request. It has a service level agreement to complete 90% of production requests within one working day and the remaining 10% within two working days. For the financial year 2020/21 it achieved 69.3% (630,173) within 24 hours and 97.9% (259,977) within 48 hours. 2.1% (19,250) took longer than 48 hours.

The production of BRPs outside the 48 hour target was the result of a production failure at DVLA over a three working day period between 22 – 26 October 2020. The average processing time of the 19,250 affected was three working days. This enabled our secure delivery provider, FedEx, to attempt to deliver all BRPs within 10 working days of the decision notification being issued.

UKVI meets with DVLA weekly to monitor performance. The impacts of Covid-19 restrictions and safe working practices have reduced staffing capacity within the production site and contributed to the delays experienced in failing to achieve the 24 hour SLA.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179297>

Immigration

Stephen Timms (Labour) [174718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to implement its commitment to external

engagement and transparency as part of its review of the compliant environment; and if she will publish the (a) past and (b) future programme of external consultation on that review.

Reply from Chris Philp: As part of our commitment to external engagement we have already spoken to a range of external stakeholders including employer groups, non-governmental organisations and other government departments. We will continue to do this throughout the review.

I can confirm we intend to publish a progress report on the evaluation at a suitable juncture. As set out in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan, initial analysis of data and evidence on the compliant environment will be completed by autumn 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/174718>

Immigration

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [174236] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons her Department's Migration Statistics do not capture the number of applications (a) received, (b) granted and (c) rejected for visas under the adult dependent relative rule.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Home Office Migration Statistics capture data on a number of Adult Dependent Relative routes, which are grouped together with other routes under Family: Other (for immediate settlement) in our published data. This includes the number of applications received, granted and refused.

However, not all Adult Dependent Relative applications are captured under the Adult Dependent Relative route, to capture accurate data would require a manual trawl of cases and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174236>

Immigration: Disclosure of Information

Afzal Khan (Labour) [174258] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps HMRC has taken to share Highly Skilled Tier 1 (General) migrant data with the Home Office for indefinite leave to remain decisions.

Reply from Jesse Norman: Where legally permitted and proportionate, HMRC undertake to share data with the Home Office (HO) under the relevant legislation and where requested by HO, which is governed by a single Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement sets out the framework under which HMRC and HO work together. Under this partnership agreement, HMRC may undertake to share data where there is a Data Usage Agreement (DUA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purpose outlined within the agreements.

These documents are signed off by both departments and outline the approved legal gateway for the data share, the purpose of the data share, how the data will be used, what data is to be shared and how, data security obligations, and data retention policy.

HMRC have extensive senior governance in place to assure that DUAs adhere to legal requirements and are proportionate in their requests. All DUAs are assessed under relevant legislation and are reviewed under a regular schedule. Secure data transfer infrastructure is in place for data exchange, and data is only permitted to be used for the agreed purpose.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174258>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [174109] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Tier 2 (General) working visas have been issued in each of the last 24 months.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on Tier 2 (General)

visas in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on the number of Tier 2 (General) visas are published in table Vis_D02 of the [entry clearance visas applications and outcomes](#) dataset. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

The latest data relates to year ending December 2020. Data for the first quarter of 2021 are due to be published on 27 May 2021.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174109>

Visas: English Language

Drew Hendry (SNP) [179233] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of enabling visa applicants who would have to travel between local authority areas to attend a testing centre to undertake online English language testing during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As of 13 April 2021, all SELT test centres in the United Kingdom are open, and testing is available with appropriate health and safety measures in place. There are currently no plans to introduce online testing.

Consideration of the feasibility of online testing prior to the award of the current concessions contracts was undertaken in 2019, however it was assessed at the time the maturity of online proctoring technology and its anti-fraud measures were not at a suitable level to ensure the integrity of the SELT.

The Home Office continues to be interested in the opportunities, innovations and new technologies in this space which can be provided to our customers in the future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179233>

Visas: British National (Overseas)

Naz Shah (Labour) [174151] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what funding the Government has provided to support integration of British National (Overseas) visa holders in each of the last five years.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is leading the Government's work on welcoming Hong Kong BN(O)s into the UK. While the Department has run integration programmes such as the Controlling Migration Fund and the Integration Area Programme, these were not tailored to BN(O) communities.

The new BN(O) route and access to public services is an unprecedented offer following China's passing of the National Security Law. This new law significantly impacts the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong and since the situation that BN(O) status holders find themselves in has changed, it is right that their rights and entitlements in the UK change too.

The visa route reflects the historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status at the point of Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174151>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [179170] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what most recent information her Department holds on the number of applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme who have died in the period between applying for and receiving that compensation.

Reply from Priti Patel: Representatives of the estate of affected individuals who have sadly passed away can claim compensation. Close family members of an

eligible primary claimant, including in cases where the primary claimant has died, can also make a claim for compensation in their own right. Guidance and claim forms are available on GOV.UK

The specific information requested on the number of Windrush Scheme overseas applicants who had passed away before the application process was completed is not included in statistical data published by the Home Office.

The Home Secretary provides updates to the Home Affairs Select Committee on the work of the department in connection with Windrush.

The updates can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/correspondence-on-the-work-of-the-home-office-windrush>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179170>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [179171] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what most recent information her Department holds on the number of people whose applications to the Windrush Compensation Scheme remain outstanding more than (a) two years, (b) 18 months and (c) 12 months after first submitting those applications.

Reply from Priti Patel: Data on the number of claims received and the number of payment made is published as part of the regular transparency data release which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-march-2021>

Each person's claim is deeply personal and requires careful and detailed consideration to understand their individual circumstances and experiences. There are thirteen different categories of claim and some individuals' experiences are more complex than others and it is right we take the time to ensure these are considered carefully. We want people to receive the maximum compensation to which they are entitled and work closely with individuals, for example by contacting other government departments and third parties to help gather evidence to support their claim.

This holistic approach necessarily takes time but is ultimately beneficial to individuals. The average calendar days from the date the claim was received to a Full and Final payment date is 434, as at 31st January 2021.

However, we recognise that we need to go further and faster which is why, following feedback from the Windrush Cross Government Working Group, members of the Windrush generation, community leaders and those affected, we have made fundamental improvements to the Scheme to ensure people receive significantly more money, more quickly. As we continue to make decisions on the oldest cases, we expect to see the time taken from application to final decision fall significantly in the coming months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179171>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Peter Grant (SBNP) [175925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that EU citizens are able to access support to obtain their status through the EU Settlement Scheme by the deadline of 30 June 2021 in light of the disruption caused by the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have worked extensively to promote awareness of the EUSS. The Home Office has already spent a total of £4.6 million on marketing campaigns to encourage those EU citizens and their family members who have not yet applied to do so. We recently launched a new £1.5 million wave of UK-wide advertising to ensure EU citizens and their family members are aware of the deadline and know they need to apply.

Guidance on how to apply and details of the support available to applicants (as it has been throughout the pandemic), is available through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre (SRC), which is open seven days a week to provide assistance over the telephone and by email. The SRC also provides a direct line for organisations working with vulnerable groups. In specific cases the SRC has the capacity to transfer customers to Assisted Digital for more bespoke support.

As well as the above process of “warm transfer” customers from SRC to our supplier We-Are-Digital (WAD), we signpost customers to our supplier WAD for the Assisted Digital service, which is available cost-free for customers who cannot access or struggle to use technology.

We remain committed to making sure everybody eligible for the EUSS can apply, including those who are vulnerable or need extra support. We have already awarded £17 million of funding to a network of now 72 organisations across the UK, to ensure important information and assistance gets through to those who are hardest to reach, and no one is left behind. These organisations have helped more than 250,000 vulnerable people to apply to the EUSS already.

In addition, we recently announced a further £4.5 million for the Grant Funded Network so it can continue to provide a wide range of invaluable support across the UK, including after the 30 June deadline, ensuring those most at-risk continue to get the help they need.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175925>

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

Peter Grant (SNP) [175922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that EU citizens who are resident in care homes in the UK are made aware of the requirement to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has provided £17million in grant funding to a network of 72 organisations which provide bespoke support to vulnerable and hard to reach EU citizens and their family members eligible to apply to the EUSS, including those who are resident in care homes or receiving some element of support from the care sector

On top of the £17million in grant funding, the Home Office recently announced a further £4.5million of funding to the 72 organisations to continue the support services well beyond the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Of the 72 Grant-funded Organisations (GFOs), 56 support the elderly to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. These organisations are spread across the four nations.

In Scotland, Citizen’s Advice Scotland, have grant funding across their four consortiums, including thirty partner organisations who are working with 204 Care providers in the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling local authority areas to target both EU citizens employed in the care sector, together with elderly EU citizens resident in care homes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175922>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Peter Grant (SNP) [175923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help make applicants to the EU Settled Status Scheme aware of the requirement to notify renewed passport details to that Scheme.

Peter Grant (SNP) [175926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of requiring EU Nationals with settled status to update their passport details with the EU Settlement Scheme each time they renew their passport.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Holders of EU Settlement Scheme status are issued with a letter from the Home Office which provides clear instructions as to how and when individuals can update their details using the online service.

In addition to this relevant information is available on gov.uk by following this link:

[Update your UK Visas and Immigration account details - Update your details](#)

We advise applicants to use the online Update Your Details service to update their passport information whenever it changes. When an update is made, the applicant will then use their new passport number to access their digital status.

Updating document details is advised, but not mandatory. Applicants can continue to log into their status using the document number they applied with.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175923>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175926>

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

Peter Grant (SNP) [175924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that the rights of EU citizens to live and work in the UK are maintained in the event that those EU citizens have not been able to secure their status before the deadline for closure of the EU Settlement Scheme on 30 June 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In line with the Withdrawal Agreement, EU citizens resident in the UK by the end of the transition period have until 30 June 2021 to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, unless they have reasonable grounds for missing the deadline.

Those who apply before the deadline, but whose application is not decided until after it, will have their rights protected pending the outcome of their application (and of any appeal).

Where a person with reasonable grounds for missing the 30 June 2021 deadline applies to the scheme after the deadline and is granted status, they will, consistent with the Withdrawal Agreement, enjoy the same rights from the time they are granted status as someone who applied before the deadline.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175924>

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

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

Undocumented Migrants

John Hayes (Conservative) [175701] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many illegal immigrants are estimated to currently reside in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: In June 2019, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) published a note on '[measuring illegal migration](#)'.

By its very nature, it is not possible to know the exact size of the illegal population and so we do not seek to make any official estimates of the illegal population. The

Government is focused on making it harder for people to enter and live in the UK illegally whilst ensuring those who have the right to reside in the UK can do so. Exit checks introduced in April 2015 will, over time provide more detailed insights into the behaviour of migrants and how they comply with the restrictions placed upon their length of stay in the UK, but the data obtained does not provide the total number of illegal migrants currently in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175701>

Undocumented Migrants: Employment

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [174175] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans he has to use data collected through the Windrush Compensation Scheme to make an assessment of the revenue lost from taxation as a result of prohibiting undocumented migrants from taking up employment.

Reply from Priti Patel: None. The data collected through the Windrush Compensation Scheme relate to people who have status in the UK with the right to work rather than undocumented migrants without status.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174175>

Refugees: Syria

John Lamont (Conservative) [179353] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding has been provided to the Scottish Borders Council as part of the Syrian vulnerable person resettlement programme.

Reply from Chris Philp: All local authorities receive a 5-year tariff, per refugee resettled, to assist with costs incurred providing support to refugees they have welcomed through the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. In year 1 this totals £8,520 per refugee, with additional support for educational and medical needs. In years 2-5 local authorities receive £12,000 per refugee in total: tapering from £5,000 in year 2 to £3,700 in year 3, to £2,300k in year 4 and £1,000k in year 5.

[Home Office Immigration Statistics](#) on asylum and resettlement are published on a quarterly basis. This includes a detailed breakdown of the number of refugees resettled to each local authority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179353>

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [174211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce applicant waiting times for decisions on asylum applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We are fixing a broken asylum system and creating a new one which will be fairer and firmer and compassionate towards those who need our help.

There are several factors which contribute to the length of time to process asylum claims. In this context, we have developed a programme of work designed to transform the system.

We have already made significant progress in prioritising cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and are working to simplify and speed up decision making.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174211>

Asylum: Slavery

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [175960] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of granting asylum seekers who are victims of modern slavery a minimum of one year of leave to remain in the UK to support their long term recovery.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The UK's policy for confirmed victims of modern slavery is to consider granting discretionary leave to remain on a case-by-case basis, based on the individual's circumstances. The published policy can be found on gov.uk [Discretionary leave for victims of modern slavery casework guidance](#) and gives a number of examples in which a grant of discretionary leave is appropriate. Confirmed victims of modern slavery who are also asylum seekers are eligible for a grant of leave under the same policy, but this usually only needs to be considered if the asylum claim is refused.

As part of the New Plan for Immigration announced on 24 March 2021, we are consulting on a proposal that confirmed victims with long-term recovery needs linked to their modern slavery exploitation can be considered for a grant of temporary leave to remain to assist their recovery. This builds on our end-to-end needs-based approach to supporting victims. We also make clear that temporary leave to remain may be available to victims who are helping the police with prosecutions and bringing their exploiters to justice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175960>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [174743] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on using Gibraltar to host a UK asylum processing centre.

Asylum: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [174744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on using the Isle of Man to host a UK asylum processing centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: We must consider every possible option to prevent people from putting their lives at risk to make perilous journeys – deterring abuse of the asylum system and criminality associated with it. As part of that work, we have looked at what a whole host of other countries do in order to inform a plan for the UK.

Specific discussions in respect of identifying a particular place for asylum processing would always be done in close partnership with that country jurisdiction.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/174743>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/174744>

Asylum

Imran Ahmad Khan (Conservative) [175012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans are in place to communicate immigration reforms to potential asylum seekers in the most commonly spoken native languages of those seeking asylum.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are finalising communication plans to ensure the proposed measures are appropriately communicated to the public, key stakeholders and those affected by the changes.

We are currently running an organised immigration crime deterrence campaign which directly speaks to migrants in their native languages. We are preparing the next phase of the campaign, including how it can reflect and support the New Plan for Immigration.

The following five questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Neil Coyle (Labour) [175877] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 11509 on Asylum, if he will publish the terms of reference for the completed review on the way asylum claims on the basis of religion and LGBT+ grounds are assessed.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [175878] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 11509 on Asylum, if his Department will publish the (a) findings of the review into the way asylum claims on the basis of religion and LGBT+ grounds are assessed and (b) action plan.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [175879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 11509, on Asylum, what progress his Department has made since that action plan was formed on the way that asylum claims on the basis of religion and LGBT+ grounds are assessed.

Asylum: Religion

Neil Coyle (Labour) [175880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 11509, on Asylum, what steps his Department have taken to consult representatives of (a) the Church of England, (b) the Catholic Church and (c) other faith based organisations on the review and action plan in respect of asylum claims on the basis of religion.

Asylum: LGBT People

Neil Coyle (Labour) [175881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 11509, on Asylum, what steps his Department has taken to consult representatives of LGBT+ organisations on the review and action plan in respect of asylum claims on the basis of sexuality.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK has a proud record of providing protection to individuals fleeing persecution based on their religious beliefs, sexual orientation and gender identity and are committed to delivering an asylum system that is responsive to all forms of persecution.

We have previously worked closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and associated stakeholders, to produce a specialist training package designed to ensure that where religion or belief is raised in an asylum claim, decision makers appropriately consider all the available evidence. The course has now been rolled out to all relevant staff and we will continue to update this as and when required, working with relevant parties.

The Home Office continue to work with organisations specialising in sexual orientation/gender identity to further our work for LGBT+ people, including the development of a new interview training workshop that is being developed in consultation with UK Lesbian Gay Immigration Group (UKLGIG). It is hoped that, if successful, this training will be rolled out in the next few months.

Updated policy guidance on how to approach religious based claims and sexual orientation has been published, including guidance on the need to ensure appropriate and sensitive questions are asked during asylum interviews.

Our processes are underpinned by a robust framework of safeguards and quality checks, ensuring that claims based on LGBT+ issues are properly considered, decisions are sound, and that protection is granted to those who genuinely need it.

We do not have any plans to publish the findings of this internal review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175877>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175878>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175879>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175880>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175881>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-02-03/11509>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Clergy: EU Visas and Residence Permits

The Lord Bishop of Leeds: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of new (1) visa, and (2) residence, permit regimes for United Kingdom citizens working in the European Union on the numbers of Church of England clergy securing such permits.

Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office: My Lords, the withdrawal agreement protects UK nationals who were lawfully resident in the EU before the end of the transition period. Thirteen member states require them to apply for new resident status. British citizens travelling to the EU for work may need visas or permits from relevant member states. Member states are, of course, responsible for implementing their domestic immigration systems, and the UK does not hold information on the specific occupations of UK nationals abroad.

The Lord Bishop of Leeds: ... This is of course a question that goes wider than the Church, but let us consider a diocese in Europe supporting UK citizens which is now unable to assign clergy for locum duty, for example, because of the lack of clarity regarding work permits. How do the Government intend to support UK citizens in what was an inevitable outcome of the withdrawal agreement? Can the Minister give any practical encouragement to the Bishop in Europe as he seeks to resolve these issues?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, I assure the right reverend Prelate that, as he may well be aware, we are working very closely with the Church of England—for example, on citizens' rights—as it is one of the implementing partners of the UK nationals support fund. In addition, through our embassies, we are providing direct and relevant support as well as an extensive communications programme for all citizens across the European Union.

Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale (Labour): ... the Church of Scotland also has deep concerns about the position of locum ministers serving congregations throughout the European Union following Brexit. We also have concerns about split ministries, where the minister involved may be part-time in two different, perhaps neighbouring, countries, in two different churches. Will the Government guarantee to involve the Church of Scotland in any discussions about resolving these issues, including, of course, other Churches and faiths?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, I can of course assure the noble Lord that we will work with all organisations, including the Church of Scotland. ...

Lord Flight (Conservative): My Lords, many religious communities are not yet aware of how they will be affected by Brexit. They have relied on EU members to fill temporary posts; this will be hit when free movement ends on 31 December, along with routes for the previous temporary priest cover for summer holidays, for example. They can no longer sponsor a worker in the tier 5 category to fill the post of temporary minister of religion. Do the Government anticipate that the basis of an individual's visits will fall within the visitors' visa rules?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, I will write to my noble friend on the specific question he raises and, of course, place a copy in the library.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon: My Lords, the Question reminds us that we have inextricable ties of culture, trade and even religion with our former partners in the European Union. Does the Minister agree that, rather than looking selectively to the concerns of Anglicans, we should be looking to better working arrangements for all branches of Christianity, as well as other faiths and cultures, in reducing onerous visa requirements and enhancing better living and working arrangements with our former partners in Europe?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, I will first perhaps correct the noble Lord by saying that we do not regard the European Union as former partners; we continue to have a strong partnership with the European Union on a range of different issues. On the issues of religion and communities across Europe, yes, diversity is a strength of the continent and we should encourage those who wish to visit different parts of it. In this regard, the noble Lord will be aware of what has already been agreed: the ability to visit different countries on a rolling basis without the necessity of visa requirements. Anyone wishing to visit the European Union from the UK can do so for 90 days on a revolving 180-day basis. ...

Lord Wallace of Saltaire (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I want to press the Minister on reciprocity. There are expatriate communities in this country that also have religious services—the Swedish Church in London, in which I have sung, and other Lutherans; French and Polish congregations; Jewish congregations with visitors from the continent—so there are clear mutual interests. Are we negotiating on the basis of reciprocity or are we asking for greater freedom of access for UK citizens in the EU than for EU citizens in the UK?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, the noble Lord raises an important issue on reciprocal arrangements. There are a whole range of areas where we have seen reciprocal arrangements put in place. The whole purpose of the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights, which is supported both by the UK and by the EU—officials are meeting regularly—is to unlock those very issues that can provide for the kind of access that he is suggesting. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-04-13/debates/105EB47E-3609-4E59-B086-56E84F4E6D71/ClergyEUVisasAndResidencePermits>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration: Roma

The Lord Bishop of St Albans [HL14662] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to assist members of the Roma community to apply for settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme before 30 June; and what assessment they have made of the barriers (1) to obtaining the required documentation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) to accessing, and completing, online applications, experienced by that community.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office has provided £17million in grant funding to a network of 72 organisations which provide bespoke support to vulnerable and hard to reach EU citizens and their family members eligible to apply to EUSS, including members of the Roma Community.

Of the 72 Grant-funded Organisations (GFOs), 54 support members of the Roma community to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme, with 5 organisations primarily focused on working with vulnerable members of this cohort (Clifton Learning Partnership, Tros Gynnal, STEP Northern Ireland, Tower Hamlets Law Centre, and Positive Action in Housing).

On top of the £17million in grant funding, the Home Office recently announced a further £4.5million of funding to the current 72 organisations to continue these

support services well beyond the 30 June 2021 deadline.

Whilst the GFN directly funds 72 organisations, these organisations have expanded their network across the UK by forming partnerships with other organisations. These partners are similar, they are on the ground, giving direct support to the vulnerable including homeless/rough sleepers, victims of domestic violence and members of the Roma community.

This network is also supported by the Home Office through an online GFO forum called 'Basecamp'. This platform allows organisations to share ideas, best practise and for organisations to reach out to one another for help and support. It is the innovative ways of working demonstrated by the Grant Funded Network during the COVID-19 pandemic, which have continued to meet the needs of vulnerable individuals for completing online applications or accessing digital status, such as virtual face to face meetings and, where necessary, face to face appointments with use of lateral flow testing, enabling them to do so in a safe way for both themselves and these vulnerable individuals.

The EU Settlement Resolution Centre, will also continue to provide over the phone digital assistance to applicants who require support to access their digital status.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/hl14662>

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

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

Asylum: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14571] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many members of staff working for asylum accommodation providers have received the training specified in the Asylum Accommodation and Support Statement of Requirements; and whether training for staff who have face-to-face contact with service users is stipulated in Home Office contracts with providers.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC) are published and the requirements of the contract are set out in the Statement of Requirements, this includes provisions around training and the training programme for those with face-to-face contact with our customers.

The Provider must fully equip and train staff (including volunteers) to ensure they are able to fulfil their roles and ensure appropriate and sufficient security provisions are made for all staff undertaking face-to-face activities. Those with face to face contact must cover the following:

- Ethnic diversity and cultural awareness
- Suicide and self-harm awareness and prevention
- Basic First Aid
- Gender based violence
- Fire Safety
- Health and Safety
- Vicarious Trauma
- Unconscious Bias
- Counter Terrorism
- Modern Slavery
- Training relating to housing standards and regulatory requirements

As a minimum, provider staff should receive refresher training on the requirements listed above annually (i.e. refresher training completed every twelve (12) months), or more regularly if required.

The Home Office does not intend to publish data on the number of staff employed by accommodation providers, who will be expected to undertake training. However, provider performance and service delivery is discussed on a weekly basis. There

are formal performance meetings each month, plus strategic boards with senior provider management, once a quarter.

The Home Office discusses performance of the contracts and service improvements with Local Authorities who participate in asylum dispersal. Durham is the only Local Authority in the North East of England who do not accommodate supported asylum seekers. We would encourage all Local Authorities to play their part and hope Durham will join their neighbours in doing so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/hl14571>

Asylum: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL14572] To ask Her Majesty's Government what procedures they have established to (1) monitor, and (2) evaluate, contracts with asylum accommodation providers.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We expect the highest standards from our providers, who are expected to conduct regular checks across the accommodation estate. The Home Office have access to providers' systems to monitor compliance. The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC) have a robust performance management system, against which providers are expected to deliver. Where performance falls short of the required standard, failures are recorded and can result in the award of points and, ultimately, service credits being applied. Providers' performance is monitored closely by dedicated staff in each contract area, who are in daily contact with them.

This is supplemented by a formal governance process which includes quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards and monthly Contract Management Groups. Service credits and subsequent improvement plans are discussed and monitored as part of this process.

Contract management is operated in line with Covid-19 guidance. Service Delivery Managers speak daily with providers about service delivery and performance. In response to the global pandemic, officials also have formal meetings on a weekly basis to ensure individuals are housed safely, services are delivered in line with their contractual obligations and adherence to guidance from Public Health England (PHE) is followed. Asylum seekers can also raise specific issues or concerns about their accommodation through the 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service operated by Migrant Help. The Home Office and our providers receive feedback on complaints raised through our regular dialogue with Migrant Help, which enables attention to be focussed on particular areas of concern.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/hl14572>

Asylum: Military Bases

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL14386] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the number of residents at Napier Barracks and Penally training camp has reduced since 12 March; how many residents have tested positive for COVID-19; and when they expect to provide adequate accommodation for all residents.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The number of residents at Napier has reduced since 12 March 2021.

Due to the closure of Penally Training Camp, the accommodation providers Clearsprings Ready Homes (CRH) have moved all remaining asylum seekers as of the 21 March.

197 people accommodated at Napier tested positive for coronavirus earlier this year. There have been no recorded cases at Penally.

All asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with safe, suitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-18/hl14386>

Asylum: Napier Barracks

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL14396] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to relocate all asylum seekers who are housed at Napier Barracks.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The current global pandemic has presented us with significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation, including sourcing sufficient suitable accommodation to meet demand.

The use of hotels and wider government facilities as contingency accommodation are a short-term measure. We are working to move people to longer-term dispersal accommodation as soon as it becomes available.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-18/hl14396>

Human Trafficking: Children

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL14407] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that police forces in England and Wales can collaborate with EU counterparts on missing children and trafficking investigations when a child has been trafficked from the UK to Europe.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Tackling modern slavery, including child trafficking, is a priority for this Government and we are committed to continuing to work closely with EU partners to address this heinous crime.

The UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) delivers a comprehensive package of capabilities that ensures we can work with counterparts across Europe to tackle serious crime. This includes enabling our law enforcement agencies to continue to share information on investigations, including those related to child trafficking, with EU counterparts.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-19/hl14407>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [1708] **Hong Kong British National (Overseas) assistance programme** – That this House acknowledges the excellent arrangements the Government is making to welcome and support Hongkongers arriving in the UK under the British National Overseas (BN(O)) visa scheme; recognises the significant cultural, economic and social boost Hongkongers will provide to communities across the UK; commends the creation of welcome hubs which will help arrivals from Hong Kong to access housing, education and employment; notes that between 123,000 and 153,700 BN(O) status holders and their dependents are expected to use the route to the UK in the first year; recognises that the visa route and assistance programme deliver on the UK's historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong; and commits to creating a welcome environment for Hongkongers to ensure their success and happiness here.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58351>

Press Releases

Home Office signs legal agreement to improve practices following Windrush

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/home-office-signs-legal-agreement-improve-practices-following-windrush>

Visas extended for thousands of frontline health and care workers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/visas-extended-for-thousands-of-frontline-health-and-care-workers>

National welcome for Hong Kong arrivals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-welcome-for-hong-kong-arrivals>

Home Affairs Committee Chair comments on the use of military sites for asylum accommodation

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/153645/chair-comments-on-the-use-of-military-sites-for-asylum-accommodation/>

Covid-19 is worsening human trafficking – states should take action, warn Council of Europe experts

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/covid-19-is-worsening-human-trafficking-states-should-take-action-warn-council-of-europe-experts>

New Publications

Updated guidance: EU Settlement Scheme – Home Office looked-after children and care leavers survey 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-2020/eu-settlement-scheme-home-office-looked-after-children-and-care-leavers-survey-2020>

Welcome: a guide for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa holders in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-holders-in-the-uk>

Hong Kong UK welcome programme – guidance for local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hong-kong-uk-welcome-programme-guidance-for-local-authorities>

Letter from Kevin Foster MP to Yvette Cooper MP regarding arrangements for British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) status holders from Hong Kong at the UK border and in the UK before 17 May 2021

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2021-0315/Kevin_Foster_MP_to_Yvette_Cooper_MP.pdf

Letter from the Home Secretary on institutional accommodation and documents relating to Napier barracks

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/5348/documents/53233/default/>

News

Refugee Festival Scotland is back!

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/refugee-festival-scotland-is-back/>

Immigration not ‘magic fix’ for Scotland’s workforce issues

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19225421.immigration-not-magic-fix-scotlands-workforce-issues/>

Fewer workers fled UK after pandemic struck than feared

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2021/04/16/worker-exodus-less-first-feared/>

Overseas health workers to get free UK visa extension, says Home Office

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56680286>

Hong Kong citizens to be given 'support' to come to UK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56669016>

UK Government announces £43m package to support Hong Kongers moving to Britain

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19216555.uk-government-announces-43m-package-support-hong-kongers-moving-britain/>

Hong Kongers heading to Britain under new visa scheme to be offered help with housing and education

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/08/hong-kongers-heading-britain-new-visa-scheme-offered-help-housing/>

EU made up much higher share of net migration after 2010 than official figures suggested

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/press/eu-made-up-much-higher-share-of-net-migration-after-2010-than-official-figures-suggested/>

Number of EU migrants 100,000 a year higher over past decade, claims UK study

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/number-of-eu-migrants-100-000-a-year-higher-over-past-decade-claims-uk-study-38djv6z28>

EU children in UK care system could become 'undocumented' adults, charity warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/30/eu-children-in-uk-care-system-could-become-undocumented-adults-charity-warns>

Journalist refused post-Brexit settled status despite living in UK since age 10

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-settled-status-journalist-refused-home-office-b1828691.html>

Channel migrant crossings have more than doubled as UK crackdown looms

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/30/channel-migrant-crossings-have-doubled-uk-crackdown-looms/>

Migrant Channel crossings triple in first three months

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-channel-crossings-triple-in-first-three-months-cmn0nkj7b>

Royal Navy takes delivery of robot super-vessel to counter Channel traffickers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2021/03/29/royal-navy-takes-delivery-robot-super-vessel-counter-channel/>

Wheelchair-bound man and young children among latest wave of cross-Channel migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/01/wheelchair-bound-man-young-children-among-latest-wave-migrants/>

Kent under pressure: Living on the frontline of the migrant crisis

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/31/kent-strain-living-frontline-migrant-crisis/>

Discriminatory effect of resettlement scheme for Syrian refugees is justified
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/discriminatory-effect-of-resettlement-scheme-for-syrian-refugees-is-justified-96tmw8ccn>

Priti Patel's asylum plan based on 'completely unfounded' claims, say experts
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-asylum-plan-immigration-experts-b1825024.html>

Home Office 'presenting opinion as fact' on immigration issues, lawyers warn
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-modern-slavery-priti-patel-b1823935.html>

Asylum seekers being moved to areas 'at risk of far-right attacks'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-home-office-far-right-b1826012.html>

High Court to decide whether housing asylum seekers in barracks is unlawful
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/high-court-asylum-seekers-barracks-home-office-b1830702.html>

Home Office faces inquiry into use of barracks to house asylum seekers
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/apr/13/home-office-faces-inquiry-into-use-of-barracks-to-house-asylum-seekers>

MPs and peers urge Priti Patel to shut Napier barracks asylum site
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/17/mps-peers-urge-priti-patel-shut-napier-barracks-asylum-site>

Home Office accepts it placed asylum seekers at heightened risk of Covid in barracks, court hears
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/napier-barracks-covid-asylum-seekers-b1832002.html>

Home Office knew of fire risk at barracks two months before blaze, court hears
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/14/home-office-knew-of-fire-risk-at-barracks-two-months-before-blaze-court-hears>

Home Office placed hundreds of asylum seekers at 'serious risk' of fire in Napier Barracks, document reveals
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-napier-barracks-fire-asylum-b1831373.html>

More asylum seekers to be housed in barracks deemed 'unfit for human habitation'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/07/asylum-seekers-housed-barracks-deemed-unfit-human-habitation/>

Home Office to send more asylum seekers to 'unsuitable' Napier barracks
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/apr/07/home-office-to-send-more-asylum-seekers-to-unsuitable-napier-barracks>

Asylum seekers told they will stay at Napier barracks for months
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/apr/08/asylum-seekers-told-stay-napier-barracks-for-months>

Napier Barracks: Home Office 'accepted Covid risk' at asylum camp

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-56761668>

Home Office still plans to house 28 asylum seekers to a dorm at Napier Barracks despite Covid outbreak

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/napier-barracks-asylum-seekers-home-office-covid-b1824899.html>

Dozens of asylum seekers moved to Napier Barracks despite warnings of 'unsuitable' accommodation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-napier-barracks-home-office-b1829052.html>

Vulnerable asylum seeker kept at Napier Barracks for weeks after attempting to take his life

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seeker-napier-baracks-suicide-b1832157.html>

Home Office: new deportation law may discriminate against ethnic minorities

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/04/home-office-new-deportation-law-may-discriminate-against-ethnic-minorities>

Black deportation staff called 'cotton pickers' by colleagues, court hears

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/apr/17/black-deportation-staff-called-cotton-pickers-by-mitie-colleagues-court-hears>

Witnesses to deaths in detention 'deliberately' deported from the UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/17/witnesses-to-deaths-in-detention-deliberately-deported-from-the-uk>

TOP

Community Relations

New Publication

Integration in the UK: Understanding the Data

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/reports/integration-in-the-uk-understanding-the-data/>

News

Photographer Vanley Burke to mentor black artists in Gloucester

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-56524170>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Inclusive Society

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-04-14/debates/EC4F982D-1562-462B-9454-C03651940A6D/InclusiveSociety>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister's Questions: The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

Kim Johnson (Labour) Contrary to the conclusions of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report, institutional racism still exists. Forty years since the Liverpool 8 uprisings, black communities continue to suffer racial injustice and the report downplays the structural inequalities that still exist. The Resolution Foundation announced today that the unemployment rate for young black people rose by 35%, compared with 13% for their white counterparts. Can the Prime Minister confirm the allegations that Downing Street redrafted the report to change the narrative? Does he agree that the report should now be withdrawn? (914262)

Reply from the Prime Minister: Of course, when we look at and read the report in detail, the Government are not going to agree with everything, but there are some interesting observations and some interesting ways of looking at things. We will be responding in due course, but what we say is that nobody should be in any doubt as to the reality of racism and the struggle that too many people face. We will do everything we can to stamp it out, particularly to help young black people get the jobs and the education they need.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-04-14/debates/EF116F6B-3D12-4F11-BDE2-876DB48BC25F/Engagements#contribution-30E7B3E5-880C-4203-BF64-6A568F48159E>

The Report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

The Resolution Foundation report referred to above can be read at <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2021/04/Uneven-steps.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Equality

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [174979] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what plans she has to address prejudice and attitudes to inequality towards black and ethnic minorities in response to the findings of King's College's study, Unequal Britain: attitudes to inequality in light of Covid.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I will look carefully at the findings of the King's College study, 'Unequal Britain: attitudes to inequality in light of Covid', as part of the government's commitments to levelling up and to tackling prejudice, racism and discrimination. This work will also take account of the findings of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which has been carrying out a deeper examination of the causes of disparities and which [reported to the Prime Minister on 31 March](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-24/174979>

The King's College study referred to above can be read at <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/policy-institute/assets/unequal-britain.pdf>

Homelessness: Ethnic Groups

Stephen Timms (Labour) [175694] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the increase in homelessness among Black residents of (a) England and (b) Wales in 2020.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The latest data relating to ethnicity breakdown of homeless households in England can be found in the annual homelessness statistics and live homelessness tables here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

Housing is a devolved issue and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government does not collect homelessness data for Wales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-25/175694>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Students: Ethnic Groups

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL14349] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reduce the attainment gap between ethnic minority university students and other university students.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: It is more crucial than ever before that we tap into the brilliant talent that our country has to offer, and make sure that university places are available to all who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so.

All higher education providers wishing to charge higher levels fees must have an access and participation plan agreed by the Office for Students (OfS), the regulator for higher education. These plans set out how they will support students from disadvantaged backgrounds and under-represented groups, including students from ethnic minority backgrounds, to access, participate, and succeed in higher education and to progress from it.

On 11 March the OfS published the access and participation data dashboard, which is used to identify gaps in access, continuation, attainment, and progression at English providers delivering undergraduate provision by different student characteristics. This is available here:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/access-and-participation-data-dashboard/>

A breakdown of attainment rates by ethnicity, comparing 2015/16 and 2019/20, is below. (Degree attainment in the 2019/20 academic year may have been affected by the pandemic as many providers adopted no-detriment policies for their students.)

Students achieving a first or upper-second class degree by ethnicity English higher education providers, Academic years 2015/16 and 2019/20					
	Percentage achieving a first or upper-second class degree				
Ethnicity	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Asian	67.90%	70.60%	71.90%	71.40%	78.80%
Black	55.20%	57.30%	58.90%	60.10%	68.20%
Mixed	73.40%	75.30%	78.00%	77.40%	83.00%
Other	66.40%	68.10%	68.80%	67.90%	76.60%
White	79.90%	81.10%	82.00%	82.20%	86.60%
All ethnicities	75.80%	77.30%	78.30%	78.20%	83.40%

Source: Office for Students Access and Participation Dashboard

The OfS has set itself and the higher education sector targets to address

longstanding inequalities, including to eliminate the gap in degree outcomes between white and black students.

Prior attainment is a key determinant of participation in higher education. This is why we are asking universities to take on a more direct role in raising attainment in schools, reaching out to people from under-represented and disadvantaged backgrounds to raise aspirations in schools.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-17/hl14349>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Diane Abbott (Labour) [1726] Report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities – That this House notes that the publication of the report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities in March 2021 was met with immense disappointment and frustration by members of Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities across the country, and many racial justice organisations; is deeply concerned that the report largely seems to deny the existence of institutional racism in Britain, and in doing so has raised concerns that it reverses progress towards racial equality; is alarmed by the report's poor methodology, including selectively citing and listing authors and academics whose views were neither sought, or accurately represented in the report; further notes the disturbing allegations that the report was rewritten by No.10; urgently calls on the Government to acknowledge the existence of institutional racism in society and commit to tackling it in all forms; further calls on the Government to reject the report and instead implement the recommendations of existing reports on institutional racism, including the Macpherson report, the Lammy review, the McGregor Smith review and the Windrush Lessons Learned review.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/58358>

The Report of the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, referred to above, can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_CRED_Report_FINAL_Web_Accessible.pdf

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lammy-review-final-report>

The McGregor Smith Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/594336/race-in-workplace-mcgregor-smith-review.pdf

The Windrush Lessons Learned Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [1709] Black maternal health – That this House recognises the existing racial inequalities in maternal health; notes with great sadness that Black women in the UK are four times more likely to die in pregnancy and childbirth, that women of mixed heritage are three times more, and Asian women are two times more likely to die in pregnancy and childbirth; further notes that women of Black African heritage are 83 per cent more likely to suffer a near miss in childbirth, and women of Black Caribbean heritage are 80 per cent more likely; acknowledges the MBBRACE analysis which has found that black babies have a 121 per cent increased risk for stillbirth and a 50 per cent increased risk of neonatal death; supports the work of Five X More and their efforts to raise awareness of Black maternal health inequalities; is shocked by the 2020 Black people, racism and human rights report which confirms statistics but reveals that there is no target to end it; and urgently calls on this Government to fully acknowledge these disparities and commit to working with the NHS to improve Black maternal health outcomes.

Press Releases

Prime Minister's statement on The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-statement-on-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-31-march-2021>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Chair responds to report from Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/ehrc-chair-responds-report-commission-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Scottish Human Rights Commission Statement on Report from UK Government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/statement-on-report-from-uk-governments-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/>

New Publications

Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities: The Report

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

Supporting research:

Ethnic, socio-economic and sex inequalities in educational achievement at age 16

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-report-of-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-supporting-research/ethnic-socio-economic-and-sex-inequalities-in-educational-achievement-at-age-16-by-professor-steve-strand>

Understanding ethnic disparities in involvement in crime – a limited scope rapid evidence review

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-report-of-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-supporting-research/understanding-ethnic-disparities-in-involvement-in-crime-a-limited-scope-rapid-evidence-review-by-professor-clifford-stott-et-al>

Ethnic disparities in the major causes of mortality and their risk factors

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-report-of-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-supporting-research/ethnic-disparities-in-the-major-causes-of-mortality-and-their-risk-factors-by-dr-raghib-ali-et-al>

The social mobility of ethnic minorities in Britain in the last 50 years (1972-2019)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-report-of-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities-supporting-research/the-social-mobility-of-ethnic-minorities-in-britain-in-the-last-50-years-1972-2019-by-professor-yaojun-li>

News: Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities Report

Race report: What are the key points?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56595004>

Race report: Key findings and what the commission recommends

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/31/ethnic-minority-youngsters-class-b-drugs-should-get-referral/>

Racial disparities in the UK: key findings of the report – and what its critics say

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/31/racial-disparities-in-the-uk-key-findings-of-the-report-and-what-its-critics-say>

Key findings from the Sewell report on racial equality

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/key-findings-from-the-sewell-report-on-racial-equality-kshcggfr7>

Race report: Boris Johnson urged to withdraw 'whitewashing' inquiry

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56687397>

Boris Johnson urged to reject 'disingenuous' UK race disparities report

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/06/boris-johnson-urged-to-reject-disingenuous-uk-race-disparities-report>

PM welcomes controversial race report amid campaigners' anger

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19204458.pm-welcomes-controversial-race-report/>

Race report 'reluctant to accept structural issues', says Sir Keir Starmer

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/31/boris-johnson-news-lockdown-easing-covid-eu-vaccine-pmqgs/>

Government's race report 'isn't credible', says Keir Starmer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/race-report-keir-starmer-government-b1829353.html>

Anas Sarwar says race review doesn't reflect 'lived experiences' after it finds the UK is not institutionally racist

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/anas-sarwar-says-race-review-doesnt-reflect-lived-experiences-after-it-finds-the-uk-is-not-institutionally-racist-3185497>

Dr Tony Sewell: 'When people are this desperate to silence you, you must be saying something true'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/07/dr-tony-sewell-people-desperate-silence-must-saying-something/>

'Institutional racism doesn't exist,' government's race commission suggests in landmark report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/race-commission-report-institutional-racism-b1824605.html>

Scots' anger after racism report finds no evidence of widespread bias

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19203884.anger-racism-report-finds-no-evidence-widespread-bias/>

Welsh BAME lives 'not reflected' in racism report

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56611091>

Government's race report branded an 'insult' which 'glorifies slave trade'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/black-lives-matter-commission-ethnic-disparities-report-b1824875.html>

Backlash over Sewell report slavery claim
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/downing-street-faces-backlash-over-landmark-report-on-race-r8z08n37r>

Anger over slave claims in landmark race review
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anger-slave-claims-race-review-bame-equality-wlpsk6hgv>

No 10's race report widely condemned as 'divisive'
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/31/deeply-cynical-no-10-report-criticises-use-of-institutional-racism>

Boris Johnson facing backlash as race review branded 'divisive polemic'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/race-report-boris-johnson-black-lives-matter-b1825008.html>

Race report risks deepening distrust and division
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56590791>

Campaigners criticise 'deeply cynical' race report
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56592331>

'You can't tell victims what racism is'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-56595883>

The Sewell report displays a basic misunderstanding of how racism works
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/31/sewell-report-racism-government-racial-disparity-uk>

CRED report's denial of institutional racism in the UK may have dire consequences
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/cred-reports-denial-of-institutional-racism-in-the-uk-may-have-dire-consequences-dr-gwenetta-curry-3191548>

Everything the Race Commission report misses, from evidence to humanity
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/analysis-race-commission-report-b1825086.html>

Race report: UK a model for other white majority countries
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56585538>

Sewell review is an overdue step in the right direction on race
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sewell-review-is-an-overdue-step-in-the-right-direction-on-race-w9lsg55gh>

Downing Street suggests UK should be seen as model of racial equality
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/31/uk-an-exemplar-of-racial-equality-no-10s-race-commission-concludes>

Britain is leading the way on race relations, according to report
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/30/britain-leading-way-race-relations-according-report/>

Diverse UK hailed over narrowing of race gap

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/diverse-uk-hailed-over-narrowing-of-race-gap-70d7ccjpkp>

Any BLM activists reading this race report will find their beliefs shredded

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2021/04/01/blm-activists-reading-race-report-will-find-beliefs-shredded/>

The battle against the Left's ideology of racial victimhood has only just begun

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/31/battle-against-lefts-ideology-racial-victimhood-has-just-begun/>

Support for the praiseworthy conclusions of the Sewell Report is needed

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2021/04/08/support-praiseworthy-conclusions-sewell-report-needed/>

The landmark report on racism should clear the way for a realistic debate on inequality in Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/31/landmark-report-racism-should-clear-way-realistic-debate-inequality/>

We should all recognise the progress we have made on racial inequality

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/we-should-all-recognise-the-progress-we-have-made-on-racial-inequality-rrfpb96cb>

Sewell report has sensible points but lacks credibility

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/race-report-has-sensible-points-but-lacks-credibility-cprjwq9gf>

Race report: Was controversy part of the plan?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56578839>

'Help yourselves' to end inequality, ethnic minorities told

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/31/ethnic-minorities-must-help-end-inequalities-race-report-says/>

Institutional racism exists in UK and healthcare, says head of NHS race body

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/nhs-health-racism-commission-uk-b1825705.html>

250 public health professionals condemn 'dangerous' race report for ignoring inequalities

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/covid-race-report-uk-racism-b1826823.html>

'Inflammatory' race report could put lives of ethnic minorities at risk, health experts warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/race-report-ethnic-minorities-risk-b1827742.html>

Racism in healthcare is real and it matters

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/race-commission-healthcare-nhs-inequalities-b1825120.html>

UK public health expert criticises No 10 race report 'shortcomings'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/07/uk-public-health-expert-michael-marmot-criticises-no-10-race-report-shortcomings>

No 10's race report used 'cherry-picked' data, say public health experts

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/01/commission-race-report-used-cherry-picked-data-uk-public-health-experts-say>

Race report boss wanted schools to teach 'the truth' about modern Britain

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/04/race-report-boss-wanted-schools-to-teach-the-truth-about-modern-britain>

BAME is unhelpful as it fails to include white minorities, says Government

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/03/29/bame-unhelpful-scraped-says-government/>

Of course we should scrap the term BAME - it's meaningless, especially for mixed-race Britons like myself

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/29/course-should-scrap-term-bame-meaningless-especially-mixed/>

'Ditch Bame' Race Commission proposal broadly welcomed, but campaigners wonder what's next

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bame-race-commission-campaign-b1823825.html>

Abandon redundant BAME label, race commission tells Downing St

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/abandon-redundant-bame-label-race-commission-tells-downing-st-zxt7zvmms>

Experts named in government's 'flawed' race report 'shocked' to see names in evidence contributor list

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/race-report-boris-johnson-authors-b1825516.html>

Experts thanked in controversial race report say they weren't consulted about contents

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/01/experts-thanked-controversial-race-report-say-werent-consulted/>

Bodies credited in UK race review distance themselves from findings

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/12/bodies-credited-in-uk-race-review-distance-themselves-from-findings>

Doreen Lawrence says No 10 report gives 'racists the green light'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/01/doreen-lawrence-says-no-10-report-gives-racists-the-green-light>

Race report's conclusions 'deeply disturbing', says Church of England's first black female bishop

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/02/race-reports-conclusions-deeply-disturbing-says-church-englands/>

Church of England's first black female bishop criticises government's race report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/church-of-england-s-first-black-female-bishop-criticises-government-s-race-report-v9fec2717>

'We're not there yet': Bishop dismisses race report's claim that UK is model for white-majority countries

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/race-report-bishop-rose-hudson-wilkin-b1826831.html>

UK not yet model for white-majority countries, says Church of England's first black female bishop

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/05/britain-not-yet-model-white-majority-countries-says-church-englands/>

Trade union leaders write to PM calling on him to reject 'insulting' report and act on race equality at work

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/trade-union-leaders-write-pm-calling-him-reject-insulting-report-and-act-race-equality-work>

From Macpherson to Windrush: UK inquiries into racial injustice

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/31/from-macpherson-to-windrush-uk-inquiries-into-racial-injustice>

Sewell report response: what does the data really tell us?

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/sewell-report-response-what-does-data-really-tell-us>

Race review chief Tony Sewell compared to Joseph Goebbels in social media abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/race-review-chief-tony-sewell-compared-to-joseph-goebbels-in-social-media-abuse-hrww2whww>

News: Other Equality

PM's ethnic minority adviser Samuel Kasumu quits role

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-56601166>

'Employers ignore you if they can't pronounce your surname'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-56737929>

Black history 'should be taught across all subjects in UK schools'

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/apr/05/black-history-should-be-taught-across-all-subjects-in-uk-schools>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Hate Crime: Educational Institutions

Preet Kar Gill (Labour Co-op) [174229] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many hate crimes have been recorded at education institutions in each of the last 10 years.

Hate Crime: Young People

Preet Kar Gill (Labour Co-op) [174230] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what support is available to young people to help them report a hate crime if they are a victim or witness of such a crime at college or at school.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: There is no place for racism and hatred in our education system. Schools and colleges have an important role in preparing children and young people for life in modern Britain. This involves supporting them to understand the society in which they are growing up and teaching about respect for other people and tolerance.

The Government expects schools to take a strong stand against all forms of bullying and discrimination and tackling it at the earliest opportunity to prevent it from escalating, particularly given the impact it can have on pupils, both emotionally and physically. Schools should develop their own approaches for monitoring bullying and discriminatory incidents and exercise their own judgement as to what will work best for their circumstances. We expect schools to support pupils affected by hate crimes and bullying as necessary.

The Government has continued to take action to support schools in this area. This work has included projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those with SEND and those who are victims of hate related bullying, along with a project to report bullying online.

In extreme circumstances, where schools are concerned that an incident of bullying or discrimination may amount to a criminal offence, they should report this to the police.

Victims may wish to seek contact from an organisation to provide them with support suitable to the victim's needs. A list of such organisations can be found at the police-run True Vision website at the following link:

https://www.report-it.org.uk/organisations_that_can_help

Information on whether or not hate crime offences recorded by the police in England and Wales took place in educational institutions is not recorded centrally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174229>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174230>

Hate Crime: Educational Institutions

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [179340] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 31 March 2021 to Question 174230, on Hate Crime: Young People, when her Department last undertook a review of the efficacy of its policies on the prevention and reporting of hate crimes in schools and colleges.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The government, alongside schools and teachers, is committed to supporting children and young people to thrive and reach their potential in a safe and respectful environment.

Schools continue to play an important role in preparing children and young people for life in modern Britain, supporting them to understand the society in which they are growing up and teaching about respect for other people and tolerance.

We continue to work with colleagues across government, as well as those in the school sector and communities to better understand issues around discrimination, hatred and prejudice on an ongoing basis. For example, the Department for Education has provided funding to anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying, including projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

These grants ended in March 2021, and grant holders are currently working to finalise independent evaluations of their programmes, which will be published in due course.

The Department for Education has considered next steps for anti-bullying support in schools, working closely with external stakeholders, and will shortly be running a

procurement exercise to fund activity in 2021-22.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-04-12/179340>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/174230>

Press Release

Police officer guilty of membership of banned group and terrorism offences

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/police-officer-guilty-membership-banned-group-and-terrorism-offences>

New Publications

Antisemitism Worldwide 2020: summary report

https://en-humanities.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities_en.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/Extract%20of%20the%20Annual%20Worldwide%20Report%20for%202020_130421.pdf

Be an Ally: series of short films for anyone working within schools or educational settings exploring the experiences of racism and discrimination faced by many black, South Asian and mixed heritage pupils

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/teacher-support/how-to-be-a-better-ally-to-your-students/zkx4j>

Ten standards for training from an anti-racist perspective

https://864a82af-f028-4baf-a094-46facc9205ca.filesusr.com/ugd/b0353f_836b70459bcb4e87a515e6ae548b221c.pdf

News

See also News: [Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities Report in the Equality section above.](#)

David Lammy praises 'warmth' of public support after being told he couldn't be English

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-lammy-lbc-english-racism-support-b1824361.html>

Boris Johnson's Islamophobia inquiry accused of whitewash

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/04/06/exclusive-boris-johnsons-islamophobia-inquiry-accused-whitewash/>

Labour accused of 'letting off anti-Semitism' after failing to expel members

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2021/04/04/labour-accused-letting-anti-semitism-failing-expel-members/>

SNP candidate in row over Nazi comments

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/snp-candidate-in-row-over-nazi-comments-9hdh7xsds>

Sara Khan: 'There is no right not to be offended... and no one should live in fear for doing their job'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/there-is-no-right-not-to-be-offended-and-no-one-should-live-in-fear-for-doing-their-job-fmpmpgcq6>

Met PC found guilty of neo-Nazi group membership

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-56604470>

Ben Hannam: The neo-Nazi who joined the Metropolitan Police

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56414713>

Met Police officer convicted of membership of neo-Nazi terrorist group

<https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/embed/news/police-release-footage-after-neo-nazi-convicted-of-belonging-to-banned-terror-group-1thL8uXk>

Ben Hannam: 'Intolerant' teenager with secret Muslim girlfriend, who joined neo-Nazi group for 'pub and walks'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/ben-hannam-nazi-muslim-right-wing-b1825757.html>

Met Police officer guilty of being a member of banned neo-Nazi group

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/01/metropolitan-police-officer-found-guilty-member-banned-neo-nazi/>

Met police officer guilty of belonging to banned neo-Nazi terror group

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/01/ben-hannam-met-police-officer-guilty-belonging-banned-neo-nazi-terror-group>

Secret neo-Nazi in Metropolitan Police convicted of fraud and terrorism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/secret-neo-nazi-in-metropolitan-police-convicted-of-fraud-and-terrorism-prw0nhkg6>

'What's happening in Wales?': The anti-racism movement sweeping the country

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/wales-racism-black-lives-matter-b1820407.html>

'I felt humiliated': parents respond to NHS maternity care racial bias inquiry

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/apr/13/i-felt-humiliated-parents-respond-to-nhs-maternity-care-racial-bias-inquiry>

Alex Beresford 'subjected to relentless racism' on social media

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-56601356>

Older white people who use term 'coloured' are not necessarily racist, judge rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/13/older-white-people-use-term-coloured-not-necessarily-racist/>

TUC: institutional racism exists in the UK labour market and society

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/tuc-institutional-racism-exists-uk-labour-market-and-society>

Tackling racism in the Church of England is my personal priority

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tackling-racism-in-the-church-of-england-is-my-personal-priority-n0cdpvg6r>

Vandals used face of Jesus for 'target practice' in attack on village church before Easter
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/06/vandals-used-face-jesus-target-practice-attack-village-church/>

Growing up a Sikh in the UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/sikhs-racism-birmingham-uk-b1830498.html>

Bristol films help teachers be allies to BAME pupils

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-56604018>

Nursery teachers should give lessons on white privilege, says guidance

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/03/nursery-teachers-should-give-lessons-white-privilege-says-guidance/>

Children who organised Pimlico academy protest could be expelled

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/apr/16/children-who-organised-pimlico-academy-protest-could-be-expelled>

Pimlico Academy reverses 'discriminatory' hair and uniform policy after students protest

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pimlico-academy-student-protest-afro-hijab-b1825186.html>

Pimlico Academy headmaster caves in to protesting students who burned 'racist' Union Flag

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/01/principal-caves-protesting-students-removes-racist-union-jack/>

Pimlico Academy: Head relents over 'racist' hairstyle ban

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pupils-protest-at-schools-racist-uniform-policy-0q8ppvvvx>

Tory MPs condemn Pimlico Academy pupils for protesting at 'racist' uniform rules

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-mps-speak-out-against-pimlico-academy-pupils-for-protesting-racist-uniform-rules-hr2xnb9nr>

London secondary school covered with graffiti following backlash over 'racist' uniform policy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/london-school-sprayed-graffiti-racism-b1823893.html>

Turmoil at London school hit by flag and hairstyle row

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/mar/30/turmoil-at-london-school-hit-by-flag-and-hairstyle-row>

Pimlico academy pupils stage protest over 'discriminatory' policies

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/mar/31/pimlico-academy-pupils-stage-protest-over-discriminatory-policies>

Pupils at London school stage protest against 'racist' uniform policy

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/31/pupils-protest-racist-uniform-policy-bans-hairstyles-block-view/>

Racism in private schools: my 'slave fight' rugby initiation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-in-private-schools-my-slave-fight-rugby-initiation-s0btlvnzl>

Scots universities criticised over failure to adopt antisemitism definition

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19213937.scots-universities-criticised-failure-adopt-antisemitism-definition/>

Alarm that universities don't use antisemitism definition

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/alarm-that-universities-dont-use-antisemitism-definition-bq7b8hlcml>

Edinburgh University backs article praising 'racist' scientist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-university-backs-article-praising-racist-scientist-2z9vjtvfg>

Police check alleged anti-Hindu comments aimed at Oxford students' union's first Indian woman president

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/29/police-investigate-alleged-anti-hindu-comments-aimed-oxford/>

Oxford student accused of racism for singing along to 'n-word' rap track

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/30/oxford-student-accused-racism-singing-along-n-word-rap-track/>

Parents 'should be told' if youth workers and community leaders have terror or race-hate convictions

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/03/parents-should-told-teachers-community-leaders-have-terror-race/>

Black Londoners three times more likely to be murdered than other ethnic groups, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-people-murder-victims-london-b1828432.html>

Alison Chabloz jailed for anti-Semitic radio show comments

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-derbyshire-56616838>

'You can feel racism in the way people treat you'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-norfolk-56766172>

I'm quitting as an academic because of racism and joining Surrey police

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/apr/10/im-quitting-as-an-academic-because-of-racism-and-joining-surrey-police>

I remember how it felt to be a victim of racist abuse – I don't want that for my daughter

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/racism-iran-attacks-coronavirus-b1832740.html>

'The heat is on': top theatres act to root out 'system failure' of racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2021/apr/14/heat-young-vic-royal-court-theatres-root-out-system-failure-of-racism>

Anti-racism charities ‘deeply sorry’ over Rowntree’s links to slavery

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-racism-charities-deeply-sorry-over-rowntrees-links-to-slave-trade-wkpth8f9q>

Captain Underpants: Children's book withdrawn over 'passive racism'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-56577725>

Jockey Club faces claims of ‘racism, sexism and bullying’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/01/exclusive-jockey-club-faces-claims-racism-sexism-bullying/>

Lewis Hamilton admits change of approach in fight against racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/apr/01/lewis-hamilton-admits-change-of-approach-in-fight-against-racism>

England’s cricketers provide voice of reason after racist abuse of Moeen Ali

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/apr/09/moeen-ali-abuse-an-upsetting-start-to-both-the-ipl-and-county-championship>

Raheem Sterling the latest target of online racist abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/raheem-sterling-the-latest-target-of-online-racist-abuse-kvg3wgbs6>

Rangers join boycott of social media over racist abuse

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rangers-join-boycott-of-social-media-over-racist-abuse-bpjqt28c8>

Slavia’s Ondrej Kudela gets 10-match Uefa ban for racial abuse of Glen Kamara

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/apr/14/slavia-prague-ondrej-kudela-10-match-uefa-ban-for-racist-behaviour-at-rangers-glen-kamara>

Glen Kamara: Rangers midfielder says he is racially abused 'every day' on social media

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/56670005>

Rangers’ Glen Kamara reveals he is receiving racist abuse every day

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/apr/08/rangers-glen-kamara-reveals-he-is-receiving-racist-abuse-every-day>

Manchester United launch ‘See Red’ anti-racism campaign with emotional video

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/manchester-united/anti-racism-campaign-video-twitter-b1825996.html>

Son Heung-min racially abused after Tottenham’s defeat by Manchester United

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/tottenham/son-heung-min-racial-abuse-b1829958.html>

Police investigate racist abuse of Wales footballers Ben Cabango and Rabbi Matondo

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/wales-racist-abuse-cabango-matondo-b1823886.html>

Brentford condemn ‘spineless’ racist abuse sent to Ivan Toney

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/brentford-ivan-toney-racist-abuse-b1827753.html>

Callum Robinson: West Brom striker received more than 70 messages of racist abuse, reveals Sam Allardyce

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/west-brom/callum-robinson-sam-allardyce-racist-abuse-b1828703.html>

Liverpool angry after Alexander-Arnold, Keïta and Mané racially abused online

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2021/apr/07/liverpool-anger-after-alexander-arnold-and-keita-racially-abused-online>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Motion of Condolence

Motion of Condolence [on the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh]

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13224&i=119811#ScotParlOR>

Press Releases

HRH Duke of Edinburgh

<https://www.gov.scot/news/hrh-duke-of-edinburgh/>

Presiding Officer recalls Parliament following death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117337.aspx>

Scottish Parliament flags fly at half-mast as mark of respect following the death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117335.aspx>

First Minister's Easter Message

<https://twitter.com/NicolaSturgeon/status/1378620126996615169>

First Minister's Ramadan Message

<https://twitter.com/theSNP/status/1381718800962351104>

First Minister's Vaisakhi Message

<https://twitter.com/NicolaSturgeon/status/1381921387896537088>

News

Nicola Sturgeon Easter message: First Minister praises sacrifices made by Scotland's faith communities

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19209271.nicola-sturgeon-easter-message-first-minister-praises-sacrifices-made-scotlands-faith-communities/>

Ramadan: Nicola Sturgeon wishes Scotland's Muslim community 'a very happy Ramadan'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/ramadan-nicola-sturgeon-wishes-scotlands-muslim-community-a-very-happy-ramadan-3198735>

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Scottish Parliament Elections

New Publications

The Conservative and Labour manifestos are not yet available online

Scottish National Party Manifesto

https://issuu.com/hinksbrandwise/docs/04_15_snp_manifesto_2021_a4_document?mode=window

Scottish Liberal Democrat Manifesto

https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/no2nuisancecalls/pages/14838/attachments/original/1618577646/2021_Scottish_Liberal_Democrats_Manifesto.pdf?1618577646

Scottish Green Party Manifesto

https://greens.scot/sites/default/files/ScottishGreens_2021Manifesto_Full_web_version.pdf

News

Scottish election 2021: A really simple guide

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54825291>

Scottish Election 2021: How does Scotland's voting system work?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-56739917>

Scottish election 2021: Who should I vote for? Compare party policies

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56510773>

Scottish election 2021: A simple guide to the SNP

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56241757>

Scottish election 2021: SNP manifesto at-a-glance

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56750867>

Scottish election 2021: SNP policies explained

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56748957>

Scottish election 2021: A simple guide to the Scottish Conservatives

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56241758>

Scottish election 2021: A simple guide to Scottish Labour

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56252565>

Scottish election 2021: A simple guide to the Scottish Liberal Democrats

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56252566>

Scottish election 2021: Scottish Lib Dem manifesto at-a-glance

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56751439>

Scottish election 2021: Scottish Liberal Democrat policies explained

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56750768>

Scottish election 2021: A simple guide to the Scottish Greens
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56259835>

Scottish election 2021: Scottish Greens manifesto at-a-glance
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56744857>

Scottish election 2021: Scottish Green Party policies explained
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56744858>

Glasgow Southside: Former leader of Britain First to stand in Scottish elections against Nicola Sturgeon
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19204251.glasgow-southside-former-leader-britain-first-stand-scottish-elections-nicola-sturgeon/>

Scottish election 2021: Former Britain First leader Jayda Fransen stands as independent
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-election-2021-former-britain-first-leader-jayda-fransen-stands-as-independent-3186761>

Anas Sarwar: Voters in Glasgow will tell far-right candidate 'where to go'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19205221.anas-sarwar-voters-glasgow-will-tell-far-right-candidate-where-go/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debates

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh [House of Commons]
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-04-12/debates/318D37CC-AFE4-41EB-BDAF-5D04513513A2/HisRoyalHighnessThePrincePhilipDukeOfEdinburgh>

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh [House of Lords]
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-04-12/debates/20E886D8-815E-4448-AF9F-482456A88704/HisRoyalHighnessThePrincePhilipDukeOfEdinburgh>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Crime: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL14464] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps (1) they have taken, and (2) they intend to take, to address the level of (a) domestic abuse, (b) violence against women and girls, (c) hate crime, (d) online hate, and (e) online radicalisation, experienced by BAME communities.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh:

Domestic Abuse and VAWG

Tackling Domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a government priority. These abhorrent crimes have no place in our society.

We know that anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of ethnicity or background. That is why the Home Office has provided funding to 'by and for' specialist services including, Southall Black Sisters who have been provided with

£80,951 in funding during the Covid pandemic.

Added to this, our landmark Domestic Abuse Bill which is due to achieve Royal Assent this Spring will strengthen our response to perpetrators and improve our support to victims. This Summer the Government will also publish a strategy to combat Violence Against Women and Girls, followed by a complementary strategy on Domestic Abuse.

Hate Crime & Online Hate

The Government has been clear that all forms of hate crime are unacceptable and that the cowards who commit these crimes should face the full force of the law. Action under the hate crime action plan 2016-20 (Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime) included approximately £5 million for protective security measures to protect places of worship and asking the Law Commission to review the effectiveness and coverage of hate crime legislation.

In November 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government awarded £1.8 million through the Faith, Race and Hate Crime Grant Scheme to support established community groups and civil society organisations to run short projects to boost shared values and tackle religiously and racially-motivated hate crime.

We have published the Full Government Response to the Online Harms White Paper, which includes specific measures to work with private companies and ensure that they are held to account for tackling illegal activity and content, such as hate crime, harassment, and cyber-stalking, as well as activity and content which may not be illegal but is nonetheless highly damaging to individuals (legal but harmful). The Full Government Response will be followed by legislation, which we are working on at pace, and will be ready this year. The Home Office also funds a Police Online Hate Crime Hub to improve the police response to victims of online hate crime.

Online radicalisation

Terrorist groups use the internet to spread propaganda designed to radicalise, recruit and inspire vulnerable people, and to incite, provide information to enable, and celebrate terrorist attacks. Our objective is to ensure that there are no safe spaces online for all forms of terrorists to promote or share their extreme views.

In 2010, we set up the police Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU), based in the Metropolitan Police. To date, over 314,500 individual pieces of terrorist content referred by CTIRU have been removed by companies and the Unit has also informed the design of the EU Internet Referral Unit based at Europol.

The Government has also pressed companies to increase the use of technology to automate the detection and removal of content where possible. As a result of continued engagement, companies have expanded the use of automated removals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-22/hl14464>

The hate crime action plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927673/2016_Hate_Crime_Action_Plan.pdf

with an update at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

The Government response to the Online Harms White Paper, referred to above, can be read at

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

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Lord Bradley (Labour) [HL14483] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many people

are currently in prison serving a determinate sentence of 20 years or more, categorised by ethnicity.

Reply from Lord Wolfson of Tredegar: The information requested is shown in the tables below.

I can also confirm that sentencing is a matter for the independent judiciary based on the facts of each case.

Prisoners serving a determinate sentence of 20 years or more, by ethnicity, as at 31 December 2020, in England and Wales.

All	1,276
Asian / Asian British	150
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	194
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	36
Other ethnic group	17
White	874
Not stated	5

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-23/hl14483>

Press Release

Regulator urges generous donors to give safely to registered charities this Ramadan

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-urges-generous-donors-to-give-safely-to-registered-charities-this-ramadan>

News

No 10 race adviser Samuel Kasumu resigns

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2021/apr/01/no-10-race-adviser-resigns-day-after-uk-structural-racism-report-published>

No 10 race report authors hit out at 'deeply personal' criticisms

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/apr/02/no-10-race-report-authors-hit-out-at-deeply-personal-criticisms>

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Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service

The Scottish COVID-19 vaccination helpline and booking service is available from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week on 0800 030 8013.

<https://nhs.uk/services/our-covid-19-response/covid-19-vaccination-helpline-and-booking-service>

Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter,

give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

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 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 Written Answers

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Afzal Khan (Labour) [171718] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if his Department will publish the gender breakdown of the number of (a) white or white British, (b) other white background, (c) Irish, (d) gypsy, Roma or traveller, (e) Indian, (f) Chinese, (g) Other Asian, (h) Bangladeshi, (i) Pakistani, (j) Caribbean, (k) African, (l) Arab people who have been offered and (i) taken or (ii) refused the covid-19 vaccine.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Since 14 January NHS England and NHS Improvement have published data on vaccinations by ethnicity, which is available at the following link:

www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/

Data on those who refuse the COVID-19 vaccine is not collected.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-18/171718>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [144653] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Government is collecting data on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic covid-19 vaccinations (a) administered and (b) refused by vaccination type.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: NHS England provides a weekly breakdown of first and second COVID-19 vaccinations in people who are from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, which is available at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

We do not hold data on vaccinations administered by vaccination type and we do not collect information on those who refuse the vaccine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-01/144653>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Stuart Anderson (Conservative) [131481] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that people (a) from a BAME background and (b) who are more vulnerable to covid-19 receive the vaccination in a timely manner.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: On 13 February the Government published the United Kingdom COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake Plan, which aims to improve uptake across all communities on a national scale, including those from black, Asian or other minority ethnic backgrounds and those who are more vulnerable to COVID-19. The plan takes a local, community-led approach, with support provided from the Government, NHS England and NHS Improvement and local authorities to coordinate and enable action.

On 25 January we released £23.75 million funding to support our Community Champions Scheme. Through the Community Champions scheme councils and voluntary organisations will deliver a wide range of measures to communicating accurate health information. The funding is specifically targeted at areas with plans to reach groups such as older people, disabled people and people from ethnic minority backgrounds who according to the latest evidence are more likely to suffer long-term impacts and poor outcomes from COVID-19. Each of the sixty councils in receipt of funding have developed their own plan to improve communications with these groups including helplines, school programmes, workplace engagement, phoning those in at risk groups as well as training sessions to help people provide information and advice. On 24 February 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine deployment programme, working with partners, made available an extra £4.2 million initially, to further support and enable locally led community engagement in all areas with health inequalities to support those who are most vulnerable to get their vaccine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-17/131481>

The Vaccine Uptake Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-uptake-plan/uk-covid-19-vaccine-uptake-plan>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL14460] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to tailor their approach to BAME communities to aid uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Over £23 million has been allocated through the Community Champions scheme to 60 councils and voluntary groups across England to expand work to support those most at risk from COVID-19 and boost vaccine take up. The Department of Health and Social Care, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the National Health Service hold regular meetings with local authorities, faith leaders and black, Asian and minority ethnic organisations to provide advice and information about COVID-19 vaccines and how they will be made available. A coalition of trusted voices to promote vaccine confidence in target audiences will be built and also provide us the opportunity to listen to concerns and adjust our approach. Local NHS staff and council officials have attended online question and answer sessions facilitated by local community leaders and community engagement workers have visited areas of low vaccine uptake to provide information in spoken and written community languages.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-22/hl14460>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Baroness Masham of Ilton (Crossbench) [HL13114] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish a national COVID-19 helpline, accessible in multiple languages, (1) to support and advise the public on the benefits of vaccination, and (2) to collect data on the long term effects of COVID-19.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Whilst there are no plans to establish national COVID-19 telephone helplines for the public to use to ask questions related to COVID-19 vaccines, the Department and the NHS and PHE are providing advice and information at every possible opportunity to support those who have been prioritised to receive a vaccine and anyone who has questions about the vaccination process. The latest advice and information is available online and our social media channels are regularly publishing fact cards, films and interviews about vaccine safety and answering frequently asked questions about vaccine production. In addition, senior clinicians are giving media interviews and taking part in live question and answer sessions with the public about COVID-19 vaccines.

The Government's communications plan includes targeted information and advice via TV, radio and social media. This is being translated into 13 languages including Bengali, Chinese, Filipino, Gujarati, Hindi, Mirpur, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu. Print and online material, including interviews and practical advice has appeared in 600 national, regional, local and specialist titles including media for African, Asian, Bangladeshi, Bengali, Gujarati, Jamaican, Jewish, Pakistani and Turkish communities.

Research to evaluate the long-term health and psychosocial effects of COVID-19 is continuing. Major studies include the Post-Hospitalisation COVID-19 study in the United Kingdom and the International Severe Acute Respiratory and emerging Infection Consortium global COVID-19 long-term follow-up study.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-02-08/hl13114>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Ritchie of Downpatrick (Non-affiliated) [HL14461] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of the measures (1) in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) aimed at minimising the impact of COVID-19 among BAME communities.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Throughout the pandemic the Government has sought robust scientific evidence and advice to guide decisions regarding the measures taken to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies and its sub-groups has undertaken significant wider analysis and evaluation including consideration of economic impacts, the level of compliance with measures, amount of enforcement needed and impacts felt by local authorities. The measures taken have been effective at slowing the virus while balancing the need to protect the economy.

The Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) is leading cross-Government work to tackle disparities experienced by ethnic minority groups. The second quarterly report, published on 26 February 2021, set out work conducted since the first quarterly report, including reviewing the effectiveness of current actions being undertaken by the Government to lessen disparities in infection and death rates. The report reflects that considerable efforts are underway to address these disparities, including through the Community Champions scheme led by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, which has provided £23.75 million in funding to local authorities. The report commits the Government to monitoring the impact of the scheme. The report found that the direct impacts of COVID-19 improved for ethnic minorities as a whole during the early second wave. ... The Government remains committed to addressing ethnic disparities and

tackling deprivation will be a particular focus of work in the third quarter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-03-22/hl14461>

The second quarterly report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/second-quarterly-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities/second-quarterly-report-on-progress-to-address-covid-19-health-inequalities>

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Baroness Manzoor (Conservative) [HL11360] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long the immunity resulting from the COVID-19 vaccines lasts for in different (1) age, and (2) ethnic, groups.

Reply from Lord Bethell: It is currently too early to say how long the immunity resulting from COVID-19 vaccines will last. More data will be published as the programme progresses through to second doses.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-12-10/hl11360>

Scottish Government Press Release

Accelerated easing of restrictions

<https://www.gov.scot/news/accelerated-easing-of-restrictions/>

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) update: First Minister's statement – 13 April 2021

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-13-april-2021/>

REACT-1 study of coronavirus transmission: March 2021 final results

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-march-2021-final-results/react-1-study-of-coronavirus-transmission-march-2021-final-results>

UK Government Press Releases

Twice weekly rapid testing to be available to everyone in England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/twice-weekly-rapid-testing-to-be-available-to-everyone-in-england>

Government hits vaccination target as PM praises "precious protection" offered by jobs

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-hits-vaccination-target-as-pm-praises-precious-protection-offered-by-jobs>

COVID-19 vaccines have prevented 10,400 deaths in older adults

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-vaccines-have-prevented-10-400-deaths-in-older-adults>

JCVI issues new advice on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-new-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-for-pregnant-women>

Statement on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine following MHRA update

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-following-mhra-update>

MHRA issues new advice, concluding a possible link between COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and extremely rare, unlikely to occur blood clots

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-issues-new-advice-concluding-a-possible-link-between-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-and-extremely-rare-unlikely-to-occur-blood-clots>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate in England

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-number-in-the-uk>

COVID-19: updated guidance for those leading a nomadic way of life

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-those-leading-a-nomadic-way-of-life>

Prime Minister's statement at coronavirus press conference: 5 April 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-at-coronavirus-press-conference-5-april-2021>

Findings from the latest COVID-19 REACT-1 study published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/findings-from-the-latest-covid-19-react-1-study-published>

Other Organisations

Scottish Refugee Council

Videos: Covid19 Vaccine Statement of Fact

Albanian

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j_MMAfW6sE

Arabic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLJSTKWd1QA>

Farsi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abMZzi9cvoQ>

Urdu

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Em2Wkzg4rIM>

Yoruba

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dL1fd-0dWOU>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Equality regulator warns against blanket 'no mask, no entry' policies

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-regulator-warns-against-blanket-'no-mask-no-entry'-policies>

RSA

Crisis, Communities, Change: Demands for an equitable recovery

<https://www.thersa.org/globalassets/foundation/new-site-blocks-and-images/reports/2021/04/communities-polling-briefing-final-april-2021.pdf>

News

Covid: Scotland passes 10,000 deaths milestone

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-56677120>

Racial discrimination 'may be driving vaccine hesitancy', new study suggests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/vaccine-hesitancy-race-covid-coronavirus-study-b1829895.html>

Vaccination rates continuing to lag among ethnic minority groups, new figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/covid-vaccine-uptake-ethnicity-uk-b1823841.html>

Coronavirus: What are the rules for places of worship?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/explainers-53219921>

More than 1,000 vicars vow to defy any vaccine passport plans for churches

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/17/1000-vicars-vow-defy-vaccine-passport-plans-churches/>

Ramadan is supposed to be a time for togetherness – but I haven't seen my family for a year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/ramadan-family-covid-lockdown-b1830507.html>

Covid vaccine: Fasting during Ramadan 'should not stop Muslims getting jab'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56677766>

Vaccine during Ramadan will not break fast, leading Muslim NHS workers say

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/covid-vaccine-muslims-ramadan-fast-b1828566.html>

Islamic leaders battle misconception about vaccines, fasting

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/islamic-leaders-battle-misconception-about-vaccines-fasting-muslims-islamic-maine-portland-khalid-b1829122.html>

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New Publication

Life in the Time Online Exhibition

<https://life-in-the-time-exhibition.com/>

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Other News: Death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

Obituary: HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-10224525>

Prince Philip: Royal Family honours duke's 'humour and humanity'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56779068>

Prince Philip funeral: Duke of Edinburgh laid to rest

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-56788780>

Prince Philip funeral: Pictures as Queen and nation bid farewell to the duke

<https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-56779000>

Nicola Sturgeon sends 'deepest condolences' to Royal Family on Scotland's behalf

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19221573.nicola-sturgeon-sends-deepest-condolences-royal-family-scotlands-behalf/>

First Minister of Wales pays tribute to The Duke of Edinburgh

<https://gov.wales/first-minister-of-wales-pays-tribute-to-the-duke-of-edinburgh>

Foster and O'Neill express sympathy following death of Prince Philip

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/news/foster-and-oneill-express-sympathy-following-death-prince-philip>

Prince Philip: Special service to be held at Canterbury Cathedral

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56706408>

Prince Philip: Scotland pays tribute to 'a remarkable man'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56691489>

Prince Philip: The Duke of Edinburgh has died aged 99

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk-news/prince-philip-the-duke-of-edinburgh-has-died-aged-99-3194630>

Prince Philip: Tributes paid across Scotland as duke praised for 'passionate belief in the positive benefits of education'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/19223305.prince-philip-tributes-paid-across-scotland-duke-praised-passionate-belief-positive-benefits-education/>

Prince Philip tributes: 'I wanted my grandchildren to remember this day'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56703427>

Prince Philip - gun salutes and more tributes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-56700587>

Other News

Batley school protests: Probe into Prophet Muhammad row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-56587709>

Batley Grammar School announces independent investigation into Prophet Muhammad cartoon incident

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/batley-grammar-school-muhammad-b1825025.html>

'I fear I will be murdered', says teacher who showed Mohammed cartoons

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/03/29/fear-will-murdered-batley-teacher-tells-father-amid-worries/>

Teacher at centre of Muhammad cartoon row fears he will be killed

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/teacher-at-centre-of-muhammad-cartoon-row-fears-he-will-be-killed-mc2vm8q2m>

Pupils in religious studies class 'were not upset' by images of Prophet Mohammed, it is claimed

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2021/04/02/pupils-religious-studies-class-not-upset-images-prophet-mohammed/>

Prophet cartoon was shown at Batley Grammar School 'a week before row'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/prophet-cartoon-was-shown-at-school-a-week-before-row-5sgwwdhdk>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

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 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

**** Ethnicity and Justice Research and Data Priorities - Survey for Academics / Researchers**

(closing date 27 April 2021)

<https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/justiceandethnicity>

Meeting the Charity Test Guidance – updates (closing date 5 May 2021)

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/consultation-on-our-meeting-the-charity-test-guidance-updates/>

New Plan for Immigration (closing date 6 May 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration>

Patient Safety Commissioner role for Scotland (closing date 28 May 2021)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-patient-safety-commissioner-role-scotland/>

Black Lives in Scotland (closing date not stated)

<https://blacklivesinScotland.typeform.com/to/YFrnnHSC>

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19

(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

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.

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>

Equality and Human Rights Fund

Closing date 14 May 2021

Scottish Government funding to support work which advances human rights, promotes equality and tackles discrimination around age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and race. Grants will support projects over the next three years, and there is no minimum or maximum amount that can be applied for. For information and to apply see <https://www.inspiringscotland.org.uk/what-we-do/our-funds/equality-and-human-rights/>

See <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8240754> for a series of short presentations introducing the Equality and Human Rights Fund.

Short one-to-one surgery sessions will be available every Wednesday afternoon until 28 April. This is an opportunity to speak with one of the Equality and Human Rights Fund team and ask any questions specific to your organisation and proposed application. See <https://www.picktime.com/a7e36ee9-56cd-4891-8179-262758c331a7> to book an appointment.

New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project

Closing date 22 May 2021

Scottish Government funding for organisations and community groups across Scotland involved in supporting refugees and people seeking asylum. Projects will enable refugees in Scotland to live in safe, welcoming and cohesive communities where they are able to build diverse relationships and connections; understand their rights, responsibilities and entitlements and exercise these to pursue full and independent lives; access well-coordinated services, which recognise and meet their rights and needs; and ensure their rights, needs and aspirations inform the policy, strategic planning and legislation which impacts upon them. For information see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-delivery-fund-guidance/pages/background/>

Adapt and Thrive

Running until June 2021

This programme, which is part of the Scottish Government Community and Third Sector Recovery Programme, offers grants of up to £75,000, loans, and specialist advice to organisations across the third sector to adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19 and build back better to thrive in the future. For information see

<https://scvo.scot/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/community-recovery/af>

Vaccine Information Fund

Running until August 2021

Grants of up to £1,000 are available to eligible organisations to create appropriate resources and activities to ensure that all people in Scotland have informed and equal access to information about the vaccine. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/vif/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Event security for your community

20 April 2021 (online, 7.00)

Community Security Trust webinar about appropriate security measures to ensure the safety of large numbers of people. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5ahbbgu>

** *this week!*

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

21 April 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

16 June 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

18 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

20 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

19 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

** *registration closes this week!*

Network Meeting with Oxford Vaccine Research Team

Registration for this meeting closes on 23 April 2021

29 April 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

BEMIS is providing an opportunity for open discussion and Q&A with two members of the Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine team. This is an opportunity to ask any questions about the vaccine or get more information about people under 30 being offered an alternative vaccine. For information and to register, contact danny.boyle@bemis.org.uk

** **Windrush engagement events**

27 April 2021 (online, 5.00–6.00)

25 May 2021 (online, 5.00–6.00)

Home Office events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce. For information see

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

** **No Recourse to Public Funds**

28 April 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

30 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

27 October 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

26 January 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH workshop 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

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

9 June 2021 (online, 10.30–12.30)

4 August 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

6 October 2021 (online, 10.00–12.30)

12 January 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

**** Scottish Interfaith Week 2021**

31 October to 7 November 2021 (Scotland-wide)

Scottish Interfaith Week will coincide with COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021). The theme for 2021 is Together for Our Planet and individuals, faith communities and organisations across Scotland will be encouraged to host climate-related events for the week. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/> or sign up to the [Scottish Interfaith Week newsletter](#).

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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